

LUMBERLAND TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2011

The Lumberland Town Board held a Special Meeting to schedule a Public Hearing for Local Law #4, 2011, entitled Zoning, to discuss the Fire Department LOSAP Program, The lock box program for Tax collection and any other Town business deemed necessary on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall in Glen Spey, N.Y. Supervisor Rajsz opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Rajsz reported that Councilman McKerrell was not present because he was representing the Town at a Renaissance function.

Roll Call was administered to those members present

Supervisor Nadia Rajsz
Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Joseph Carr
Councilman Jay Shafer
Councilman James Akt
Councilman William J. McKerrell was Absent

Also present were Town Clerk Virginia Horn, Deputy Town Clerk Hedwig (Hattie) Brush, Sophia Martynec, Susan Morley, ZBA Chair Lewis Powell, Constable Robert Maas, Fire Dept. President Ann Steimle, Peter Comstock, Donald (Bosco) Hunt, Jr., Ken, James and Benjamin Steimle, Natalie Rajsz, Fire Dept. Chief Eric Robles, Faith Robles, Ron Thiele, Billy Payne, Charlie Fallon, Wayne King, Tyler King, Town Attorney Danielle Jose/Decker, Kaitlin Haas from the Sullivan County Democrat, Amador Laput and 2 representatives from the LOSAP program.

Supervisor Rajsz reported that the LOSAP program was a length of service award program for volunteer firefighters, noting that there are 2 representatives of the program present to discuss the options of the plan. Ann Steimle reported that the Fire Dept. is requesting the lowest tier retention program, noting that they have a lot of younger volunteers and the surrounding towns already have the plan. Steimle stated they would like to present the plan to the Town Board for approval. The LOSAP representative gave the Town Board members packets to review, noting his background with the New York State Retirement System. The representative reported he has almost 300 plans now in New York State. The representative stated that the program helps recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, noting the Town of Lumberland has many young members. The representative noted the qualifications for being eligible for the program, noting that the lowest cost to the town would be \$10 per person per year. Supervisor Rajsz

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questioned who determines what the town has to pay? The representative reported that he would determine the final cost after the Fire Dept. gives him a list of the number of members and the years of service. The representative noted that this system is a simplified plan of New York State Retirement, with the money being invested in the stock market. The representative noted that the Town Board would determine the investment policy by adopting a resolution on how you would want the monies invested. Supervisor Rajszyk reported that Ann Steimle had given her a list of members originally that would represent the cost to the town of \$18,000 a year. The LOSAP representative stated that there is also another option similar to a 401K plan, noting that would mean putting a certain amount for each volunteer aside each year. The LOSAP representative stated he felt the investment plan was better than the defined plan. Supervisor Rajszyk requested the LOSAP representatives come back to the September Workshop meeting along with the Fire Dept. to discuss this issue further. The Town Attorney stated that the annual Election will be held on November 8th, questioning what the time frame would be to get this issue out to the voters? The LOSAP representative stated that there is not enough time to get this issue put on the November ballot as a referendum vote, but noted the town could hold a Special Election. Councilman Akt questioned why the Fire Dept. didn't come to the Town Board sooner? Donald "Bosco" Hunt stated that they were just approached about considering getting the plan approved. Wayne King questioned how many volunteers are we talking about? Ann Steimle reported they have 20 active members. King questioned what if the incentive kicks in and then more members join? Steimle noted that an additional amount of members joining would be unprecedented. Supervisor Rajszyk stated she is in agreement to having a Special Election. Councilman Shafer stated he would like to go over the program before making any decision. The LOSAP representative noted that if the program was approved in 2011 the firefighters could start accruing points now, with funding for the program put into the 2012 budget. Supervisor Rajszyk reported that during the recent Hurricane the Fire Dept. came together and thanked everyone for their service to the town, noting she felt they are deserving of this program.

Supervisor Rajszyk reported there are still pockets of power outages, noting O&R Utilities will be delivering dry ice tomorrow, noting she will let the Town Clerk know if it is still coming.

Supervisor Rajszyk reported that the lock box option for the tax collection is not available through the Jeff Bank. Amador Laput announced that the Eldred High School was still open for anyone to take showers and get water. Supervisor Rajszyk stated the town would go with Chase Bank for the lock box program, noting they would do a partial program this year and wait to do a full program the following year.

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Supervisor Rajszy reported she has received 2 letters, from Sullivan County Planning and NYS Ag & Markets, stating those agencies do not object to the Town taking lead agency status.

Supervisor Rajszy reported that all the Town Board members received a copy of a letter sent from Charles Petersheim.

Supervisor Rajszy reported FEMA will be here Friday to assess property damage from Hurricane Irene, noting private property owners can contact FEMA to schedule an inspection. Supervisor Rajszy noted that property owners requesting assistance will have to verify that the property is their main residence. Supervisor Rajszy reported she did an assessment of the town roads, noting that O&R Utilities is working to get power back to everyone, hopefully all by Saturday. Supervisor Rajszy reported the offices got internet service back today.

PRE-FILED RESOLUTIONS

- #120 – Advertise Public Hearings – Local Law #4, 2011- Zoning
- #121 - Deputy Registrar Appointment- Brush
- #122 - LEC Appointments
- #123 - Court Clerk Training Approval
- #124 - Support Scenic Byways Resolution – Ban Truck Use

Supervisor Rajszy reported that Resolution #120 did not include the dates of the Public Hearings because they needed to consult with the Zoning Rewrite Committee and the Town Board before setting the dates. The Town Clerk noted that the newest draft of the zoning laws will be emailed to her tomorrow. The Town Attorney reported that the notice of public hearing has to be done and given to the County 30 days before the Public Hearing for the approval of the final draft. Supervisor Rajszy stated she was hoping to set the public hearing by the end of October. Councilman Shafer stated that they could hold off until November 14th to set the public hearing. Lew Powell stated that he is not sure everything will be in the latest draft that was discussed until he looks at it. Councilman Shafer stated that he agreed that if anything comes up tomorrow night at the public informational meeting they would have time to change it. The Town Attorney reported she has reviewed the previous draft and sent in comments, noting the issues are not with the content just the ideology of home rule. The Town Attorney stated that she did not see anything significantly wrong with the document.

Supervisor Rajszy reported that Resolution #124 was from the Scenic Byways requesting support of their effort to ban trucks from the Scenic Byways. Councilman Akt

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recommended tabling the resolution. Councilman Shafer questioned what about the people who live in town and have trucks? Councilman Akt stated it is not going to stop local trucks. Supervisor Rajsz

OPEN FLOOR TO PUBLIC

Wayne King questioned why would they think trucks running up and down Rt. 97 would ruin the road? Councilman Shafer stated that if the gas drilling goes into effect the trucks and equipment will be running 24 hours a day along that route. King stated that we are in debt but continue to spend without encouraging any industry to come in to generate income. Councilman Shafer noted they could not restrict the trucks from traveling on the road. Supervisor Rajsz stated that tourists bring in money and keeping the area scenic will promote tourism. Supervisor Rajsz stated that the Scenic Byways will send a letter to the state to request they look into a different route for the trucks.

Supervisor Rajsz questioned how the roads are from the storm? Don “Bosco” Hunt reported they were getting back in shape.

Supervisor Rajsz reported she would like to put a committee together to look at the emergency management plan and co-ordinate with all the agencies to make it a better plan than what we have now. Susan Morley requested the Seniors be included because the town can use the Senior Center as a shelter.

Councilman Carr made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Councilman Shafer, all in favor, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia V. Horn
Town Clerk