

TOWN OF URBANA BOARD MEETING
March 18, 2008

The Urbana Town Board held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, 8014 Pleasant Valley Road, Bath, New York.

PRESENT:	Gordon Lanphere	Supervisor
	Connie Cook	Councilwoman
	Paul Martuscello	Councilman
	Jim Presley	Councilman
	Barb Yahn	Councilwoman
	Mary Farmer	Clerk
	David Buckley	Highway Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Bretherton, Kayla Phenes, Amanda Hivley, Nancy Torp, Steve Dresser, Mary Perham, and Dick Leonberger.

Supervisor Lanphere called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Presley, seconded by Councilwoman Cook and carried, all voting Aye, to approve the **Minutes of February 26, 2008**.

Old Business

Plaque

On motion of Councilman Martuscello, seconded by Councilwoman Yahn and carried, all voting Aye, to cancel the order for a bronze plaque.

Bulletin Board

The Board discussed different options. The Town Clerk will look into NYS requirements.

On motion of Councilman Presley, seconded by Councilman Martuscello and carried, all voting Aye, to allow Robert Pfunter until June 30, 2008 to complete assessment and submit plans.

Supervisor Lanphere reported that he and Councilman Presley met with Robert Pfunter and that Mr. Pfunter has plans for resurrecting the boat. Mr. Pfunter is working with the State and DEC and is currently coordinating efforts with a company to create a coffer dam under the boat in order to inspect it. Mr. Pfunter will pay the Town \$2,625.00 (\$875.00 per month) by the end of March to complete the initial lease agreement.

Councilman Presley explained the boat's schedule for serving alcohol in the past and that there will be changes in the future. Councilman Presley also confirmed that there is no damage to the boat and it's the State requiring the inspection due to the accident on Lake George.

On motion by Councilwoman Cook, seconded by Councilman Presley and carried, all voting Aye, to reschedule the April Board meeting from the from April 15th to April 8th.

New Building

Front door

Supervisor Lanphere reported that the engineers and contractors came and again said that they would get back to us.

Water

Supervisor Lanphere reported that there hasn't been any response from Department of Health regarding the water trouble.

Joint Meeting with the Village

The Board looked at some possible dates. Mary Farmer, Town Clerk will work with Lela Martuscello, Village Clerk to schedule a date.

Fire Alarm Service

Supervisor Lanphere had a quote of \$250.00 to install a keypad locking system for the front door that could override the computer and current issues. The subject was tabled for further research. Supervisor Lanphere will contact Dave Adams from Hunt Engineers.

Chamber of Commerce

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

New Business

The Board gave Nancy Torp, a certified and credentialed grant writer approval to investigate possible grants for the Town. Mrs. Torp noted that she is aware that we currently have grant writers on retainer but that there isn't exclusivity in the contract. Mrs. Torp offered to research and write potential grants for the Town for possible clean-up, development, and landscaping at no charge to the Town. The amount the Town received from each grant would determine her percentage of profit.

Supervisor's Report (attachment) and Abstracts (attachment) were reviewed and unofficially approved by the Board.

On motion by Councilman Presley, seconded by Councilman Martuscello and carried, all voting Aye, to approve the new Vision and Dental plan for Town employees.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Yahn reported that the Committee will start meeting monthly noting the Committee needs more representatives from the Village and the community. Councilwoman Cook reported that they have a \$14,500.00 budget and that they will report monthly to the Board through November.

Website Development

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

On motion by Councilwoman Cook, seconded by Councilman Martuscello and carried, all voting Aye, to appoint Michael Adams as Planning Board Alternate.

The Board discussed the need for a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and one for the Board of Assessment and Review.

On motion by Councilwoman Cook, seconded by Councilman Presley and carried, all voting Aye, to appoint Mary Farmer, Town Clerk as Marriage Officer.

Other Business

David Buckley, Superintendent of Highways, discussed the need for a computer at the Town garage in order to be more efficient with maintenance records and inventory among many other records management requirements. Superintendent Buckley noted that there is money in the equipment budget and will look into purchasing one.

Junk Cars

Bob Magee, Zoning Officer submitted a notice to be advertised for Town of Urbana property owners. The notice will give the community a temporary moratorium on the enforcement to regulate junk automobiles and parts. The Town Clerk will publicize.

On motion by Councilman Martuscello, seconded by Councilwoman Cook and carried, all voting Aye, to appoint Councilman Presley to take the lead on the water initiative to Bully Hill.

Bob Magee, Zoning Officer submitted a request to the Board to for consideration. The Board will meet in executive session at the next meeting for further discussion.

Audit

Councilman Martuscello reported that he has again spoken to Ed Grant from the Comptroller's Office and that Mr. Grant will be here in ~ two weeks to perform the audit.

Public Comment

Dick Leonberger addressed the Board sharing his concerns regarding property taxes. Mr. Leonberger gave details of owning two properties and that his Village tax is greater than the town and county taxes on both properties put together. Mr. Leonberger added that many other places offer property owners the option of making two payments instead of one. Mr. Leonberger stated that he asked the Assessor for tax rate information but was never given the information requested.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Presley, seconded by Councilman Martuscello, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Farmer
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION 1-08

Whereas, The tremendously high property tax burden on New York families and businesses is the number one issue facing our community today, and the sheer cost of living in New York has forced many residents and businesses to leave, thus slowing the economic engine of the state; and

Whereas, Young people are finding it difficult to purchase homes, seniors are struggling to maintain their homes, and businesses are facing immense challenges to create and retain jobs; and

Whereas, New Yorkers face the highest property taxes in the nation, and when measured as a percentage of home value, nine of the top 10 property tax rates in the entire country belong to counties in New York; and the State must act now to thwart the detrimental effects that high property taxes are having on local governments; and

Whereas, Assembly Minority Conference Members have introduced the “New York State Property Taxpayers Protection Act” (Assembly Bill 8775-A), which puts forth new and innovative ideas for property tax reform that limit the amount school districts can raise annually through local tax levies to four percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less; in addition the Act would relieve municipalities and school districts of unfunded mandates, reduce county Medicaid cost, strengthen financial accountability over school tax dollars, promote local government efficiency, and encourage local option insurance pooling; and

Whereas, The “New York State Property Taxpayers Protection Act” will help fix New York’s broken property tax system, providing homeowners, businesses and municipalities significant and lasting relief from the crushing burden of skyrocketing property taxes; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The Town of Urbana, in its deliberations to acknowledge New York State’s property tax crisis and urge the immediate passage and chaptering of the “New York State Property Taxpayers Protection Act,” which will help local governments reinvigorate New York’s economy by providing incentives for people and businesses to move and stay here; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrosses, be transmitted to Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President of the New York State Senate, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and to each member of the New York State Legislature.

March 18, 2008

On motion of Councilman Presley, seconded by Councilman Martuscello and carried, all voting as follows:

Town Supervisor Lanphere	<u> Aye </u>
Councilwoman Cook	<u> Aye </u>
Councilman Martuscello	<u> Aye </u>
Councilman Presley	<u> Aye </u>
Councilwoman Yahn	<u> Aye </u>

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Urbana will pass Resolution 1-08, Endorsing the NYS Property Taxpayers Protection Act.

Mary M. Farmer
Urbana Town Clerk