

A Work Session of the Clarence Town Board was held on June 3, 2009 at Clarence Town Hall, One Town Place, Clarence, NY.

Supervisor Scott Bylewski called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members of the Town Board present were Council members Joseph Weiss, Bernard Kolber and Peter DiCostanzo. Councilman Casilio was absent. Other town officials present were Town Attorney Steven Bengart and Director of Administration and Finance Pam Smith.

Supervisor Scott Bylewski

The motion made at the May 24th Town Board meeting regarding replacement seating in the auditorium failed. A super majority vote was needed for it to pass. Because one Town Board member was absent and one voted no, it did not pass so we will not be able to borrow for that this year.

The Clubhouse Centennial is tentatively slated to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Elaine Rowley has submitted her letter of resignation from the Ethics Board. There is one vacancy on the Ethics Board for a non-democrat with a term expiration of December 31, 2009.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Kolber to refund the open space fee charged to the applicant, Clarence First Presbyterian Church for the church expansion project located at 9675 Main Street in the amount of \$1,652.00. On the question, the town has waived the open space fees for projects similar in nature. Upon roll call – Ayes: Councilman DiCostanzo, Councilman Kolber, Councilman Weiss and Supervisor Bylewski; Noes: None. Absent: Councilman Casilio. Motion carried.

Councilman Joseph Weiss

Councilman Weiss attended Assemblywoman Jane Corwin's press conference in the Town of Newstead last Friday regarding downsizing local government. Nathan Neil spoke on some of the concerns regarding downsizing. There is a lot of misinformation being spread around.

Councilman Weiss commented on the 2008 Water Quality Report from Erie County Water Authority.

Councilman Bernard Kolber

Councilman Kolber received a request proposing term limits for the Senior Center Board. The request is for six year term limits (2-three year terms). They would like to know the process for implementing term limits in order that they may proceed. Town Attorney Bengart suggested that Councilman Kolber advise the Senior Center Board to seek advice from their counsel.

Councilman Kolber stated that several years ago he suggested that at least half the Senior Center Board should be elected by its members. That is who the board is accountable to and if the members don't like them they can vote them out.

Supervisor Bylewski stated that the Town Board still wants a say in the usage of the Senior Center facility including who is appointed to the board. Several years ago we had a situation with the Youth Center. There is precedence for letting the Senior Center make a recommendation to the Town Board. Term limits will have to be worked out through their by-laws.

Councilman DiCostanzo

Motion by Councilman DiCostanzo, seconded by Councilman Kolber to appoint Kellie M. Jeffery to the position of Program Coordinator Youth Board/RPT Permanent, at the budgeted rate of pay, changing her status from Program

Coordinator, Youth Board, RPT, Provisional, as she has successfully passed the Civil Service Exam in the top three. This appointment is effective as of May 28, 2009. As per the resolution of October 28, 2008, appointing Kellie M. Jeffery Program Coordinator, Youth Board, RPT, Provisional effective November 1, 2008, Ms. Jeffery must comply with the Town of Clarence residency requirements per Chapter 39; Article II of the Code of the Town of Clarence by and not later than October 31, 2009. Upon roll call – Ayes: Councilman DiCostanzo, Councilman Kolber, Councilman Weiss and Supervisor Bylewski; Noes: None. Absent: Councilman Casilio. Motion carried.

The Historic Preservation Commission nominated the Gerber Library and the Asa Ransom House for designation as a Town Historic Landmark.

Councilman DiCostanzo attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and it was announced that 20 new members have joined in the month of May. Bob Geiger is doing a great job recruiting new members.

There was a discussion regarding the number of committees/boards in Town. Councilman DiCostanzo commented on the number of people on the Senior Center Board, he was of the opinion that fifteen members are excessive for any board. Supervisor Bylewski felt the Arboretum Design Review Committee work is done and does not need to go forward. Supervisor Bylewski suggested each Town Board member take a look at their committee assignments and see which ones could be disbanded.

Councilman Kolber commented on an article in the Amherst Bee regarding Williamsville VFD. During a Memorial Day Parade, one of their firefighters went into cardiac arrest while marching in the parade and collapsed. Luckily other firefighters marching in the parade were able to retrieve the automatic external defibrillator and begin administering aid reviving him. Councilman Kolber is looking into trying to get AED's in as many first responder's vehicles as possible.

A Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for town employees on June 19th, 2009 from noon until 3PM. Several vendors' exhibits will be displayed.

Get Fit Clarence will be held on June 20th at the Main Street Park with the focus on Fitness and Fun. Residents can take part in many classes such as Tai-Chi, Pilates and Yoga. Demonstrations from local clubs and institutions will also be available.

There are four members on the Meeting House Board. Joanna Pickering, Linda Mosher, John Conlin and Dan Gamin. Johanna Pickering and Linda Mosher are on the Historic Preservation Commission as well. John Conlin has resigned from the Meeting House Board. Councilman Kolber noted that the Meeting House Board is a separate corporation, the Town Board can not dissolve this committee, and they would have to dissolve themselves.

Floss Insurance Agency – Joseph Floss

Joseph Floss was present to discuss the Length of Service Program and the EEOC issue and the costs that might be associated should the finding be that the Town is going to make those payments. VFIS Representatives Kathy Sibol and John Stout were present as well to provide options to make those payments. Joe Floss suggested setting a date for the fall for a public forum with the firemen.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Kolber to enter into Executive Session under § 105(1) F of the Open Meetings Law to discuss pending litigation regarding EEOC matters and LOSAP. On the question Director of Administration and Finance Pam Smith and Town Attorney Bengart were asked to remain in the meeting. Upon roll call – Ayes: Councilman DiCostanzo, Councilman Kolber, Councilman Weiss and Supervisor Bylewski; Noes: None. Absent: Councilman Casilio. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Kolber to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:30 AM. Upon roll call - Ayes: Councilman DiCostanzo, Councilman Kolber, Councilman Weiss and Supervisor Bylewski; Noes: None. Absent: Councilman Casilio. Motion carried. No action taken.

Supervisor Bylewski stated that more work is taking place on Long Street regarding the landscaping, street repaving, sewer line work etc. The work will continue throughout the summer.

Councilman DiCostanzo spoke to Town Engineer Latona regarding the Thompson Road – Greiner Road intersection. He is looking into a 4-way stop and a signalized intersection.

Councilman Casilio arrived at 10:45 AM.

Joe Floss spoke about the Travelers Plus Program that is available to employers in NY State. Employers are struggling for ways to enhance their offerings to their employees without any additional costs to them. The Travelers offers a program where by if a sponsoring employer decides to participate, The Travelers would pay for all the marketing material to directly silicate auto and homeowners insurance to employees at a discounted rate. It is a reduction of 5% on auto insurance from NY State filed and accepted rates and 7% on their homeowners insurance. This program has been met with some success and embraced by employers struggling for ways to enhance benefits with no direct cost to them. They do offer the option of having payroll deduction however; this could increase your costs. They will allow individual employees to have a monthly EFT out of their account at a reduced rate of \$1 - \$2 per month so there is no reason to get involved with payroll deduction.

The Clarence Community & Schools FCU has the Travelers Benefit Plus Program through the Emerling Insurance Agency where members can access that discount if they are a member of the credit union.

Town Assessor Christine Fusco

The Assessment Board of Review had 176 assessment challenges this year vs. 177 challenges last year. Sears and Office Depot were the only two big assessment challenges that came in. Benderson is buying back some of their original property for a lot less money.

There were a total of 27 challenges from Spaulding Lake out of 270 properties.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Darcy A. Snyder
Deputy Town Clerk