

**COUNTY OF GREENE  
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE  
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2008- Page 1**

Supervisor called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were: Councilwoman McKeon, Councilmen Kuenster, Norris and Byas, Deputy Town Clerk Marjorie Loux, and 1 member of the public. Absent: Highway Superintendent Jordan, Town Clerk Brooks, Tax Collector Stuart.

Supervisor continued (see Public Hearing October 27, 2008), on the topic of the Attorney for the Town change in the 2009 Budget, or a change in how the Town procures attorney services, and he concluded that no change is warranted based on the research he has done as the Town is not paying a disproportionate amount for those services.

Councilman Norris asked if Councilman Byas had done research; Councilman Byas responded that some Towns don't have an attorney present at the meetings and just call them when they are needed and that he had gotten different numbers.

Supervisor Louis stated that his research had come from the NYS Comptroller's Office.

Councilman Kuenster offered that he has experienced unlimited access to the attorney.

Supervisor suggested that Councilman Byas read the retainer agreement; which he had been provided with and voted on at the Organizational Meeting in January 2008.

Supervisor had provided, at Councilman Byas request, an accounting of the hours of the Attorney for the Town under that retainer agreement. Councilwoman McKeon offered that the attorney's presence at meeting provides information, advice, and keeps him informed. Supervisor stated that, at January's Organizational Meeting, there will be resolution to appoint an Attorney for the Town, and it will be put to a vote.

If the retainer were renegotiated, could there be savings? Councilman Kuenster pointed out that in the absence of the retainer agreement there is no finite amount that the Town can expect to pay; when government is reduced to a certain point, the taxpayers end up paying more in the long run. He continued that considering the research done by Supervisor, not only is the attorney present when a topic comes up, but a board member can call with a question at no additional charge to the Town.

Councilman Byas did not agree.

**TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA ON NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

**Board of Assessment Review** appointment will be discussed in committee and brought to next meeting.

Regarding the Jennings Road letter by Attorney for the Town Wukitsch, Councilwoman McKeon asked the definition of the road measurement; answer: 16.5 feet is "a rod".

**Hannacroix Preserve Parking Lot lease agreement** - Supervisor asked about an estimate on the repair work needed on the parking lot at the Hannacroix Preserve; Councilman Byas said he understood but wasn't certain that an estimate of \$1500-1600 had been gotten and sent to Open Space Institute.

**Final 2009 Budget** - Supervisor asked for any changes from Town Board members within the next two weeks.

**Health Insurance Changes** - Supervisor has set up an informational meeting with both the active employees and retirees for one week from Thursday.

**Local Laws No. 4 and No. 5 of 2008** - Supervisor said that at the November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting the Town Board will determine its action on Local Laws No. 4 and No. 5 of 2008.

Under **Section 239 of the General Municipal Law**, the Town has made a Referral. The Town has received back, as required, a report that the Greene County Planning Board did not have a quorum. As such, it did not act on the referral request; without that action within 30 days of the Town's request, the Town is free to act.

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Ellie Alfeld asked about the additional **public hearings on Local Laws No. 4 and No. 5 of 2008**. Supervisor clarified that Monday and Wednesday nights (November 3 and 5, 2008) will be public hearings, at the 3809 CR 51, Town Hall for both the proposed Local Laws. The reason for adding the November 5 date is November 3's proximity to Election Day. Also, the Monday night hearing will be *adjourned*, and not *closed*, continued on November 5, and then closed. People can speak on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ellie Alfeld asked for sign-ups to speak and time limits for each speaker. Supervisor said that we do the very best we can.

**Increase maximum on basement/Greene County Sheriff substation project to \$6500-** Supervisor asked Councilman Byas if that amount was reasonable; Councilman Byas felt that nearly everything has been purchased, except four more door locks at about \$30 each. Ellie Alfeld asked if it would be complete by January 1, 2009. Councilman Byas stated he would let her know when it was done; they are working on it about four hours a week and it looks very nice.

With no more from the Board, Councilwoman McKeon moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kuenster.

**Motion Carried**      **Ayes- 5 McKeon, Louis, Norris, Byas, Kuenster**  
                             **Nays- 0**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Janet A. Brooks  
Town Clerk