

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
November 18, 2014 – Town Board Workshop, 6:00pm

A Town Board Workshop was held Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: Stephen D. Flach, Supervisor
Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman
Peter E. Masti, Councilman
George E. Langdon, IV, Councilman
Kenneth A. Burns, Sr., Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Peter J. McKenna, Chief of Police

Supervisor Flach opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that the record should reflect the presence of a full Town Board.

AGENDA

- Resolutions
 - Inter-Fund Loan
 - Bond Resolution
- Workplace Violence/Safety Committee
- 2015 Budget
- Certified Document Security – Document Shredding Contract
- Future Employee Retirement Package

OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that he asked the Board to have a Workshop tomorrow at noon on the final budget, which is due on Thursday and the reason being is that they will have some pretty serious shortfalls in the budget at the end of this year. He continued by saying that he needs to go over them because they need to know prior to the resolutions for a Bond and Inter-Fund Loan. He added that in the Police .1 they are on track for \$30,000.00 over budget and Police .4 Contractual is \$20,000.00-\$25,000.00, for Dispatch .1 they will be over \$45,000.00, they had Anticipated Revenues for the Court, which will be short approximately \$25,000.00 and Police Forfeiture on the Revenue side will be under budget \$50,000.00, Attorney Fees are \$15,000.00 over budget and Central Communications \$15,000.00 over budget so in those areas they are \$205,000.00 over budget. He added that for Highway, they are waiting for C.H.I.P.S money to come, they changed the way that the Town gets it and they now have to have a cancelled check from the company that they did business with for the roads and it will not be in time to make it by the end of this year and the other money that the Highway will be short is part of Sales Tax which will be coming in January and usually they have enough to cover it, but they don't have enough to cover it and the total budget shortfalls comes to \$377,000.00.

Discussion ensued amongst the Town Board regarding overspending in the Police Department, shortfalls in the Highway Department because of timing for C.H.I.P.S. money as well as lost revenue for sales tax and anticipated revenue falling short in the Justice Court. They continued to discuss taking a TAN in the amount of \$500,000.00 to recover as well making an inter-loan

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fund transfer to cover payroll until they get a TAN. He continued by reading a letter from Fiscal Advisors and Marketing Inc., as follows:

Dear Supervisor Flach,

I have been asked by the Town's Bond Counsel to prepare an engagement letter for Fiscal Advisors to serve as Municipal Advisor to the Town to assist with the calculations for the sizing of a TAN or RAN issue in the approximate amount of \$500,000.00. The agreement follows, please sign and return to the address above.

Sincerely,
Jeanine Rodgers Caruso

RESOLUTIONS

RES. #159-14 APPROVE INTER-FUND LOAN

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the following resolution was APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 1 – SO MOVED

WHEREAS, the General Fund (A) has bills that are due; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeymans anticipates the funds necessary to pay those bills will not be available at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to pay bills on time,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sewer Fund (SS) will loan the General Fund (A) \$110,000.00 to pay for sufficient expenditures when due. When sufficient funds become available, they will be used to repay the Sewer Fund (SS) with 2% interest.

Discussion ensued amongst the Town Board relative to how much money is in the Sewer Fund, and the interest rate, which will probably be forgiven.

Supervisor Flach stated that there is a Bond Resolution for a truck and continued by reading the following:

A resolution authorizing the acquisition of a one-ton dump truck and issuance of Serial Bonds of the Town of Coeymans, Albany County, New York in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 pursuant to the Local Finance Law to finance the cost thereof, and delegating certain powers in connection therewith to the Town Supervisor.

Discussion ensued amongst the Town Board.

Supervisor Flach stated that he just received the resolution, he was mistaken about it being on the agenda and suggested that it waits until tomorrow's meeting.

Collectively the Town Board agreed.

DISCUSSIONS

Workplace Violence Safety Committee

Supervisor Flach stated that they needed to talk about the Workplace Violence Safety Committee and the need for removing those who don't want to be on it and appointing those that wish to be on it. He added that Highway Superintendent Searles is now the Chairman because of Chief Darlington's retirement.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of member's required, possible conflicts if a Department Head is on it, the process when a complaint is filed, possible candidates.

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Supervisor Flach asked that the Board think about it because it has to be done sooner rather than later.

Councilman Dolan stated that he would propose that they look at what the language is as to who should or should not be on it and what the rules are and bring back suggestions to the next meeting.

2015 Budget

Supervisor Flach stated that with the budget issues that have happened within the last couple of months, he would like to sit down with the Board and have a budget type meeting to go over it and they possibly might have to cut some more or raise the tax rate.

Discussion ensued amongst the Town Board regarding overages, expenditures and shortfalls in projected revenue, and possible solutions for addressing it.

Discussion continued amongst the Town Board and Town Clerk Millious relative to the new Bookkeeping Software that is also for payroll, it will eliminate paper ledgers and link the Town Clerk's Office to Bookkeeping.

Certified Document Security

Supervisor Flach asked that Town Clerk Millious discuss a new vendor, Certified Document Security for records destruction.

Town Clerk Millious stated that she has been having a free trial with Certified Document Security, it is for two months free and they provide a bin for documents to be shred. She added that the company that she has been dealing with, she has to have 50 boxes or more for destruction before they would even come on the premises, Certified Document Security is less money and they gave her a price for the 70-80 boxes that need to go. She continued by saying that it is mostly court records and she has to get approval to have them taken away and once the initial clean-up is done she wants to go with something that she can keep up to date with as far as destruction rather than running things through a shredder. She added that they come and take the bin, she will have no lifting and it will be a lot easier and it comes out to approximately \$36.00 a month, which would be \$432.00 for a year, which is a bit more than she budgeted for at \$32.00 a box. She went on by saying that initially getting rid of things as she can is a better way to go because she can't even walk in the records room because of boxes that are waiting to be destroyed. She concluded by saying that she has a contract, schedule of dates that they come and a list of things that can't be put in the bin and then asked that the Town Board take a look at it and in turn authorizes her to contract with them.

Discussion ensued amongst the Town Board and Town Clerk Millious relative to who she had used prior to now, number of Justice Court boxes needing to be destroyed and an initial clean-up.

Collectively it was decided that the Board and Attorney for the Town will take a look at it.

Future Employee Retirement Package

Supervisor Flach asked that Councilman Langdon discuss the future employee Retirement Package.

Councilman Langdon stated that he has been looking at costs to the Town and currently it is written in the Employee Handbook that an employee only has to be with the Town for 10 years to receive health insurance for life when they retire and he is not a believer or know if they legally can change it for current employees because they took the job under those terms so he does not think that you can change that. He continued by saying that they are going to be looking for some Police Officers and the current policy for retired employees is unheard of and he has never seen anywhere in the workplace where you get full Health Insurance with half premium for the spouse. He added that this is something that he would like to see change before they hire too many people.

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Supervisor Flach interjected that he knows they talked about it in the past and they are looking to change it for new hires by the end of December if they can.

Discussion ensued regarding the expense to the Town for health care costs that keep going up and up for a long-term, very expensive liability for the Town, the inability to project longevity, whether they should keep it or not, limit it to employees with 20-25 years of service, limit it to a certain percent of the cost, early retirement at 55, applying sick time to the cost, Town Insurance secondary to Medicare when eligible, union vs. non-union employees.

Councilman Langdon suggested that they speak with Kool Insurance for guidance as far as some guidelines and wording.

Supervisor Flach stated that he would speak with Kool Insurance for suggestions.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Supervisor Flach stated that he would like to entertain a motion to hire Fiscal Advisors and Marketing Inc. to oversee the TAN, which is a cost of \$185.00 an hour and added that the Town's Bond Counsel asked that it be done.

Councilman Dolan asked if Attorney for the Town Wukitsch had seen it.

Supervisor Flach stated that he hadn't and added that Attorney for the Town Wukitsch had recommended their Bond Counsel.

