

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK
HELD AT BUTLER MEMORIAL HALL IN SAID TOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Town Supervisor Patrick Tyksinski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The roll was then taken with the following Town Officials and Department Heads being present during the progress of the meeting.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman Donald C. Backman
Councilwoman Christine G. Krupa
Councilman David M. Reynolds
Councilman Richard B. Woodland, Jr.
Supervisor Patrick M. Tyksinski

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Assessor Paul E. Smith
Codes Enforcement Officer Joseph A. Booth
Deputy Supervisor Matthew Bohn II
Director of Senior Services M. Eileen Spellman
Dispatch Supervisor Jeffrey P. Madden
Highway Superintendent Richard C. Sherman
Parks and Recreation Director Michael W. Jeffery
Senior Engineering Technician John Meagher
Town Attorney Herbert J. Cully
Town Clerk Gail Wolanin Young

Thereafter, a quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7:01 PM Local Law Introductory "A" of 2010
 No Parking – Washington Mills Athletic Park

The Town Supervisor opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 P.M., stating that the purpose of the Hearing was to offer the citizens an opportunity to speak in favor of, in opposition to, or to comment upon Local Law Introductory "A" of 2010 which, if adopted, would amend the Town Code, Chapter 113 thereof entitled Vehicles and Traffic, by amending Section 113-27 to include a no parking zone along a specific area within the Washington Mills Athletic Park. [NOTE: The Town Clerk had available the Notice of Public Hearing and Local Law Introductory, the Affidavit of Posting and the Proof of Publication (March 14, 2010 edition of the Observer Dispatch.)]

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 2

The Local Law Introductory had been proposed by Parks and Recreation Director Michael Jeffery and had been reviewed by the Town Police Department and the Town Attorney. Councilman Reynolds noted that this proposal had been borne out of concern for safety emergency issues within the Washington Mills Athletic Park.

Supervisor Tyksinski inquired if anyone present wished to speak in for, against or comment upon this matter. No one having come forth to speak, the Hearing was left open for persons who might appear in the matter.

7:02 PM Shift of Operation into the Oneida County
 Empire Zone - MTC Apparatus Co.

Supervisor Tyksinski opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 P.M. with regard to MTC Apparatus, Inc. moving from Chadwicks, New York to Oriskany, New York, the latter being within the Oneida County Empire Zone. The Supervisor explained that the purpose of the Hearing was to offer the public an opportunity to speak in favor of, in opposition to, or to comment upon this shift of operation into the Oneida County Empire Zone.

Town Attorney Cully read aloud the proposed Resolution to approve the shift of operations from Chadwicks to Oriskany, New York, after which the Town Supervisor asked if anyone present wished to comment upon the matter, either for or against. No one having come forth, the Supervisor declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:05 P.M.

Thereafter, Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Backman:

(RESOLUTION NO. 99 OF 2010)

Approval for a Shift of Operation into the Oneida County Empire Zone

WHEREAS, MTC Apparatus, Inc., is a business operating at 3456 Oneida Street, Chadwicks, New York 13319, which is within the Town of New Hartford and in Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, MTC Apparatus, Inc., has determined that it is necessary to relocate to 110 Dry Road, Oriskany, New York 13423, which is within the Town of Whitestown and in the Oneida County Empire Zone;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Town of New Hartford consents to the relocation of MTC Apparatus, Inc., into the Oneida County Empire Zone.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2010
Page 3

The Supervisor polled the Board members who voted as follows:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

Thereafter, the Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

7:06 P.M. Local Law Introductory “A” of 2010 (Continued)
No Parking – Washington Mills Athletic Park

There having been no one who appeared to speak in the matter of amending the Town Code, Chapter 113, with regard to establishing a no parking zone in the Washington Mills Athletic Park, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:06 P.M.

Adoption: Local Law Introductory “A” of 2010 as Local Law No. Five of 2010

Councilwoman Krupa moved that Local Law Introductory “A” of 2010 be adopted as Local Law No. Five of 2010 in the following format; seconded by Councilman Backman:

Town of New Hartford, NY
Local Law No. Five of 2010

A Local Law to amend the Code of the Town of New Hartford, Chapter 113 thereof entitled Vehicles & Traffic, by amending Section 113-27, Semi-public Parking Areas and Driveways and specifically relating to the Washington Mills Athletic Park.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 113 of the Code of the Town of New Hartford, Section 113-27, Semi-Public Parking Areas and Driveways, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 113-27. Semi-public parking areas and driveways

Add the following Subparagraph:

G. Washington Mills Athletic Park, 3695 Oneida Street, Washington Mills,
New York

(1) Parking Prohibited.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 4

- a) Fire lane located adjacent to Field #1 beginning on the northeastern corner of the Athletic Park parking lot, proceeding west 60' to the northwestern corner of same lot. Fire lane shall continue 400' in a southern direction on the western side of the parking lot to a point 15' beyond the inside corner of the main lot. The fire lane will then proceed in a westerly direction to end at the northwestern corner of the main parking lot adjacent to the restrooms and concession area as designated on a map of the Athletic Park dated March 3, 2010 which map is on file with the Office of the Town Clerk.

Section 2. All other provisions of the Code of the Town of New Hartford, and amendments thereto, are hereby affirmed except to the extent that this Local Law shall modify or amend.

Section 3. This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

A roll call vote was then duly held and resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

Thereafter, the Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED.***

MINUTES APPROVAL

Town Board minutes – March 10, 2010

Councilman Backman introduced the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Woodland:

(RESOLUTION NO. 100 OF 2010)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve as submitted the minutes of the ***Regular*** Town Board meeting held ***March 10, 2010*** and does further waive the reading of the same.

Upon roll call, the Board members voted as follows:

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 5

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

Thereafter, the Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Upon inquiry of the Town Supervisor, there was no one present who wished to address the Town Board.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS BY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Town Clerk Committee:

Large Assembly of Persons - Carnival Permit

Councilwoman Krupa reported that the Town Clerk had received an application from *Dana Peck, dba Midway Rides* to sponsor a carnival upon the French Road Home Depot property, in compliance with Town Code, Chapter 44, Mass Assembly of Large Number of Persons. Said application had been referred to the Town's Codes and Police Departments as well as the New York Mills Fire Department, for their review and comment, all of which approved the application. Thereafter, Councilwoman Krupa presented the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Reynolds:

(RESOLUTION NO. 101 OF 2010)

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2010 the Town Clerk received an application from *Dana Peck, dba Midway Rides* for permission to conduct a Carnival from April 28 through May 2, 2010, upon the Home Depot premises; and

WHEREAS, the Codes Enforcement Officer and Town Police Chief have reviewed said application and find the contents therein to meet Chapter 44 of the Town Code, as did the New York Mills Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby approve the *Dana Peck, dba Midway Rides*' application to conduct a Carnival upon premises owned by Home Depot from April 28 through May 2, 2010, and the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to issue the permit under Chapter 44 (Assembly, Mass Public) of the Town Code.

The Supervisor polled the Town Board members who voted as follows:

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 6

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

The Resolution was then declared unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

Agriculture Districts Information Meeting

Councilwoman Krupa acknowledged receipt from the Town Clerk of an Informational Session on NYS Agricultural Districts to be held free of charge on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Western Town Hall, Westernville, NY. The meeting will be open to all current and future farmland owners interested in learning about the benefits and the process of being in an Agricultural District. Town and Village staff or elected officials are also encouraged to attend. Participants will include members of:

- Farmland Protection Board
- Oneida County Planning Department
- Oneida County Soil and Water
- Department of Taxation and Finance
- Staff from Cornell Cooperation Extension.

Information will be available on Agricultural Districts, Rights to farmlands, Agricultural Zoning and Agricultural value assessments. Councilwoman Krupa stated that she would attend this informational session.

Raffle Consent – CNY Snow Travelers, Inc.

