

A regular meeting of the
Town Board was held at
West Hurley Firehouse on
April 28, 2008 @ 7:00 PM

Presiding: Supervisor Gary Bellows

Attending: Councilman John Gill, Councilwoman Karin Horner, Councilwoman Kate Hyman
Councilwoman Briggs

Also present: Highway Superintendent Clyde Russell, Building Inspector Glen Hoffstatter
Virginia Stark, James Craven, 30 members of the public.

Resolution # 2008-81

Offered by Councilman Gill

Motion to accept the minutes

Seconded by Councilwoman Horner

BE IT RESOLVED TO accept the March minutes.

ALL VOTED AYE

Resolution # 2008-82

Offered by Councilwoman Hyman

Claims and Vouchers

Seconded by Councilwoman Horner

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board accept the audited vouchers listed on Warrant #
08 04 dated 4/23/08 in the total amount of \$95,234.86

Charged as follows:

General Fund \$52,268.81

Total Highway Fund: \$35,055.73

Lighting: \$551.50

Trust & Agency: \$2677.82

Capital Projects: H \$4682.00

ALL VOTED AYE

Resolution# 2008-83

Offered by Councilman Gill

Supervisors Report

Seconded by Councilwoman Briggs

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report.

ALL VOTED AYE

- There was a presentation made by Dr Leslie Ford Superintendent of Onteora District and Victoria McLaren Assistant Superintendent about the 2008-2009 Budget. Packets were handed out on the budget, projected enrollment and repairs needed in the district. They are available at the Town Clerks office.

They stated that 50% of the total budget is committed to salary obligations. Approximately 25% of the total budget is committed to benefit obligations and 18% of salary and benefits for the budget is for special education. Some of the other discoveries that were made are that the average teacher salary is \$80,000 and we had to look at that against the average income that each individual person in the county has and those figures are dramatically lower than that and we may have a comment about that later on but its much different than that. Entry level salaries for Onteora School District teachers if you have a bachelor's degree \$50,900, if you have a master's degree \$53,687 and what you should know about this is that those are among the highest starting salaries for teachers with those degree levels in the area and that is something that where if you start that high at the beginning and then you have agreements that tact on percentages in addition to that, that's where you get a significant and rapid escalation of salaries. You have to deal with Gasby 45 which the long-term liability for retiree benefits. You must take that into consideration now when you're doing your budgeting. The ration of teaching and non-teaching support staff to classrooms significantly higher than surrounding districts. That is something we are going to look into in more detail because we have just gotten a lot of this stuff out on the table to look into it deeper. There is a continued freefall, a declining in enrollment 3-5 % per year and we expect this to happen up until at least 2014. we also looked into the fact and made discoveries about the fact that Boces services do a lot to support the faculty and education. And there is also Koser Aid which is cooperative services. And these are things that we think need to be looked into even more in order to support issues and things that need to be offsetting budget if at all possible. Insufficient budget impact through analysis – We went line by line for the first three meetings and probably spent about 10-15 hours and we think that the current board is doing a good job in trying to limit some of the line item things that are in the budget. We felt that we had to go for some bigger ticket

items and really have as much of an impact as we could. So we went in quite a different direction. There's a window of opportunity, you have to make physical changes now that are going reverse this trend of increasing budgets and decreasing enrollment. We are looking at the master plan and the bond issues that will eventually come up. They don't have anything to do with the budget that's going to be presented, that's a whole separate thing to be done later on after more study is done. But we have to the budget focus on student education K-12. also the quality of the educational environment and the student and the staff safety.

Silva Tintee – I am going to go over some charts and graphs with you.

Onteora current budget \$46,775 Million with 1873 students with an approximate amount of \$25,000 per student

Surrounding Schools

Ellenville \$22,500 per student

Highland \$15,334 per student

The average is \$19,000

Budget History from 2001 to current budget, you can see that the budget has been raised about \$10Million approximately over 6 years

Enrollment Decline from 2001 to 2002 there was about 2300-2400 students and over the past 6 years its dropped to 1875. If it continues the decline to 2018 it dips to 1300-1400 students.

If we continue this trend – The cost per student in 2007-08 is \$25,000 with 1873 students.

If you keep the current budget the way it is and declining enrollment that happening in our school district until 2014 the cost per student will be \$33,410.

Drew Bidess – If you're interested in looking at the entire presentation you can go on the school website. . New Paltz and Saugerties have a budget roughly the size of Onteora and that they are able to educate their children for between \$5,000 and \$9,000 each less. One of the things we want to do in the future with our committee is try and figure out what they are doing different than Onteora. Onteora spends almost \$25,000 per student. If you go to 2014 when we're only going to have 1400 students that means that the budget would need to be \$34.7 million in order to have it \$24,973 cost per student. That would mean you need to find ways to reduce the budget by \$12Million from where it is now. Our committee saw that has a huge challenge to figure out how to get quality education for the kids and control the cost that it takes to do that. So some of the long-term recommendations we made to the school board was to start looking at ways eliminating the life-time benefits for retirees. Most teachers right now get life-time medical benefits after they retire. Most people in business get nothing. And we think we need to start looking at that as a way of cutting our longtime cost. It is a business in a sense, of educating kids. One of things that will have to happen shortly is the school district will be put in the position by the Gasby 45 study to start showing what those long-term retirement costs are. We're also suggesting to the school board they start looking at ways of reducing the actual average salary of the school teachers in the district. It is the highest in Ulster County as far as we can determine. One of those was to give incentives to the long-term teachers to retire early. We suggest hiring earlier teachers with current technology and education skills. And looking at reducing the entry level salaries for teachers. Get it more in line with the rest of the school districts in the County. Based on the architect's report of the school district in 2014 only really needs 2 elementary schools. We asked Victoria to come up with some cots savings on that. We are basically suggesting that another elementary school needs to close in order to get the cost down for that and to get the school class levels back up to the guidelines of what the district recommends. This allows you to decrease operational costs, decrease maintenance cost, consolidation of staff and most likely enhanced programs for all the elementary students since you will have more kids in one school than you do now. And we are also suggesting that you sell at least one of the extra schools that we have.

Is looking at the cost of each of the elementary schools roughly speaking they each cost about \$3 Million to operate. We asked Victoria to come up with a guess, if we did close a school what would that mean as far as cost reductions to the budget. So you see that the majority of what we could say is in staff reductions for consolidation. We could come up with a savings of about \$2.3Million. The thing we noticed about that is the talks of bond. One of the numbers that was thrown out there is for fixing up the high school and middle school mostly was a \$44.9 Million bond and this savings of \$2.3 Million would essentially offset the yearly debt for that bond for the school district. If you could manage to do this you would wind up having the bond in place without any significant cost to the taxpayers. That's our presentation for tonight but if you want to see the whole presentation its on the website for the school.

Supervisor Bellows asked if anyone had questions.

Councilwoman Hyman– Dr. Ford, What is your salary?

Dr. Ford -- \$150,000

TOWN BOARD BUSINESS

1. We have had a request from Sam Scroggins about opening a B & B on Old Rt 209. Supervisor Bellows had some conversations with the planning board, building inspector and thinks the cleanest way for this to happen is probably take in the zoning revision commissions initial recommendations to the board. We will contact the board to schedule a public hearing.
2. We have as you know the Memorial Day parade coming up quickly and Debbie Oakly has taken over the chair from Viola Updall. I would like to mention that I am certainly hoping that Viola will be making a comeback. Right now she is tending to Bob, her husband and we hope everything is going to go well with Bob. There's a lot going on and we would appreciate that anybody who can donate a little time and help Debbie out certainly can call my office and we can put you in touch with Debbie or you can call her directly.
3. Drainage issues Councilman Gill-- There hardly has been any movement. The first one we're waiting on is to get back all the signed easements for Hook and Walnut so we can get that out to bid. The Suda project was awarded to the Baker Bros.
4. NYC Lawsuit update by Supervisor Bellows--In very general terms the current law suit NYC has been filed against the Town of Hurley for lower assessments. The trial finished up last Monday and at that point it was Judge O'Connor's decision to allow the two opposing sides to write up their summations and submit them by June at which time then she'll begin to deliberate on the case itself. We hoping that possibly we would see some type of decision in very late fall. Our side is very confident that what we've asked for and what we've defended we believe it was good data and we're going to hope that the Judge sides with the Town of Hurley. In essence we have currently had the assessments set approximately at \$90Million. The city of New York was looking for an assessed value of \$30 Million and very simply if you drop down to \$30Million every other taxpayer in town assessment goes up to cover the budget's shortfall. So I had talked with our board and we decided we were going to hold firm but we also felt that the \$90 Million is what we had back in 2004 and that was a long time ago and everybody else in town has gone up over the years and we going to go ahead and raise that assessment again and that has to be done before May 1 and we intend to raise that assessment while the deliberations are going to go on. So at this point we are going to wait for the Judge's verdict.
5. Supervisor Bellows read a letter from Wally Cook and the Heritage Society and it says, Dear Gary and Town Board, The Hurley Heritage Society wishes to thank the Town of Hurley for underwriting the conservation of the Hurley Town Record from 1720. The original conservation of our document and production of a copy to be held by the Town Clerk was accomplished by Browns River Bindery. Sincerely, Wally.
6. Supervisor Bellow gave Kevin Byrants resume to the Town Board who is looking to represent the town when tickets are issued within the court by state troopers and the sheriff's office. He is the attorney on record for 3 other municipalities in the area and he's got some statistics for the town board members. Supervisor Bellows asked the board members to give Kevin a call and this will be addressed in the May meeting.
7. We have a letter from Scott Shaffrick and he has asked for a road speed reduction along Lucas Ave. and would like it to be brought down from 45 mph to 35mph. He would like us to submit this. Scott mentions in this letter that he has access to all data on how many accidents and so on. Highway Superintendent Russell Clyde will speak to Charlie and have him investigate it and see if there is any merit to this request.
8. We had a presentation from Hurley Fire Company regarding driveways and being able to get into them for emergency vehicles. So I think Glen is something we probably should have formulized by an attorney and start to look at what the options are?
9. Supervisor Bellows received a letter from Sen Bonacic..Dear Gary and The Town Board: I am writing to inform you that I have secured \$15,000 in the 2008-09 state budget for the Town of Hurley. The purpose for this funding is purchase equipment and/or capital improvements you authorized. The funding is also known as a member item. This funding is contingent upon the budget being signed into law by the Governor. So far both the Senate and the Assembly have approved the funding and I expect the Governor to sign this funding into law in the next 10 days. Thereafter in the following 4 to 6 weeks you should receive a contract from the state agency that will administer this grant. You should expend no funds against this grant until you enter into enter into a valid contract with the State. Sincerely Bonacic. So we would like to thank Sen. Bonacic for thinking of the Town of Hurley.

10. West Hurley Park rental request by Hugh Oka to have a benefit concert in the park. The board needs more information.

11. There was a request to have a speed reduction on Lucas Ave. from 45MPH to 30MPH..

Councilman Gill –

Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys Section 284 of the Highway Law.

Agreement between the Town Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Hurley of Ulster County State of New York and the undersigned members of the Town Board.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that monies levied and collected in the Town for repair and improvement of highways, the revenues from equipment rentals, reimbursement for snow and ice removal and other charges for services, the re-appropriated funds and chips and other state aid for highways shall be expended as follows:

1A. General Repairs -The sum of \$353,000. shall be set aside to be expended for basic work and general maintenance and repairs upon 52.46 miles of Town highways including slouices, drainage ditches, culverts and bridges having a span of less than 5 feet, tree and brush removal, board walks, sidewalks, that are the responsibility of the Town, emergency activities as such are authorized by the Town Board and other activities involved with the care, upkeep and maintenance of the highway and bridges of the town.

1B. Permanent Improvements- Highways the sum of \$200,000. shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improved of Town Highways. The Town Highways that are intended to be improved include

a) On highway known as Dug Hill Road commencing at the intersection of Reichel Road then continuing for a distance of .6 miles.

Estimated cost \$69,500

b)On a highway known as Van Dale Road commencing at point 0 .1 mile south of Sandy Court then continuing .5 miles, road will require some grinding and prepping.

Estimated
cost \$94,000

c) On a highway known as Edgewood Avenue commencing at Laurel Street and leading to a dead end at distance of .2 miles.

Estimate cost \$11,000;

d) On a highway know as Park Street commencing at Griffen Drive continuing to Edgewood Avenue a distance of .1 miles

Estimated cost \$10,500;

e) On a highway know as Cedar Street in West Hurley commencing at Route 375 continuing to John Street a distance of .2 miles

Estimated cost \$15,000.

Supervisor Bellows will sign this agreement

Doris Licht and Ruth Wahtera handed out a flyer asking opinions about the Town website.

They said all department descriptions are up to date; CAC minutes are uploaded monthly as are the Town Board minutes. The town calendar is updated regularly.

In progress updates-Planning Board Minutes, Rail trail

Incomplete- Zoning Board minutes, Zoning Revision Committee, Youth Recreation Board, Courts, Trips and Historian.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION # 2008-84:

Offered by Councilwoman Hyman

WET LANDS

Seconded by Councilman Gill

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurley is required to transport and dispose of- or otherwise mitigate-leachate from Hurley Landfill for the foreseeable future and;

WHEREAS, the transport and disposal of leachate is expensive and is subject to increased costs for both transport and disposal and;

WHEREAS, there exists an alternative solution to handling leachate therefore be it;

RESOLVED, to authorize the Town's engineering firm, Brinnier and Larios, to perform engineering work to secure permits and analyze the feasibility of building a "constructed wetland" to handle leachate at the Hurley landfill.

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION # 2008-85:**

Offered Supervisor Bellows

COURT

Seconded by Councilwoman Horner

The Hurley Town Board approves the application of Judge J. Parker & Judge E. Corrado for funds from the 2008 Justice Court Assistance Program. - .

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 #86:**

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

LANDFILL CANOPY

Seconded by Councilwoman Hyman

WHEREAS, rain and snow add to the weight and the cost of disposing of unprotected Municipal Solid waste and;

WHEREAS, this additional cost can be avoided by a protective canopy; therefore be it RESOLVE, to authorize the Town's engineering firm, Brinner and Larios, to perform engineering work and secure bids for a 20 foot by 26 foot canopy to be installed at the Town transfer station.

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 #87:**

Offered by Councilwoman Briggs

RECREATION APPOINTMENT

Seconded by Councilman Gill

BE IT RESOLVED TO Appoint Mary Hakim to the Hurley Rec Board with a term ending 12/31/2012.

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 #88:**

Offered by Councilwoman Briggs

PURCHASE RECREATION GATE

Seconded by Councilwoman Horner

BE IT RESOLVED TO have Erma Moore purchase the new gate for Town Park for \$1092.91

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 # 89:**

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

JUSTICE COURT AUDIT

Seconded by Councilwoman Briggs

WHEREAS , the Town of Hurley Justice Court has submitted its Audit and Control Records to the Office State Comptroller and has certified those records to the Town Supervisor for the past three months for the year 2008 through the month of March. The Hurley Justice has submitted its closed case log for Audit to the Hurley Town Board on April 21st, 2008

THEREFORE, let it be resolved to, accept Records as Presented.

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 #90:**

Offered by Councilman Gill

LAWN BIDS AWARDED

Seconded by Councilwoman Horner

WHEREAS, The Town of Hurley Highway Department has received the following bids for (3) three separate mowing jobs.

	Location #1 (Park)	Location #2 (Town Hall)	Location #3 (Cemetery)
Immaculate Lawns	\$102.00	\$65.00	\$135.00
R&R Lawns	\$150.00	\$85.00	\$125.00
Woodstock Lawn	no bid	no bid	no bid

THEREFORE, be it resolved to award the Old Hurley Cemetery Mowing Job to R & R Lawns for \$125fweek and Immaculate Lawn Service the Town Hall Job for \$65.00Iweek and the West Hurley Park for \$102.00Iweek.

ALL VOTED AYE**RESOLUTION 2008 # 91:**Offered by Councilwoman Briggs
Gill**DEPUTY CLERK APPOINTED**

Seconded by Councilman

WHEREAS, Deputy Clerk #3 Alana Mayhon was appointed to work during January and February of tax season and that position is now vacant
THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, to appoint Jocelyn Mayhon as Deputy Clerk # 3 at \$9.75/hour

ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION 2008 #92:
Offered by Councilwoman Horner

DECLARE LIBRARY SURPLUS
Seconded by Councilwoman Hyman

BE IT RESOLVED to declare the town owned building on Main Street as "surplus".
ALL VOTED AYE

RESOLUTION 2008#93:
Offered by Councilwoman Horner

FINANCIAL REPORTS
Seconded by Councilwoman Hyman

WHEREAS, it is the primary function of the Hurley Town Board to oversee the responsible handling of tax payers money, and
WHEREAS, in order to accomplish this it is necessary for the Town Board to continually review financial reports, and
WHEREAS, the town hired accountant provides an electronic version of the financial report via email to the supervisors office each month prior to the monthly Agenda Meeting for the previous months finances,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor provide each councilperson a duplicate electronic copy, via email of the latest complete monthly financial statements so that Town Board members may review them before the monthly Town Board meeting.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if an electronic copy is unavailable that a hard copy be placed in each councilpersons mailbox by the Friday prior to the regularly scheduled monthly Town Board meeting
Supervisor Bellows voted nay, Councilman Gill voted nay, Councilwoman Briggs voted nay, Councilwoman Horner voted aye, Councilwoman Hyman voted aye

The resolution failed 3-2

From the Floor:

1. Diana Cline-School Board Budget vote on May 20th also a clothing drive.
 2. Ruth Wahera – The website is averaging 3000 visits a month looking at about 11,000 pages. People are going there and looking at information. People want to be able to access town information on the web.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Briggs and all voted aye.

The Minutes for the Town Board meeting were transcribed from the notes of the Deputy Town Clerk and a recording machine .
Judy Mayhon, Town Clerk