Councilman Langdon stated that it looks pretty straightforward with a flat hourly rate and no out-of-pocket expenses but it would be a good idea to have Attorney for the Town Wukitsch look at it.

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Councilman Burns, authorizing Supervisor Flach to contract with Fiscal Advisors and Marketing Inc. to assist procurement of a TAN.
VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 1 – SO MOVED

Supervisor Flach asked if there was anything else that the Board wished to discuss, hearing none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Supervisor Flach stated that there were a few people present who are probably expecting to get the budget and that there would be a vote on the budget but they want to double check things before they do that. He continued by asking if any of those present would like to speak.

Ms. Regina Palmer asked if there could be a copy of the Proposed Budget on the website and when finalized, if the Adopted Budget could be put there.

Town Clerk Millious stated that the Adopted Budget goes in the minutes and on the website and added that the Preliminary Budget usually goes on the website from the Public Hearing.

Councilman Dolan stated that he didn't believe it was on the website.

Discussion ensued regarding minutes and budgets on the website as far as timing, procedure and suggestions for posting.

Councilman Langdon stated that there are a lot of things that he is hopeful for with the new technology software because there are so many things, such as comp time because they are never made aware of the amount of time that is accrued, which is a liability to the Town and with being

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on paper ledger, it is hard to find that kind of thing and hopefully the new system will bring them into this century.

Ms. Palmer continued by asking if they are going to pay 100% of insurance to people that have provided service for 10 years or more and where they are putting money to make sure that they have money to cover that and if they are investing somewhere or going to raise taxes through the roof.

Councilman Langdon stated that from what he has been told that are not actually supposed to be able to save money.

Supervisor Flach interjected that they actually can in a Fund Balance and can have money in their checking account.

Ms. Palmer stated that she does not understand it because New York State has a Retirement Fund and a Comptroller that controls the whole thing to make sure the fund is managed and then asked why there wouldn't be someone in the Town doing the same.

Councilman Masti stated that he thinks the electronic software is going to be very good because it is going to hold everyone accountable on both ends, they can see it live time and he doesn't think that they will be hit by as many surprises as they were this year.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Police Officer Ryan Johnson stated that he has a general question and continued by asking what direction it is taking as it relates to the Dispatch Center in the Police Department as far as the budget for 2015.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not expect that the Police Department will change too much or will Dispatch, they put in \$25,000.00 that will get them to August and his plan is that by the end of May they will have the County take over.

Officer Johnson asked if it is set in stone or if there is any way that it may change.

Supervisor Flach stated that in his mind it won't.

Councilman Langdon stated that in his opinion, which is just his opinion, he has been sitting in on some of the meetings that the Sheriff has been having with some of the local Fire Departments and in the process of listening to the discussion and he is not a Dispatcher and does not understand all the issues of the radio but there is more back and forth than he even understood before where Fire Companies apparently can be dispatched but then it has to go back to the County Dispatch to put companies within the vicinity on stand-by. He added that it seems like there is a whole lot of back and forth on this and he had people tell him that in looking at it, it is going to be a better public safety situation, there will not be the possibility of the ball being dropped somewhere in the transmissions and you are minimizing it. He reiterated that it is a much better public safety scenario than what they currently have and it is not just a money issue and the more he has learned, the more confident he is with the issue.

Officer Johnson stated that he has talked to a number of people in his Department and he is not going to say that he is wrong in saying that but he and some of them think that at this stage of the game, if this is the direction that the Board is looking, it requires much more time than 6 months for them to take a good overall assessment. He added that they are all for what is best for the people they serve and maybe it is enough but for budgetary reasons he does not know how hard it is to put money back in or take out once it is set in stone. He reiterated that he does not know if 6 months allows enough time for that assessment to be made especially when there are other municipalities that have gone with the County that they talked to as well that are looking to separate themselves from the County at this stage of the game or try to make some other arrangements. He concluded by saying that this is his opinion as well as some of the other people that he has spoken with, if it is what's best, they are all for it, money or no money, they are here to serve the public and if it the best thing, they are for it 100% but he is not sure that it would be the best route at this stage of the game to make a decision to say that it is done in 6 months when everything is not worked out logistically.