Councilwoman Krupa stated that the Town Clerk had received a request from an organization domiciled outside the Town of New Hartford, to sell raffle tickets within the Town. The following Resolution was introduced for adoption by Councilwoman Krupa and duly seconded by Councilman Backman:

(RESOLUTION NO. 102 OF 2010)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby grant permission to CNY Snow Travelers, Inc., 126 Elmwood Ave., Waterville, New York, an organization duly granted a Games of Chance Identification Number by the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, to sell raffle tickets at Sangertown Square Mall, Seneca Turnpike, New Hartford, New York, in accordance with all rules and regulations of said Racing and Wagering Board; and be it

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 7

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be, and she hereby is, authorized and directed to execute Form GC-RCF, Raffle Consent Form.

Upon roll call, the Town Board voted as follows:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

The Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

Senior Services Committee:

Grant for Seniors Bus; Rust proofing vehicle

In behalf of Director of Senior Services Eileen Spellman, Councilwoman Krupa appraised the Town Board of Director Spellman's interest in applying for a \$39,000 grant for a new bus for the New Hartford Adult Dining and Activity Center. The \$39,000 would cover the entire cost of bus and the New Hartford Central School District allows the Town to have the senior bus rust-proofed when their fleet is scheduled for rust-proofing. The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilwoman Krupa and duly seconded by Councilman Reynolds:

(RESOLUTION NO. 103 OF 2010)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize and direct the Town Supervisor and/or Director of Senior Services to apply for a Thirty-nine Thousand Dollar (\$39,000) grant to purchase a new bus for the New Hartford Adult Dining and Activity Center.

Upon roll call, the Board members voted as follows:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

The Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 8

Councilwoman Krupa then offered the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Reynolds:

(RESOLUTION NO. 104 OF 2010)

WHEREAS, the Town of New Hartford is applying for a \$39,000 grant to purchase a new senior bus for the New Hartford Adult Dining and Activity Center; and

WHEREAS, should the Town be successful in obtaining such grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby allow the Town's new senior bus to be included with the fleet of New Hartford Central School when their vehicles are sent for rust-proofing.

Upon inquiry of the Town Board, Director Spellman said she did not believe there would be a charge back to the Town for the rust-proofing. Thereafter, the Town Board members voted upon roll call:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

The Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

Public Works and Sewers Committee – Councilman Backman

Buildings and Grounds:

Status of Kellogg Road Community Center Building

Councilman Backman emphasized this building needs a roof. The BOCES instructor for construction would like to take on this project but is not sure of time constraint with his class. Estimated cost to replace the roof is \$5,000 if labor can be provided. Interior of the building is fine and the minimal mold in the kitchenette could be scoured with bleach and possibly replace the windows. Councilman Backman will inquire whether BOCES has insurance for this type of activity, per the comment of the Town Attorney. If we get passed the insurance issue, Councilman Backman inquired whether the Town Board wants to proceed with this project. Is there enough money in 2010 Buildings and Grounds line item? Highway Superintendent (Buildings and Grounds Superintendent) Sherman responded that if the building wasn't being used, money was probably not

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 9

budgeted. The Town Supervisor believes the building should be repaired but there's a problem with funding.

Status of Records Center

Councilman Backman stated the Records Center needs a new roof more than the Kellogg road Community Center. He inquired of the Town Clerk about water damage and use of the building; Clerk Young stated that a couple years ago there was a single area where inactive records are stored that the roof leaked, but the roof had been patched and there have been no leaks in the entire building since. Records of various departments are stored at this site. The police and court records take up much of the space and the State had informed Records management Officers years ago that if their municipality had an active police and/or court departments, those departments would monopolize most of the records storage space. In accordance with state regulations, there are no windows in the inactive and archival areas and the building is climate controlled.

Status of Donovan Memorial Community Center Building

New Hartford Historical Society President Barbara Couture has contacted the Town Supervisor about that organization's use of this building with no definitive answer.

Kellogg Road Community Center – Records Center – Donovan Memorial Community Center

Councilman Backman stated that the Town Board is the custodian of town buildings and should try to maintain the buildings. The Town Supervisor said the Board needs to look at all these buildings and decide what action to take. Councilman Reynolds stated that the Kellogg Road building has been vacant for over one (1) year and that most people/organizations have found other venues in which to meet. It was his opinion that the Donovan building on Elm Street was a much better building, although we need to look at all buildings as Supervisor Tyksinski has suggested. It was the consensus of the Town Board that Councilmen Backman and Woodland and Supervisor Tyksinski will comprise a committee to evaluate the aforementioned buildings and render a report at the April 28, 2010 Town Board meeting.

Recreation Center

Councilman Woodland inquired what the Town would be doing with the roof on the Recreation Center which needs replacing. The Supervisor responded that the Recreation Center roof is not part of this, but the Town will be pursuing in 2011.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2010
Page 10

Declaration of Surplus Vehicles – Authorization to Sell

Upon recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, the following Resolution was offered for adoption by Councilman Backman and duly seconded by Councilwoman Krupa:

(RESOLUTION NO. 105 OF 2010)

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby declare as surplus the following equipment/vehicles:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>VIN</u>
(none given)	Airflow Steel sander box (hopper)	(not applicable)
1979	East Haul Semi Trailer	DS0293694
1994*	Ford Tractor	1FDYU9001SVA31418

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Steel sander box (hopper) and East Haul Semi-trailer shall be sold as scrap while the 1994 Ford Tractor shall be placed for sale on e-Bay at a starting price of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and once sold, the Town Clerk's office shall be notified and shall arrange to terminate insurance coverage on said equipment/vehicles.

[*NOTE: The Ford Tractor is actually a 1995 vehicle.]

Councilman Backman noted that the East Haul Semi Trailer will not pass inspection and that the tractor has nothing to haul without the trailer. Money from the scrap sale and e-Bay sale will be used to purchase new equipment such as a sandblaster; more information will be forthcoming on this from Councilman Backman and the Highway Superintendent. The foregoing Resolution was voted upon by roll call as follows:

Councilwoman Krupa	-	Aye
Councilman Woodland	-	Aye
Councilman Backman	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Supervisor Tyksinski	-	Aye.

The Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

Crack-sealing of Town roads

Councilman Backman stated that the Highway Superintendent would like to do crack sealing of Town roads on state contract, utilizing \$10,000 budgeted for rental equipment

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 11

and about \$24,000 from CHIPS and put into materials; he has a list of roads that had been paved between 2005-2008 and wants to start this crack sealing program to extend the life of current paved roads. Supervisor Tyksinski was hesitant about making any changes to the budget. Councilman Backman clarified that \$10,000 of the rental equipment was for renting the crack sealing machine...not shifting the money. Also, it is proposed to use \$24,000 out of about \$125,000 CHIPS money, which is for paving. Consensus of the four (4) Councilpersons was to proceed with this program; Supervisor Tyksinski said he is not on board with this proposal.

Discontinuation – Curbside Trash program

An article will appear in the April 2010 Town Crier announcing the discontinuation of the Town's annual curbside trash collection; however, residents will be able to bring items to the Sanger Public Works Garage on certain days.

Sewer Maintenance – Sealing Manholes

In Autumn 2009 the Town began a program of sealing manholes to eliminate stormwater runoff in the sewer system; about 38 or 40 manholes remain to be sealed and Councilman Backman believes money is in the 2010 Sewer Fund for this purpose. The Town receives sewer flow credits for this type of remediation. Consensus of the Town Board was to continue with the program of sealing manholes.

Arlington Terrace Sewer Pump Station Upgrade, Contract 4

Councilman Backman stated the Town is awaiting receipt of the insurance documents prior to the contractor commencing work.

Jordan Road Sewer Relocation

Councilman Backman reported that relocation of a sewer manhole on Jordan Road would begin soon.

Stormwater Management Improvement (Advisory) Committee

In conjunction with the Highway Superintendent and Councilman Backman, the Stormwater Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 (formerly proposed for Thursday, April 1, 2010) to discuss stormwater matters in the Woodberry, Beechwood and Janet Terrace areas and finding solutions for same. Discussion included having two (2) different forms available for residents to sign, one stating they would give access to the Town as long as their property is restored and the second stating the property owner would not grant access gauge the level of interest and if people refuse, then the project would not go forth.

Motor Pool Committee

Councilman Backman is working on the annual inventory.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 12

Elm Street bridge

Councilman Backman expressed the importance of emergency vehicles (ambulance, police, fire, etc.) to cross Sauquoit Creek on Elm Street while the bridge is being replaced. He was met with the Willowvale Fire Company and Edwards Ambulance who have emphasized they could not stand to have access completely severed. Delta Engineers, contractor, is asking for an additional \$10,000 to design, etc. to replace the bridge one lane at a time, with expected construction costs to increase by 25%. Another solution would be to work with the railroad, mentioning crossing the Bleachery Avenue bridge and building a temporary road along the railroad for first responders only (emergency services).

Highway Department Crew Shifts

Winter shifts for the Highway Department will end on March 28, 2010.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilman Reynolds

Railroad crossing access fees:

Councilman Reynolds acknowledged receipt of the detailed list compiled by the Parks and Recreation Director of moneys the Town had expended over several years for (maintenance) railroad crossing fees at the Washington Mills Athletic Park, totaling about Seventy-one Hundred Dollars (\$7100). He recommended that the Town pursue action to be reimbursed for the fees the Town had been erroneously charged.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN ATTORNEY AND DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR

Town Attorney – Retirement Reporting:

Attorney Cully had attended the March 2010 meeting of the Oneida County Association of Towns at which a State Comptroller's representative spoke on the new rules and regulations for retirement reporting. He picked up sample forms and will have a Resolution prepared for the April 14, 2010 Town Board meeting to establish the normal workday for various elected and appointed officials.

Deputy Supervisor – Computer System

Deputy Supervisor Bohn anticipates having more information on the AS400 acquisition. He had spoke with a vendor and needs more information on components and recommended that the matter be deferred until the April 14, 2010 Town Board meeting. The Deputy Supervisor had performed an inventory of the hardware and software and the ability to back up data at the Sanger Public Works Garage site.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 13

Financial and other routine reports:

- Union Contracts – the Teamsters Union has contacted the Town Supervisor with regard to dates on which they could meet to discuss various union contracts and the Supervisor inquired how the Town Board wanted to proceed. He had discussed this matter with Special Counsel Peter Jones who indicated his willingness to handle the negotiations. In the meantime, the Town Attorney has offered to step in and do this and give the Town a proposal since this work would be above and beyond the scope of town attorney. The Town Board should then consider hiring Peter Jones as a consultant in the future.
- GEIS study – Southern part of Town – peter j. smith and associates were the engineers who basically conducted the study in the Washington Mills area and performed work with regard to an environmental study on the break-in-access on NYS Route 840. Since the Town Board had a number of questions in this regard, Supervisor Tyksinski asked Mr. Smith to meet with the Town Board and/or Planning Board. His response was that the Town hadn't paid some of his bills but, as a professional courtesy, he would review the GEIS Findings with the Town Board and Planning Board upon payment of his company's outstanding bills. Councilman Backman said he "...wasn't overly happy with Smith" and he's not up on paying him more; the Town Attorney advised that the Town may owe him contractually. With regard to the NYS Route 840 Break-in-access – it was understood that the developer is supposed to pay. The Town Attorney said he doesn't believe *smith & associates* completed the Findings they were supposed to do. By the April 14, 2010 Town Board meeting, Senior Engineering Technician John Meagher will have reviewed all invoices submitted by *peter j. smith and associates* and will report to the Board at that time.
- Draw down of \$2.8 million Fund Balance – To answer questions of where the Town's fund balance of \$2.8 million went over the past several years, the Town Supervisor had put together the attached chart for the years 2006-08 years which basically demonstrates where the fund balance went, detailing the appropriations, revenues, annual deficit, cumulative deficit, and so forth. For the most part, it was planned to support a budget that had a deficit in the beginning; sales tax revenue was overstated. Town Supervisor expects to have the final figures for 2009 by the end of April 2010 and expects a deficit fund balance for the end of 2009.

