

TOWN BOARD MEETING February 25, 2008 7:00 p.m.

Present: Sup. Newlin; Council Members Bax, Edwards, Johnson & Palmer; Tn. Atty. Leone; Deputy Tn. Atty. Boniello; Adm./Op. Lockhart; Ass't. Eng. Britton; Deputy Sup. Elgin; Bldg. Inspector Masters; Police Chief Salada and Town Clerk Brandon. 3 press reps and 1 resident.

Sup. Newlin opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection.

AGENDA:

Edwards stated that the Clerk has asked for an executive session to discuss the S.P.C.A. Contract.

Palmer said he would like the opportunity to have Mr. Chille from the S.P.C.A. address the Board with the Clerk present in order to work through some of the issues that the Clerk has raised.

Newlin said that as a Board they had discussed that and perhaps it was a good idea to meet with the Clerk and Mr. Chille at the same time.

Brandon said she had some issues that perhaps the Board would not like to be brought up at this time. I have a packet for each of the Board members on this issue and I have discussed this with Mr. Edwards.

Newlin: Mr. Palmer, I think it is your strong opinion not to have an executive session regarding this today.

Palmer: I am opposed to it but that is my opinion.

Newlin: Mr. Palmer made a valid point that we are better off that at some point bringing Mr. Chille here so that we can get all of the information. The question is do you want to have the executive session today and entertain the Clerk's insights or are we better off to do with Mr. Chille present.

Edwards: I would appreciate it if Mr. Palmer would reconsider for 10 minutes.

Johnson MOVED to Amend the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Newlin. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Johnson MOVED to approve the minutes of 1/28/08 Worksession; 1/28/08 RTBM and 2/11/08 Worksession. Seconded by Edwards and carried 5-0.

POST AUDITS:

Edwards MOVED for approval of payment to Home Depot \$407.15; Office Max-(HSBC-Business Solutions) \$1605.52; Office Max-(HSBC Business Solutions) \$69.00 and Sam's Club \$ 441.40. Seconded by Bax and carried 5-0.

Edwards MOVED for approval of payment to Rotella Grant Management \$740.00. Seconded by Johnson & carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Street Lighting-Big Vista Drive. Covered in the work session.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Town Clerk requesting permission to attend the NYS Town Clerk Association annual conference at Saratoga Springs April 26-30, 2008.

Edwards MOVED for approval of the request. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.

2. Niagara Frontier Inspection Agency requesting to be added to the Town of Lewiston's Third Party Electrical Inspection Agencies.

Masters: They called and asked if they could bring an application into the Board and I indicated that I could not prevent that but I also had no reason to want somebody else pulling inspections in the Town. I'm pretty happy with the way it is. I told another company that they could put an application in but I didn't know where we would go with it and at this point I have no reason to entertain somebody else's motion.

Edwards MOVED to receive and file. Seconded by Palmer and carried 5-0.

NEWLIN:

Legal:

Boniello: I am asking that the Board approve the current pay schedule in effect for 2008 for the Building Inspectors' Department for the balance of the year.

Bax MOVED for approval as presented. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.

Cell Towers:

Leone stated that everything is the same as stated before.

Greenway Coalition:

Newlin said that his prior statements stand as with the Countywide Emergency Service.

Development Information:

Newlin: It has been reported in the press over the last week or two about the development in the Town and again I want to stress is that my only hesitation is with over developing residential units here in the Town of Lewiston. I just made a kind of a list that I know this Board is very well aware of but I thought I might reiterate it briefly for the public and their interest. The Town of Lewiston is really blessed with a lot of high end services and I think it doesn't hurt us to appreciate them. We spend twice as much on libraries as the next place town does. We fully fund 2 libraries and help fund a third library. That isn't done anywhere else in Niagara County and it is not done in Erie County where the county government funds the libraries. We have an excellent professional police force that provides first class protection and service to our residents. That is unlike most towns in WNY. We have reduced rate or no cost garbage collection. We offer considerable sponsorship to cultural organizations ranging from Artpark, to the Historical Society which we fund too and the Council of the Arts all who do great work for our Town. We have strong support for the Chamber of Commerce where we are their largest contributor to their annual budget. We fully fund and operate two separate senior programs that are the envy of many towns in WNY. We maintain and operate and fund the only town HAZMAT unit exists in the entire State of New York. We have a Town Highway Dept. that keeps our roads in excellent shape. I think we all as board members get compliments on how well the roads are plowed and maintained in Lewiston. We do all of this and I will remind everybody without a town tax. That is no small accomplishment and I congratulate this board and prior boards for promoting reasonable development and being able to do this all without a town tax. What we are left with however, is that when new homes are built in the Town of Lewiston we are stretching those services I just mentioned whether it is police, highway, cultural recreation programs etc. Like I said and I think broadly speaking the Board would agree that we don't want to make current residents subsidize new people moving into this town. There has to be a way to fairly share that burden. Also of particular interest today is that the U.S. government is releasing information that this is the 6th straight month of declines in existing home sales. This is certainly a buyer's market which is good if you would like to try and move into Lewiston, but we have to remember too that when we build new homes we are competing with the homes of existing residents who are keeping their homes longer and longer on the market in the last 12 months especially.

There is no doubt some what needs for special housing and I would like to congratulate and compliment Mr. Johnson for his advocacy for seniors and special needs housing especially in the Village of Lewiston. I know he has worked on that for a long time and with our aging demographics there is no doubt that we could use some homes that would service that end of the community. It is a very important part of the community and so thank you Mr. Johnson for your work on that. A lot of Lewiston's character is in maintaining it's charm and a good deal of it is rural characteristics and I think as least as I am concerned I would like to maintain that for as long as possible. I wanted to make those general comments and I appreciate the Board's patience.

PALMER:

Liaison Reports: Nothing at this time.

JOHNSON:

Liaison Reports:

I have a request from the Fire Bureau that over the past few years they have seen public access defibrillators located in stores, schools, churches and other areas. There are 4 major facilities i.e. Town Hall, Highway/Water, WPCC and the Senior Center that could use these life saving devices. There is also training involved for employees to use the unit and most of the employees at the WPCC are already certified to use these devices. The cost under State contract would be about \$9033.60 each which would include an alarm box to house the unit. Training the employees would be between \$35.00 and \$50.00 per person and the certification is good for 2 years. They want to know if we have some desire and I was thinking that maybe possibly talking to Mr. Rotella our grant writer and see if there is any available funding. I think it is something for us to think about and we could discuss this at the next work session.

Newlin said he would forward this to Mr. Rotella.

Palmer said he was surprised that we don't have any of these as of right now and if even we are not able to get grant funding we should definitely look at purchasing one of these each year as we go forward. I know that they are expensive but saving one life you cannot put a price on that.

Newlin: I think the Senior Center would be a natural candidate. Also, the library might be a possibility.

Salada stated that they have 3 units and they are in each of the police cars.

EDWARDS:

Highway:

Edwards MOVED to permit Highway Supt. Reiter to attend the Highway Superintendent Advocacy Day on March 14th to March 15th in Albany. The total costs would \$279.00 with funds to come from 5100.004A. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.

BAX:

Recreation:

Bax MOVED for approval of an increase per hour for Joel Juechstock from \$8.50 to \$9.50 per hour. Seconded by Johnson and carried 5-0.

Newlin: With respect to one executive session matter to deal with, I would like to make sure that it is appropriate for executive session.

Boniello: Is this the existing contract or the new contract?

Brandon stated it is the proposed contract from the S.P.C.A.

Boniello stated it was fine.

Johnson MOVED to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the proposed contract with the S.P.C.A. Seconded by Edwards. Ayes: Bax, Edwards, Johnson & Newlin. No: Palmer.

Time: 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted and transcribed by:

Carol J. Brandon
Town Clerk

Executive Session:

Present: Sup. Newlin; Council Members Bax, Edwards, Johnson & Palmer; Tn. Atty. Leone; Deputy Tn. Atty. Boniello*; Deputy Sup. Elgin and Town Clerk Brandon.

Issues:

1. S.P.C.A. Contract

No action taken.

Edwards MOVED to close the Executive Session. Seconded by Palmer and carried 5-0.

Time: 8:00 p.m.

*Minutes taken by D. Boniello.