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Councilman Langdon stated that from what he has seen, it doesn't seem like it would be too hard to do in six months and reiterated that he does not know all of it but he has been trying to sit in on whatever meetings he can with the Sheriff and local people and it doesn't seem that it is going to be that difficult. He added that there is a lot of stuff to do, they have pagers that need to be reprogrammed, there are issues with different tones and different scenarios going on but it seems to be very manageable.

Officer Johnson stated that he is sure that logistically it could be pushed that quickly as far as the overall assessment of what's best for public safety, which could be gauged logistically in that six-month period but his concern, which is not the Police Department against the Board, they are there to work the best that they can for the betterment of the entire community. He then asked what the rush is and why they are putting a six-month timeframe on it when it could take 10 months to get a real good assessment other than they can do it and the capabilities are there but it has been shown that the technology hasn't necessarily worked out for other municipalities.

Councilman Dolan stated that he does not know what meetings he had been at but when he spoke with the Sheriff on November 4th he told him it would take every bit of eight months to do it to totally transition if absolutely nothing went wrong at all and this is what Sheriff Apple told him and he does not know if he has been to meetings that contradict that since then.

Supervisor Flach stated that he met with the Sheriff's two Deputies in charge of this who said that they are pretty sure that they can do it a lot sooner than June 1st and they will have a month of testing to make sure that the frequencies are right and whatever is to happen, happens to make sure that all the logistics are right.

Councilman Masti stated that it isn't a matter of just throwing a switch, they are going to be doing it but Town people will be there.

Councilman Langdon stated that they are going to have both systems operational for probably a 2-4 week period from what he understands.

Councilman Burns asked who Officer Johnson had talked to that wasn't happy with Albany County.

Officer Johnson stated that the City of Cohoes is not happy.

Councilman Burns stated that they have heard a lot about that and then asked if there is anyone else.

Officer Johnson stated that Watervliet isn't happy with them, there are mixed feeling and they understand that it would be like that anywhere but what would help the transition is public input and if the Board is open to calling a public forum specific to that where people can put their input in because a lot of the feedback that they are getting from the community is that they don't want it and the little extra money is worth it. He added that there are other departments within the Town that aren't 24 hours that have greater budgets and they do everything that they can to serve the community and maybe there is a happy medium between the two. He continued by saying that he can't and won't speak for everybody to say that everyone says don't do it because there are probably those out there who actually love it and reiterated that putting a time stamp on it and cutting the budget prematurely until you really get a good feel for what the community wants and what works best for our community is what their concern is. He went on by saying that obviously jobs and personalities are involved, but generally they all took the job to serve the community and they would be doing an injustice to themselves and the community if they didn't express to the Board that they think there are other things that need to be looked at besides the money and putting a time-frame on it. He added that if it works out better and it takes six months, that would be great but he knows that you have to plan for these things and it's always better to have a plan rather than have to scramble like they are doing right now because of some unexpected expenditures and it will take a lot more than a couple of meetings with the Sheriff's Department who gains the benefit from this. He continued by saying that they work the streets, they know the Town's people, they know their Dispatch Center, and if they take it out of here it may be worth something to a lot of people in the community and he has not seen that the Board has opened it up for the community to give their input because a lot of community members that

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they speak with are against it all together, regardless of what the cost is, they like having the people that they talk to.

Councilman Langdon stated that one of the challenges that they deal with from his perspective is you watch to see what people come and say, there was a meeting last Monday and absolutely no one came to say anything about it, there was an open microphone, it was a Public Hearing.

Councilman Burns stated that he asked the same question that they are asking and Supervisor Flach put it in a blog in the newspaper that spelled out the whole scenario and no one has called him.

Councilman Langdon stated that there were actually some letters and correspondence in favor of it.

