

## **MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kula 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 Miller, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Verrilli, Councilman Cicerale, Manager Marianne Smith, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Dawn Sullivan of Dorsey & Semrau.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A. Resolution expressing the importance to recognize the strength of local pension funding in regards to recommendations from Governor Christie's Pension and Health Benefit Study Commission

Township Manager stated that this resolution expresses the importance of the fact that the local pension systems are very healthy. She stated that the local PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) is funded at a 73.9% level and the local PFRS (Police & Fire Retirement System) is funded at 76.9%, but it is the State's PERS that is only funded at 48% because the State has failed to make their contribution. She stated that this resolution urges that fact to be taken into consideration and that the local tax is not impacted or compromised in an effort to solve the State's problem. She stated that this resolution has been placed on the regular meeting agenda to follow for the Council's consideration.

- B. Energy Aggregation Scheduling Update

Township Manager stated that the Passaic County Energy Cooperative will be running the bid auction on December 9, 2014 and will supply the Township with all the information as soon as they have completed their quote comparisons and after the County's review and approval.

- C. Resolution urging the NJ State Legislature to enact a 2% cap on tuition increases charged by County Vocational Technical High Schools to local sending districts

Township Manager stated that this resolution is in furtherance to the discussion held with Robert Walker, Interim Superintendent, Wallkill Valley Regional High School, at a prior Council meeting. She stated that since the consensus of the Council as a result of that discussion was to support a cap on the tuition increases, this resolution has been placed on the regular meeting agenda to follow for Council consideration.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilman Cicerale asked whether the recommendations by the Township Auditor that were included in the 2013 Township Audit would be addressed. Township Manager stated that they would be addressed. She stated that the CFO would be preparing a Corrective Action Plan. Councilman Cicerale also had a question regarding the 5-Year Capital Plan and the increase in fuel tanks. Township Manager stated that the increase would allow the Township to take one of the fuel tanks and place it on the south side of town so there is fuel as well as salt on the south side of town and the DPW would not have to travel back and forth.

Councilman Miller stated that one concern he has as a result of the conversation with Interim Superintendent Robert Walker, is why so many students are choosing to attend the vocational school and not attend Wallkill Valley Regional High School. He stated that possibly some of the programs need to be improved. Councilman Kula stated that perhaps it is because instead of going to college, they opt to attend the vocational school to learn a trade.

**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. Resident Marty Schweighardt of 44 Tannery Hill, shared a few words with the Council in honor of Veterans Day. Resident Frank Lacatena questioned the title of the resolution regarding the 2% cap on tuition and asked if it should read "2% cap on tuition *increases*". It was the consensus of the Council to make the correction to the resolution to read "2% cap on tuition *increases*". A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 7:20 p.m., a motion was made by Verrilli to adjourn seconded by Hamilton. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk