

Town of Westerlo  
Town Board Workshop  
Meeting of  
Tuesday, July 21, 2015

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a workshop meeting on Tue., July 21, 2015 in the Town Hall located at 933 CR 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Rapp opened the workshop at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury  
Councilman William F. Bichteman

Absent: Councilman Alfred L. Field

Also attending were: Town Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Deputy Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Zoning Board of Appeals member John Sefcik, Planning Board member Edwin (Ned) Stevens, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato and approximately eight residents.

The Town Board discussed the proposed draft received from Mid-Hudson Cable (MHC) for a Franchise Renewal for a period of 15 years. The current franchise agreement is due to expire on 1/27/2016. Councilman Bichteman advised from review of the memo from the Town Attorney and the proposed draft of MHC Franchise Renewal, MHC had volunteered to reduce to a minimum of 20 dwelling units per linear mile, their current agreement is a minimum of 25 dwelling units. The last paragraph of the memo indicates that there may be a better deal potentially out there for our Town. He discussed the possibility of contacting Time Warner to see if they could provide a proposal but was unsure how that works with the Public Service Commission and if there are regulations. Councilman Lounsbury agreed it wouldn't hurt to seek another price. Keith Wright asked who actually owns the cable lines. Discussion followed regarding ownership of the cable lines, the poles, comparison of the minimum number of houses per mile (hpm) through Milestone in the Town of Rensselaerville, the need to provide internet service to families in Westerlo who need it, the 3% fee paid to the Town of Westerlo annually by Mid-Hudson Cable, and how MHC actually calculates the hpm. Councilman Bichteman asked if the Town Board should discuss and possibly make a resolution at the next regular meeting. All present were in agreement.

Supervisor Rapp asked if the Town Board would like him to contact Iroquois Gas. Councilman Bichteman advised he had contact with Hannay Reels regarding the possibility of the distribution of natural gas in the Town. Councilman Bichteman indicated it would be a benefit to reduce propane tanks at Hannay Reels. Ned Stevens reported on gas distribution to businesses in other towns. Central Hudson and Iroquois gas were suggested as possible contacts regarding natural gas distribution. Supervisor Rapp asked if all were agreeable he will start the ball rolling. All present were in agreement.

Councilman Bichteman inquired if the Supervisor had heard from the Board of Elections regarding the referendum/Special Election for proposed Town Hall renovation and Highway Garage replacement project. The Supervisor responded he had not heard from the Board of Elections yet but hoped to hear from them soon. Councilman Bichteman and Supervisor Rapp briefly discussed the referendum, Delaware Engineering's involvement, creation of a mailing, and advertisement.

Councilman Bichteman reported his opinion on the Zoning Recommendation Committee's Report. He advised the Board members present to concentrate and be prepared for the two resolutions which accompany the ZRC Report, he will reach out to Councilman Field in an email.

Councilman Bichteman spoke about the Code of Ethics/Board of Ethics. He reviewed Section 6 of the Code of Ethics with the Town Board members and he suggested revising the penalty section.

He also advised it appears from the research and information he has gathered so far that the County has an obligation to provide a County Ethics Committee, but it is not staffed this may be changing with the upcoming election. He hopes to have more information by the next Town Board meeting.

Town Historian Dennis Fancher reported on the planning for the Town of Westerlo Bicentennial tentative dates have been set for Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. The Bicentennial Committee is working on potentially having a parade, fireworks(sponsored by Hannay Reels), Veterans parade, 5K Race, and Church services in the park, and possibly other ideas include Blacksmith demonstrations, BBQ, etc. Mary Jane Araldi has done a good job putting ideas out. They also discussed the possibility of renting a tent for vendors. Councilman Bichteman asked if Mr. Fancher would look into obtaining that information and possibly bring it to the next Town Board meeting. The Bicentennial Committee's next meeting is scheduled to be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

There being no further discussions Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting. Councilman Lounsbury made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Bichteman, motion carried by those present. The workshop adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato