

AUGUST 10, 2010

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich, Washington County, New York was held at the Town Office Building, 2 Academy Street, Greenwich, New York on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Sara Idleman	Supervisor
	Bob Jeffords	Councilman
	Steven Patrick	Councilman
	George Perkins	Councilman
	Eric Whitehouse	Councilman

Also Present: Town Clerk Elaine Kelly, Clerk to the Supervisor Kellie Blake and Code Enforcement Officer Dan O'Connor.

Members of the public who signed the attendance sheet: Tim Tefft - The Journal Press, Jennifer Waite-Harsha - The Eagle, Thomas Foster, Marilyn Boyd, Robert DuBois, Bryan Humiston and Ralph Perkins.

Supervisor Idleman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Clerk called the roll.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-10
App. of Minutes 7/13 & 8/3/10

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the minutes of July 13 and August 3, 2010 be approved and accepted as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) A letter was received from the Whipple City Festival Committee thanking the Board for its generous support of the Festival.
- 2) A certified letter was received from the Planning Board notifying the Town of Greenwich, as an adjoining property owner, of proposed Minor Subdivision #487. Brent Patten is proposing a three lot subdivision on County Route 77. A public hearing will be held at 7:15 PM on Thursday, August 19, 2010.

REPORTS:

- 1) Planning Board Report: Board members received the minutes of the Planning Board meetings that were held on July 8 & 15, 2010.
- 2) ZBA Report: No meetings to report at this time.

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3) Assessor Report: Assessor Colleen Adamec submitted the following report:

The time to file a small claims or Article 7 ended Saturday, July 31, 2010. We had two Article 7s filed: (1) 229.-1-27.2 Kmart (GBR Green Acres LLC) at 1251 State Route 29. They are assessed at \$2,500,000. They want to be reduced to \$500,000. (2) 220.-2-21 George and Sophie Polchowski at 2618 State Route 40. They were tentatively assessed at \$1,056,800. The BAR reduced them to \$1,006,050. They want to be reduced to \$685,000.

We had five small claims filed: (1) 191.17-1-16 Wilfred & Albina Grignon at 296 East Lake Road. They are assessed at \$315,100. They want to be reduced to \$278,300. (2) 198.8-1-1 Richard and Linda Kahn at 280 East Lake Road. They are assessed at \$229,000. They want to be reduced to \$176,000. (3) 214.-1-9.1 Irving Lacy Jr. at 266 Christie Road. He is assessed at \$297,800. He wants to be reduced to \$157,000. (4) 222.-1-13.7 Robert and Susanne Fulmer at 264 Ray Road. They are currently assessed at \$334,200. They want to be reduced to \$271,500. They currently have it on the market for \$399,000. (5) 237.5-4-48 Steven and Valarie Batchelder at 12 Bridge Street. They were tentatively assessed at \$228,400. The BAR reduced them to \$193,000. They want to be reduced to \$167,000. It is currently on the market for \$189,900.

I have been out in the field reviewing properties. Amanda and I have been calling taxpayers who have unclaimed funds as a good public relations tool. The taxpayers have been very receptive and appreciative. I am looking at next year's numbers, but I am still waiting on sales. I would say we are going to be depreciating, but it is too early to put a good number on it. If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to call.

4) Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Dan O'Connor's report stated that four building permits had been issued during the month of July.

5) Dog Control & Animal Control Report: DCO & ACO Ed Holland & Nancy Quell's report stated that ten calls were documented for the month of July. As previously reported, rabies remains to be very evident in our area. A full copy of the report is available at the Town Clerk's Office. Councilman Patrick suggested looking into another dog enumeration. With the rabies outbreak an updated enumeration would be a good preventative measure to make sure all dogs are vaccinated.

6) Highway Report: Highway Superintendent Rick Sullivan's report:

- 689.7 gallons of fuel used
- Ditched Spraguetown & Mosquito Swamp Roads
- Graded Ferguson Road, put calcium on Bunker Hill Road
- Cleared brush, trees and weeds from intersections to help with site distance
- Shouldered and ditched Langley Hill Road
- Rebuilt front plows for G-7 and G-5 trucks.

