

TOWN BOARD  
APRIL 12, 2006

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem was held on the above date at the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY. The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Theresa Egan, Supervisor  
Daniel Plummer, Councilman  
Tim Gordon, Councilman  
Samuel Messina, Councilman  
Kyle Kotary, Councilman  
Kathleen A. Newkirk, Town Clerk  
James T. Potter, Esq., Town Attorney

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Supervisor Egan welcomed everyone to a regular meeting of the Bethlehem Town Board. She invited them to join in the pledge of allegiance.

The Supervisor took a moment to go through a couple of things. Dedicated, loyal patrician, noble, mischievous, keen sense of fun, family man, charismatic, useful in one case and a mere use of another, leader, humanitarian and patriot. She took a moment before starting the meeting to remember Detective Sergeant John Cox Sr. who dedicated thirty-five years of his life to this town and is the foundation to the Bethlehem Police Department. In addition, she took a moment to remember the family and friends of Captain Timothy Moshier who entered West Point eight years ago and on April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year made the supreme sacrifice in the sands of Iraq. A moment of silence was taken to remember John Cox and Timothy Moshier. Remembering their family and friends in your prayers and thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

Supervisor Egan said on behalf of herself and the Town Board we would like to thank the Bethlehem Police Department who did a phenomenal job over the last couple of days working with various authorities. She also thanked the Elsmere and Delmar Fire Department, specifically Terry Hannigan has spent the last several days coordinating many of the activities.

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The Supervisor said the first item was for public comment, asking if anyone wished to speak.

Mrs. Marie Capone had a question for the Town Attorney. The Board of Education wanted a \$19 million dollar bond, which had to be voted on. The Fire Department wanted to build a new firehouse, which had to be voted on. The next item on the agenda tonight is the Vista plan and you are looking to pass it. Doesn't the population have a right to vote on that?

Town Attorney Potter said the legislator did not provide for that in the Town Law. So no, that is the determination of the Town Board.

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Mrs. Capone said when Kevin Shea died they had a ceremony and they presented a plaque to the Town that is outside of the Supervisor's Office. Couldn't you do something for John Cox?

Supervisor Egan said we didn't do that within a week of Kevin dying, it took some time. We will be looking into different ways of providing a responsible type of honor for John here at the Town Hall. We will let you know as soon as we decide that will be.

Mrs. Capone asked if it was going to be permanent? Supervisor Egan said as permanent as Kevin's is. Mrs. Capone said Kevin is there you can see and you I can go by and say hi to Kevin. However, she wants something there that she can stop and say hi to John Cox. Supervisor Egan said I will pass that on to the Police

Department.

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Norman Morand said on the agenda there is a request from the Superintendent of Highways to authorize Supervisor to execute a Maintenance Agreement with NYS Transportation Department with regards to the Route 85 improvements. He wanted to know if it was going to cost the taxpayers and is the going to finance the maintenance of this? Supervisor Egan said they will talk about that when they get to that agenda item. Mr. Moran said whenever something comes up like that the Board votes on it. He would like to know what the cost to the town will be and how will it benefit the town.

Mr. Morand said he stopped at the Slingerlands Fire Department to talk to the Chief and he said the VISTA is going to have some buildings that are going to be three stories high. Slingerlands residents are going to have to buy a piece of fire equipment to satisfy the requirements. He asked why the taxpayers in Slingerlands have to buy a hook and ladder to satisfy VISTA. He said if VISTA is going to put a three-story building up, let them buy the truck and give it to the town. He also mentioned the wild life situation noting he wrote to Encon and the response was that if you think there is a deer problem contact Schenectady.

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The Supervisor asked if anyone else had any other comments on agenda items. There were none.

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Supervisor Egan said the first item was to approve the Town Board minutes of March 8, 2006.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Gordon to approve the Town Board minutes of March 8, 2006 as submitted. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Plummer to approve the Town Board minutes of March 22, 2006 as submitted. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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The next item on the agenda was to acknowledge receipt from Comptroller, Judith Kehoe, of the Annual Investment Report 2005.

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Next was a request from Comptroller, Judith Kehoe, for approval of the Investment Policy attached as Exhibit A.

The motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the Invest Policy as submitted by Comptroller Kehoe. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Acknowledge receipt from Comptroller, Judith Kehoe, of the Report on Capital Reserve Fund Accounts.

Councilman Plummer asked if the Funds are identified for a designated purpose. Comptroller Kehoe said funds increase reserve to cover authorized expenditures.

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PUBLIC HEARING BEGAN: 5:45 P.M.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: We'll go back to the public hearing that was scheduled for 5:45 p.m. First do I have a motion to waive the reading of the call of the meeting to indent the notice and the affidavit of publication and the affidavit of posting?

The reading of the call of the hearing was waived with direction for them to be indented on the minutes of the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Gordon and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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TOWN CLERK NEWKIRK:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, ALBANY COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on April 12, 2006 at 5:45 p.m. at the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY to consider proposed Local Law amending the Code of the Town of Bethlehem, Chapter 119, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 119-33, Schedule VII, Stop Intersections as follows:

THREE-WAY INTERSECTIONS:

<u>STOP SIGN ON</u>	<u>AT INTERSECTION OF</u>	<u>DIRECTION</u>
Hunterswood Lane	Brookhaven Lane	West
Milltowne Road	Hunterswood Lane	East
Huntswood Lane	Brookhaven Lane	South
Amsterdam Avenue	Brookhaven Lane	North

FOUR-WAY INTERSECTIONS

<u>STOP SIGN ON</u>	<u>AT INTERSECTION OF</u>	<u>DIRECTION</u>
Kimmey Drive	Milltowne Road	East & West
Huntswood Lane	Milltowne Road	East & West
Amsterdam Avenue	Rotterdam Drive	North & South
Rotterdam Drive	Amsterdam Avenue	East & West

All parties in interest and citizens will have an opportunity to be heard at the said hearing.

The Town of Bethlehem provides reasonable accommodations for the disabled. Disabled individuals who need assistance in order to participate should contact the Town Clerk's office at 439-4955, Ext. 183. Advanced notice is requested.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
Kathleen A. Newkirk, MMC, RMC  
TOWN CLERK

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State of New York)  
County of Albany )

CHRISTINE MC NAMARA of the Town of Bethlehem, being duly sworn, says that she is the RECEPTIONIST for THE SPOTLIGHT, a weekly newspaper published in the Town of Bethlehem, County of Albany, and that the notice of which the annexed is a true copy, has been regularly published in said THE SPOTLIGHT ONCE A WEEK FOR 1 WEEK consecutively, commencing on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 2006.

/s/ Christine McNamara

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For an official copy of the minutes, please visit the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY or call 439-4955.

Sworn to before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 2006.

/s/ Sharon A. Doldo

Notary Public, Albany County

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STATE OF NEW YORK)

COUNTY OF ALBANY) ss.:

KATHLEEN A. NEWKIRK, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the Town Clerk of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York and that I posted on March 29, 2006, a Notice of Public Hearing, a copy of which is hereto attached, on the sign board of the Town maintained pursuant to subdivision six of Section thirty of the Town Law.

/s/ Kathleen A. Newkirk

Town Clerk

Sworn to before me this

31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2006.

/s/ Colleen Hummel

Notary Public

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SUPERVISOR EGAN: Okay, we'll take testimony this evening on the matter of stop signs. It's actually amending the Code of the Town of Bethlehem the V & T Law for stop intersections in the Dowerskill and Milltowne Plaza areas. Do we have anyone here to take testimony this evening? For Board purposes we do have a representative from CME available also if there are any questions from the Board.

SAM MESSINA: Terri, last time we looked at this and referred it to public hearing, I had a question or two but I followed up, researched the material and my issues particularly were with respect to the four way stop at Amsterdam Avenue and Rotterdam Drive. I guess the sum and substance of my question was since the development is not completed how would you know what data to use from traffic flow from development to know that four way is warranted there. But I checked back into the information that was provided, I believe by Greg, and drove out there and I could see that it is not just a traffic flow information, number of vehicles per hour, which as I understand it normally does not pass the threshold to require four way stoppage. That is a very rare instance but the sight distance matter is sometimes a factor and I do concur with the report that sight distance is really limited there. So the issues I have, have gone away. Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Could you identify yourself just for the record?

MR. JOHNSON: My name is Tom Johnson from Creighton Manning Engineering.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Anything else for Tom? Great thanks Tom.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Any other testimony? Do I have a motion to close the public hearing?

MR. KHACHADOORION: Excuse me, we can't understand if that was passed or not.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: We haven't voted yet. We're just on closing the meeting. Would you like to have... give testimony in regard to this?

MR. KHACHADOORION: I'm from that neighborhood with several others.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Please give your name for the record, please.

MR. KHACHADOORION: My name is Harry Khachadorian. I live on Rotterdam Drive. I have observed that intersection. In one hour there were thirty-five cars that went through that intersection. They were all going south. That is a short cut for that area. The way the road is graded you can't see anything coming. We, as a neighborhood, some of them are here and some couldn't make it, request

that there are four way stop signs there. There are a lot of children there. And so that's what we are asking.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: That particular intersection, sir, is... the proposal is for four way stop. Okay, yes, just checking.

HARRY KHACHADOORION: But even though that development isn't developed yet completely, the traffic is unbelievable. And if you stay there for an hour on a Sunday you will see it. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Thank you very much. Okay, any other testimony this evening on the public hearing. Mrs. Capone.

MRS. CAPONE: But you forgot to ask enforcement. That's what's important.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Any further testimony this evening, okay. Did we do a motion to close?

TOWN CLERK NEWKIRK: You did a motion and a second, just need to vote.

SUPERVISOR EGAN: Okay, all in favor?

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to close the public hearing at 5:58 p.m. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Town Clerk

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The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the adoption of the proposed Local Law amending the Code of the Town of Bethlehem, Vehicle and Traffic Chapter 119, Section 119-33, Schedule VII, Stop Intersections as follows:

**THREE-WAY INTERSECTIONS:**

<u>STOP SIGN ON</u>	<u>AT INTERSECTION OF</u>	<u>DIRECTION</u>
Hunterswood Lane	Brookhaven Lane	West
Milltowne Road	Hunterswood Lane	East
Hunterswood Lane	Brookhaven Lane	South
Amsterdam Avenue	Brookhaven Lane	North

**FOUR-WAY INTERSECTIONS**

<u>STOP SIGN ON</u>	<u>AT INTERSECTION OF</u>	<u>DIRECTION</u>
Kimmy Drive	Milltowne Road	East & West
Hunterswood Lane	Milltowne Road	East & West
Amsterdam Avenue	Rotterdam Drive	North & South
Rotterdam Drive	Amsterdam Avenue	East & West

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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The next item was a request from Commissioner of Public Works, Oliver Holmes, for approval of award of bid for a Generator Service Contract for Standby Generators to Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison, LLC, Albany, NY.

The motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Messina to approve the award of bid for Generator Service Contract for Standby Generators to

Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison, LLC, Albany, NY as requested by Oliver Holmes, Commissioner of Public Works. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Acknowledge receipt from Senior Services, Director, Karen Pelletier for retirement of Senior Services Outreach Worker, Caroline Wirth, effective April 28, 2006. Caroline has been employed since February 1987.

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Next was a request from Administrator, Nan Lanahan, Parks and Recreation Department, for approval of appointment of seasonal personnel.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Gordon for approval of seasonal personnel as requested by Nan Lanahan, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Dept., and listed on the Memorandum dated April 12, 2006 at the titles and salaries in the Town Clerk's office. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Request from Mark Platel, Acting Building Inspector, for approval of renewal of fill permit for 81 Beaver Dam Road, Selkirk, NY.

The motion was made Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the dumping permit for 81 Beaver Dam Road as requested by Mark Platel, Acting Building Inspector. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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The next item was a request from the Town Engineer, Eric Deyoe, to consider various municipal betterments.

Mr. Deyoe outlined four Resolutions. There was a brief discussion regarding the Resolutions to be adopted pertaining to the betterments.

The following resolution was presented for adoption:

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
ALBANY COUNTY  
For Incorporating Municipal Work  
Resolution # 18

A resolution authorizing the State of New York to incorporate the construction of: approximately 230m of 16" DIP, extending from an existing 12" T; and, increasing the size of approximately 320m 12" DIP to 16" DIP – further referred to as waterline improvements;

AND

A resolution authorizing the State of New York to incorporate the removal and replacement of asphalt median material along New York State Route 140 (Cherry Avenue Extension) with topsoil and turf with the actual limits of this construction being determined by the Town of Bethlehem and the New York State Department of Transportation during construction;

AND

A resolution authorizing the State of New York to incorporate a betterment placeholder in the amount of \$2,500 for potential future right-of-way improvements

associated with the development of a parcel adjacent to the project (Vista Technology Campus) by BBL Development;

AND

A resolution authorizing the State of New York to incorporate a betterment placeholder in the amount of \$2,500 for potential future right-of-way improvements associated with the development of a parcel adjacent to the project by KKS Properties

for the Town of Bethlehem in the contract for the reconstruction of:

Rt 85: Route 140 to the Albany City line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension S. H. 2006-1; F.A.S.H. 64-13; and S.H. 5237, Albany County.

WHEREAS, Section 10, Subdivision 27 of the New York Highway Law provides, in part, that the Commissioner of Transportation shall have power, upon the request of the municipality, to perform work for and at the expense of such municipality, any work of construction or reconstruction, including the removal and relocation of facilities, provided the Commissioner of Transportation deems it practicable to perform such work in connection with the performance of any work of construction, reconstruction, or improvement; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York is presently preparing contract plans for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of Rt 85: Route 140 to the Albany County line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension, which involves construction within the route which the Town of Bethlehem contemplated using for the waterline improvements, and

WHEREAS, said construction, reconstruction, or improvement can be undertaken in conjunction with the construction of the aforesaid improvements at a substantial ultimate savings to the Town of Bethlehem, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Town Board in regular meeting convened, petitions the New York State Department of Transportation as follows:

Petition 1. The Board has been provided with a Betterment Estimate for the municipal share to the NYSDO construction contract, understands that the Town of Bethlehem will be responsible for; the actual construction cost based on bid prices, the cost of field changes during construction, and a prorated share of the construction inspection costs. The Board will actively seek funding in the amount of \$136,000 dollars to fund the waterline improvements included in a Town of Bethlehem Share. The Board understands that these funds, which represent the initial deposit for the requested work, must be deposited in escrow with the State Comptroller at least 90 days in advance of the scheduled contract Letting date in order for the project to proceed. The Board also understands that these funds will be appropriated via a future resolution.

In consideration of these facts, the State of New York is hereby authorized to proceed with the necessary arrangements to incorporate the proposed waterline improvements in the contract for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of RT 85: Route 140 to the Albany City line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension with the cost of said construction and necessary work in connection therewith to be borne by the Town of Bethlehem.

Petition 2. The Town of Bethlehem will maintain said waterline improvements subsequent to the construction thereof.

Petition 3. The Board will actively seek funding in the amount of \$25,000 dollars to fund the replacement of the existing asphalt median material along NYS Route 140 (Cherry Avenue Extension), between Kenwood Avenue and New Scotland Road, with topsoil and turf. Said improvement shall be included as a separate Town of Bethlehem Share. The Board understands that the exact limits and location of this work will be delineated in the field by representatives of the Town of Bethlehem and New York State Department of Transportation based on the actual unit prices of the construction contract with the intent to maximize the amount and symmetry of the replacement. The Board understands that these funds, which represent the initial deposit for the requested work, must be deposited in escrow with the State Comptroller at least 90 days in advance of the scheduled contract Letting date in order for the project to proceed. The Board also understands that these funds will be appropriated via a future resolution.

In consideration of these facts, the State of New York is hereby authorized to proceed with the necessary arrangements to incorporate the proposed improvements in the contract for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of RT 85: Route 140 to the Albany City line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension

with the cost of said construction and necessary work in connection therewith to be borne by the Town of Bethlehem.

Petition 4. The Board will actively seek funding in the amount of \$2,500 dollars to fund a betterment placeholder for potential future right-of-way improvements associated with the development of a parcel adjacent to the subject State highway project (a.k.a. Vista Technology Campus) by BBL Development. Said petition shall be included as a separate Town of Bethlehem Share. The Board understands that these funds, which represent the initial deposit for the requested work, must be deposited in escrow with the State Comptroller at least 90 days in advance of the scheduled contract Letting date in order for the project to proceed. The Board also understands that these funds will be appropriated via a future resolution.

In consideration of these facts, the State of New York is hereby authorized to proceed with the necessary arrangements to incorporate the proposed improvements in the contract for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of RT 85: Route 140 to the Albany City line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension with the cost of said construction and necessary work in connection therewith to be borne by the Town of Bethlehem when said improvements have been sufficiently designed by the developer (BBL Development).

Petition 5. The Board will actively seek funding in the amount of \$2,500 dollars to fund a betterment placeholder for potential future right-of-way improvements associated with the development of a parcel adjacent to the subject State highway project by KKS Properties. Said petition shall be included as a separate Town of Bethlehem Share. The Board understands that these funds, which represent the initial deposit for the requested work, must be deposited in escrow with the State Comptroller at least 90 days in advance of the scheduled contract Letting date in order for the project to proceed. The Board also understands that these funds will be appropriated via a future resolution.

In consideration of these facts, the State of New York is hereby authorized to proceed with the necessary arrangements to incorporate the proposed improvements in the contract for the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of RT 85: Route 140 to the Albany City line – aka Slingerlands Bypass Extension with the cost of said construction and necessary work in connection therewith to be borne by the Town of Bethlehem when said improvements have been sufficiently designed by the developer (KKS Properties).

Petition 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of this Board is hereby directed to transmit five (5) certified copies of this resolution to the State Department of Transportation.

The foregoing resolution was presented for adoption by Mr. Kotary, seconded by Mr. Messina, and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 19**

### ***RESOLUTION TO APPROVE***

#### **A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Law Section 112, the Town Board does hereby approve a supplemental appropriation for the Water Fund in the amount of \$136,000, increasing budget line item 220-8540-574-20-00, Capital Outlay, to fund the net increase in appropriations required for the funding of the proposed DOT betterment for the Slingerlands Bypass Project on NYS Route 85.

The foregoing resolution was presented for adoption by Mr. Messina, seconded by Mr. Gordon, and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary request authorization of the Supervisor to execute agreements with BBL and KKS requiring the establishment of cash escrow accounts to reimburse the Town for not only the deposits but any future costs of the right-of-way improvements and betterments associated with their particular projects. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Following was a discussion of what responsibility the Town would have in regard to the maintenance. Supervisor Egan said there are some legal issues they are trying to resolve but the main part of the information will remain the same. She said the exact amount has not been worked out. Highway Superintendent noted rough figures for basic information.

The motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kotary to accept and approve the Maintenance Agreement with the proviso that the Supervisor and Town Attorney work out the technical format of it.

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Next were the reports from IMAC pertaining to the Justice and Tax Departments. Reports were distributed and discussed by the Board.

Councilman Plummer indicated he did not get the reports until this date and noted he has not had a change to look at them. He said for some reason he did not receive the reports.

Mr. Leveille noted these are pretty straightforward since they are relatively small departments. He said the committee is looking for feedback on the format of the report. He said there are no earth shattering recommendations in the reports.

Supervisor Egan thanked Receiver of Taxes Nancy Mendick and Court Clerk Barbara Hodom for their participation and cooperation through the process. Councilman Messina commended the Department heads on taking on the challenge and being enthusiastic. She also thanked Dan French, the intern, who has put this all together.

Councilman Kotary spoke regarding the format and that he found it very helpful, informative and reader friendly.

Mr. Leveille said this is a dynamic process and something that will be seen in budget preparations are made for next year. He said it will also affect other decisions by the Board and the departments.

Councilman Gordon thanked the department heads and noted he was very happy to get the first IMAC reports.

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Request from George Leville, Director of Economic Development and Planning, to consider promotion of Karen Gustella to the position of Assistant Building Inspector. She noted this was filling a vacant position.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to appoint Karen Gustella as Assistant Building Inspector effective April 13, 2006 at a grade 14 as requested by George Leville, Director of Economic Development and Planning. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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The next item was to consider establishing a Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee.

Councilman Messina spoke regarding the Comprehensive Plan and how it has many facets -- the Conservation Advisory Committee, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the Route 9W Corridor Study, the Hamlet Study. This committee would look at priorities, evaluate how the plan is being implemented and suggest changes and initiatives. This advisory group could access and provide recommendations.

Councilman Kotary noted he supports the idea regarding this committee but noted this is being set up as an advisory committee only. Supervisor Egan said again this may be an internal group because they work with this every day.

Supervisor Egan asked if this was a direction the Board wished to go in. She said her suggestion was to talk about it over the next couple weeks and come back with a proposal regarding the Committee on April 26, 2006 with recommendations.