Officer Johnson interjected, that he is not saying that there aren't people out there but he doesn't want to see a rushed, rash decision that can't be corrected down the road if the budget is cut now and they can say that it is their goal to get their budget to this. He added that it may work out great and to every ones benefit.

Councilman Burns stated that it has been pretty heavy on him and he has relatives in pretty much everything in Town and has asked their opinions, it goes back and forth, there are pros and cons to the whole thing. He added that he depends on people and relatives who are involved that know more about it than he does and at the end of almost every conversation they are saying that it is inevitable with the way that technology is going. He continued by saying that the safety factor is first, it is great to save money and people have said that if it is only costing \$50.00 a year in their taxes, it won't bother them a bit to keep Dispatch, which he agrees with. He concluded by saying that pretty much everyone is saying that aside from the money part of it, for the technology part of it they really have to do this.

Sr. Dispatcher Dawn LaMountain stated that it goes back to her one thing that she had brought up, let the County take the 911 and deal with the fire and EMS because they do have better technology and the money to put up radios in our area. She continued by saying that the Town's radios don't work great because of all the shale and the walls around here and it is horrible, the County has endless wealth they come up with money all the time to keep bettering things, the Town can't do that, they would be raping their own town. She added she gets concerned about the Police side of it, the Dispatch Center does so much more than just pick up a phone and tell everyone where to go, they help the cops out a lot, they do a lot of the beginning paperwork so they are not tied up for 2-3 hours on a case. She went on by suggesting that they leave the door open if something falls down or in two years they say they want \$500,000.00 from the Town because it is a lot busier than what they thought, which would give them something to fall back on and find it will be cheaper to do on their own. She continued by saying that she thinks they are going way to fast in handing away the whole farm when there are other things they can do and they have been keeping track of things and when there was a major accident on Rt. 144, they took they call, it wasn't the Town's and they asked where it was. She added that if they get a call for Marshall's flats, the County does not have a clue and want to know a cross street, the Town knows right where it is, there are a lot of accidents on log cabin hill, they ask for the nearest cross street and ask for a number, the Town's Dispatch knows right where they are. She concluded by saying that it is the little things that people don't think about until it happens and once it is gone, it's gone and you won't get people to come back.

Councilman Burns stated that this is what is messing him up because when they were up to Voorheesville Dispatch and a call came in, you would see a dot on the screen to show you exactly where the call was coming from and then asked if it isn't true.

Sr. Dispatcher LaMountain stated that it's not, it comes up on their screen too and they keep getting them for across the river when they are at TCI, it depends on what tower they hit, it only puts it in the vicinity. She continued by saying that there are a lot of things they have promised that they have never gotten and they still can't get fire trucks added into the system because they have to ask County to do it and 2 years later they still don't have a truck yet and then asked why it is that they can't get cooperation and this is her concern. She reiterated that they have made a lot of promises in the past that have fallen through and she hates to see it happen to the Town again and at that point they have no other alternatives, they are gone.

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Dispatcher DeBacco interjected that he has personally taken calls transferred from Columbia County and there is no guarantee that it is going to hit Albany County's tower, it depends on where you are, especially down by the river and as Ms. LaMountain said, they know where log cabin hill is, there is no guarantee that the County does.

Councilman Dolan stated that it is a fact that Albany County said if they were to take over the Town's Dispatch, they would have to change the name of Main Street in Coeymans because they would not be able to distinguish between Main Street Coeymans and Main Street Ravena.

Ms. Regina Palmer interjected that most GPS's don't.

Councilman Dolan stated that anyone in the room could find Main Street Coeymans or Main Street Ravena.

Ms. LaMountain stated that they know enough to ask ahead of time if it is Coeymans or Ravena and this is where the difference is.

Officer Myers stated that as far as anything going back to the County for Mutual Aid Fire Companies, anytime you need a Mutual Aid Fire Company it has to go back to the Dispatch where they are dispatched from and if County is dispatching a Town Fire Company, second in for Coeymans is Selkirk so County is going to have to transfer it to Bethlehem Dispatch so Selkirk can be dispatched and if Coeymans Hollow has a structure fire, New Baltimore has to go, which is Greene County.

Councilman Langdon interjected that they do that all at the same time and when they dispatch a Town Fire Department; they are already posting it to the other Fire Departments.

Officer Myers stated that they can't do that without the Fire Chief's say so.

Officer Johnson stated that Bethlehem Dispatch so for the Town, specifically how it relates to the Town is Coeymans backs-up Selkirk so the County can't dispatch Selkirk directly, they have to transfer it to Bethlehem's Dispatch and then Bethlehem will dispatch Selkirk to back them up.

Officer Myers stated that he wanted to encourage them to not just look in this area, Councilman Dolan mentioned Rensselaer County, Columbia County has a shared Dispatch, Greene County has a shared Dispatch, Schenectady just joined Rotterdam, Glenville, Niskayuna and Scotia, everyone is all in one and it is a mess.

Councilman Dolan interjected that the City of Schenectady was quoted one price and they came back to them at the end of this year and told them they have to pay an additional \$200,000.00.

Officer Myers stated that when they were in the room with Ralph Marianni, he believes the words came out of his mouth that he wouldn't want to make this decision in a month and a half and he was sitting right there when he said it.

Ms. Regina Palmer asked about having a fund and stated that most companies have a Contingency Fund for if something goes awry because she does software implementation for a living and nothing ever goes as planned.

Councilman Dolan stated that the Sheriff himself said that it will take every bit of 8 months to do and that is if nothing goes wrong, and they know things go wrong. He added that people who work for the Sheriff may have told them something different but this is what the Sheriff himself said as well as saying, and maybe it had been done since November 4th, that he still has not received a plan from the Town as to what they want him to do.

Ms. Regina Palmer asked what would happen if they do come back and say that they miscalculated and they owe an additional \$100,000.00.

Supervisor Flach stated that it can't happen there is a contract.

Ms. Regina Palmer stated that they can't up-it for this year and then asked if they can for next year and then asked how long it is good for.

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Supervisor Flach stated that he has a three year contract.

Officer Johnson stated that it sounds like each of them is getting a different time period and then asked if they meet together.

Collectively Supervisor Flach and Councilman Dolan stated that they don't.

Councilman Langdon interjected that they are actually not allowed to.

Councilman Dolan interjected that they could have discussed it at a public meeting like they are now.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that he had a couple of things that he wanted to add and continued by saying that the 911 seems to be drawing a lot of additional funds from the Town for the County to pay for, which is only 10% of their calls downstairs. He added that when they get a 911 call, using the EMS part of it, the call is transferred over and they stay on the line, the Dispatcher does not stay on the line but they stay on 7 or 8 other lines when that call takes place and by them taking the call, it allows them to dispatch it right away, which gets the ambulance and fire trucks out quicker. He continued by saying that for police calls, they don't even stay on the line, they just hang right up and they are being told by County Dispatch that they stay on the line but he thinks they are being misled. He went on by saying that as far as other things, like floods, snowstorms, etc. like other parts of the Town or County don't get, when they hit, the County is going to take care of outback, it's where they have always taken care of because that is their biggest threat politically and this is how they stay in office. He added that they have all been there in numerous different positions and Town Clerk Millious has herself been involved in a couple of bad situations where the County won't be able to handle it all and the Town will get nothing.

Councilman Dolan stated when Hurricane Irene hit, they set up a shelter at the high-school because the previous storm flooded out the Senior Center and they were no longer using it, when they met with County emergency people, including the Sheriff, they asked if the Town would be able to take care of itself for 24 hours because they would not be able to do anything for the Town for 24 hours.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that you are expecting one agency to take care of every little town that is in the county and they don't have the resources and they were getting things out of the Town's Communication Center that they couldn't even get and they were calling to ask where the Town got it from and they are in trouble if it is moved from downstairs to the County and he has nothing bad to say about those people, they all have a job to do and everyone is trying. He concluded by saying that he used to be a Fire Chief and reiterated that they are going to be in trouble.

Councilman Dolan stated that the County came to them 3 weeks before they started talking about Dispatch leaving and told them that they needed to take equipment back from the Town because of a shortfall on 911 calls on telephone bills and they were no longer able to support the 911 through the Town's Dispatch Center. He continued by saying that this is the County saying that they are short money, they don't have enough money to sustain the Town but now they are saying that they will take over the Dispatch Center.

Dispatcher Dunigan that Sr. Officer LaMountain and then Chief of Police Darlington told them to let the County take 911 back and let them answer the 911 calls, it wasn't a big deal and it would not be a delay for them. He added that they could have the best of both worlds.

Supervisor Flach stated that it was not according to some of the Fire Chiefs who said that if they do that, they are going back in time and putting lives at risk and it wasn't just Ralph Marianni, it was Fire Chief's.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that he does not understand how they would be going back in time.

Supervisor Flach interjected that it was said that they would be going back in time by going with the 7-digit numbers.

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Councilman Burns stated that one of the scenarios was someone having a heart attack at their home and their 5 year old picks up the phone and says that there is something wrong with his Dad but doesn't say anything else, you don't know where he is, if the seven digit number was dialed but if the 911 number was called it would come right up on the screen.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that you can't just have 911; they have to have the 7 digit numbers.

Supervisor Flach stated that the numbers are going to continue.

Councilman Burns asked why they have to have the 7 digit numbers.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that they are advertised and posted and added that he is all for updating things and he took 17 phones from people's houses when he was Chief in Ravenna because some of those people weren't alive and they were paying for it and reiterated that they have to have the 7 digit numbers no matter what.

Councilman Langdon interjected that he has been living in Town for 30 years and didn't know the 7 digit numbers existed.

Dispatcher Dunigan stated that he isn't necessarily the type of person that would need the police right away, he is an average person and probably would not have reason but there are people that call all the time.

Supervisor Flach stated that those numbers will roll-over.

Councilman Langdon stated that one on the things that he has learned during this process is that he always thought that 911 was for emergencies, which is not true, if you need police, fire or ambulance you call 911.

Dispatcher Dunigan reiterated that they are not going to be able to shut the 7 digit lines off.

Councilman Langdon stated that the numbers can be rolled over.

Officer Johnson stated that he does not want to debate 911 vs. 7 digit but they had an accident two weeks ago where someone did call a 7 digit line and because they did, they probably saved the guys life because it was a roll-over accident so it can work in the opposite way as well. He continued by saying that he wanted to make sure that they were aware that it happened, it wasn't a 911 call, it was a 7 digit line that went right to Dispatch and they have officers and EMS on the scene in a matter of two minutes. He added that the guy was in rough shape and because of the quickness of not going through 911 that it went as quick as it did so it can work both ways.

Councilman Langdon stated that he's not so sure about the way that he is describing it is the way that it would happen because if people understood to use 911, the call would have gone directly to the Dispatch in Voorheesville and in turn it would have gone directly to a patrol car, which would avoid the extra steps so it would be the same process. He continued by saying that a call going to 911 and then dispatched directly to a Police Officer and not having to call the Town's Dispatch to get an Officer, they are going to be able to respond just as quick but it depends on where the car is.

Councilman Dolan stated that the most important thing that he just said was the first thing that he said, which is if people know to do that and from what he is hearing, there are a lot of people, apparently upwards of 90% of the people that call, call the 7 digit number.

Councilman Langdon interjected that it isn't 90% because he looked at the numbers and it is more like 30-40% of the calls that are 911.

Officer Ryan interjected that he wasn't saying that 911 direct to the County and then to the Town won't work, he is saying that an example like Councilman Burns used that 911 shows up on the screen but the 7 digit works equally.

Councilman Langdon stated that his debate with that is he believes that the County could have got an Officer there just as quick.

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Officer Ryan interjected that was true if they called 911 but if they called the 7 digit number, maybe not.

Councilman Langdon stated that he agrees.

Dispatcher Amanda Mueller stated that she has lived in the Town for 19 years and her family has been here since the early 1900's, she knows the roads, she knows the people and for instance she had a 911 call, which was showing on the computer 2 miles the other way but she knew the girl and knew exactly where to tone out because she knew that the neighbor had a history of domestic and it is something that happened very frequently. She added that before she got down all of her information she was able to tone out police to that location and the girl didn't know what to say because she was so young and didn't know the proper information to tell her but she knew the entire situation. She continued by saying that the screen didn't work but she knew because she lives here and has images in her mind of the entire town and village and people in Albany County aren't going to know the people that she knows because 9 times out of 10 she knows who they are as well as the other Dispatchers that she works with because they went to school together, seen them around town, know the family, etc. and they are going to lose the sense of community when they go with Albany County. She concluded by saying that when she has talked to some, they have said that they are so glad that she knows who they are and they like knowing who they are as well as knowing that they know the entire Town and Village and what is happening because they grew up with the people and they can help the Officer with descriptions and information and they are going to lose a lot of community resourcing if Dispatch goes to Albany County, which will be very detrimental to the community.

Councilman Masti stated that as most know, he works in the Emergency Department in Hudson and as far as 911, fire trucks, police cars, etc. have 911 written on the side, none of them have a 7 digit number and he will grant them that it will take a long time for the community to get used to calling it but it is not rocket science to do it and it is the wave of the future. He continued by saying that he likes small towns, that is why he is here but in the same breath, if you don't go with the way things are going, you are going to get left behind such as how they do their ledgers vs. the new accounting software. He reiterated that he works in an Emergency Department they staff for four people at night, some nights that works, some nights it doesn't and the hospital says they can't operate a hospital and staff it to be at 30 patients every night because the money isn't there. He continued by saying that as he said at the last meeting, he is getting enough data to make an intelligent decision because they were elected to serve the people, they took an oath and are trying to do the best for the community not just for today and tomorrow but 5-10 years down the road, part of what has happened has been that there hasn't been any foresight and they have been left behind.

Officer Ryan stated that his purpose when he stood up and spoke was not to get into a debate and he is not saying that it is the best thing to do but rather the timeframe and they might want to put a contingency plan in place to take a better look for more than 6 months. He added that even on the police behalf, everyone he works with are great people and if there is more information presented they may be able to find a happy medium that works best for the community and this was his whole purpose of speaking.

Councilman Masti interjected that he agrees and his goal is to find a happy medium but at the same time they still have to do it within a timeframe that is reasonable and he has discussed with Supervisor Flach having second thoughts about it because a lot of time he doesn't trust big government, he doesn't like big government but unfortunately they hold all of the purse strings. He concluded by saying that this is the kind of talks that they need and at the last meeting they talked to the Fire Chief's but they also need to hear from the community and the people that he has heard from, are happy about it and he can't honestly say that he has not heard anything bad from anyone that he has talked to.

Councilman Dolan asked him if he spoke with anyone from Cohoes.

Councilman Masti stated that he hadn't but he wants to talk to some of the people that have made the transition.

Councilman Dolan interjected that they talked about it a month ago.

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Councilman Masti stated that it does take time.

Councilman Dolan stated that this is his point, it does take time and he doesn't necessarily disagree with the view expressed or that anyone is doing it for any other reason than thinking that it is the best thing. He concluded by saying that there is a lot of confusing information and the last three times that he spoke with the Sheriff about it over the last month and a half, he told him it is not doable but people that work from him are telling the other members of the Board something else.

Councilman Masti stated that he had heard something different and a couple of Chief's and people in the Hollow that he talked to aren't excited about it but the understand and think it will work.

Supervisor Flach stated that the Sheriff's guys told him that it can happen long before six months.

Councilman Dolan stated that he understands what he is saying; he is just telling them what the Sheriff himself told him.

Supervisor Flach asked if anyone else wished to speak, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

On motion of Councilman Masti, seconded by Councilman Dolan, the Town Board Workshop was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED

Time – 7:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read March 23, 2015


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk