

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**

May 24, 2018 – Combined Town Board/Village Board Workshop – 5:30pm

A Combined Town Board/Village Board Workshop was held Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 5:30pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Philip Crandall, Supervisor
William Misuraca, Mayor
William Bailey, Trustee
Daniel D. Baker, Councilman
Kenneth C. Burns, Councilman
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
Linda Muller, Trustee
Mary Ellen Rosato, Trustee
Nancy Warner, Trustee
James C. Youmans, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk

Audience (5)

Supervisor Crandall opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that the Agenda was just a start and he wanted to throw out some ideas, set up some committees and then come back to the table for another meeting. He then stated that he would like to start with Item 2.

Item 2 – Water Extension of 143

Supervisor Crandall stated that he would like to see water service extended up Martin’s Hill and then slowly out towards the Hollow. He believes that as well as providing clean water to these residents it would help the home values to go up.

Discussion ensued between the Town and Village Board members with Trustee Bailey mentioning that this had to be done by districts. He also mentioned that this had been tried before but the State Comptroller’s Office had rejected it because the cost would be too great to the homeowners up Martins Hill. The money to do this would have to be bonded and those homeowners would have to pay the cost of the bond.

Trustee Bailey said that in the Village they could sell water without a contract but for outside the Village they had to contract with the districts. Councilman Youmans stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of doing this without annexation. Trustee Bailey mentioned that he was for annexation.

Supervisor Crandall asked Councilman Youmans to be on a committee to look into this and Mayor Misuraca asked Trustee Bailey. The two would get together and discuss the different options to present at the next combined meeting.

Item 3 – Future Water Rates

Supervisor Crandall asked Trustee Bailey to speak on this topic. Trustee Bailey mentioned that the Village is looking into raising the water and sewer rates by 11%. At this point it is just a proposal and the Village would be holding a public hearing later this year and the change in the bill amounts would take place in March of 2019. The new water rates would be an increase of \$25 a year for Village residents and \$37.50 for Coeymans Water District Residents. The rate increase would be in September and would be reflected in the March bill. Trustee Bailey stated that the Village had not raised the rates in 15-20 years.

Councilman Baker asked about the difference in rates between the Town and the Village. Trustee Bailey explained that the Village could charge anything they want for water and could transfer the profit to their General Fund to help offset taxes. He also explained how the current system allows the Town to relevel water bills onto its residents. The Village would have no way of doing this to obtain money from those who live in the Water District. Trustee Warner also mentioned that the extra that is charged to the Water Districts helps to offset the cost of repairs.

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There was a short discussion on the ownership of the water lines.

Trustee Warner stressed the fact that this is a proposed rate and that the change would not take place until after there was a public hearing where the public could be heard.

Councilman Dolan asked why they were proposing to raise the rates. Trustee Bailey mentioned increased costs and the fact that it had been so long since the bill had gone up. Mayor Misuraca stated that Deans Mill Dam also needs attention and this is work that they could not do in house.

Councilman Youmans mentioned that the Village has some of the lowest water rates in the capital district. Trustee Bailey stated that they were the third lowest in the State of New York and that it was because of this that the Village often did not obtain as much grant funding as they could. Trustee Warner also mentioned that the increase would also go to helping with infrastructure.

Item 4 - Sewer

Supervisor Crandall stated that the current sewer project was coming to completion. He outlined the scope of the project. He stated that we have had 1 overflow that we will be fined for.

Trustee Bailey stated that from the Village point of view the new project has helped considerably. The sewer used to back up into the Village through the manholes when there was a very heavy rain. This has not happened with the new trunk line.

Councilman Burns stated that the Town had done away with one of the overflow reservoirs and we are currently storing police vehicles there. He was wondering about the possibility of turning it back into an overflow area. Supervisor Crandall stated that he would check with John Kerr on this.

Item 5 – Dog Park/Park Pool Options

Trustee Muller asked to speak about the Pool. She said that they had created a new policy for this year and are going to extend the option of Season Passes to the Town of Coeymans and New Baltimore residents. The cost will be \$65 for a single person, \$75 for a couple and \$100 for a family. Ravena residents would be able to bring in a guest for \$3 and others would be able to enter for \$5.

Discussion ensued between board members about how the Town had paid half the cost in the past and residents had been able to use the pool for free. The original installation of the pool was also discussed. Councilman Dolan stated that the Town did not have to money to look into something like this for this year but suggested that Trustee Muller look into it and then meet with a Town Board member to discuss this. Trustee Warner stated that numbers were kept on how many Town residents were using the pool and that those numbers could be helpful.

Supervisor Crandall asked that Councilman Burns meet with Trustee Muller to discuss different options.

Mayor Misuraca spoke about the Dog Park and the progress that has been made. Carver Companies donated the equipment and man power to clear some brush and thickets in the area. The dog park would cover approximately 1.5 acres of a 3 acre parcel that is behind the VFW. He described that this had been dead space and that clearing it would help the drainage. He mentioned an independent committee has set the rules and licensing information. He then went on to describe that the cost of the fencing was the only hard cost that the Village was looking for help with. They are offering that the Town could pay half of the \$8,000 fencing cost, which would be approximately \$4,000 or a bit less depending on how much they are able to obtain through fund raising, and in doing this they would be able to offer the same rate to Town residents to use the park as they are able to offer to the Village residents.

Trustee Warner brought up the licensing part and asked why it would not make more sense for the residents to obtain the license when they get their dog license at the Town Clerk's office so that the residents did not have to go to two different places, it would save them time.

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Town Clerk Rowzee mentioned that she had spoken with the Dog Park Committee already and while that is a possibility there are so many things that would need to be worked out with regards to money and how much the Town would keep for their expenses, who would order the tags and many other variables. Discussion ensued on if other Towns would be using the dog park. Mayor Misuraca stated that he was only offering the lower rate to the Town of Coeymans residents at this point.

Town Clerk Rowzee went on to mention that it would also need to be figured out how and how often the money would be transferred to the Village. Trustee Bailey mentioned the possibility of the Town Clerk's Office collecting checks made out to the Village of Ravena. Both Trustee Warner and Town Clerk Rowzee did not think that would be a possibility.

Town Clerk Rowzee stated that every person who got a dog license received a piece of paper and all they would need to do is take that over to the Village. Trustee Muller mentioned that she was a dog owner and that it would not be difficult to walk over to Village to obtain a license for the dog park after getting her dog license from the Town.

Supervisor Crandall asked how the dog park would be policed. Mayor Misuraca stated that for the most part it would be self-policed. He said those who go to a dog park are a very tightknit community and they know who belongs there. Mayor Misuraca stated that he has spoken to the people in Bethlehem and there are very few incidents.

Councilman Dolan recommended that Town Clerk Rowzee and he work with the Mayor to see what we can come up with.

Councilman Youmans stated that he would like to look into this a little more because this was the first he had heard of the expenditure of cash. He wasn't sure how likely some of the residents of the Town would be to bring their dogs to the dog park.

Discussion ensued about how the upkeep was going to be paid for. The resulting opinion was that some taxpayer money would need to go to this but that as an increase in the quality of life for the whole community would be worth that investment for everyone. Mayor Misuraca stated that the dog park would be very low maintenance and should take care of itself with the licensing fees.

Town Clerk Rowzee stated that as Councilman Dolan suggested, she would be willing to work with everyone to decide the best way to handle this and that the Town Clerk's Office would follow through with whatever was decided on to help make this a better community.

Item 1 – Shared Services

Councilman Dolan first asked who he would be working with regarding the Summer Rec Program. Trustee Muller confirmed that it would be her.

Councilman Dolan then mentioned that the Town has been working on a Shared Services agreement with the County. He then went on to say that he knew that there was some informal sharing that happened between the Town and the Village but he would like Scott Searles and Henry Traver to sit down together and see if there is a possibility of future purchases that could be shared. If they could look at what needed to be purchased over the next five years or so to see if some of that equipment could be shared between the two municipalities. He stated that then a formal agreement could be made.

Trustee Bailey questioned the need for a formal agreement. He stated that it has been understood that any equipment is shared. He is worried that once you make it formal it is just going to get bogged down. Discussion ensued among the Board members about this topic. Mayor Misuraca stated that he could see where a formal agreement could be useful, and wouldn't necessarily need to be as binding as their current Albany Water Board Contract.

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It was decided that Henry Traver and Scott Searles would sit down and look at what would be needed in the future in order to help with cost effectiveness in the future. They will in turn meet back with their prospective Boards and decisions could be made from there.

Motion to Adjourn

On motion of Councilman Youmans, seconded by Mayor Misuraca, the Combined Town Board/Village Board Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 10 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Time – 6:20

After the meeting there was a short discussion on when the next meeting would be. It was decided that the next meeting would occur at the Village, likely in June or July and the Mayor would contact the Supervisor with a possible date.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read June 28, 2018

Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk