

Town of Olive  
County of Ulster  
State of New York  
Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Minutes of a workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Olive held Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 2:00 pm at the Town Meeting Hall in Shokan, NY

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: Ray Nichols, Police Chief & Police Commissioner; Vincent Bruck, Police Commissioner; and Sgt. Barry Creagan, Police Officer;

Supervisor Leifeld distributed proposal (#71-11) from the Police Commission offering comparisons of the current police department staffing of one full time officer verses having two full time officers. Supervisor Leifeld stated to the fourteen persons in attendance that this is not a public hearing on the budget noting this is a workshop meeting and part of the normal process.

He stated the second part of the meeting has to do with Hurricane Irene. He stated in dealing with this disaster it was brought to their attention that consultant firms are available that do this type of work. He stated that seven companies responded to the initial legal ad and information regarding the scope of work was sent to them. He noted that only two companies sent proposals which were received last night via FedEx.

Supervisor Leifeld opened the two proposals and distributed the information to Town Board Members. The two companies responding were Turn Key Disaster Management Services of Lake Charles, LA and Tidal Basin of Alexandria, VA. Turn Key Disaster Management Services hourly rates range from \$250.00 per hour to \$170.00 per hour. Tidal Basin hourly rates range from \$240.00 to \$36.00 per hour. It was noted the hourly rates charged varies depending on employee job descriptions. Supervisor Leifeld stated they will have to review the proposals but would like to make a decision as soon as possible but will need to check out references. He stated that Lamont Engineering should have a cost estimate by the end of the week.

Supervisor Leifeld stated there is no guarantee regarding FEMA fund. When asked where the county responsibility is in all of this, Supervisor Leifeld stated the county has the county road and this will all be addressed when the consultant is hired. He stated the process is underway and when we borrow the necessary money for the projects we will need a consultant to guide us through the process. He stated it is necessary to have someone oversee the entire project to be sure everything is done properly to receive FEMA funds, if available. He stated they have to protect the town as well as get this thing done noting there are many issues that have to be hammered out.

Board Member La Monda stated we need to get an estimate of what needs to be done. He noted the trees coming out are the easy part, but, the stream has to be rechanneled. Until we get that dollar figure we can't go to the bank and borrow money. It was noted this has to be a

focused plan so that one person doesn't do damage to another person's property and, also, we need to protect the municipality.

Supervisor Leifeld stated for the hand and shovel work there are plenty of local people to do the job and that won't take long if it is done in unison. He noted bank stabilization is a totally different issue and will have to be worked out with the DEC.

Board Member Friedel stated that some DEC officials are giving out misinformation.

Board Member Burkhardt stated the Town Board is trying to get one entity to deal with the entire scenario.

Supervisor Leifeld asked if anyone in the room has any objections to the Town Board hiring a consultant to oversee this project. There were no objections issued from those in attendance.

Glenda McGee asked what would be different if we didn't have to deal with the DEP and the DEC. Martha Frankel stated that property owners used to clean out the streams and we are twenty years behind on that since the DEC no longer allowed us to do that.

John Molloy asked if there is a way to see this year's budget without Hurricane Irene to which Supervisor Leifeld responded, yes.

Supervisor Leifeld stated we haven't paid for anything yet regarding the hurricane and the two things that are unpaid is Lamont Engineering and the dumpsters the town rented for Boiceville. He also stated we received a bit of surprise this afternoon as the in ground fuel tanks shifted and we have well above normal water in the tanks.

Glenda McGee asked about reserve funds. Supervisor Leifeld stated there are \$800,000.00 in capital reserve accounts.

John Molloy asked if we could use Hurricane Irene to ask Audit and Control if we can break into these accounts to use them. Supervisor Leifeld stated that is what the consultant companies will do.

Supervisor Leifeld stated he didn't hear anyone say that having a consultant is a bad idea, is that correct? General consensus of the Town Board is to proceed with hiring a consultant.

Supervisor Leifeld stated the original reason for this meeting is to work with the Police Commission on making a change in the Police Department. He stated he asked the Commissioners to come in and make their presentation to the Town Board.

Ray Nichols, Police Chief, stated that what they tried to do was look at ways to save money and they came up with the information provided in communication #71-11. He stated hiring another full timer and paying him at a starting rate will save \$18,175.08 this year. Board Member La Monda stated that with only one full timer there isn't continuity in the department. He noted a lot of the part timers are full timers elsewhere and when the hurricane struck we couldn't get any officers to work. Police Chief Nichols stated there were 174 incidents in August where there were 64 last year. He stated they are not asking for the Town Board to make a decision now; but, another full time officer would benefit the town as far as payroll.

In response to questions, it was noted that the current Police Department budget is approximately \$170,000.00 and there are a total of 10 part-timers of which all must be hired through Civil Service. It was stated that a part-time officer may only work two eight hour days a month.

Charlie Blumstein stated that full time officers provide much more moderating influence than part timers. He noted policing in Olive has a lot of other agencies who may know nothing about the scene. He stated the Olive Police will take over and assist to be benefit of the townspeople.

Board Member Friedel asked if this included overtime and time a half. Police Chief Nichols stated we do have some overtime, but that would decrease with two full timers.

In response to questions, Police Chief Nichols stated that the Sheriff's Department and State Police don't always respond and the DEP's responsibility is solely the Reservoir. Commissioner Bruck noted that cars from other agencies can be far away. Police Chief Nichols stated Olive Police carry oxygen and AED's in the patrol cars. Board Member Friedel stated that Olive First Aid is not heavily staffed with volunteers and seeing the Olive Police on the scene we know we can put the oxygen on immediately.

John Molloy asked why the Town of Marbletown has no police department and where is the Sheriff's Department. Glenda McGee asked why other towns don't have departments. Police Chief Nichols stated that West Hurley relies on Woodstock and Stone Ridge uses Rosendale. Chief Nichols stated that Shandaken has four full timers. He stated that the Sheriff's Department will call him and say they don't have the personnel to cover Olive and he has to scramble to get a part-timer on duty.

Cindy Johansen stated that she was told by an Ulster County Sheriff that the Sheriff's Department offered a sheriff's hub in Olive and the town turned it down. Police Chief Nichols and Town Board members said that is not correct, if they offered it, the Town would definitely accept it. Sgt. Creagan stated that a sheriff's hub in Olive would be most welcome.

Mrs. Purdy stated she feels that employees should pay at least 2% towards their health insurance. Supervisor Leifeld stated that two or three years ago the town started a new policy that any new employee coming in the town pays for the employee single coverage and half the cost of that family policy is paid by the employee. It was noted the town implemented high deductible policies for employees--\$2,500.00 for singles and \$5,000.00 for families. It was noted this move alone saved the town \$80,000.00 in one year.

Commissioner Bruck asked if the Town Board had a time line on this decision regarding the 2012 budget for the Police Department. Supervisor Leifeld thanked them for their work on their budget and told them to use the new figure in their tentative budget.

In response to a question from Board Member Burkhardt, Sgt. Creagan stated that another full time officer would help them be more professional and would benefit the town.

All business pertinent having been discussed the Town Board adjourned at 3:15 pm on a Leifeld/La Monda motion.

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Sylvia B. Rozzelle, Town Clerk