

TOWN BOARD
NOVEMBER 21, 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
Kathleen A. Newkirk, Town Clerk
Bernard Kaplowitz, Esq., Town Attorney

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

The first item on the agenda was to acknowledge receipt of the 1999 Annual Franchise Fee from Mid-Hudson Cablevision, Inc. in the amount of \$251.73.

The next item was a request from Engineering Services Administrator, Michael Cirillo, for acceptance of deeds for easement purposes for VanWies Point Road, Glenmont. The Supervisor explained the work has been completed and noted it is a job well done by the Highway Department. She noted the Town had requested the easements.

The motion was made by Ms. Burns and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt to approve the acceptance of deeds for easement purposes for Van Wies Point Road, Glenmont, from Nancy B. Vail, 168 Van Wies Point Road and Steven and Bonnie Gold, 178 Van Wies Point Road, Glenmont. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The following item was a request from Karen Pellettier, Director, Senior Citizens Services, for acceptance of gifts in memory of Hobart Shanley. The Supervisor explained Mr. Shanley was a van driver for 10 years.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Mrs. Davis to accept donations in the amount of \$2,123 in memory of Hobart Stanley as requested by his family and the funds be placed in a T-85 account for use of a future vehicle purchase for Bethlehem Senior Transportation. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The next item was a request from Chief of Police, Richard LaChappelle, for approval to go to bid for one (1) replacement van to be used as a mobile command vehicle. Could advertise on November 29, 2000 and open bids on December 11, 2000. Supervisor Fuller said roughly the cost of a new van would be \$50,000

which is in the budget. She said certainly everyone knows from the 1998 storm when the lightning hit the tower on the outside of the building that the Telecommunicators operated out of the mobile command center in the back parking lot for about 6 months. She said they did very well under very difficult circumstances but services to the Town were not interrupted.

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Lenhardt:

WHEREAS, the Town desires to advertise for bids for the purchase of one (1) replacement van to be used as a mobile command vehicle, pursuant to law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk advertise for such bids in THE SPOTLIGHT issue on the 29th day of November, 2000 and that bids be received up to 10:00 a.m. on the 11th day of December, 2000 at which time such 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.

Absent: None.

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Councilman Davis asked Chief LaChappelle -- pursuant to their conversation earlier and for the record -- the letter says new van but in the conversation there was an indication that there is a possibility it may not be a van. Chief LaChappelle noted that they found some significant savings in the budget but it was getting near the end of the fiscal year and they looked into the type of vehicle currently owned. He said additionally they looked into buses which would serve the same purpose and provide a better value which are on State contract. He said this affords the option to go to a truck, although it is bare bones and may be more expensive, or take it off of State contract. He said that is around \$57,000 but would probably save \$10,000 or \$15,000 in the long haul for work that would not have to be done.

Councilman Davis said the other question she had was regarding the emergency radio system that the Town is working on and how this will offset with the new van. Chief LaChappelle said all the capability exists in the existing van and a minimal amount of money will be spent to transfer the equipment over and not do anything permanent until the radio portion is finalized.

Councilman Burns asked about the areas of savings during fiscal 2000 and reviewing priorities with budgeted monies as to what the Chief means by this. Chief LaChappelle said one part is that there was \$10,000 budgeted for repair of the existing van and they decided that was throwing good money after bad so they did not spend it. He said in the .2 account they saved more than \$20,000 by buying 2 Elsmere Fire Department chiefs cars that were used and in excellent condition, instead of the budgeted replacement vehicles at a much higher price. He said Lt. Corsi was able to get Albany County 911 to pay for 2 different softwares that they had budgeted for and did not expect reimbursement for and he said there is a built in-cushion every year in the communications .1 which must be budgeted for replacement costs for all the communications system. He said not all of the replacements are done and that resulted in a cushion around the anticipation of \$30,000 or \$40,000. He said this is where these funds came from.

Councilman Burns also asked why this was not brought up at budget time. Chief LaChappelle said he thought it was talked about every year but to buy a commercial vehicle fully equipped for this purpose is \$100,000 to \$150,000 and they felt they could make do without incurring that kind of expense. He said when they realized there was going to be money available this year, they looked at what they could do themselves that will save money yet still operate. He said he thinks this is an opportunity without spending additional funds to get the vehicle and in

next year's budget do the best they can to convert it to their needs.

Councilman Burns asked if this was the future plan. Chief LaChappelle indicated it was. He said it is a tremendously valuable resource noting it was a difficult decision not to pursue the big money and they tried to get one more year out of the current vehicle.

Councilman Davis said this was discussed at the budget session and the Chief agreed. He said it comes down to the money and where the priorities go. He said some thing just fell into place this year and gave the opportunity to do this. He said he thinks this will save spending a lot of money.

Supervisor Fuller said she failed to mention the present vehicle is a 1981 GMC and it is getting old. The Chief said it is a very tired GMC.

Councilman Davis noted she thought there is a problem with getting replacement parts for the current vehicle. Chief LaChappelle said there are safety issues as well and it has served its purpose for a lot of years and very well.

The next item was a request from Bruce Secor, Commissioner of Public Works, for approval of the Swift Road Water District Extension No. 4.

Supervisor Fuller asked Mr. Secor to give a brief overview. Mr. Secor said in the memorandum he provided an overview of the item. He said this is a minor issue because it is for 2 lots, he said. The Swift Road Water District Extension is in the Town of New Scotland and when it was originally formed it was formed with the cooperation of the Town of Bethlehem. He said the first portion of Swift Road off of New Scotland Road had a 2 inch galvanized water service line and had a lot of leaks and problems. Mr. Secor said the Town of New Scotland came along and said they would like to make a water district because there are other people further up on Swift Road who have problems with water. He said the Town of Bethlehem 2 inch line is very old and as you go up Swift Road it is uphill. Therefore, New Scotland formed a water district with new pipes and a pressurized system which pumps the water up to these properties.

Mr. Secor said the old 2 inch pipe has been eliminated and Town of New Scotland took over the customers of our Town and put them into the new district. He said there have been 3 other extensions to this and New Scotland is still well within their original water supply permit. He said the original was for 20,000 gallons a day and they are averaging 12,000 gallons a day currently.

Mr. Secor said the only reason it is before the Board, according to his understanding, is because there is a Memorandum that came from the Town of New Scotland Water Supply Committee to the New Scotland Town Board suggesting a condition that this come before the Town of Bethlehem Town Board for approval. He further noted again this is a minor issue and said the last paragraph listed pertinent information. He said he feels it would be a good idea if the Town of Bethlehem negotiates some kind of an overall agreement with the Town of New Scotland for some of the areas that are included in the list in the near future. He said he does not think with this request for 2 lots it is necessary to get into the bigger picture.

Supervisor Fuller said the Supervisor of the Town of New Scotland came in and met with her and it happened to be the appointment was set up 2 days after the landslide. She said this was the last thing to be considered at that time. She said they agreed that this would be addressed again and look at the big picture of water for the Town of New Scotland. She said that will be done but tonight is just for 2 building lots. She said she thinks the Town of New Scotland did not want to go ahead with this without the Town Board in Bethlehem indicating it was okay.

Councilman Burns asked if there was anything legal, i.e. contracts, that need to be done with this request. Mr. Secor said he does not think there really is a contract, there is nothing to change. Supervisor Fuller noted the amount of water taken is within the contract that was in existence previously.

Councilman Lenhardt asked Mr. Secor if the Town of Bethlehem is still acting as the transmission agent for the 2 additional lots. Mr. Secor said it says that the Town is and we are still purchasing some water as our supplemental source and whether a drop of water gets there or not we are still listed. Essentially, Mr. Secor explained that is the case. Mr. Secor noted the water sold to Swift Road includes the cost of the purchase from Albany with a transmission fee. He said some of the other areas are not covered that well. He further noted New Scotland has prepared an overall map and this will be explained when this comes back to the Board and some common ground is decided. He said there is no conflict, no problem but a matter of housekeeping to get this in order.

Councilman Plummer asked what the timing is on addressing the bigger picture. Supervisor Fuller said at this time there is no schedule set up, noting New Scotland is working on their questions and concerns and resolving their issues about water. Mr. Secor said they are getting organized by hiring an engineer to advise them from Vollmer Associates and trying to formalize their policies. He said during this year a conversation will probably be started.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve the Swift Road Water District Extension No. 4 for the Town of New Scotland. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

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

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the appointment of seasonal personnel as follows:

Recreation Supervisor II at a rate of \$7.60 per hour.

Bonita Scott
63 E. Poplar Drive
Delmar, NY 12054

Recreation Supervisor II at a rate of \$6.50 per hour.

Sean R. Howie
46 Harrison Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

The following item was to approve the Town Board minutes of November 8, 2000.

The motion was made by Mr. Plummer and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve the Town Board minutes of November 8, 2000 as submitted. The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

Supervisor Fuller asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one addressed the Board.

The Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The motion was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve adjourning to Executive Session 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.
Absent: None.

The motion was made by Mr. Lenhardt and seconded by Mrs. Davis to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Town Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no formal action taken at the Executive Session.