

**WESTERLO TOWN BOARD
WORKSHOP OF
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013**

The Westerlo Town Board held a workshop on Tue. April 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Westerlo Town Hall, 933 County Route 401, Westerlo. The workshop was advertised in the Times Union newspaper, posted on the Town's website and sign board. Supervisor Rapp opened the workshop with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:00 PM.

Attending were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury III
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman
Councilman Alfred L. Field

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Administrative Aide Kimberly Slingerland, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato and nine residents.

Supervisor Rapp announced to all present that this was a workshop. The public was welcome to listen but could not interject during the workshop.

Councilman Bichteman started the workshop with information about the Westerlo Water Dist. #1. He has met with LVDV which oversees the operation of the Water Dist. He had a discussion with LVDV regarding their rates. The discussion was concerning the affordability of their services. LVDV is cooperating and will review their proposal and a potential offer of a longer term rate. He also spoke to Doug Story regarding operations/rates of the Water District. Councilman Bichteman has concerns regarding maintenance, flushing of the system hydrants, certain equipment that has no effect on water quality, recording records of peaks & flows, etc. LVDV and Mr. Story will look into the concerns and get back to him; he hopes to have the information by the next regular Town Board meeting.

In addition to that Councilman Bichteman added the Town Board needs to move forward in regards to an accountant.

Councilman Bichteman advised The Town Hall (933 County Route 401) should be hooked into the Westerlo Water Dist. #1. Kimberly Slingerland advised that the Town Hall is not hooked into the Water Dist, but the Town is paying the bond repayment on the Water District for the Town Hall. Brief discussion continued on the topic of the Water Dist. regarding the following; payroll for meter readings, an unconnected property (other than the Town Hall), and advertising/obtaining bids for emergency repair contractors based on low bid and availability.

Councilman Lounsbury brought up the topic of the Comprehensive Plan presented to the Town Board previously by Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch. The Town Board members need to respond to Dorothy Verch with their comments in a written format.

The Town Board members discussed the Town building at 671 County Route 401, Westerlo that houses the Highway Garage, the Town Court, the Records Room, and the New York State Police office. The building and the leaky roof were discussed. The Town Board needs to examine the building's condition together with a walk through, to determine what needs to be done. A discussion followed on the impact there would be to the departments located in the building.

Councilman Field advised the Town Board should review all the fees charged by the Town of Westerlo.

Councilman Bichteman advised the need to plan and budget for replacement of containers at the Westerlo Transfer Station and establish a rotation. Highway Superintendent Keith Wright was asked to have Chuck Benninger obtain prices for new containers.

The Board of Ethics was discussed. Questions were raised regarding the need for a Board of Ethics. Councilman Bichteman advised the Town Board of Section 808 of County Law. He questioned if the County has a Board of Ethics, could the County oversee the Town of Westerlo. Questions and discussion followed on the subject.

A brief discussion on the upcoming Town of Westerlo Volunteer Fire Company 75th Anniversary celebration to be held in July at the Westerlo Town Park followed. The Fire Company had a list of questions for the Town Board concerning the park. Supervisor Rapp said he would answer their questions and meet with Fire Co. representatives at the Town Park.

Human Resources for the Town of Westerlo were discussed due to upcoming personnel changes. A suggestion was made to review the Employee Handbook, and in going forward take a closer look at health insurance, wages: overtime vs. comp time, etc. Councilman Field asked Kim Slingerland how the new CDPHP health insurance program was working. She responded well so far, there was a small glitch with prescriptions at first but that seems to be resolved. A brief discussion on monthly insurance premiums followed.

Councilman Field made a motion that the Town Board go into Executive Session to discuss employee K. Slingerland. Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion, motion carried all in favor. The Town Board entered into Executive Session at 7:35 PM and returned at 8:20 PM.

There being no further discussions, Councilman Field made a motion to adjourn the workshop, Councilman Bichteman seconded and the motion carried, all in favor. The workshop adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen J. Spinnato