

TOWN BOARD
MAY 10, 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
Colleen Hummel, Deputy 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 and invited them to join in the pledge of allegiance.

The Supervisor asked for a moment of silence before starting the meeting to keep Detective Tony Arduini, Kathy, Courtney, Chelsi and Luke in our thoughts.

Bob Jasiniski had a question regarding the request for grounds keeper being a new position or not. The Supervisor said no this is replacing an existing position.

Mrs. Capone and Mr. Jasiniski both questioned the disbanding of the Fire Advisory Boards. Supervisor Egan said that each of the districts have met and decided to disband the board and go back to meeting with the Commissioners.

The Supervisor asked if there were any other comments on agenda items. There were none.

The motion was made by Mr. Kotary and seconded by Mr. Messina to close the Public Comment time.

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

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The next item was to approve the Town Board minutes of April 12, 2006.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Kotary and approved by the following vote to approve the Town Board minutes of April 12, 2006.

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

The Supervisor moved the presentation for The Center of Technology to the beginning of the agenda.

Theresa Pardo, Deputy Director for the Center for Technology in Government for the State University of Albany, said the program reviews and assists the managing growth. It helps to continue to maintain the mission statement of the Bethlehem Police Department. Some ideas would be to maximum efficiencies while taking a look at performance measurement and performance indicators; taking advantage of new technology; using new sources which everyone within the criminal justice system would benefit from on a daily basis.

At the end after gathering information from within the entire police department recommendations will be given.

Supervisor asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board and there were none.

Detective Bruce Oliver addressed the Board regarding a major staffing crisis. The Police Department needs help now not after a study not after a survey officers are needed now. He stated many things are not getting done officers are getting tired, frustrated and upset. We need less talk and more action. The people in our community expect and deserve adequate police protection. We do support the CTG study.

Mr. Scott Anson, President of the Bethlehem Police Officers Union, spoke regarding members working overtime. The gear up time to get a police officer out on the street is so long, you are long at a long turn around and in the meantime the police officers are still working 60-80 hour weeks. This is a huge concern. We do support the CTG study because the Chief said it would be a good thing.

Supervisor Egan said there is nothing that has been proposed, suggested or action taken that is in any way stopping any additional staffing or requests for staffing. Once there is an application for consideration of additional staffing presented to the Board it will get to the Board immediately for consideration.

Mr. Plummer said he was uncomfortable voting for this now. We have a situation with the pressures that the Chief has expressed and the concern is that the Comptroller has outlined a very serious Budget problem for this year and for the future. We need to start prioritizing the actual manpower in the police force first.

Mr. Messina stated we have a government to run and we want to keep Bethlehem at the top of the game. With regards to the Police Department and moving forward you need to keep making investments with good benefits to the town and also deal with the fiscal crisis. He supports this study.

Mr. Kotary stated a study of this nature could be important and useful in determining the best level of staffing and needs for the Police Department. While using the CTG study and IMAC we need to find ways to get more out of the local government with less burden on the taxpayers. This is the ultimate goal of this project.

Chief said there is a proposal that will reach the Board at the next meeting concerning staffing for the requests to fill vacancies.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the CTG Study and go forward as presented.

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

Noes: Mr. Plummer

Absent: None.

The following item was the presentation of the 2005 draft audit report for the Town of Bethlehem from Comptroller, Judith Kehoe.

The next item was to acknowledge receipt from Judith Kehoe, Comptroller, of the Town of Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency 2005 Audit Report.

The next item on the agenda was to acknowledge receipt of GIS information.

Jason Baum spoke with regards to the benefits of implementing GIS through increased efficiency and easier access to higher quality information. He would like to have the GIS committee work on prioritizing the most important issues that GIS could be applied to.

The next item was a request from Director of MIS for Resolution authorizing expenditure from General Fund Capital Reserve. The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to table this item. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by George Leville, Director of Economic Development & Planning of Zoning Law proposed modifications.

Discussion regarding the Zoning and Subdivision amendment process, as well as, a schedule for implementing changes ensued.

The next item on the agenda was a request from Oliver Holmes, Commissioner of Public Works, for disposal of a surplus standby generator.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to dispose of the surplus standby generator as requested from 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.

The next item was a request from Commissioner of Public Works, Oliver Holmes for approval of appointment of Consulting Chemist.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the appointment of Kenneth Drautz as Consulting Chemist. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item was a request from Oliver Holmes, Commissioner of Public Works for approval of Water Conservation Measures.

Discussion took place regarding Water Conservation Measures. Watering is allowed only before 10AM and after 6PM.

The motion was made by Mr. Kotary and seconded by Mr. Gordon to approve the Water Conservation Measures as set forth in the Memorandum from the Commissioner of Public Works, Oliver Holmes dated May 4, 2006. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item was a request from Nan Lanahan, Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department, for approval of appointment of Groundskeeper at an annual salary of \$28,681 effective May 15, 2006.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to appoint Robert Rarick as Groundskeeper as requested by Nan Lanahan,

Administrator, Parks and Recreation Department at an annual salary of \$28,681 effective May 15, 2006 as requested. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

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

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve the seasonal personnel listed in the Memorandum from Nan Lanahan, Administer, Parks and Recreation Department dated May 10, 2006 at the titles and salaries listed. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item was a request from Councilman Kotary to fill a Zoning Board vacancy.

The motion was made by Mr. Kotary and seconded by Mr. Plummer to approve the appointment of Mark Hennessey, Delmar, New York as a Member of the Board of Appeals effective May 10, 2006 with the term ending December 31, 2006. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item was to acknowledge receipt of Cable Television Franchise Fees from Time Warner Cable in the amount of \$102,322.89 for the period of January through March 2006.

The next item was to acknowledge Emergency Medical Services Week.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Gordon to acknowledge Emergency Medical Services Week. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item the agenda was a request from the Chief of Police for authorization to hold Bicycle Auction.

The motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kotary authorizing the Bicycle Action. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21

Resolution Authorizing Bicycle Auction

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem is authorizing a bicycle auction to be conducted by the Bethlehem Police Department, Youth Bureau, as permitted under Section 253, Duties of police, and Section 254, Item 3, Disposition of lost property, according to law,

WHEREAS, proceeds from the auction will be donated to the D.A.R.E. program of the Town of Bethlehem Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Notice of Auction be published in THE SPOTLIGHT, a newspaper published in the County of Albany and having a circulation in the Town of Bethlehem on the 17th day of May, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said bicycle auction be held on May 20, 2006 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. during the Bike and Safety Day at the Elm Avenue Park, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar, New York.

The foregoing resolution was presented for adoption by Mr. Kotary, seconded by Mr. Gordon and duly adopted by the following vote:

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Dated: May 10, 2006

The next item on the agenda was a request from Supervisor Egan to disband the Fire Advisory Board.

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to disband the Fire Advisory Board. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Supervisor Egan asked if there were any other public comments.

Mr. Jasinski was totally against the purchase of the property of the Colonial Acres Golf Course. The Supervisor stated that the individual that is collecting the petitions will be here on May 24, 2006. Mr. Jasiniski stated if this was purchased it would be taken off the tax rolls. This means the additional tax burden will be paid by the residents.

Mr. Waldenmaier said he has heard we need to formulate the needs for the future. Are we budgeting for storm water management for the future? Supervisor Egan said yes we are. We are looking at different ways to deal with storm water management. This becomes a mandate in 2008 and we are planning for it.

Linda Jasinsi would like to request to make the meetings a little bit later so people can have dinner before they come to the meeting.

Supervisor Eagan asked if there were any other comments. There were none. The Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The motion was made by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Kotary to approve adjourning to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The motion was made by Mr. Messina and seconded by Mr. Kotary to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting at 7:40 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.

Deputy Town Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mr. Messina to approve vacation time for Senior Civil Engineer and Assistant Engineer in the amount of three weeks as requested by Commissioner of Public Works, Oliver Holmes. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

Motion was made by Mr. Kotary and seconded by Mr. Plummer to close the Executive Session and reopen on May 25, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

Deputy Town Clerk