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Next item was a request from Department of Economic Development and Planning, George Leville, for adoption of the final scoping document for VISTA. Supervisor Egan asked for a motion to table this item since they have had some comments from the TDE and have them included.

The motion was made to table this item until April 26, 2006 by Mr. Kotary, seconded by Mr. Messina and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.  
Noes: None.  
Absent: None.

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Supervisor said with regard to the VISTA, the situation regarding the wildlife and animals is part of the scoping document that was presented prior and information will be forth coming from the developer. She said the Planning Board will be addressing the fire concerns, noting Slingerlands Fire Department has been in.

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Following were updates by the Supervisor:

1. Supervisor Egan said with regard to the reevaluation assessment all slots were filled and approximately 1,900 people will have been seen for the informal process. Formal grievance process starts May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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2. Supervisor Egan said on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7PM there will be a public meeting on the Zoning Amendment updates.

Councilman Plummer wanted to know if this was in regard to the outstanding issues. Supervisor Egan said it was regarding the outstanding issues and some other issues that have come up.

Mr. Leville said in addition to the public workshops there will be public hearings held later on.

3. Supervisor Egan mentioned the issue regarding moving the Board meetings around. She said they have discussed that and one thing

they thought about was instead of a formal Board meeting, just setting up informal meetings around Town that would be publicized.

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The Supervisor asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board.

Ms. Linda Jasinski asked about the public availability of the IMAC reports. Town Attorney Potter said they are not subject to FOIL because they are internal documents containing recommendations of the Board. He said on a policy basis, they want to have an open dialogue and the departments have review of these and, perhaps, once the final document is present that may be accessible. He said when recommendations are made to the Board it then becomes a part of the public record.

Ms. Jasinski next asked about the payment of the tax bill. She said with regard to credit cards, for the convenience of the taxpayer it should be considered. Supervisor Egan noted there is a fee involved with the credit card and that is a concern to the Town.

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Mr. Robert Jasinski asked if the Town ever got the insurance to cover the engineers. Supervisor Egan said they did. Mr. Jasinski thanked the Supervisor asking on the tax information if there are any answers after the informal meeting. Supervisor Egan said the information will be considered and the Assessor will mail out a decision. She said this will be before May 1, 2006, allowing everyone the opportunity to do the formal grievance procedure.

Mr. Jasinski said with regard to moving the Board meeting, the time should be considered. Supervisor Egan said they are not moving the Board meetings. He said if any kind of meetings are held in any other areas, the time should be considered. Supervisor Egan said if the informal meetings are scheduled, they would not be with staff or anyone else. It would be just an opportunity for the Town Board to be out meeting with people in various areas of the Town to get input.

Mr. Jasinski also asked for expansion on the Board agenda. He said they do not understand what is taking place. Supervisor Egan thanked the Supervisor.

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Mr. Paul Marshall addressed the issue of the bike trail property. He said one of the things was in 1997 there was a study done by Albany County. He addressed the issue of cost and condition of the bridges. He said the Town will be responsible for all that when it is signed. Supervisor Egan said the Town is not signing for it, it was a County purchase. She said the Town has not been addressed by the County in regard to what they would request of the Town.

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Director Karen Pellettier of Senior Services said she wished to publicly thank Caroline Wirth for her 19 years of dedicated service to the Town of Bethlehem and its elderly. She said her compassion, her patience and her dedication to her job have helped in the growth of Senior Services and helped it succeed. She said for the thousands of elderly people whose lives have been made better by her dedication, she wanted to say thank you.

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Mr. Morand noted he came down and reviewed his and others assessments. He noted he asked about the business sector and the Assessor said that is not available. He said he did a FOIL and the next day he was called that the information was available. He said the interesting thing is the assessment for Lowe's, Walmart and National Grid and Farm Family Life Insurance never changed. He said there were others the same way. He said this is shifting the burden to the residents. Supervisor Egan said several were the result of grievance procedures. She noted the commercial properties were reevaluated by an outside appraiser and adjustments made as needed.

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Mr. Morand also mentioned the pipelines on New Scotland Road. He noted there are breaks continually. Supervisor Egan said there is a review of this and easements are being sought.

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The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ms. Egan, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Messina, Mr. Kotary.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

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Town Clerk