

An Agenda Meeting was held on
December 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM at
the Town Hall

Presiding: Supervisor Gary Bellows

Attending: Councilman Gill, Councilwoman Briggs, Councilwoman Hyman, Councilwoman Horner, Councilwoman

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Russell, Code Enforcement Hoffstatter and 15 members of the public.

Town Board Business

1. Commissioner Rodriguez from Ulster County Social Services gave a presentation on safety net.

Commissioner Rodriguez came prepared to talk about safety net and how it affected our town but based on a call he received from Councilwoman Hyman he did a little study on the towns costs. And while it's not an exact number at least we are being on the positive side as opposed to being in a position where you may have to reallocate funds in the middle of a budget year or move it to tax levy.

The Commissioner by law is mandated to do a series of things one of them is to house people which leads to safety net. Safety net is unique in Ulster County because the county passes on to the town the expense of a safety net individual that resides in or last residence was in a particular town. He brought a spread sheet to give you an idea of what the expenditures are and how many cases in the year there may have been. There were 2 issues with safety net that are unique and have been corrected. One was with CCP for people who are coming out of jail and they receive a series of services while they integrate back into the community and there is a fee for that which is split between the state and the town. There was a glitch in billing and so instead of getting monthly bills you got 2 big bills, one for 12 and one for 19. The other question was how we project what the number is. This has been increasing now from year to year and its not limited to just the CCP program. For budget purposes if you wanted to project this going forward you might say the average is about 5 per month for 12 months and give you a little room for the unexpected. It's really unpredictable.

Generally Social Services are responsible by state mandate for covering many services. You may know it as a traditional welfare agency where people are subsisted. About 10 years ago there was a whole reform. Nowadays we don't view it as a welfare agency. There's about only 6% of the entire county population that we serve that you can place in the old welfare mode but the goal is to get you out there as quickly as possible as a self-sufficient individual or family and that what's called temporary assistance now. This year that term is changing as well to economic support. They are supplementing people working so if you go to work for McDonald's and you don't have enough for daycare that's supplementing also because it's less expensive to keep you employed. We also do child protective services which is a mandated service where they work on a 24-hour response. There's foster care which they have 180 kids either under guardianship or in foster care. There is what you may know as food stamps but is now known as a nutrition program. The object is to put food on people's table.

We operate our HEAP program which we are in season now. That's also a federal program and this year the eligibility has dramatically changed so that more working families are eligible for it. A family of 4 which earns \$56,640 will be eligible for two HEAP emergencies of \$800 each. The social service programs are moving more towards the economic support of the working family.

2. We are looking at the Cemetery signs that were made of wood to match other signs on Main Street.

3. We received the sales tax check for the last quarter for \$36,076.94

4. The Article 78 that was filed against the town has been resolved and there was no judgment against the Town.

5. Supervisor Bellows gave the town board two applications for the Zoning Board to look over.

6. Mortgage receipts were \$103,670.95 about a \$55,000. a drop from last quarter.

7. We received an e-mail from Michael Kight about the reconstruction of Ashokan bridges

8. We are looking to get a quote for the highway garage heating system.

9. Town Board meeting for Dec. 18th will be at 7:30 pm.

Councilman Gill said that when we had the last rain the culvert on Schoolhouse lane was too small to handle the rain.

Councilwoman Briggs said that the Preservation Committee was complete and the members were Jim Decker, Joe Diamond, Barbara Zell, Sam Scoggins as chairman, and Iris Oseas. Councilwoman Hyman asked about the digital recorder and time clock. It was agreed to order the recorder but to hold off on the time clock for town hall.

From Dept Heads:

Highway Superintendent Russell said the new highway truck was in. Also he needed to hire a new temporary employee.

From the Floor

1. Virginia Starke asked if the greeting on the town phone could be changed.
2. Phil Sinagra said that the sales tax check that we received was for previous months and that the current period will probably be less.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gill, seconded by Councilwoman Briggs and all voted aye.

Judy Mayhon, Town Clerk