

A Regular Town Board meeting was held on December 7, 2017 at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor
Robert Ellis, Councilor
Peter Moore, Councilor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Roman Diamond, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Anthony Rivizzigno; Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent; Al Yager, Town Engineer; Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; David Rahrle, Comptroller; and several residents.

Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor Saraceni began the meeting with a moment of silence to recognize Pearl Harbor.

Supervisor Saraceni added that the Board is going to table items “F” and item “B”.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilor Geraci stated that one of the criticisms that he heard about the current Board is that ‘they always vote together and there are no disagreements’; they vote as a block. He said [it is out there] that there seems to be no discussion about items. He said he thinks tonight may be the exception, but what he finds sadly funny about that is that there’s “a heck of a lot of discussion” that goes on about everything that they talk about, and perhaps the most important part of the Town Board meeting is what happens before the meeting at the 5:30 PM work session. That is where most, if there is anything controversial, will get discussed. He said it is on tape; it’s not filmed, it can be listened to, and he encouraged people to come out to the work sessions and listen to the Board debate things, and to really sometimes tear things apart - hopefully always respectfully to one another. He said that is where the work of the Town Board takes place.

Councilor Geraci also said that regarding general agreement [of issues], 80 to 90 percent of the items that the Board votes on is what he would call boiler plate; they are items that are rudimentary: agreeing to put a stop sign up, signing the contract for snow removal at either Town Hall or the State Trooper’s barracks, and signing an agreement with the SPCA to take care of animals that are brought in by the dog control program. He said there are so many items with development that the Town retains dollars for, but from those developers, the Board makes sure they do the work they say they are going to do, and some of the resolutions he has looked at, over the past four years [he has been on the Board], the Board is giving back that money when the developers do in fact accomplish the work that they were responsible for.

Councilor Geraci further said that the Board went back three Board meetings ago, and there was a resolution to install a water main. He said there were resolutions for the installation of a fire hydrant, some to accept sewers and roadways and developments, and a routine resolution to accept landfill sampling that is required by the State of New York. He said that many of the votes that citizens see up [at the Board] are for routine matters that, it’s not that we don’t discuss them, they get done day in and day out. Those things that do have a lot of beef attached to them were perhaps even controversy are well discussed at the 5:30 PM work sessions.

Supervisor Saraceni complimented the Tree Lighting Committee for the activities on Thanksgiving weekend in the Village of Baldwinsville. He said “no one does Thanksgiving week like Baldwinsville.” It’s a great community. He said the celebration has turned into a great community week long agenda. The Turkey Day race on Thanksgiving that draws 2,200 competitors, and generates tens of thousands of dollars for local charity. He said next year will be its 50th year. He said other communities are starting to have their own Turkey Day races, and Baldwinsville’s continue to grow. **Supervisor Saraceni** said people can go from the Turkey Day race, to an awesome weekend with your family at Thanksgiving, when everyone is in town. That Saturday, is the tree lighting ceremony in the center of the Village. Precluded by the parade of lights, which, is a spectacle in and of itself. He said there were over fifty one or fifty five municipalities represented from the Department of Public Works vehicles to fire trucks, there were private organizations represented as well.

He said there were people tailgating along the route that follows the parade to the tree lighting. He said Santa is in Town, and it caps off a beautiful week. He again complimented the parade committee and all of the volunteers involved in the event.

CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

NONE.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

RES#221/2017

Motion by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore to adopt the November 16, 2017 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent stated that HW is ready for snow.

Al Yager, Town Engineer made the following points to the Board members as follows:

“The Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees would like to thank the Board for the 2% pay increase included in the 2018 budget. The Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees would like to bring to the Board’s attention that the 2% increase in the health care contribution, bringing us to 8% of the total cost, results in many of the non-collective bargaining unit employees bringing home the same or less pay than they did in 2017.

It is also worth noting that our peers in the same positions in neighboring townships make on average 15% more and up to 80% more than the non-collective bargaining unit employees in the Town of Lysander.

The Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees have only received a 7% pay raise over the last four years while the collective bargaining unit employees have enjoyed a 14.5% pay increase over the last four years.

The Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees want the constituents to know that we serve every day, that the 2018 tax rate increase in the Town of Lysander is not a result of the very modest pay raise the Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees will receive in 2018.

The Town of Lysander non-collective bargaining unit employees would like the Town Board to consider these facts when they start working on the 2019 budget.”

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION TO ADOPT THE CNY STORMWATER COALITION STAFF SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESOLUTION

RES#222/2017

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Diamond to adopt the CNY Stormwater Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program Resolution and authorize the Town Supervisor to act on behalf of the Town of Lysander’s governing body in all matters related to the CNY Stormwater Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

TABLED

Motion made by _____ seconded by _____ to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the Workers’ Compensation & Employees Liability Program Agreement, a/k/a PERMA Program Agreement.

MOTION TO DECLARE SHREDDER AS SURPLUS

RES#223/2017

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Moore to approve the following to be declared as surplus as it no longer works and is not repairable: Shredmaster 5220S GBC shredder, Serial No. JL60719/Tag No. 003-00865.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPOINT JAMIE KRATZ AS LABORER

RES#224/2017

Motion made by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Ellis to appoint Jamie Kratz to the position of Laborer (supplemental) as a wingman, retroactive to November 20, 2017. Starting wage as per the Union Contract.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPOINT JENNY MARTIN AS LABORER

RES#225/2017

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Ellis to appoint Jenny Martin to the position of Laborer (supplemental) as a wing person, retroactive to November 20, 2017. Starting wage as per the Union Contract.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

TABLED

Motion made by _____ seconded by _____ to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the Online Subscription Agreement with Dude Solutions, Inc.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADVERTISE FOR SAME REGARDING THE 2018 FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WEST PHOENIX FIRE DISTRICT

RES#226/2017

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Diamond to authorize the Town of Lysander to hold a public hearing to hear citizens for or against the 2018 Fire Protection Agreement by and between the Town Board of the Town of Lysander and Enterprise Fire Company No. 1 (West Phoenix Fire Protection Agreement) on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium of Lysander Town Hall and to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise regarding same.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING AND ADVERTISE FOR SAME REGARDING A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

RES#227/2017

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Diamond to authorize the Town of Lysander to hold a public hearing to hear citizens for or against the renewed franchise agreement regarding Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC and the Town of Lysander; specifically, a cable franchise agreement by and between the Town of Lysander and Time Warner Cable Northeast LLC, 1/k/a Charter Communications on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium of Lysander Town Hall and to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise regarding same.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

CITIZENS COMMENTS RELATED TO TOWN BUSINESS

Fred Burtch of Plainville Road asked about the final figure for the tax rate. **Supervisor Saraceni** said around 5.4% and that the Board looked at the number again today. Mr. Burtch said he FOILED the information two weeks ago and is waiting for it because he has other questions. He asked about voting on the motion to ask the state to go over the 2% cap. He asked if the Town had contacted any other municipalities in the area to see if they had success or difficulty, and see what they might be doing regarding problems they are having.

Supervisor Saraceni said he had an opportunity to talk with elected officials and we are facing the same problem. The random 2% cap that the governor came up with is almost impossible to live under. He said the Town's cost which he had mentioned before, went up over 2% this year, and when it's a 2% cap, it's not a 2% cap, it's 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. This year it was 1.8 and change. Unless there are reserves that you can tap into, which we continue to struggle with in this Town, it's almost irresponsible to pass a budget that doesn't at least keep up with the rate of inflation.

Mr. Burtch said he reached out to different municipalities and town officials in the county about what they are doing and problems they had. He said he found a municipality with a lot of success, in the Town of Van Buren. Three years in a row they have come under the 2% mandate, and they actually lowered taxes this year from what they were the previous year, at the same time their budget increased. **Supervisor Saraceni** said they must have a very healthy fund balance. Mr. Burtch said Van Buren is running a 26 – 27% fund balance, but he said he was told that they are thinking outside the box and doing things differently.

Councilor Geraci said everything is relative. He said Lysander is still the lowest taxed, and not to malign or denigrate whatever Van Buren is doing, but he noted that they have a healthy fund balance, to the point where it may be too much. He said they got there by being not the lowest tax rate in Onondaga County, but being pretty close to the top. Lysander's fund balance is about 16% or so. The Town's goal is to get it up to 20% and to leave it there and to never use it for politically lowering tax rates or taxes, but leave it there, as it was designed to be used as a rainy day fund, or an emergency fund. **Councilor Geraci** suggested paying the taxes in Van Buren and compares them to what [Lysander residents] are paying. He asked what Mr. Burtch was offering in that regard. Mr. Burtch said he heard that the Lysander Town Clerk has been able to structure the Clerk's office while somehow finding a way to create a 25% savings over what was done in the years' past.

Mr. Burtch said he appreciated [Councilor Geraci's] opinion, but he sees how he politically went back to different budgets to use whenever it was convenient for his argument. Mr. Burtch said there have been times when [Councilor Geraci] has gone back to a huge budget where they gave the money back, and said he is waiting for the figures, and he is trying to do an accounting for where we are [meaning the Town] for the first two years, and where the Town is for the previous four years with that administration and the previous four years. He said after two years they are getting close to the total tax increase that we had for the previous administration.

Supervisor Saraceni said no, that he needed to correct him on that point. He said there was a 30% tax increase and they had a 22% tax cut. Last year there was a 7% adjustment and this year a 5% adjustment, so the Town is not getting close. **Councilor Geraci** said another 18% tax increase, and it was 38% and 18%, and two years it was relatively flat. Mr. Burtch said he's seen people complain about those two years, and he saw them complain when they tried to give the money back. Conversation regarding 'tax cutters agenda' and raising taxes, and the Lysander Republican Committee's and actions regarding same. **Supervisor Saraceni** said he didn't agree and thanked him for the political comment.

Jim Stirushnik of Dinglehole Road thanked the Board for mentioning Pearl Harbor. He also said the Board should begin thinking about the organizational meeting and hopes they are prepared for same.

Supervisor Saraceni and the Board recognized a citizen who served in Pearl Harbor. **Councilor Moore** said Larry Parry, a Pearl Harbor war veteran should be recognized. He was in Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack. The Board recognized him and gave him accolades. **Supervisor Saraceni** said Mr. Parry was recognized at the memorial last year, and said his words were very moving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Board Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2017, 7:00 PM in the Auditorium.

Town Board Meeting: Thursday, December 21, 2017, 7:00 PM, Work Session begins at 5:30 PM in the Auditorium.

Town Board Meeting: (Organizational Meeting) Thursday, January 4, 2017, 7:00 PM, Work Session begins at 5:30 PM in the Auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Geraci and seconded by Councilor Diamond to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting at 7:27 PM

This is a true and complete recording
of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk