

REGULAR MEETING 46 CO. RT. 11 TOWN HALL

March 11, 2004 WEST MONROE, NY

Present: Supervisor Ernest Manchin; Councilors Gary Ross, Michael Hickey, Ned Green and Timothy McCarthy

Christine Shaw, Town Clerk; Deputy Clerk Louise Herbert

Gail Swistak, Code Enforcement Officer

Assessor Patrick Duffy

Superintendent of Highways, Elwin Fisher

Attorney Joseph Shields, Engineers John Franz and Charles Ligget

Approximately 175 residents

Supervisor Manchin opened the meeting at 8:00 PM leading everyone present with the pledge to the flag.

The board addressed the Sheldon Variance. The recommendation of the planning board was to deny the variance due to the fact that there is enough property to adhere to the town law, 200' in width. Supervisor Manchin read the criteria for granting an area variance. Then Councilor McCarthy moved to approve the area variance, Mr. Ross seconded the motion, with unanimous board approval.

The minutes of Feb. 11th Public Hearing and regular meeting along with Feb. 25th informational meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Ross and unanimously approved.

The board then addressed the proposed Central Water District. Taking into account the remarks from the Informational Meeting the board was in agreement that the people in the proposed district would like this matter to be voted on. In order to get to that point the board must first complete the short SEQOR form, which is needed for a public hearing. After review of the form Mr. Ross moved to accept the SEQOR as completed, Mr. Green seconded the motion with the vote of the board unanimous in the approval of the SEQOR statement. The next step to having a referendum vote is to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed water district. Mr. Manchin moved to hold the public hearing on March 31st at 7:00 PM in the Highway Garage, Mr. Ross seconded the motion and the board unanimously passed it. Mr. Manchin stated that the tentative date for the referendum vote is June 8th .

Mr. Manchin then opened the meeting up to only questions about the proposed water district:

John Herolski, 245 Dutch Rd asked how will the vote proceed concerning the trailer parks?

Answer: each trailer park receives one vote so they will have to appoint a representative to cast the vote.

Bob Trendell, Pinecrest Dr. asked if everyone in town would pay for the water district.

Answer: Only those located within the proposed water district pay.

Debra Wingood, 105 Dutch Rd. asked if only registered voters would vote or would it be all property owners?

Answer: all landowners vote.

Mel Drake, 194 Whig Hill Rd, asked why does the water district have to be in West Monroe, why not make it in Toad Harbor, Lower Rd to Doris Park?

Answer: The board has an obligation to evaluate the request from residents throughout the town to form a water district. This request was presented via a petition containing several hundred signatures.

Jim Gallagher, Wedgeworth Rd, asked is the referendum vote to approve the proposed water district or for the approval of the capital project?

Answer: they are one and the same

Question: can the water district be approved without the approval of the capital project; without knowing the final cost of the project, how can the people vote?

Answer: OCWA has submitted a quote that they would honor to install the water lines etc. and that is where the cost of the project came from. The Town would, if the district is approved, put the project out to competitive bid and there is a possibility that the bid results could be less than that quoted by OCWA and of course we would go with the lower bid. Therefore the charge to the residents would be lower.

Question: Could you approve the district and then if the bid comes in higher than acceptable by the town residents, can the town abandon the project?

Answer: Not sure, the attorney would check into this

Ken Foster, 37 Camic Rd.: parcels that are land locked are they exempt from this tax?

Answer: vacant parcels would be assessed for the tax

Question: he has two parcels, which are land locked, how could you tax them?

Answer: The board will check into this

Robert Harrington, Helinger Rd.: how does it affect assessments

Answer from Assessor: immediate impact none. There will be no change of assessment just because the property has public water. The way it would affect the assessment is that after time if the properties in the water district continually sell for more then the property is assessed for, the assessments would have to be reviewed.

Steve Collins, Wedgeworth Rd asked about grants.

Answer: The board has already and will continue to explore and apply for any and all grants possible to lower the cost of this project for the residents.

However, the residents should vote on whether they can afford the district with the cost as quoted. The cost should go down with additional growth.

Norma Howard, Pinnacle Rd. the \$500+ would effect everyone within the district no matter what his or her income.

Answer: Yes

Debra McDougal, Co Rt. 84 suggested that there must a an alternate route the water lines could take to take in the areas which need public water and not burden the residents which have good wells.

Answer: The proposal is out there and the residents will vote.

Jim Cox, Morey Rd. why are you are going on the highest bid

Answer: Because the board can't request competitive bids until the project has been approved.

Mary Hart, Co Rt. 37 why is the cost for the West Side Water District only \$200 and this one would be \$500?

Answer: There are a lot of factors: first, price different from that time. And the West Side Water district is a more densely populated area. The proposed district is less densely populated.

Question: Why does the gas company does not charge for the lines and OCWA does?

Answer: That is Niagara Mohawk's decision to either install or not to install lines to certain areas

John Stever, Dee Char Lane, questioned how this proposal could have gotten to this point.

Answer: Petition was received with over 200 signatures to pursue the possibility of public water

Dale Waterstraat, Co Rt. 84, who is the water district going to benefit?

Answer: Comments were received from all over the town.

Mary Morey, Morey Rd., husband owns dairy farm, would each parcel be charged this tax.

Answer: If she is in an Agricultural District then they are exempt from the Capital project portion of the tax and will only be responsible for the maintenance portion of it.

Ross Lacombe, Monroe Blvd. asked what has the cost been so far for this study?

Answer: about \$8,000.00

Gary Harrington, Pulver Rd., asked about the water tower in Central Square that it needs to be updated - will we incur that cost?

Answer: OCWA will invest \$4.4 million in upgrading the Water Tower and larger

water lines.

Gene Stevener, Morey Rd. asked why we would rent the fire hydrants.

Answer: they would not be rented but the town will research the what the cost covers.

Mr. Manchin informed those present that there will be a summary of information will be available in the town clerks office. The public hearing to be held on March 31st, and if the residents would like to submit questions ahead, then the board would have an opportunity to be sure they would have the answer at the public hearing.

The board then addressed the Sheldon Variance again. Mr. Ross moved to declare a negative declaration for the SEQR Part II in regards to the Sheldon Area Variance. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion with a unanimous vote of the board to approve.

Evergreen Expansion request was discussed. The proposed expansion was back sent to the Planning Board and they verified that Mr. Cornell has complied with all the requirements of the law and recommended approval. After a brief discussion, Mr. Hickey moved to approve the expansion of Evergreen Mobile Home Park with Exceptions, which are that all modifications and improvements that are required by the Oswego County Health Department are installed and/or completed. Mr. Green seconded the motion with unanimous board approval.

Thomas Hastings questioned the board as to the illegally placed mobile home by Michael Tanner on County Route 11, stating that the home is still on the property. The Code Enforcement Officer, Gail Swistak explained that she has ticketed Mr. Tanner and have to wait until he goes to court which is schedule for the end of March.

Bob Trendell, Pinecrest Dr. asked about the Dog Ordinance and its enforcement. He explained that there are does running all over the streets up in his area, tearing up the garbage and dragging it all over. He explained that he did contact the dog control officer but the dogs were not there when she arrived. Mr. Trendell questioned what else could be done?

Donna Schrader, Camic Rd. also remarked that the dogs are a problem in her area (Big Bay). Ms. Schrader also complained about the trash on the property on the corner of County Route 37 and Camic Rd. and expressed concerns about the rats which are drawn to the garbage. She informed the board about the Junk Cars and other "mess" in relation to the Unger Garage. As well as the burning of construction debris and garbage, which her neighbor is doing. Mr. McCarthy agreed with Ms. Schrader, there is a definite problem in the Big Bay area. The Code Enforcement Officer will check into the situation and Supervisor Manchin will check with the dog control officer to see what can be done.

Mr. Ross moved to enter into executive session at 9:25 PM to discuss the current litigation regarding the Hobbs situation. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion. All board members in favor, the CEO and attorney were asked to join the board.

The board returned at 9:46 PM and the meeting was re-opened

Mr. Fisher, Superintendent of Highways requested that the board sign the

agreement for the spending of CHIPS funds. Mr. Ross moved to enter into the agreement, Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board. The board received Mr. Fishers' monthly report.

A Request for the use of the Town Park was received from the Women's Softball team and the board was in agreement that they have permission to use the field.

Supervisor Manchin remarked that his bank reconciliation for 2003 was submitted at the February meeting and he wanted that on record in the minutes.

The date of April 7th at 6:00 PM was set for the internal audit of the town officials' records.

Monthly reports were submitted from town officers.

Mr. Ross moved to pay the bills as audited:

General Fund, abstract #3, vouchers #68 to #108 in the amount of \$21,472.69

Highway Fund, abstract #3, vouchers #79 to #116 in the amount of \$17,441.35

Big Bay Sewer, abstract #3, voucher #26 to #33 in the amount of \$2,591.87

West Side Water District, abstract #2, voucher #2 in the amount of \$1,1410.00

Mr. Green seconded the motion with unanimous board approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58PM