

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF ST. ARMAND
June 13, 2013

A Special Board meeting of the Town Board of St. Armand was held on the above date at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

PRESENT: Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr., Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, Councilperson Earl J. Dakin, Town Clerk Davina Thurston, Highway Supervisor Roger Oliver

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Chuck Bruce, Paul Aery, Alexandra Gill

Notice was sent to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise regarding this meeting.

Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr. called the board meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Supervisor Whitson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGREEMENT TO SPEND HIGHWAY FUNDS

Discussion ensued regarding the "Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds" from Essex County Department of Public Works. Supervisor Whitson stated that Burnell's received the bid for Essex County, so the County has already taken care of the bidding process. Roger stated that the money is CHIP's money with only approximately \$2,000.00 coming out of the St. Armand Budget.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Town Clerk Davina Thurston read an email that had been received earlier in the day:

Dear Charlie and Board,

I wish I could be there is person this evening to help explain the process of closing short term financing and what that means for the Town of St. Armand but unfortunately I cannot due to a public hearing at the county.

In order to stay eligible for the \$2 million grant from EFC it is critical that the town closes on short term financing prior to the 9/30/2013 deadline set forth by EFC. I understand that this is a decision the town does not take lightly as there is a possibility that all funding is not in place at that time.

However, failure to close by that date will result in the loss of \$2 million in grant funds. This can all be overwhelming as the town is also facing a DEC consent and the real possibility of further fines should the project not move forward.

The risk to the town of closing on short term financing is really minimal as you will only be responsible for what the town spends. For example, if the town closes on short term financing for the 4.89 million but only spends \$250,000.00 in design work, then that is what they would be responsible for when going to long term. (not the 4.89) In the meantime we would continue to seek funding from other programs which would allow us to make the project affordable to the residents of St. Armand.

Currently we have our iron in many fires as we try to bring this project to fruition. Most recently we have applied to the infrastructure fund through the economic development council in the amount of \$500,000, which is the maximum allowed under this program. We will know very shortly if the Town was selected as a finalist to receive this funding. As you also know, we are continuing surveying. We have approached the Office of Community Renewal in hopes that they will also approve the survey instrument. If they do, that will allow us to apply for additional funds that may help to cover any gaps in funding we may encounter. It is crucial that the survey is completed as soon as possible so we can take advantage of potential funding sources as they arise.

I will certainly make myself available to come to St. Armand and meet with anyone who like to discuss the project further. I apologize for not being able to be there in person and please contact me with any questions.

Michael Mascarenas
Director of Community Resources
Deputy County Manager
(518) 873-3426

Supervisor Whitson spoke about the survey being done with assistance from RCAP Solutions. Currently, we have received 148 surveys and need 177 surveys for the project to be complete. On Thursday, June 20, 2013, a group of us will “door knock” to get the final survey’s completed. The Town must sign by September 30, 2013 to ensure that we will receive the \$2 million grant from EFC. It is possible that we will not have received notice of other grant funding before this date, however, we will lose the \$2 million grant if we do not sign the short-term financing agreement with EFC.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT TO SPEND HIGHWAY FUNDS

Supervisor Whitson asked the Board for a Motion to sign the agreement to spend highway funds. Deputy Supervisor Grimone made the motion; Councilperson Fuller duly seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

GRANT FUNDING

Town Clerk Davina Thurston spoke to the Board regarding three grants that the Town could receive for the Highway Garage: Community Facilities Program, NYS Consolidated Funding – for lighting with NYSERTA and CDBG Public Facilities Grant. Davina asked the Board for permission to attend the 2013 CFA Workshop hosted by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council in Plattsburgh on June 26. After discussion, the Board agreed that it was in the Town’s best interest for Davina to attend this workshop and gain insight for further grant funding.

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed architectural design for the new Highway Garage. Several points were brought up and discussed. Supervisor Whitson will speak with Architect Ethan Hall regarding the following:

1. Size of door in back, currently proposed at 10 feet by 10 feet, not big enough, needs to be 12 feet wide by 14 feet high
2. The four regular entrance doors – steel? Fiberglass? Rust factor? Fire rating?
3. Soffit – plastic or aluminum vented soffit?
4. Exhaust vents on end of building, should they go through the roof? Do away with end vents?
5. Color of building – Adirondack style, subdued
6. Move the building forward – fence? Roger states shrubbery will not grow. Somehow reduce noise from the trucks

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Deputy Supervisor Grimone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilperson Dakin seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

I, Davina M. Thurston, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Special Board meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Davina M. Thurston
St. Armand Town Clerk

June 13, 2013