

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kievit, at approximately 7:00 P.M. with the opening statement that the meeting had been duly advertised and met all the requirements of the Sunshine Law. Also present were: Deputy Mayor Ross, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Kula, Councilman Miller, Manager Marianne Smith, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Fred Semrau.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Junkyard License Renewal – Central Auto Liquidators, Inc. – Block 77, Lot 10

Township Engineer Robert Guerin stated that upon inspection of the premises he noted that there is a small area being used for junk storage that is not within the licensed area. Mr. Guerin stated that he spoke with the operator of the facility and the operator stated that he was not aware that this particular piece of property was not in the licensed area. The operator stated that he would remove the cars within the next week so that he will be in compliance. Councilwoman Hamilton asked Mr. Guerin if he would be going back to re-inspect the premises. Mr. Guerin stated that he would. Township Manager stated that the Zoning Officer and the Construction Official are scheduled to visit the premises later this week to do their inspection.

B. Quarry License Renewals

The Township Engineer stated that he had no engineering objections to the renewal of the following Quarry License renewals:

- Beaver Run Farms
- Eastern Concrete Materials

It was the consensus of the Council to place the above quarry license renewals on the January 19, 2010 regular meeting agenda.

C. Soil Removal License Renewals

The Township Engineer stated that he had no engineering objections to the renewal of the following Soil License renewals:

- Beaver Run Farms
- Shotmeyer Brothers, Inc.
- North Church Gravel, Inc. – This license renewal would be conditioned upon the recommendations of the Township Engineer as stated in his letter dated December 31, 2009.

It was the consensus of the Council to place the above soil removal license renewals on the January 19, 2010 regular meeting agenda.

D. Recommendations to deny requests for release or reduction of performance bonds from K. Hovnanian Corporation for sections within Crystal Springs Development (The Cedars, Tannery Hill and The Bluff)

Township Engineer stated that there are still outstanding issues with the Hardyston Township Municipal Utilities Authority that need to be addressed by K. Hovnanian Corporation and recommended that the Council deny the requests at this time. The Council was in agreement with his recommendation.

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At this time, Debra Lynn Nicholson, Esq. who represents Wallkill Water and Sewer, was acknowledged by the Township Manager. Township Attorney stated that the BPU Application that will be filed by the purchasing entity requires that current resolutions be adopted by the municipality concerning the franchise area descriptions. He stated that the Council at a prior meeting gave direction to the Township Engineer to review the area descriptions. Ms. Nicholson stated that she has made the appropriate changes to the resolutions concerning the franchise area description recommended by the Township Engineer. Township Engineer stated that he will review the changes and if everything is in order, the Council can place the resolutions on the next meeting agenda. The Council was in agreement to have the Engineer review.

E. Status report on final 2009 tax collection rate

Township Manager stated that the final collection rate was 97.66%.

F. Recommendations for the adoption of formal snow removal guidelines for the Township of Hardyston

Township Manager and Township Attorney stated that it would be advantageous to have some formal guidelines with regard to snow removal. Township Manager stated that the Director of Public Works put together some guidelines that were reviewed by the Township Attorney. Township Attorney stated that from a legal standpoint, the guidelines were commendable and recommended that the Council adopt these guidelines. The Council agreed with the recommendation.

G. Renewal of contract with Sussex County Transit for senior citizen and disabled transportation services

Township Manager stated that this is a very useful service provided to our residents and other residents of Sussex County and recommended that the contract be renewed. The Council agreed.

H. Recommendation of ordinance requiring criminal history background checks relative to recreational volunteers and employees

Township Attorney stated that the Deputy Manager feels that from a recreation standpoint there would be a need for a criminal background check for employees and volunteers for youth serving organizations. He stated that the ordinance itself would be whereby if you are such an individual you would submit to a criminal background check. He stated that if you are cleared, you would not have to re-submit for a period of three years. He further stated that law enforcement officials would be exempt. He stated that some organizations, such as the Little League, have a very good criminal background check program in place, and if that were presented to the Director of Recreation in an acceptable manner, they would just have to present certifications that all of their participants have been cleared. He stated that the ordinance also includes provisions for persons who have been convicted of a serious criminal type offense, and in this case, the police chief would assist in addressing such a concern. He stated that the State Police have a good system in place and would be able to assist with the background checks with a quick turnaround time. Deputy Mayor Ross asked what the cost would be. Township Attorney stated that the cost would be \$26.50 per check and that the cost would be borne by the organization. The Council agreed to place the ordinance on the next regular meeting agenda.

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- I. Recommendation of ordinance regulating the licensing of limousines, limousine owners and limousine drivers

Township Attorney stated that the Township Clerk has had people coming in for letters on a regular basis so that they can obtain certain privileges whether it be from the DMV or the State with regard to limousine services, and the township does not have an ordinance in place. He stated that he met with the Township Clerk, Police Chief, and the Township Manager and presented the Council with a draft ordinance for their review.

- J. Status Report on Capital Projects

1. Solar Energy Generating Facility – Township Manager presented the Council with a project update letter from Dave Klockner of Eneractive Solutions. As stated in Mr. Klockner's letter, the project is substantially complete and ready to begin production of electricity with a few remaining punch list items that are currently being addressed.
2. Redevelopment of former municipal building site – Bob F. Schultz, Director of Public Works/Deputy Manager stated that he has been in contact with the contractor regarding the site on the south side of town. Mr. Schultz stated that the contractor is asking for an extension of time to complete the project due to delays in approvals and due to weather conditions. The Council agreed to approve the extension.
3. Tanker Truck Replacement & Equipment – Township Manager stated that this item is under development.
4. Improvements to North Church Road DPW Facility – Township Manager stated that we are waiting for the final design specs incorporating some modifications and we should have them shortly.
5. Status of Municipal Property Revaluation – Township Manager presented the Council with an update from Appraisal Systems, Inc. She stated that everything is right on target. She stated that preliminary values are in the process of being established and should be completed by the end of January 2010. She stated that once the values are established, all property owners will be notified via first class mail of the proposed assessed value. She further stated that it is anticipated that the first mailing will be during the first week in February. She stated that an informal hearing will be available for property owners who have questions or concerns about the preliminary assessment of their property. She stated that the mailings will be done in phases to accommodate taxpayers in scheduling an informal hearing. She stated that it is anticipated that the informal meetings will begin in mid February and will be completed by the end of February.

PUBLIC COMMENT (in accordance with P.L. 2002, c.80): A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. No public comment. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No further comments.

ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 8:20 p.m., a motion was made by Ross to adjourn seconded by Hamilton. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk