

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2012**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board met on Tuesday September 4, 2012 in the Westerlo Town Hall located at 933 CR 401 in Westerlo. The meeting was opened by Supervisor Richard H. Rapp with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:30 PM with the following present:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Rapp
Councilman Edward A. Rash
Councilman Alfred L. Field
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman

ABSENT: Councilman R. Gregory Zeh Jr.

Also present were Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer Edwin H. Lawson, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Planning Board Member Edwin(Ned) Stevens, Highway Superintendent John Nevins, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato, several Town of Westerlo employees, Sergeant Tracy Henry and another officer of the Albany County Sheriff's Office and approximately 22 residents.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the August 8, 2012 Town Board minutes as presented. Councilman Sherman made the motion to accept the minutes and motion carried unanimously by the Town Board members present.

Supervisor Rapp explained that he had received a proclamation on Anti Bullying. A sample proclamation had been sent to the Supervisor with a letter signed by Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen M. Jimino and Mayor, City of Cohoes John T. McDonald. The proclamation recognizes Oct. 2012 as Bullying Awareness Month in schools and communities to safeguard children. Councilman Sherman and the Town Board members present asked for a copy for their review before making any decision. The Town Clerk provided the Board members with a copy of the proclamation for their review.

(It was decided to continue on with the next agenda items: Albany County Sheriff's - Community Presentation and the Community Activity Committee (CAC) upcoming Brain Fair and make a decision on the proclamation in the later portion of tonight's meeting.) Supervisor Rapp asked the Board members if they had reviewed the proclamation, those Board members present had. Councilman Rash read the entire Anti Bullying Proclamation aloud for the public. Supervisor Rapp made a motion in favor of recognizing October 2012 as Anti Bullying Awareness Month, seconded by Councilman Rash and a roll call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp
Councilman Rash
Councilman Sherman

NAYS: Councilman Field

The Anti Bullying Proclamation was passed, Supervisor Rapp will sign.

Supervisor Rapp introduced Sgt. Tracy Henry of the Albany County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Henry advised the Sheriff's were providing all town boards in Albany County a presentation program to raise awareness and share information on the Sheriff's

Department and introduce a new safety program they are implementing. The Albany County Sheriff's was established in 1660. They provide law enforcement services to all Albany County residents and they also provide more services that many people are unaware of. She explained all the units Civil, Special Investigations, Marine & Snowmobile Patrol, Fire Investigation, Emergency Response Team, Search & Rescue Team, Domestic Violence and Special Victims, Accident Investigation, Hostage Negotiation Team, Hazardous Materials Team, Emergency Management, Stop DWI, Dive Team, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) County Fire Coordinators and an upcoming K-9 unit. She reviewed the purpose of the Incident Command Center that provides electronic, computer and technical support while in the field. The Sheriff's are very interested in increasing communications with the residents of the Hilltown communities. She is the liaison for community outreach and she can be contacted when a resident cares to provide any minor information for non-emergency situations, of course if it is an Emergency still obviously go through 911 Dispatch. She also reviewed the program Data Driven Approach to Crime & Traffic Safety and how high visibility of officers decreases crime and helps traffic safety. She continued to discuss the program and answered any questions.

Supervisor Rapp then announced that the CAC - Brain Fair will be held in the Westerlo Town Park on Saturday 9/8/2012 from 10am – 3pm. Dorothy Verch and Brenda Duncan elaborated on the activities, the agencies attending and the demonstrations planned for the fair. The Town of Westerlo offices will also be open during the fair. A flyer was available for anyone interested.

Supervisor Rapp then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has audited the monthly bills, be it

RESOLVED: that the following bills be paid

Voucher #362 through Voucher #393 in the amount of \$26,012.15

Councilman Sherman seconded the motion and a roll-call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp

Councilman Sherman

Councilman Rash

Councilman Field

NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION #27-2012 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Rapp then opened the meeting to the public.

Ned Stevens thought since the Town of Westerlo had passed a moratorium on Hydrofracking they should look into solar panels to see if there is any danger to the environment they may cause, the solar panels are going up all over town. Councilman Rash asked Mr. Stevens if he could provide any information on the negative impact to the environment. Mr. Stevens said a professional should look into that matter. He just doesn't want to find out 20 years from now about any dangers associated with solar. Councilman Rash suggested that at least they can be taken down unlike the effects of Hydrofracking. Supervisor Rapp asked Councilman Rash if he would look to see if he finds anything on solar impact to the environment, Councilman Rash said he would be willing to try.

Larry Verch asked if in the future the agenda for the meeting could be posted sooner on the Town of Westerlo website. Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato advised that

due to the recent move of the Town Clerk's office to the new location 933 County Route 401 and reorganization of the office after the move and the Labor Day Holiday that the agenda was posted late on the website.

Jack Milner asked if the Town Board would reconsider and do research on the steel recycling to obtain the maximum amount for steel. Councilman Rash asked the Supervisor if this could be put out to bid the Supervisor replied that it probably could. Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Rash had a brief discussion on bid process and the specifics since our metal recycling is co-mingled. No decision was made to bid the scrap metal recycling.

Mr. Milner provided his calculations on the difference in value the Town has lost. Councilman Rash wanted to be clear on what Mr. Milner was advising. Councilman Rash asked if Mr. Milner was advising that the scrap metal had diminished to almost nothing and now he is stating that 3 to 4 loads per week was being taken by a company that now provides everything (trucks, labor, transportation and containers). If the Town hauls the scrap metal to the recycler it is still going to cost the Town to get it there. Mr. Milner calculated that Town is losing hundreds of dollars per load. Councilman Rash suggested that Mr. Milner look at the Town's equipment and labor force at the Transfer Station and asked where it's economically feasible for the Town to haul the scrap metal. It would cost the Town of Westerlo more in labor, transportation, trucks, and the added cost of purchasing containers. Mr. Milner suggested only one container would be needed and they can be purchased used. Councilman Rash advised that would mean the Town would need to make more trips to haul the metal. Discussion on the scrap metal recycling, the Town's financial restraints, and no clear documentation of actual recycling comparisons continued between Mr. Milner and Councilman Rash.

Supervisor Rapp asked if there was anyone else that wanted to speak, there being no further business. Councilman Rash made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Councilman Field and unanimously carried by the Town Board members present. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen J. Spinnato