

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Monday, May 9, 2011

Minutes of the monthly audit meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Monday, May 9, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY.

Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
Henry Rank, Board Member
Peter Friedel, Board Member
Members Absent: Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
Bruce La Monda, Board Member
Others Present: Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; and Drew Boggess,
Planning Board Chairman

After auditing the bills for the month of April the Town Board reviewed Version 1.0 of the Town of Olive Draft Comprehensive Plan and made corrections and additions to the draft. The revised plan will be forwarded to Rudikoff Associates for reprinting.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 9:40 pm on a Leifeld/Rank motion.

Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk

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Members Present: Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor
Henry Rank, Board Member
Linda Burkhardt, Board Member
Peter Friedel, Board Member
Members Absent: Bruce La Monda, Board Member
Recording Secretary: Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk
Others Present: Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent; Drew Boggess, Planning Board
Chairman; Tim Cox, Town Justice

On a Burkhardt/Friedel motion the Town Board approved the Minutes of the April meetings as submitted by the Town Clerk.

The following correspondence was read and filed:

#25-11

Purdy Halstead of the American Legion Olive Memorial Post No. 1627 noted the 2011 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30th in West Shokan.

#26-11

Onteora High School Belleayre Bash 2011 will be held at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center on Friday, June 24, 2011, at 11:00 pm when the graduating class arrives by school bus. The all night event is fully chaperoned by parents, school staff, and local police. Tax deductible donations can be sent to the Belleayre Bash Committee.

#27-11

On a Leifeld/Friedel motion the Town Board unanimously approved the appointment of Jason Aten of Boiceville as member to the Olive Fire Department.

#28-11

Michael Kight Shokan Regional Manager of the NYC DEP states construction on the re-alignment portion of Route 28A has commenced. During the construction motorists will encounter one lane road closures.

Donna Crawford, Master Gardener from Cornell Cooperative, presented information (#29-11) regarding creation of a rain garden at the Town Meeting Hall. She stated the Master Gardeners received a grant to build rain gardens as a way to control stormwater runoff. She stated they have done three rain gardens: Town of Ulster Town Hall, Senior Citizen Center in the Town of Saugerties, and the Rosendale Library. She stated they received a grant from the Ashokan Stream Management Program for \$5,000.00 to put in a rain garden in front of the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan. She stated they are looking for approval from the Town Board to create this public garden which is done with native plants. She stated they will be asking for minimal assistance from the Highway Department to help with the excavation. In response to questions about maintenance Mrs. Crawford stated basic weeding, pruning, and possible mowing will be all that is needed. On a Rank/Burkhardt motion the Town Board approved the construction of a rain garden at the Town Meeting Hall.

Supervisor Leifeld introduced Onteora School District Assistant Superintendent for Business Victoria McLaren who introduced school board members Mike McKeon and Tom Hickey. Ms. McLaren presented correspondence #30-11 outlining the budget for Onteora as \$50,541,121.00 noting a 1.04% increase. It was noted the school budget election will be May 17th and if defeated, the budget would be reduced by \$121,785.00. Student enrollment for 2009 was 1,651, 2010 was 1,511, and 2011 was 1,449 making the average cost of education this year per \$34,880.00.

In response to questions Ms. McLaren stated that 21% of enrollment is special education students. She noted she did not know the student to teacher ratio or the number of teachers in the Onteora district.

In response to questions regarding proposition #2 to establish a capital reserve in the amount of \$5 million for energy saving measures, Ms. McLaren stated the savings that would be realized from Central Hudson would go into this separate fund to be used for buildings.

Drew Boggess stated that three years ago the school board had an active plan for restructuring how the buildings would be used and asked when the school board would get back to that level. Mike McKeon stated they are still using that plan and a committee of citizens has been looking

at it. He stated that personally he would like to see them move faster on this issue further stating he is only one of seven. He stated that the feedback he gets is do not spend any more money for anything.

Board Member Burkhardt stated the citizens keep seeing more money being spent for less students noting this is difficult for the taxpayer to digest.

In response to questions, Ms. McLaren stated that personnel and benefits are about 80% of the budget. She stated that the problem is the decline in enrollment doesn't happen in one specific class and the Superintendent is constantly looking at class size. She stated that teachers are being reduced to part time if the students are not there for them to teach.

Tom Hickey stated there is a need for creativity to look at community schools and to see how to share resources between different organizations, ways to do things with community colleges, incorporating adult education in our schools and how can we provide better value to the taxpayers in the district. He noted the idea of consolidating isn't necessarily a good endeavor and not necessarily cheaper.

Charlie Blumstein asked where salaries and benefits are in relation to the rest of the state. Ms. McLaren stated they are on par with several other districts in Ulster County noting the average salary is \$80,000.00. Mr. Blumstein stated we are on par with West Chester with the average salary being \$80,000.00. Mike McKeon stated Onteora use to be at the top of the list in salaries and now they are somewhere in the middle. Ms. McLaren noted the benefit package is about \$25,000.00 per teacher for health insurance, retirement, and social security.

Tom Hickey stated that with the market being soft it is easier to negotiate and things may change in the future.

On a Leifeld/Friedel motion the Town Board approved payment of the following audited bills: Highway Vouchers #125-#149, \$34,023.77; General Fund Prepaid Vouchers #160-#163, \$303.52; General Fund Vouchers #164-#224, \$105,058.28; Special Lighting Voucher #5, \$51.52; and Special Wastewater Voucher #4, \$30,207.94.

Supervisor Leifeld noted cash received for March as \$20,699.59 and interest for March as \$1,757.15.

RUPCO (Rural Ulster Preservation Company) stated they are applying for a grant for repairs for single family housing in Ulster County. They are looking for thirty-five homes that would qualify to be used in the grant application.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the Town Board recently established "No Smoking Zones" in the town parks.

Supervisor Leifeld noted the Town Board passed a resolution to sell the Boiceville property which was subject to a permissive referendum. He noted that residents have until May 12th to file a petition with the Town Clerk objecting to said sale.

The following committee reports were submitted:

PARKS & RECREATION liaison Burkhardt stated they will be meeting tomorrow to review applications for employment in the summer recreation program. She noted most of the children who worked last year will be returning this year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT April report #31-11 showed 37 responses for the month.

HIGHWAY liaison Rank submitted April report #32-11 noting the department hauled sand for next year, swept all town roads, and started cleaning ditches. He noted the bucket truck recently failed inspection. He noted the Highway Department work in the parks, buildings, and servicing police car resulted in 370 man hours and 16 equipment hours resulting in a cost of \$8,719.26 to the Highway Fund for non-highway work.

TRANSFER STATION liaison Friedel submitted March report #33-11 noting \$5,630.00 in total revenues for the month and \$6,590.81 in expenditures.

TOWN CLERK Rozzelle submitted April report #34-11 noting \$15,419.90 in clerk revenues and \$122,968.96 in tax collections.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 8:40 pm in memory of Jaroslaw "Jerry" Kuc and Ingrid H. Yankowski.

Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk