

LUMBERLAND TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2017

The Town of Lumberland Town Board held a monthly Workshop Meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the Municipal Building in Glen Spey, N.Y. Supervisor Jenny Mellan opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was administered to those members present:

Supervisor Jenny Mellan
Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Leigh Sherman
Councilman Joseph Carr
Councilman James Akt
Councilwoman Zoriana Gingold

Also present were Town Clerk Virginia Horn, Constable Robert Maas, Code Enforcement Officer David Sparling, Highway Superintendent Don Hunt, Jr., Attorney for the Town Danielle Jose-Decker, Town Clerk Elect Laurie Terry and Steven Kosmacher.

Supervisor Mellan stated the first thing on the agenda was to schedule the Year-End Meeting and Town Board Re-Organizational Meeting in January. The Board members agreed to hold their Year-End meeting on Wednesday, December 27th at 6:30 p.m. and their Re-Organizational meeting in January on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 with the Town Board Workshop Meeting to immediately follow. The Town Board also agreed to hold their 2017 Departmental Book Audits on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The Town Clerk was instructed to post the schedule of these meetings.

The Board members reviewed the Meeting Minutes, Monthly Reports, Correspondence and Pre-filed Resolutions. Supervisor Mellan noted the Grant Writer updates. Supervisor Mellan reported the Cultural Series Annual Report provides more information on the concerts. Supervisor Mellan noted they received a copy of a letter sent to the NYS DOT regarding the recent paving on Rt. 97 and the request for a different traffic light at the intersection in Barryville. Supervisor Mellan noted the letter sent by Joan Rosenfelt in regards to the Pond Eddy Firehouse and requested the Attorney for the Town review the letter. Supervisor Mellan noted it has been established that there were no code issues regarding this matter.

Supervisor Mellan reported the Resolution for approval of an employee benefits policy needed to be discussed. Supervisor Mellan presented the draft of the policy, noting she had the Attorney for the Town review it. The Board reviewed the policy and made suggested changes. Councilman Sherman stated it was a step forward. Supervisor Mellan reported her Confidential Assistant/Bookkeeper is willing to pay 5% of her medical benefits cost because it would align with the highway contract. Supervisor Mellan stated she would rewrite the policy with the changes and have it for next week's meeting.

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Don Hunt, Jr. reported there may be a change to Resolution #134, noting he may need to withdraw from the appointment to the County Fire Advisory Board.

Supervisor Mellan reported Resolution #135 was for a request to use unallocated funds that were originally budgeted for a Summer Youth Basketball program that did not happen. The request is for the Town to use the monies towards a Winter Youth Basketball program which the Board members agreed to. Supervisor Mellan noted the budgeted amount was \$1,000.

Supervisor Mellan noted Resolution #136 was an agreement with the school district to purchase road salt from the town. The Highway Superintendent noted the school district is considering making it a 3 year agreement instead of one year.

Supervisor Mellan reported Resolution #137 was for the cost of the outside auditor to do the annual financial report. Supervisor Mellan noted Resolution #138 was to approve the contract with the County for the town to maintain county roads during the winter months.

Supervisor Mellan reported Resolution #139 was to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law #1, 2018 to continue the Cold War Veterans' Tax Exemption which had been good for 10 years and needed to be extended. Steven Kosmacher questioned what a cold war veteran was? Laurie Terry reported it was a veteran who served in a war that was not a recognized war.

Supervisor Mellan questioned what were they doing regarding giving continued education credit for those members who serve on the zoning review committee? Councilman Akt stated they would need to check with the Town Attorney who oversaw the committee to verify the time put in, noting some members of the Planning or ZBA have not completed their credits. Laurie Terry questioned what would happen if they did not complete their required training hours? Supervisor Mellan stated then they would not be appointed in January.

The Town Clerk reported that her Deputy and the Town Clerk Elect attended Tax Collecting training and one of the subjects talked about was the amount the town was allowed to retain if someone overpaid on their tax bill. The Town Clerk reported it was the recommendation by several Tax Collectors to raise the limit from \$5 to \$10 since up until now anything over \$5 had to be refunded which is costly to the town every time a check has to be written and sent out. The Board members agreed a Resolution should be drawn up for next week to increase the limit the Town can keep for overpayment of a tax bill.

Supervisor Mellan reported they received a letter from the Code Enforcement Officer recommending the appointment of a new Code Clerk/Planning Board Clerk/ZBA Clerk. Councilman Sherman questioned if the appointment could be made tonight, however, the Attorney for the Town advised against taking action at a Workshop Meeting. The Code Enforcement Officer reported they interviewed the 5 applicants who were all qualified,

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however, they need someone that can step into the positions with very little training and their recommendation is for the one that best fits that qualification.

The Code Enforcement Officer questioned if anything was being done to give the part time clerks vacation time? Supervisor Mellan stated she is working on that policy next. The Code Enforcement Officer stated there are 3 clerks that do a lot of work. Supervisor Mellan noted they can take comp time.

The Highway Superintendent reported the CHIPS check should be coming in soon. The Highway Superintendent reported the little truck that has been ordered should be here by the 1st of January and the big truck should be here this month. Hunt reported the town land fill inspection is coming up and that is was verified the AED unit will need to be installed where the security cameras are.

Councilwoman Gingold reported that people do not have the time to come out to the meetings and asked if the town could consider setting up an account where they could view the meetings online? Councilwoman Gingold stated she could use a town phone and the town would create an account and the meetings could be videotaped to show online.

Supervisor Mellan questioned if we had heard anything from Eagle Creek regarding the condition of the road over Rio Dam? The Attorney for the Town reported she has received nothing yet but will follow up on it again.

Steven Kosmacher questioned why a mugshot of someone was posted on the town website? Supervisor Mellan stated it has happened before and she has requested it be removed.

Councilwoman Gingold made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Councilman Sherman, all in favor, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia V. Horn, Town Clerk