Supervisor Tyksinski noted that the Town's fund balance had increased during the period of 1999 through 2002 and was accomplished without a tax rate increase. Services continued to be maintained at previous levels or higher and the Town's credit rating increased twice.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 14

However, over the following eight years, the fund balance became fixed and began its decline eventually leading to a general whole-town fund balance of zero. This resulted in the bond rating companies decreasing the Town's credit rating twice, which costs the Town more money due to higher interest rates assigned to borrowings.

A look at the 2010 budget demonstrates the financial problems the Town got into because of the lack of financial controls and scrutiny. The budget originally started out with a tax increase of approximately 90%. It has been mentioned by some that this could have been avoided by smaller increases over the past years. However, during the period 1999 through 2002 when the fund balance was increasing, a tax increase would have been unfounded. All this would have enlarged the fund balance, which was already at a point that was financially sound. If a tax rate increase occurred over the past eight years, the annual increases would have been over 11% a year, an increase still very much unreasonable.

The method then utilized to keep tax rates down was to utilize the fund balance and to institute "invisible budgetary cuts", cuts that would have effects on future budgets:

- all non-union employees received no raises while the union employees received their raises
- reductions in the updating of the computer system which has left the Town with a failing computer system
- use of mitigation fees to support ordinary budgetary items such as police cars, highway and sewer equipment
- items that were inadvertently left out of the budget
- reducing services: curbside trash collection, reduction in summer help, drastic reductions of over 50% in the finance and legal departments, a one-time reduction of rent for Butler Hall, reduction in the Senior Citizens budget and elimination of road paving
- one-time cuts reduced the projected tax increase of about 90% increase to 46%.

The effects of these cuts is cumulative and can only go on for so long before they need to be addressed and remedied and the Town is now faced with this very situation. A reduction in the size of the Town's expanding budget is

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2010

Page 15

necessary and the Town needs to change the way it does business. One-time budget cuts will not work. The Town needs to make changes that will affect this budget, the budget for 2011 and thereafter. Anything less than that is merely a band-aid approach. The Town needs to become more efficient and to look to other agencies for assistance. Supervisor Tyksinski believes that changes can be made which would provide some relief to the Town taxpayers now and help to hold the line in future budgets. These changes would be instituted without affecting the services the Town provides. Supervisor Tyksinski believes the Town can save \$1.3 million out of the upcoming 2011 Budget by terminating dispatching services (\$700,000), savings of \$500,000 out of the Highway, Police and Parks Departments, and through other areas of Town government (\$100,000) that would be realized through cost reductions and increases in departmental revenue. Already this year the Town Board has taken actions that will result in savings of approximately \$100,000 for this budgetary year and continue for future budgets.

Ramifications of not acting could and would most likely result in continued tax rate increases. The math is simple; the initial budget for 2010 resulted in an increase of approximately 90%. This was reduced to 46% by making cuts that were temporary or one-time reductions, such as no pay raises for non-union employees, etc. If the Town does nothing and re-introduces these one-time cuts to the budget, the Town will be looking at another 45% tax rate increase which would bring the current rate up to \$4.63 per thousand of assessed valuation. Future budgets would continue to rise at a 5% to 10% increase potentially raising the tax rate in three years to between \$5.25/per thousand and \$6.15/per thousand; thus, a \$150,000 house would have a Town tax of \$788 to \$922.50. With no changes, the fund balance will continue to be zero and any future increases will have to be funded through tax increases. Change needs to be made now so that future budgets can stay in line with reasonable tax rates. The Town will be facing three (3) big union contract negotiations at the end of this year. Wages go up, cost of business goes up, must replace equipment. Supervisor Tyksinski asked the Councilpersons to meet with their respective department heads over the next two (2) months to see what can be cut from the budget and he will be in touch with the Councilpersons, who he instructed to call him with any questions or suggestions.

[NOTE: There was an unidentified male who said he'd like to have a police department but the Town can't afford it. Also, Mr. Wiatr of the Concerned Citizens group said that his organization performed a survey over the past two (2) weeks about consolidation of the Town's Dispatch Center and the people have all voiced favorable opinion for consolidation.]

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2010
Page 16

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion of Councilwoman Krupa and duly seconded by Councilman Backman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wolanin Young, Town Clerk