7) Supervisor Report: Supervisor Idleman's report:

Economic Development:

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Formation of a Committee to promote and recruit new businesses

- produce a video of Greenwich area
- create and maintain a registry of available buildings, land and commercial property
- form an agriculture committee to promote agriculture
- important to help with tax base

Community Development:

Restructure and enhance Summer Program

- hire a summer program director to oversee entire program with part-time employment from March through August
- one of the greatest services we can do is to provide activities for kids in the summertime

Beautification of the Routes 29 & 40 commercial area which would include focusing on the regulation of signs and landscaping improvements

Streamlining Government Services:

Continue to work with village to evaluate shared services

- Budget Officer Kellie Blake submitted the July financial report for the Board's review.

8) Youth Report:

- Department of Health Inspection took place on July 28, 2010. There are a couple of exit lights in St. Joseph's Hall that will need to be replaced (will contact them). A few other items were noted and will be discussed at the next Youth Committee Meeting.
- After the first two weeks things seemed to run smoother.
- A Comment/Suggestion Form was sent home with the children and parents were instructed to return it by the last day of the program or mail it to Kellie Blake. This was also given to the staff and a few have been returned so far.
- Some of the Arts and Crafts items the children made are on display at the Greenwich Library until the end of the month, if you have time please take a look.
- Morning Program and Swim Lessons final party was on August 6th.
- Beach will be open until Sunday August 22nd.
- A committee meeting will be held in the next few weeks to discuss needed changes for next year's program.

9) Councilman Jeffords stated that he had received a message from Greenwich Fire Department Chief Dean Watkins and the Public Safety committee will be meeting with the various fire departments to discuss the 2011 budget.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

1) Robert Dubois – Grants & Essential Management Service (GEMS): Mr. Dubois stated that GEMS is a small company based in Amsterdam, New York and is dedicated to finding and securing funding

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opportunities and provides professional grant writing services for businesses and non profit organizations. Mr. DuBois gave several examples of different grant applications that are available. Services are provided either on a month to month basis or on a per grant basis depending on individual needs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) At the July meeting Thomas J. Ryan Deputy Director, Government Relations New York State Canal Corporation addressed the Board about navigational dredging. The Canal Corporation is currently attempting to gather resolutions from municipalities along the Hudson River/Champlain Canal corridor in support of expanding the GE/EPA cleanup to include navigational dredging in the next phase of the Hudson River dredging project.

The EPA/GE project is not designed to restore navigability to the Champlain Canal and the Canal Corporation estimates that over 600,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments will remain in the navigational channel when the dredging project is completed. These sediments will continue to restrict traffic, commerce, and recreation in the Champlain Canal long into the future unless they are incorporated into the larger project. This was tabled until tonight's meeting to allow the Board time to review the request.

RESOLUTION NO. 100-10

Navigational Dredging of the Hudson River/Champlain Canal

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords

Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

WHEREAS, the USEPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in February of 2002 which requires the General Electric Company to dredge PCB-contaminated sediments for a 40-mile stretch of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, there is an identified need to dredge several areas of the Hudson River/Champlain Canal channel to a depth of 12-feet for navigational purposes within the aforementioned Hudson River remediation area which is beyond the scope of the PCB remediation action; and

WHEREAS, the removal of these materials in the navigation channel has, heretofore, been unable to be conducted due to PCB contamination within these sediments and its completion is imperative to the restoration of safe commercial and recreational boating on the Hudson River/Champlain Canal; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Canal Corporation does not have environmental dredging equipment and/or disposal sites available which will accommodate the removal of PCB contaminated sediments from certain portions of the Hudson River/Champlain Canal's navigational channel; and

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NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Town of Greenwich recommends that it is appropriate and cost-effective to the citizens of New York State to address Hudson River/Champlain Canal navigational dredging needs which are identified in certain areas within the proposed federal PCB remediation action concurrently with said remediation action to assure the timely restoration of safe boat navigation on the upper Hudson River area.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Discussion was held concerning the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting on September 14. This is Primary Day and the date of the Town Board meeting needs to be changed due to elections being held in this building.

