

**Stillwater Town Board
Business Meeting
November 20, 2008 7:00PM
Stillwater Town Hall**

Present: Councilman Artie Baker
Councilman Ken Petronis
Councilwoman Lisa Bruno
Councilwoman Virginia Whitman
Supervisor Shawn Connelly

Also Present: Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk
Mark Minick, Supt of Highways
Jim Trainor, Attorney for the Town
Joe Lanaro, Engineer for the Town

Supervisor Connelly called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk took the roll call.

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilwoman Whitman to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2008 Business meeting of the Stillwater Town Board. **Motion carried.**

Communications: None

Public Input

Resident I questioned Resolution #156 & #163, the status and cost of the GEIS, and if the Town is paying unemployment benefits to anyone.

Supervisor Connelly stated that Resolution #156 was to extend Jim Ferris's term which ran out in October.

Attorney Trainor stated that Resolution #163 was bringing the local law on peddling up to date. Supervisor Connelly explained that the GEIS was Town only, not adopted yet and the total cost was not to exceed \$232,000 which has not been paid yet.

Supervisor Connelly stated that his prior secretary is collecting unemployment even though he denied the Town being responsible for paying.

Further discussion was held on unemployment laws.

Resident II questioned Resolution #159, #160, #161, #162, & #166 and commented on the GEIS in regard to holding payment and suggested that the Town Board request a time sheet audit from Chazen on this job.

Supervisor Connelly stated that #159 was to update the fines for violations involving dogs running at large and other violations, #160 was a development going in off of Route 423 near 9P, #161 & #162 was setting up an escrow to cover fees that would incur through the Engineer or Attorney.

Attorney Trainor stated that Resolution #166 was to set a fee to cover the cost of doing an annual inspection for operating a junkyard.

Resident III inquired about Resolution #171.

Supervisor Connelly stated that the Town Board would appoint someone for the remaining year left of the tax collectors term.

Resident IV questioned the unemployment benefits being paid to the Supervisor's former secretary when she left for another job, and the Town Christmas Party.

Supervisor Connelly stated that unemployment has informed him that resigning is not grounds for denying benefits and that he is still following up on this.

Councilman Baker stated that the Town Christmas Party is for the kids in the Town.

Resident V commented on documents he obtained from the County office showing that his fence is on park property and not Town property and according to Town law the Town Justices are suppose to serve as Town Board members.

Supervisor Connelly stated that the resident is the one who continued to say that he was shoveling snow on Town property.

Councilman Petronis stated that the law regarding Town Justices being Town Board members was updated when he was a Town Justice who also served on the Town Board.

Resident VI inquired about trailers that were pulled out of the trailer park near the iron bridge and if he had to follow the Town Mobile Home Ordinance if he put trailers back in there. Supervisor Connelly stated that he has not requested to any trailers back in there.

Resident VII inquired about AMD, the County water line, junkyard fee, increasing fines for dogs, and the situation on Stratton Lane.

Supervisor Connelly stated that the AMD project is moving forward at no cost to the Town, the County water line is paid for,

Agenda Items (Resolutions #155 to #171)

Resolution #155: Approving Allocation of Zone Lands to AMD Fab Technologies US, Inc

Resolution #156: Extending the term of the ZBA Chairman

Resolution #157: Approving a contract for snow removal at the Saratoga National Historic Park for 2009.

Resolution #158: Awarding the bid for a truck for the Highway Dept.

Resolution #159: Setting a Public Hearing to amend Local #5 of 2004 regarding fines for violations.

Resolution #160: Accepting easements and roadways from Amedore Homes.

Resolution #161: Establishing an Escrow for ABC Recycling Project.

Resolution #162: Establishing an Escrow for CSR Sewer Project.

Resolution #163: Adopting Local Law 3 of 2008 regarding the Town's Solicitation Law.

Resolution #164: Adopting the 2009 Budget.

Resolution #165: Setting a public hearing on AMD PDD Amendment.

Resolution #166: Imposing a Junkyard Inspection fee.

Resolution #167: Hiring a Tax Attorney in connection with the AMD proposed PDD Amendments.

Resolution #168: Authorizing the Office of Fiscal Management to disburse paychecks early for the month of December

Resolution #169: Authorizing the purchases for the Town's Annual Holiday Christmas Party

Resolution #170: Adopting the audit report of the Justice Court.

Resolution #171: Accepting the resignation of the Tax Collector & Deputy Tax Collector effective 12/31/08.

Councilwoman Whitman requested Resolution #158 & #164 be pulled for separate vote.

Councilwoman Bruno requested Resolution #169 be pulled for separate vote.

Motion by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilman Petronis to adopt Resolutions #155-#171.

Discussion:

Resolution #160: Councilman Petronis requested discussion on Resolution #160. His concern was that the Town would be plowing roads while construction was going on as there were no homes there at this time. He wanted to make sure that the Town had leverage against the developer if everything wasn't up to par.

Attorney Trainor stated that the Town has a letter of credit from the developer foreseeing any problems in the future.

It was noted that the Highway Supt had no problem with accepting the roadway.

Resolution #166: Attorney Trainor stated that with Resolution #166 they were just approving a fee and a public hearing would not be necessary.

Resolution #155: Attorney Trainor commented that a paragraph be added under the second resolve in regard to the name change of the applicant and that such name change will not alter or diminish the approval nor require any further action by this body or agency.

Motion carried. Resolutions #155, #156, #157, #159, #160, #161, #162, #163, #165, #166, #167, #168, #170, #171. (Copies attached and made part of the minutes).

Resolution #158 (Highway Truck Bid)

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilman Baker to adopt Resolution #158. Councilwoman Whitman stated that she was not for purchasing the truck out right. She felt that the Town should consider a three year lease and she didn't believe the economy warrants extra expenses next year.

A roll call vote was taken as follows on Resolution #158:

Councilman Baker	Yes
Councilman Petronis	Yes
Councilwoman Bruno	Yes
Councilwoman Whitman	No
Supervisor Connelly	Yes

Motion carried. Resolution #158 was adopted by a 4 to 1 vote. (Copy attached and made part of the minutes).

Resolution #164 (2009 Budget)

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilman Baker to adopt Resolution # 164. Discussion:

Councilwoman Whitman stated that she was going to vote no on the 2009 Budget because she felt there are Depts. And areas they could have cut without jeopardizing anything, especially the safety of the residents and we would not be setting the Town backwards as I am accused of. She stated that can not knowingly raise rates at the percentage we have without considering the residents. She stated that she just didn't see anyone come back to the table with suggestions for discussions, cuts at all; it was here it is and that's it.

Councilwoman Bruno stated that she was saddened by our current fiscal situation and realize because of the previous administration and the current fiscal issues with the State and the Nation that it leaves us with some very difficult budgetary issues.

However, she believes they could have done more to cut local government to ease the strain of the average Stillwater home owner. Our residents have to make do with less and it is my feeling that our town should do the same.

She requested cuts across the board in all areas. Although, they did meet and some cuts were made. It simply was not enough. However, she is realistic that the health and safety of our residents has to come first and foremost. This is why she supported the increase for our Ambulance providers. It is also her belief that we undercut our Police Department and she hopes that our Police Chief will be able to make do in these hard fiscal times to ensure the safety of our residents.

She does not feel that they have done all that they could have as leaders of this community, She can't support this budget as is, and she is voting No.

Councilman Baker stated that if this budget is not passed that they go back to the original back.

A roll call vote was taken as follows on resolution #164:

Councilman Baker	Yes
Councilman Petronis	Yes
Councilwoman Bruno	No
Councilwoman Whitman	No
Supervisor Connelly	Yes

Motion carried. Resolution #164 was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote. (Copy attached and made part of the minutes).

Resolution #168 (December paychecks)

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilman Baker to adopt Resolution #168.

A roll call vote was taken as follows on Resolution #168:

Councilman Baker	Yes
Councilman Petronis	Yes
Councilwoman Bruno	No
Councilwoman Whitman	Yes
Supervisor Connelly	Yes

Motion carried. Resolution #168 was adopted by a 4 to 1 vote. (Copy attached and made part of the minutes).

Audited Claims

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilwoman Whitman to pay the audited claims.

General	#532-#551	\$25, 674.93
Town Outside	#8,406.84	\$8,406.87
Highway	#489-#522	\$34,401.27
Capital Projects	#72-#78	\$132,715.11
Water & Sewer	#60-#63	\$1,283.32

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilwoman Bruno to adjourn the Business meeting of the Stillwater Town Board. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by

Sue Cunningham
Stillwater Town Clerk