

**REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA**

October 1, 2015

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at the Livonia Town Hall, 35 Commercial Street, on October 1, 2015.

**PRESENT:** Eric Gott, Supervisor  
Andy English, Councilmember  
Matt Gascon, Councilmember  
Frank Seelos, Councilmember  
Colleen West Hay, Clerk  
Jim Campbell, Attorney, Town of Livonia

**ABSENT:** Angela Grouse, Councilmember

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Several residents.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gott at 7:03 PM.  
John VanDerKamp led the pledge.

**OPEN SESSION**

A resident asked if the Supervisor had heard any updates on the issue of illegal sewer hookups. Supervisor Gott stated that the Water & Sewer Authority is working in the Village almost every day, but he has not heard an update.

RESOLUTION 114-2015

**APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM 9/17/2015**

On motion of Councilmember Gascon seconded by Councilmember Seelos the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 (Gott, English, Gascon, Seelos)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the meeting minutes from September 17, 2015.

**DISCUSS PROPOSAL FROM NATIONAL GRID FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Supervisor Gott reported that Highway Superintendent Dave Coty is asking for approval to replace lights on the Town Barns and Cold Storage buildings. The lights inside and outside of the salt barn were replaced with a similar program. Our cost would be \$4,960 and National Grid would pay the rest. We would save 15% if we were to pay up front in a lump sum. It would take less than three years to recoup the cost in terms of energy savings. The board decided to table the decision and took no action.

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### LIBRARY UPDATE

Supervisor Gott mentioned that late Tuesday evening he received an email from Frank Sykes stating that the Town needed to sponsor the grant from Bill Nojay. Supervisor Gott reported that the funds from Nojay are coming from the same source as the funds from Cathy Young. We had planned to pass a bond resolution tonight, but after consulting with bond counsel, Attorney Campbell advised the board that the resolution would need to be changed.

The terms of the grant are that the Town would spend the money up front and then be reimbursed. Because of this, we have to authorize an additional borrowing plan to cover the grant in case it is not reimbursed. The application was due by 5 PM yesterday, and because of the short notice, Attorney Campbell and the bond counsel were not able to modify the bond resolution in time for this meeting. To complicate matters, Library Manager Frank Sykes and Library Liaison Angela Grouse are both out of town.

Attorney Campbell spent some time explaining that his concern is not so much that the paperwork needed to be submitted right away, but where is this money going to come from? If these sources dry up, then we have an inter-fund loan without any ability to finance it in the long term. He consulted with bond counsel and asked him for his thoughts. The bond counsel's response was that we would have to adjust the bond resolution to authorize the additional borrowing. According to Frank Sykes, we are limited as to how we can finance these additional funds and we cannot do it through long term bonds, it has to be through a short term B.A.N.

Attorney Campbell would like to review the paperwork to verify that. He would prefer to keep it open to finance this over the long term, if possible. He is concerned that we could get into a situation where interest rates might change. A B.A.N. cannot be renewed year after year, it eventually must be converted to Bond. If the marketplace changes, interest rates could rise, and we wouldn't have any way to spread the debt out over time. Attorney Campbell has not had a chance to review the paperwork, because of his schedule and the late notice.

If the paperwork is not submitted by tomorrow, then we are in jeopardy of losing the \$100,000 grant. He said that he doesn't think that the people involved understand the rigidity of the law and what is involved in all of this. It can be a real big mess if not done right or if done too quickly. Attorney Campbell will talk with bond counsel and look at the paperwork tonight. He will then let Supervisor Gott know if it is safe to sign. He added that we can always retract or withdraw our application, but if we miss the filing deadline, they are not likely to extend it.

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A resident asked if it was really a big deal to lose \$100,000 when the fundraising committee has raised more than needed. Supervisor Gott pointed out that the source of the Assemblyman Nojay grant is the same as the Senator Young grant, meaning there is a potential to lose \$350,000. Also, he has been advised that the fundraising committee is backing off on their efforts because they are not interested in having the money that they raise going lower the town's debt. They want the money to go to the project.

Councilmember Seelos remarked that when the library board had the public information meeting, they stated that the bond was to be \$1.7 million. Attorney Campbell replied that you do hope that everything lines up, but if you authorize more and you don't get the grant, that is a problem.

### **PASSERO CHANGE ORDER**

Supervisor Gott reported that Councilmember Grouse asked Supervisor Gott for a change order to authorize more spending with Passero for interior design. He said that we will look into those costs. The Board did not take any action.

### **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATES**

#### **Financial Report – September 2015**

Clerk Hay stated that she will have the monthly financial report for September at the next Town Board Meeting.

#### **Newsletter**

- October newsletter has been posted.
- There are currently 27 subscribers to the newsletter.

#### **Records Management**

Clerk Hay presented the board with a spreadsheet that contains budget amounts for a Document Content Management System (DCMS). She reported that our current hardware does not have the system resources to support a DCMS. A server or cloud services would be needed.

She also included an estimate to purchase a server, and an estimate for cloud services. No matter which DCMS we decide on, the most economical route would be to purchase a server. If we were to use cloud services, then we would not purchase software, but would pay a monthly subscription fee, which tends to be very high.

Clerk Hay is looking into applying for the next round of the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant money to fund purchase of software and scanning services. This grant will not pay for a server, however. We would need to include that in the budget, if we decide to move forward with DCMS.

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Supervisor Gott informed the Board that they do not need a decision on this tonight. He asked Board members if they would support spending the money for a server, provided Clerk Hay is able to secure grant funding for the DCMS. The Board members agreed. Clerk Hay plans to apply for a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant, but the information on the next grant cycle is not available yet. She will keep the board informed.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Supervisor Gott presented the 2016 Tentative Budget, which includes everyone's wish list. As it stands now, the Tentative Budget is a few hundred dollars over the tax cap and would mean a fifteen cent per thousand rate increase. He is confident that they will be able to whittle that down when they meet next week for the Budget Workshop.

He mentioned some highlights of the Tentative Budget including:

- \$90,000 in Vitale Park upgrades including tearing down and replacing the Substation .
- \$240,000 to purchase a ten wheel dump truck.
- Highway Superintendent Dave Coty has asked to make PJ a regular employee of the Highway Department through the winter.
- Additional Part-time help in the Code Enforcement Office. Supervisor Gott reminded the Board that Bill Weber left because he needed a full-time job and the position was never filled.
- \$15,000 to purchase a car for the Building & Zoning Department. Supervisor Gott stated that the current vehicle is turning nine this year.
- A 20% increase in healthcare costs for 2016.
- Retirement funding as required by law.
- Increased costs for road salt bid. We may be able to save by trucking some of our own salt.
- \$5,500 for assessing help for commercial properties. Supervisor Gott remarked that this increased cost should be somewhat covered by increased revenue.

Supervisor Gott is confident that when the Board is done with the Budget, we will not be over the tax cap. He reminded everyone that this tax rate will still be forty cents lower than when this Board took over, and we have retired some debt early.

Supervisor Gott reported that the Budget Workshop is next week, and the Public Hearing is in two weeks.

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RESOLUTION

115-2015

**SET PROPOSED 2016 SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

On motion of Councilmember Gascon seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED    Ayes –            4 (Gott, English, Gascon, Seelos)  
                  Nays –                0

RESOLVED to approve a two percent raise for the elected officials, except for the Board Members and the Supervisor, as follows: Town Board Members: \$6,995; Supervisor: \$36,830; Town Clerk: \$40,466; Justice: \$12,838; Highway Superintendent: \$62,439.

Supervisor Gott asked the Board to remember that every \$10,000 in spending is two cents per thousand in the Town Budget.

**EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Supervisor Gott gave an update on the Efficiency Committee. He reported that the committee met last night and talked about Village personnel. Supervisor Gott had suggested that the Village tax collection be consolidated into the Town, however the Village is not interested. Supervisor Gott added that his proposal would have saved Village taxpayers \$25,000, which would have resulted in a tax rate savings of forty cents per thousand.

Mayor Lathan asked if the Town was willing to take care of the Village payroll service. Supervisor Gott spoke with Bookkeeper Mike Lawton about this and he said it would be no problem.

Councilmember English asked why the Village was not interested in the greater savings of moving Village tax collection to the Town? Supervisor Gott answered that those positions mean a lot to them, and they are not willing to give up office hours and services.

Supervisor Gott also reported that he has invited the Efficiency Committee members to come to our Budget hearing. He would like to hear any suggestions the committee might have to save tax dollars.

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RESOLUTION 116-2015

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS 10/1/2015**

On motion of Councilmember English seconded by Councilmember Seelos the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 (Gott, English, Gascon, Seelos)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claims 2648-2673 in the amount of \$72,944.34 from the Abstract dated 10/1/2015.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember English seconded by Councilmember Gascon the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Colleen West Hay, Town Clerk