

TOWN BOARD
APRIL 26, 2000

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 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Sheila Fuller, Supervisor
George Lenhardt, Councilman
Doris M. Davis, Councilman
Daniel G. Plummer, Councilman
Susan Burns, Councilman
Catherine T. Picarazzi, Deputy Town Clerk
Bernard Kaplowitz, Esq., Town Attorney

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

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Administrator, David Austin, Parks and Recreation Department, for approval to go to bid for reconstruction of a soccer area at Elm Avenue Park, Delmar.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Ms. Burns:

WHEREAS, the Town desires to advertise for bids for the reconstruction of a soccer area at Elm Avenue Park, Delmar, pursuant to law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk advertise for such bids in THE SPOTLIGHT issue on the 3rd day of May, 2000 and that bids be received up to 3:00 on the 26th day of May, 2000 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

The next item was a request from David Austin, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, for approval of appointment of seasonal personnel.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mr. Plummer to approve the appointment of seasonal personnel as listed on the Memorandum from David Austin, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, dated April 26, 2000 at the titles and rates listed.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

The following item was a request from Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, for approval of address number change. Supervisor Fuller noted it is the new building next to the Evergreen Bank on Delaware Avenue, Delmar. She said it was assigned the number of 347 and a request has been received from Policy Research Associates, (who will be occupying the office building), to change the number to 345 Delaware Avenue. She said Columbia Management Group, owners of the property, has authorized the change as well.

The motion was made by Mrs. Burns and seconded by Mr. Plummer to approve the renumbering 347 Delaware Avenue to 345 Delaware Avenue, as requested by the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

The next item was to acknowledge a Proclamation regarding Municipal Clerks Week, April 30 through May 6, 2000. Supervisor Fuller said this is to extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Kathleen Newkirk, and her Deputies Terri Picarazzi and Julie McNeil for all the services they perform for our community.

The following request was from Comptroller, Judith Kehoe, for approval of Computer and Internet Use Policy. Mrs. Davies stated there have been several articles in the newspapers on this subject and she felt it was pertinent at this time. This policy will be reviewed by department heads and the police and telecommunitor unions.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to approve the Computer and Internet Use Policy as requested by Comptroller Judith Kehoe as presented. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

The next item was a request from Planning Board Counsel, Keith Silliman, on behalf of the Planning Board, for an extension of time until June 30, 2000, to complete the scoping process for Bethlehem Town Center. Mr. Silliman informed the Board that on April 18, 2000 at the Planning Board meeting, the scoping session for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bethlehem Town Center on Route 9W was held.

Following the scoping session, discussions addressed the comments that were to be received by the Planning Board, and a motion was passed to request the Town Board be lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act to seek an extension of time to complete the scoping process until June 30, 2000. It was stated that the SEQR regulations allow such extension when the lead agency and the project sponsor agree to the extension. Mr. Nigro submitted a letter dated April 25, 2000 consenting to the extension. Mr. Silliman and the Planning Board also feel this will produce a detailed scope for the work that has to be done in the DEIS. He said they felt this would not delay any critical path items for the development of this project. Attorney Silliman felt this will be time well spent. Note was made after approval by the Town Board a letter should be sent to Mr. Nigro indicating the approval of the extension.

Supervisor Fuller acknowledged the letter from Mr. Nigro consenting to the extension until June 30, 2000. She also felt there was a need to stay on top of the schedule for the project. There are many deadlines to be met.

Mrs. Davis questioned if a consultant has been hired since it was approved at the last meeting. Attorney Silliman stated the Planning Department was in the process of hiring a consultant, noting interviews are to be held May 8, 9 and 10. He said they are attempting to get a consultant on board to assist in this process.

Mr. Plummer questioned the time frame as to what happens following the scoping period, such as a public hearing. Attorney Siliman noted the developer goes back with the scope and starts conducting the required studies to meet the requirements of the DEIS and submits a draft DEIS to the Planning Board for their review and approval. Once approved for public review, a 30 day public comment period along with a formal public hearing, with minutes taken will commence. Then the two boards will make their decisions. The critical time is when the scope is approved and the time is up for the developer to get the document together and submit the DEIS. There are some studies that have to be done that are probably being scoped by the developer, such as traffic, air quality, noise, soils, etc. There is a lot of information that has to be gathered.

Mrs. Davis felt that since the developer has agreed to the extension it is a credit to Mr. Nigro and thanked him.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to approve the extension to June 30, 2000 for completion of the scoping process regarding Bethlehem Town Center. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

Supervisor Fuller asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak before the board. No one replied.

Supervisor Fuller asked for a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters following the close of the regular Town Board meeting.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve meeting in Executive Session following the close of the regular Town Board meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and Ms. Burns to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Fuller, Mr. Lenhardt, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Burns, Mr. Plummer.
Noes: None.

Deputy Town Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no formal action taken at the Executive Session.