

TOWN OF MARCELLUS

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Ross at 7 PM.

In attendance were Supervisor Ross and Board members Lathrop, O'Hara, Sheridan and Sherman. Also, Town Justices Dailey and Moses, Highway Supt. MacLachlan, Recreation Director Coccia, Town Accountant Barnes and Town Attorney Gascon. Also, OLPA President Anita Williams, MFD member Dave Card, and two town residents.

Items discussed were:

- I. Hydrofracking Moratorium
Board discussed future course of action during the moratorium period. Supervisor Ross suggested that Board meet with the Planning Board and Town Attorney what above ground activity should be regulated and what changes to current town law if any should be considered. It was the opinion of the Town Attorney that State controls hydrofracking process below ground and it would be difficult for the town to prevail in regulating that activity.
Ms. Williams solicited the town's interest in a 5town coalition. She described the coalition as a "loosely organized" group of 5 towns in the Otisco Lake watershed formed to examine issues regarding the impact of hydrofracking on the Otisco Lake area. Supervisor Ross said the Town was willing to meet with the other towns. Marcellus was committing to assume any costs for the coalition members or necessarily agree to any resolutions supported by the majority of coalition members.
- II. Service Awards
Mr. Card presented the Board with updated cost figures regarding the proposed Service Awards program for the MVFD. The Board asked for an explanation of revenue figures in the Department 2010 IRS 990 form. Mr. Card will provide an explanation from their accountant. Mr. Card requested the town fully fund the buyback portion of the program. Board requested that the Department assume some of the cost.

- III. Budget Review
The Town Board reviewed the 2012 Court budget request. Justices requested additional salary adjustments for the Court Clerks.
Supervisor Ross requested that the amount of fund balance in the Tentative Budget be reduced in the preliminary budget.
- IV. Parks
Mr. Coccia presented the Board with 2011 a Program participation report.
Most program participation was up this year.
- V. Town Attorney
Town Attorney Gascon informed the Board that at Mr. O'Hara's request, he had researched the question of whether the Board had the power to grant employee bonuses. A bonus is generally looked on as a gift of public funds and not allowed. A bonus is allowed if the terms are negotiated prior to the work necessary to achieve the bonus is commenced.
- VI Other Matters
Board discussed further changes to the 2012 Tentative budget.
Board agreed to reduce contribution from prior years General Fund fund balance to \$75,000.
Board agreed to the following 2012 salary adjustments:
Deputy Town Clerk - \$26,875
Accountant - \$36,680
Deputy Court Clerk - \$11.00/hr.
**Note: Councilor O'Hara was opposed to the increases for Deputy Town Clerk and Accountant not the Deputy Court Clerk*
Board agreed to increase fire fund contingency line by \$20,000 as a contribution to Service Award program.
With these changes town board agreed to forward the 2012 Preliminary budget to the Town clerk for publication.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

**corrected at the November 10, 2011 Marcellus Town Board Meeting*

