

**Town Board  
July 14, 2010**

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 6:00PM.

PRESENT: Samuel Messina, Supervisor  
Joann Dawson, Councilwoman  
Mark Hennessey, Councilman  
Mark Jordan, Councilman  
Kyle Kotary, Councilman  
Nanci Moquin, Town Clerk  
James T. Potter, Esq., Town Attorney

Supervisor Messina called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS-----**

Marie Capone: Asked if the new part time people in the Senior office were civil service. Supervisor Messina said they were not. She asked why there wasn't a cooling center in Bethlehem. Supervisor Messina said the senior office contacted about 820 people that might have needed support and assisted a few getting air conditioners installed and a few others were brought to the library to cool off.

**APPROVAL OF 7/14/10 MINUTES-----**

A motion to approve the Town Board minutes as drafted was offered by Councilman Kotary, seconded by Councilman Jordan and approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary  
NAYES: none  
ABSENT: none

**REQUEST FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO ACCEPT DONATION OF \$3,904.40 FROM BETHLEHEM SENIOR PROJECTS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF 12 ADA ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES-----**

Supervisor Messina said the donation was made in honor of Karen Pellitier and all her years of service to the Town.

A motion to accept the \$3,904.40 donation from Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. for the purchase of 12 ADA accessible picnic tables was offered by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilwoman Dawson approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary  
NAYES: none  
ABSENT: none

**REQUEST FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR APPROVAL OF SEASONAL PERSONNEL-----**

A motion to approve the seasonal personnel as listed in Ms. Lanahan's 7/14/10 memo was offered by Councilwoman Dawson, seconded by Councilman Jordan and approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary  
NAYES: none  
ABSENT: none

**REQUEST FROM THE COMPTROLLER TO APPROVE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INVESTMENT POLICY AND THE 2009 INVESTMENT REPORT-----**

A motion to approve the Town of Bethlehem Investment Policy and the 2009 Investment Report was offered by Councilman Kotary and Councilman Jordan:

Discussion: Councilman Kotary asked Ms. Traylor to share with the Board the history of the policy, the diversification of the policy and if she had any suggestions. This was not something to alter the Investment

Policy but to advise the Board on her ideas. Ms. Traylor said the Investment Policy needed to be approved every year along with the Investment Report and historically they have been approved at the same time. She said there had been discussion and the Board might want to consider approving the Investment Policy at the Organizational Meeting. The policy has not changed for years. Guidelines for Investment and Protecting Public Funds for public officers from OSC are available to be reviewed on line. Municipalities don't have a lot of flexibility in terms of investing public funds. The investments must be risk free and the assets must be kept in a liquid form. The investment climate is flat right now. The Town does have investments with a few different banks because when the Town needs to borrow, it gets a more favorable rate when they are a client of the bank. She said all the investments are backed with FDIC insurance as well as collateralized investments to protect the Town. She recommended approving the Investment Policy now and at the Organizational meeting in 2011. Next year the Investment Report will be presented for approval when the auditors are finished. Supervisor Messina agreed that the Investment Policy could be approved at the Organizational Meeting. He said the Board might want to get an outside perspective on the policy and investment strategy. Councilman Hennessey asked if there were any signs that interest rates would go up soon. Mr. Traylor said no. Keybank thought possibly there would be movement within a year. She said because of the low interest rates now was a great time to be borrowing money. Councilman Kotary asked how the Town's interest earning was this year relative to the budget. Ms. Traylor said when they budgeted for 2010, they assumed the interest rates wouldn't go anywhere. The budget was modified last year based on the bad news concerning the interest rates. She thought the Town was on track.

After discussion the motion was approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary

NAYES: none

ABSENT: none

**REQUEST FROM TOWN ENGINEER TO ACCEPT SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT AT 6 AND 8 WINDING ROAD AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 14 MAPLE AVENUE, DELMAR**

A motion to accept the sanitary sewer easement at 6 and 8 Winding Road and right-of-way at 14 Maple Avenue was offered by Councilman Kotary, seconded by Councilwoman Dawson and approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary

NAYES: Councilman Hennessey

ABSENT: none

**NEW BUSINESS-----**

Councilwoman Dawson said different municipalities are considering the early retirement incentives sent around by NYS. She noticed that information about this had been passed around to the Town's employees. She thought the Town Board would be making the decision as to whether it would be offered to the Town employees and what the policy would be. She said the purpose behind these incentives was for employers to show a savings by having the employees participate. She thought it would come before the Board for a decision prior to it going back to the employees. Supervisor Messina said she was correct. He said nine or ten people have expressed an interest. The local governments have to act on a policy by the end of July. He had planned on putting this on the agenda for the last meeting in July.

Supervisor Messina said a 20/20 implementation meeting had taken place and representation was very good from the community. Some of the people had said they would come back and help with further assessment and implementation. He hoped for monthly meetings. The Board members could join if they wanted. In the past the Board members observed. Councilman Kotary said it was a good meeting and if other members of the community were interested, there was room. Supervisor Messina brought up the fact that Councilman Hennessey had recommended having a county representative on this committee. Councilman Hennessey said at the last meeting they had discussed this item it was agreed that the list of potential committee members would come before the Board for approval. He said with a committee that would work on the policy direction of the Town, he thought it was something that should come before the Board. Supervisor Messina said he didn't know if it needed a vote. Councilman Hennessey said the original 20/20 membership was voted on by the Town Board. Supervisor Messina said they didn't know the makeup of the committee yet.

Councilman Kotary asked if the County had contacted the Town about their decision to remove Bens Bridge. In an article in the Spotlight, the County said they couldn't invest resources in the bridge. Supervisor Messina said there had been no communication but he would contact the County for an update.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS-----**

Marie Capone: On Tuesday there was an accident in front of her house where a woman on a bicycle was hit by a car. She was impressed with the ambulance responders and the police and wanted everyone to know.

Linda Jasinski: Noticed that the notice for the first meeting of the new 20/20 Committee was not on the WEB site. Also the Town Board meeting was not listed on the WEB site, though the agenda was posted. Supervisor Messina said the first 20/20 meeting was not open to the public but the future meetings will be posted and the WEB site had a glitch that kept the Town Board meeting from showing up. It's been remedied.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS -----**

A motion to adjourn was offered by Councilwoman Dawson, seconded by Councilman Jordan and approved with the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilwoman Dawson, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan, Councilman Kotary

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

The meeting closed at 6:35 PM.

Nanci Moquin  
Town Clerk