RESOLUTION NO.101-10
Meeting Date Change

Resolution by Councilman Patrick
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, due to Primary Elections being held in the Town Office Building, the regularly scheduled September 14th Town Board Meeting be changed to Wednesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.

7:45 PM: Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #2 of 2010 - A Local Law to Amend the Code the Town of Greenwich by amending Chapter 54, entitled "Personnel Policies".

The Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice.

Motion by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #2 of 2010 be opened at 7:45 P.M. for public comment.

No Comments.

Motion by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board

that all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing be closed at 7:46 P.M.

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RESOLUTION NO. 102-10
Local Law #2 of 2010

Resolution by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Whitehouse

RESOLVED, that Town of Greenwich Local Law #2 of 2010 be approved and adopted as follows:

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND the Code of the Town of Greenwich by amending Chapter 54, entitled
“Personnel Policies”.

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich as follows:

Section 1. The beginning language of Section 54-5, Overtime, emergency and holiday pay, of Article I of Chapter 54, Personnel Policies is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Overtime pay shall be paid at a rate of time and one-half after completing 40 hours of work per week. Any work done on the above holidays or on vacation days will be paid at the rate of time and one-half after completing 40 hours of work per week. The employee will receive his or her holiday or vacation pay at a straight-time rate. A highway full time employee called in early to work, or for emergency duty not connected to regular work hours, shall be paid one-half hour at straight-time rate for travel to work. A highway full time employee shall be paid a minimum of four hours, at applicable rate, if called in for emergency duty, not connected to regular work hours or a vacation day.”

Section 2. Section 54-5, Overtime, emergency and holiday pay, of Article I of Chapter 54, Personnel Policies is hereby amended by adding a subsection D at the end thereof to read as follows:

D. Fulltime employees shall have first refusal on available overtime hours. Upon refusal by all fulltime employees, the Superintendent of Highways may offer the hours to qualified part-time or substitute employees.

Section 3. Effective Date

This local law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the New York Department of State.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Whitehouse	Aye
	Councilman Perkins	Aye
	Councilman Patrick	Aye
	Councilman Jeffords	Aye
	Supervisor Idleman	Aye

Carried.

2) John Cofrancisco’s term on the Board of Assessment Review expires September 30, 2010. John has submitted a letter stating his desire to be reappointed. To remain consistent with past practice, the Board will advertise to fill the five-year term on the Board of Assessment Review.

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RESOLUTION NO. 103-10
Bd. of Assessment Review-Advertise

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Patrick

and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board advertise for two consecutive weeks for applicants to fill a term on the Board of Assessment Review; letters of interest shall be filed with the Town Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2010.

3) A letter was received from Bill McCarty, Director of Washington County Real Property Tax Services. Washington County recently increased the maximum income earning levels for the Senior/Low Income exemption and Disability/Low Income exemption. The revised income levels allow an exemption of 50% with an annual income of \$20,000 or less with a sliding scale that terminates with an exemption of 5% with an annual income of \$28,400 or less. The exemption percentages step down between 50% and 5% as the income increases. Bill sent this to the Town for informational purposes only as the Town has no obligation to match the County income levels. If the Town chooses to make any changes to our current income levels between now and March 1, 2011, the new income levels would first pertain to the January, 2012 Town/County tax bills. Assessor Colleen Adamec will be asked to attend the September meeting to discuss these exemptions with the Board.

4) Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership Resolution. Supervisor Idleman stated she would like to see the Board support this resolution. The Partnership's mission is to maintain the cultural, economic and historic elements along the Hudson River. The Partnership has published a 150 page Stewardship Plan with the purpose to continue to work together for economic development and enhancement of this whole region. The project that affects Greenwich is the Dix Bridge. Saratoga County has set aside money to help repair the bridge but Washington County is adamant that they will not. However, Washington County is willing to provide in-kind services. This aspect of the project will be discussed at a future meeting. The resolution at hand however, is to support the Partnership's mission which is to maintain the cultural, economic and historic elements along the Hudson River.

RESOLUTION NO. 104-10
Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership

Resolution by Councilman Perkins
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

and passed unanimously by said Board,

WHEREAS, the Partnership received copies of the Draft Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership on May 3, 2010 and the plan is available at <http://upperhudsonpartnership.org> for review and comment, and

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WHEREAS, the Partnership noticed and held public hearings on the received Draft Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership on May 20, 2010 in the Village of Fort

Edward, Washington County, and May 4, 2010 in the Village of Schuylerville, Saratoga County, and a presentation of the Plan was made and comments received at these public meetings, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership, at the meeting on June 28, 2010, since it is the only involved agency, declared itself lead agency for the Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership, and conducted a review for the purposes of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership, at the meeting on June 28, 2010, received copies of the Environmental Assessment Long Form on June 28, 2010, and made the finding of a Negative Declaration under SEQRA for the Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership received the Final Draft of the Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership and the Executive Summary on June 28, 2010 and selected to post the documents online for review and comment for a two week period at <http://upperhudsonpartnership.org> , and

WHEREAS, the Partnership, at the meeting on June 28, 2010, moved to send the Final Draft of the Stewardship Plan for the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership to the communities within Partnership Area for the individual approval, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS; The Town of Greenwich as a participating municipality in the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership, approves the adoption of the Stewardship Plan by the Historic Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership.

5) Initial Budget Discussion and Fire Dept Calculations update. Budget Officer Kellie Blake reminded the Board that the 2011 budget preparation will begin shortly. Kellie stated that one of the things will be the discussion of pay rates. Supervisor Idleman stated the Board needs to take a serious look at pay increases as there were none last year. Councilman Jeffords stated that he would like to see the budget with a zero tax levy increase. If we increase somewhere then we decrease somewhere else. A pay go system. Councilman Jeffords stated that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is zero. Councilman Patrick stated that usually pay increases are linked to the CPI. Supervisor Idleman stated that she has a problem using percentages because it is very easy to mislead. It sounds good in the paper if you say we have a zero percent increase in taxes but we need to look at the actual dollar figure.

TRANSFERS/BUDGET AMENDMENT:

RESOLUTION NO. 105-10
Transfers/Budget Amendment 8/10/10

Resolution by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Jeffords

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and passed unanimously by said Board,

RESOLVED, that the following transfer and budget amendment be approved:

Budget Amendment: Increase appropriations in HR15130.2 – Equipment Expense by \$23,900.00 from Capital Reserve for Highway Equipment for purchase of 1986 John Deere 670B Grader from Nortrax.

Transfer: Transfer \$400.00 from A1220.103 Supervisor – Assistant Clerk to A1220.4 – Supervisor Contractual Expense.

AUDIT BILLS & AUTHORIZE PAYMENT.

RESOLUTION NO. 106-10
Payt. of Bills 8/10/10

Resolution by Councilman Jeffords
Seconded by Councilman Perkins
and passed unanimously by said Board

RESOLVED, that the following bills on Abstract #9008 be approved and audited and the Supervisor be authorized to pay said bills from their respective funds:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>BILL #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
General Town-wide (A):	0262-0292	\$12,303.58
General Outside Village (B):	0293-0295	\$ 120.70
Special District Lighting (SL):	0296	\$ 803.31
Highway Town-wide (DA):	5108-5110	\$ 99.40
Highway Outside Village (DB):	5111-5118	\$ 5,337.69
Capital Reserve for Highway Equipment: 20101001		\$23,900.00

Supervisor Idleman stated that the County Highway Department is being laid off for the last full week of this month. If there is an issue on a County road during that four day period, as a Town we have to decide do we step in. If we do then there will be a grievance filed against us. She stated that she feels that unless it is a matter of life or death, that we do not do anything. If there is a tree down on a County road in the Town of Greenwich, the tree stays there. Councilman Whitehouse asked if the County had discussed splitting the crews? Half one week then half the next week so there would be some sort of coverage for the whole County? Then, if something happens, someone may have to travel but the roads would still be taken care of. Not an entire department at one time and then expect the Town to pick up the slack when we are struggling enough as it is. There should be someone available to do that. He feels that is negligence on the County's part. Supervisor Idleman stated that she agreed. No official action was taken.

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Motion by Councilman Whitehouse
Seconded by Councilman Perkins

and passed unanimously by said Board,

that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk