

Town of Olive  
County of Ulster  
State of New York  
March 9, 2009

Minutes of the monthly audit meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Monday, March 9, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY 12481.

Members Present:           Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor  
                                  Henry Rank, Board Member  
                                  Helen Chase, Board Member  
                                  Bruce La Monda, Board Member  
                                  Peter Friedel, Board Member

Others Present:       Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Gene Sorbellini, Recreation Director; and Bruce Proper, Transfer Station Manager

The Town Board audited the bills for the month of February and set the agenda for the March 10<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting.

General discussion occurred regarding the Transfer Station Building, insurance coverage, and bids and building design. At this point negotiations are still occurring with the insurance company and the situation is still unresolved.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 9 pm on a Leifeld/La Monda motion.

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Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

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Members Present:           Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor  
                                  Henry Rank, Board Member  
                                  Helen Chase, Board Member  
                                  Bruce La Monda, Board Member  
                                  Peter Friedel, Board Member

Recording Secretary:       Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Others Present:           Drew Boggess, Planning Board Chairman; Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Bill Cook, Assessor; Dr. Leslie Ford, Onteora Superintendent; Victoria McLaren, Onteora Assistant Superintendent for Business; and Onteora School Board Members, Dan Spenser and Maxanne Resnick

On a La Monda/Chase motion the Town Board approved the minutes of the February meetings as submitted by the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Leifeld deviated from the agenda and introduced representatives from the Onteora School District. Superintendent Ford, Assistant Superintendent McLaren, and Board of Education member Resnick presented communication #15-09 outlining the Onteora Central School District 2009-2010 budget building considerations. Superintendent Ford stated their presence tonight is for the purpose of sparking conversation and obtaining suggestions for the upcoming school budget. Superintendent Ford outlined budgeting practices and budget pressures for this year and noted the historical enrollment decline of 728 students from 1998-99 through 2008-2009 with total district enrollment down during this period from 2470 students to 1742 students.

Ms. McLaren presented a portion of communication #15-09. The draft budget structure is as follows: Administration, \$3,629,116 or 7% for salaries and benefits for Central Administrators and staff, as well as all supporting expenses; Program, \$43,130,810 or 85% for all instructional staff (education, guidance, social work, athletics, clubs, and transportation, as well as supporting expenses); and Capital, \$4,208,896.29 or 8% for salary and benefits for Buildings and Grounds staff, as well as all supporting expenses and all debt service payments. Overall the proposal appears to be a 9% increase, assuming there is a \$2 million fund balance. She stated they will be getting something from the relief package but do not know the specifics on how much or when. It was also noted that if the State puts the 2% funding back in then it will reduce the increase from 9% to 7%.

Dr. Ford stated that's the information they have at this point and requested a response from those present.

Board Member La Monda stated on behalf of the constituents of the Town of Olive he wants to know what the present school board's opinion will be on large parcel this year. He stated that Olive demands any school board candidate not take a stand for implementing large parcel further stating that the Town of Olive has done everything asked of them. Supervisor Leifeld stated that the large parcel issue went away for a couple of years and if the school budget goes higher and higher each year then all of that can change. He stated that due to an assessment agreement with the City of New York the Town of Olive cannot touch the reservoir assessment for ten years. He reiterated that the town has done everything we could do, shot ourselves in both feet, and the only thing we have going for us is that Assemblyman Cahill is trying to sponsor legislation to have ORPS go along with assessments if agreed upon by both parties. Supervisor Leifeld stated we don't want to get hammered again for something we can do nothing about. Dr. Ford stated there were only two board members present so she would pass that concern on to the school board.

In response to a question from Board Member La Monda, Ms. McLaren stated that Onteora is on the list for shovel ready projects; but, they don't know what that involves.

Al Studt asked what the cost per pupil is at Onteora to which Ms. McLaren responded about \$29,000 per student.

Amy Friedman stated that if enrollment has gone down over the past ten years and is continuing to decline then the school has to start looking at closing a school and take a new look at the physical things in the school system. Dr. Ford stated that one middle school team has been cut 25%. Mrs. Friedman stated that in so many different areas and workforces people are being asked to take cuts in health insurance, higher co-pays, etc. She asked if there is anything Onteora is doing with the teachers union to see if these items could be negotiated such as retirement benefits or salaries.

Patti Wolff stated that in ten years we've lost 728 students and we need to consolidate. She expressed concern that the West Hurley school has been sitting there for years. Maxanne Resnick stated they have had an appraisal of \$5 per square foot and it is zoned for a school. She noted there have been inquiries about doing a green technologies thing there but doesn't know how the school board would feel about that. She stated she wouldn't feel comfortable about giving away West Hurley school to independent means until such time the board has a master plan for the district.

Cindy O'Connor stated the board needs to be looking at the whole district and not piece meal. She asked what business looks at its expenses first and then looks at revenues. She stated when she was on the school board she had to be reeducated as to budget planning. She noted their plan was to consolidate the district you can't have population go down and have all schools open throughout the district. She stated they delivered the public a zero percent tax levy and

were then voted off the board. She stated they had a plan in place to follow and now there isn't one. She stated that if we keep going without consolidation it will be children having programs cut.

Drew Boggess stated what he doesn't see with the current school board is a long range plan to deal with controlling the budget noting that the district will be putting themselves into the position of having the budget voted down each year.

Rita Vanacore asked when the school board is going to get a master plan so we can see where our school district is going. She stated there is a reduction in repairs and wants to know what's going to happen to the windows that are not insulated and roofs that are falling apart. She stated the school board has to come through with a plan. She stated to not tell her that you're not hurting education when you cut the middle school.

Linda Burkhardt stated that when student population declines then cost per student increases and asked how they are addressing this issue. Dr. Ford stated there are two contributing factors, contract agreements with statutory provisions in them and teachers will get step increases and cost of living increases which roll forward plus there are health insurance increases.

Linda Burkhardt stated that several years ago the school spent money to come up with an architectural plan for building improvements. She asked what happened to that plan and are we going to have to spend money again for the same thing.

Peter Friedel asked what the student-teacher ratio is to which Dr. Ford responded "that depends". He noted that one first grade class has 12 -15 students to which Ford responded "yes" but a special education class comes in during the day to join with that class.

Drew Boggess asked if we are reducing the number of kids in class to keep the three elementary schools open. Maxanne Resnick stated that some feel it important to keep the schools open and that is the dilemma the school is in.

Charlie Blumstein stated that if benefits and contractual commitments are not addressed then we will continue to have large budgets. He stated during long economic booms contracts are developed that oftentimes are not sustainable. He asked if we are negotiating on this issue in order to turn this ship around. Dr. Ford stated during negotiations they are not allowed to speak on this issue, but they are following all the steps in the negotiations. She noted it is up to the school board to offer directions in this matter and then it goes to the negotiating team which consists of the Attorney, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent.

Supervisor Leifeld thanked the school representatives for attending and returned to the meeting agenda.

The following correspondence was read and filed:

# 16-09

Anthony and Virginia Castrogiovanni writes to protest the extensive destruction being done on Route 28A in Olivebridge. They state that overkill doesn't even begin to describe the deforestation and general lack of respect for the natural beauty of the area.

#17-09

Judy Scheel and Michael Drillinger of Nickelsey Road express shock and outrage of the YMCA Camp's unnecessary PA system, blasting music, potentially dangerous traffic conditions and blatant disregard and disrespect shown by the Camp's Director.

#18-09

SHARP Committee announces that RESTORE (Residential Emergency Service to Offer Repairs to the Elderly) Program has been awarded to the Towns of Shandaken, Woodstock, and Olive. The program will offer services to income eligible homeowners aged 60 years and older for emergency repairs not limited to the following: heating, electrical and water system failures, and roofing repairs.

On a Chase/Friedel motion the Town Board approved payment of the following audited bills: Highway Vouchers #42-#73, \$32,873.10; General Fund Vouchers #66-#113, \$31,156.03; and Special Fire District Voucher #1, \$101,831.00.

Supervisor Leifeld noted the monthly income for January as cash received \$2,396,467.23 and interest received as \$183.62.

On a Leifeld/Rank motion the Town Board approved the following general fund budget modification: \$695.00 from Reserve "R" Records Management to 1460.4, Records Management (contractual).

Under Old Business: Supervisor Leifeld stated there have been complaints about the light at the telecommunications site on South Mountain. He stated on Friday he called and spoke to Kevin Kellerhouse of Masterpage Communications who informed him the light is on Verizon's equipment and that Verizon would call him. He noted Verizon called Monday and stated they would send someone up there to change the light from dusk to dawn to a motion detector light.

In response to a question about cellular service in Samsonville, Supervisor Leifeld stated a company has recently contacted him about surveying the entire town to plan for coverage throughout.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that the highway department loader broke down this winter and to rent one cost \$5,000.00 a month. He noted per Highway Superintendent Fugel's request the Town Board advertised for bids for a new one. The following bids were received:

Westchester Tractor	\$119,671.00
A Montano	\$ 93,323.00
A Montano	\$ 98,994.00
Westchester Tractor	\$103,000.00 (NYS bid)
Pine Bush Equipment	\$ 91,257.49
NorTrax	\$ 91,500.00
Hoffman Equipment	\$113,257.19 (NYS bid)
Keil Equipment	\$102,731.00
H.O. Penn	\$ 75,300.00

On a La Monda/Friedel motion the Town Board approved the lowest bid of \$75,300.00 from H. O. Penn Caterpillar plus the modification on tires and counter-weight bringing the final amount and still the lowest bid of \$79,200.00. On a La Monda/Rank motion the board clarified the approval to be the low bid from H. O. Penn plus the modifications.

The following committee reports were files: #19-09 February Police Report; #20-09 March Recreation Committee Report; #21-09 February Town Clerk Report; #22-09 February Fire Department Report.

Pattie Wolff of Shokan thanked the Highway Department for the work done on Ridge Road.

Blake Killin stated that Ulster County is getting \$20 million and one of the projects is to redo Route 28 from Route 375 out to the county line.

Drew Boggess stated that several months back the Town Board approved an AT & T collocation on South Mountain and wanted to know when this will happen. Board Member Friedel stated this should happen sometime in June.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 8:50 on a Leifeld/La Monda motion in memory of Ingvar "William" Olsson, Charles Henry Smith, Anne Wendt, and Robert Nelson Willing, Jr.

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Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk