

Town of Olive
County of Ulster
State of New York
Monday, October 3, 2011

Minutes of a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Monday, October 3, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY. The purpose of the special meeting as stated in the public notice was to approve the hiring of a disaster recovery consultant to provide professional services related to damage assessments, reimbursement under the FEMA program, debris removal monitoring, oversee bidding and hiring contractors, and provide professional staff to work with all FEMA related programs.

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

Recording Secretary: Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk

Others Present: Drew Boggess, Planning Board Chairman; David Sorbellini, Planning Board Member

The 2012 Tentative Budget was presented to Town Board members. Supervisor Leifeld stated it is currently a wish list showing a 2.9% increase at this point. He stated the Ulster County tax bill, the fire department contract, and the library the town has no control over the amounts on the January tax bill.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the Town Board had a conference call phone interview with Daniel Craig of Tidal Basin which is located in Alexandria, VA. Mr. Craig will be in Olive later to guide us through the FEMA aspect of this as you need to have everything in order or FEMA will not pay you. He stated we need to clean the brooks out as good as possible with as little cost to the town as possible. Tidal Basin is a firm that will be working on an hourly rate. He stated Tidal Basin will give us a two month plan as to what it will cost, what they will do, and how they want to do it. Once the town signs the two month agreement then we are in it for two months. The Town Board may or may not decide to proceed further after the two month proposal is completed.

On a La Monda/Friedel motion the Town Board approved hiring Tidal Basin as the firm for handling and making recommendations for all aspects of overseeing the Hurricane Irene recovery projects and for seeing that all recovery projects are professionally handled and the FEMA reimbursement program is properly followed. Cindy Johansen asked if that also includes the Esopus Creek as there is a lot of sand buildup in Boiceville. Supervisor Leifeld stated there should be a berme all the way up to the sawmill. Board Member La Monda stated that from the conference call he understood that FEMA will pay for debris removal, but, not for the removal of gravel bars. Board Member La Monda stated that Mr. Dan Craig of Tidal Basin informed the Town Board that if we had gone into the streams and cleaned them out we would have gotten nothing from FEMA as there has to be stream monitors watching the removal of the debris. Roll vote being on the motion: Rank, yes; Burkhardt, yes; La Monda, yes; Friedel, yes; and Leifeld, yes. Board Member Friedel stated the conference call with Dan Craig involved all Town Board members.

Board Member La Monda stated he spoke with Sheriff Van Blarcom and there was never any offer to the Town of Olive for a substation in Olive. Cindy Johansen stated she was asking about a command station for Irene, not a substation, as the sheriff's department reached out to the Town offering that. Board Member Friedel stated an email was sent to the Chief of Police and to the Supervisor. Town Clerk Rozzelle stated she received no such email. Supervisor Leifeld stated his office did not receive an email.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that in talking to other Supervisors their biggest fear is not having all the paperwork correctly filled out for FEMA which is one of the reasons we are going the direction of hiring a consultant to see that everything is properly done. Supervisor Leifeld stated that Hurricane Irene costs are not figured into the 2.9% tentative budget increase. It was noted that some of the cost of the consultant will be paid for by FEMA, the State, and the County.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that Janice Lanzarotta put together the tentative budget today. He stated the Town Board will proceed with the required process of holding a public hearing on the proposed local law to override the 2% budget cap.

Board Member Friedel asked about using the town's capital reserves. Supervisor Leifeld stated we will talk to the attorney to see what we can use out of the reserves. He stated that when the stock market was doing so well years ago the NYS Retirement gave money back to the towns. A lot of the towns spent it, but, we put that money into a special escrow account to use it when necessary. He noted this could be the time to use that money. Board Member La Monda stated the town cannot take money out of reserve accounts to pay the interest on a loan.

Supervisor Leifeld stated we want to do what's best for the town. He stated there is basically \$100,000.00 in two escrow accounts which we can use now. He stated he had wanted to use some last year to offset the budget and he's glad he didn't as we need it more now.

When asked about the CWC money, Supervisor Leifeld stated that Shandaken, Olive, and Woodstock are getting \$1,024,000.00 with the first round going for construction costs and structural damage, the second round would be for equipment, and then inventory until the money is gone. These are the three watershed towns in Ulster County that should be utilizing the money. He stated that New York City is possibly contributing another million dollars to the CWC for flood damage in the watershed communities.

Supervisor Leifeld stated that Dan Craig would like to have a website where he can update information daily. Supervisor Leifeld presented information to the Town Board about a firm who will develop a new website for the town. It was noted the current website has been done totally on a volunteer basis. The fee for setting it up would be \$2,400.00. It was noted this money could possibly come out of a reserve account for computers. General consensus of the Town Board was to have the Supervisor pursue developing a new website for the town.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 7:55 pm on a Leifeld/La Monda.

Sylvia Rozzelle, Town Clerk