

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GLENVILLE
FEBRUARY 1, 2012
AT THE GLENVILLE MUNICIPAL CENTER
18 GLENRIDGE ROAD, GLENVILLE, NEW YORK

Supervisor Koetzle called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM;

Supervisor Koetzle asked the Town Clerk, Linda C. Neals, to call the roll.

Present: Supervisor Christopher A. Koetzle, Councilmen Alan Boulant, John C. Pytlovany, Sid Ramotar and Councilwoman Gina M. Wierzbowski

Absent: None

Also present were Attorney Michael Cuevas and Director of Operations James MacFarland.

Town Council Reports:

Councilman Ramotar – “The Town’s Annual Winterfest, scheduled for this Saturday, has been cancelled due the lack of winter conditions. I want to thank the Glenville Rotary, Freemans Bridge Sports, ECOS and others that had a planned commitment to this event.

Park Commission met last night and will be attending our work session next Wednesday to discuss 2 park initiatives, the dog park planned for the Anderson property at the corner of Van Buren and Swaggertown Roads and the next phase of Maalywck Park development. Chairman Armon Canestraro will be attending representing the Commission.”

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “I don’t have anything to report. The weather has been very kind to our salt and sand budget. We have been doing our best to keep up with repairs and things like that.’

Councilman Boulant – “Target is moving along quite rapidly. The framing is going up. Their opening of October 2012 is still on target.

Just to update you on Friendly’s - a lot of us have been involved especially the Planning Department, Jamie and myself trying to find somebody to fill that vacant building. I think it is going to be a much more difficult task then some of the other properties because of the size of the structure; it’s only 2,300 sq. ft. so it really doesn’t fit into a lot of footprints for national chains. I know there has been a lot of conversation with the real-estate company who owns the property that they have had a lot interest so that is a good thing. I know the resident who lives behind the property is interested in selling his property also so if that was combined with the Friendly’s property that would make it about an acre now you are in the footprint of a national chain. I am hoping that it is not going to be vacant long. Hopefully we can move forward and find somebody to fill that position.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “Item #5 on the agenda is a public hearing to consider the abolition of the elected position of Receiver of Taxes.

We are going to entertain a local law to abolish the elected position of receiver of taxes, create an appointed position of receiver of taxes and hold a mandatory referendum on that within 60 days of the adoption of the Town Board law.

We have been in discussion with a local bank, First National Bank of Scotia, who is interested in taking up much of the receiver’s position for us. We believe that there would be some benefits to our residents by doing this. Those benefits include extended hours such as Saturdays which we don’t offer at Town Hall, a drive-thru which we don’t offer at Town Hall, a drop-off for multiple locations which we certainly don’t have here because every branch through the entire bank footprint would be collecting these taxes.

They would offer an automatic payment through the online banking, which they commonly refer to as ACH which we currently don't have plus we would still have a part-time appointed position here who would still take the collection at Town Hall if a resident chose that option. We would also still have service here at Town Hall for this position so if anyone had an issue, a question or a concern they would still come to Town Hall. All late payments would come here to Town Hall they would not be paid through a bank so there would not be any confusion. Although we have been lucky to have a qualified person in the past in this position it's the Board's feeling that moving this from an elected position to a professional appointed position would give us better service and give us more options within Town Hall with what we are trying to do with this cross-training of our department employees. We can better service the peaks of the Town. We believe we would be able to achieve that efficiency through that, plus about a \$50,000 savings over our 2011 number which equates to a 1% tax savings.

Supervisor Koetzle opened the public hearing at 7:40 pm.

Darryl Wisniewski, 18 Lorwood Drive – "I read the paper and I wasn't sure that the part-time job was still going to be available to pay here because I prefer to pay here as opposed to the bank. I don't know if anyone pays in Schenectady but I paid at Key Bank, you park on Erie Blvd., you have to wait for someone to tag your car on the windshield, then you park, then you have to go in the bank and you think you can just pay but you have to wait for them to make out a money order. This seems more inconvenient and more of a hassle to go to the bank then just to come here. This is done pleasantly. I have never heard of anyone complaining about coming here and paying. There is the mail option. I think this is a government service that they do great and I don't see any reason why the bank should do it. I personally wish the bank would just stick with savings and loans. I don't need the bank to tell me where to get life insurance, to give me financial advice and I don't think we need the bank to be doing the government's job of collecting taxes. I am glad the option is available to come here because that is what I prefer."

Cathy Berne-Smith, Glenville – "I believe that Joan Menhinick did the voters of Glenville a grave disservice by retiring. When you are an elected official, absent of personal tragedy or death you serve out the term of your office. You don't resign because you don't like the way things are going. I don't know all of the behind the scenes stories but please do not do the voters of Glenville another disservice with whatever steps you happen to take. The gentleman said you did a great service here, it's easier all the way around, First National Bank of Scotia is interested, I think the voters deserve some hard and fast numbers. You indicated, Supervisor, saving \$50,000, I'd like to see that on a spread sheet exactly how you came to that number and what you might expect that First National Bank of Scotia is offering to do in place of the elected position to the extent that this can be resolved before the next election so we don't have a referendum and somebody running for office. It takes a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of money and I'm not telling you anything that you don't already know."

Supervisor Koetzle – "You are absolutely right, the voters deserve a full accounting of the savings and we do have that and we will put that out before the vote. We are trying to do different things in the Town and there is a ripple effect to everything that we do. One savings in the receiver's office is going to equal a savings in the clerk's office and an equal savings further down the line too. It is a little more complex than that but I do have the account in here, the old fashion pencil and paper but we will get it out on a spread sheet and everyone will have a chance to see that full disclosure.

The vote would be 60 days from the time the Board passes the local law which would put us into April. We will probably take this up on February 15th so that would bring us to April 15th. We are hoping to shoot for April 16th because the Presidential Primary is April 24th.and we want to get out of the way of the Board of Elections for that as soon as possible. This room here would be the voting place for the entire Town. That would then preclude the primary and general elections. We would know the results that night and then decisions could be made rather quickly."

Michele Draves, 38 Country Fair Lane – "As it has been stated, looking at the number being the tax payers money, fabulous idea, I completely see where you are

coming from. My question is with regards to First National Bank of Scotia. Doesn't our County Republican Chair and the Legislature Minority leader, Mr. Buhrmaster have a stake in First National Bank of Scotia? Also there is another bank here in Scotia, Mr. Ramotar aren't you Vice-President of Key Bank and Supervisor Koetzle don't you work for Key Bank? Shouldn't we be looking at conflict of interest with regard to the bank that we are looking at taking over the finances for the Town of Glenville?

I completely agree that we need to look at savings for the Town but we also need to look at the conflict of interest with which bank is going to take over the duties."

Supervisor Koetzle – "You bring me to another point I forget to mention. As far as the Key Bank connection, Key Bank isn't in the mix, we are not discussing them on this. If it came to that, I know Councilman Ramotar and I would recue ourselves from the vote. The reason why First National Bank was chosen to talk to is because we really felt it was important to have a bank that is present in both the Town of Glenville and the Village of Scotia. They are the only bank that meets that criteria aside from Trustco and they are not interested in municipal business. The only bank left standing is First National Bank. So we thought that was important for our Village residents but on top of that our relationship with First National Bank of Scotia goes back to the mid 1920's. They have our tax accounts already, they have had them for 80 years or so the relationship with the bank is already there. We don't have any conflicts of interest. It makes a lot of sense to continue that relationship with that bank."

Councilman Ramotar – "I would just like to state that Lou Buhrmaster has the relationship with First National Bank of Scotia, not Jim Buhrmaster."

No one else wished to speak; Supervisor Koetzle closed the public hearing at 7:50 pm.

Supervisor Koetzle – "Item number 6 on the agenda is a public hearing to hear all persons interested in the establishment of an extension to Water District No. 11 to be known as Extension #38.

Supervisor Koetzle opened the public hearing at 7:51 pm.

No one wished to speak; Supervisor Koetzle closed the public hearing at 7:52 pm.

The following people exercised the privilege of the floor.

John Gaetani, 49 Cedar Lane – Mr. Gaetani commented on the Town's desire to possibly have a local development corporation. He mentioned an article in the Daily Gazette which criticized all of the LDC's (local development corporations) within the County. He feels that the Town does not need on and asked where the money was going to come from to pay for it.

He also mentioned that he has seen that there are people marketing our Town within the town government. He feels that they are doing a good job. Mr. Gaetani stated that the Town does not need a big box store, we need little local businesses.

He also stated that the Town does not need anymore apartments in the Town, referring to the Patriot Square located behind the municipal center.

Councilman Boulant – "I would like to address the LDC, I am the liaison from the Town for economic development with the SBED (Small Business Economic Development). I have been in this community for almost 30 years and I have been involved with a lot of business associations and people who get together and try to make things work better. The group of people who are involved in this SBED group are probably some of the brightest people we have in this community.

The LDC that we want to do is very different than what is out there that you are reading negative in the paper. There's a loan that was created from HUD for small

cities grant that was given to a local business and what it was for was to create jobs and that money is paid back to the Town of Glenville and it is monitored by the Town. It does not go back to HUD, it stays in the Town of Glenville. You are going to have a pool of money in the Town that something has to be done with it. The State is not going to take it back and it can be used for economic development. So it's not like we are going to go out and create an LDC like all of the other communities have and that's created all of this upheaval. It is something that has already been set in place and we don't have to find the money, the money is already there. It is something that is going to benefit the Town of Glenville. It is going to have a positive effect on the Town of Glenville. There will be stipulations from HUD and the State on how it can be spent so it's not going to be spent frivolously.

So to your point when you say we don't need another one, I understand where you are coming from but this is a totally different scenario and the money is coming from a different source."

Supervisor Koetzle – "We are talking to Metroplex, they support it. There are a lot of questions over how the State looked at that. I understand your concerns; we believe it is an important step to move forward in the economic development for the Town. It is going to be positive in the long run.

Two of your points, I agree, I'm not a big box person, I'm a small business guy, but I also get the sense that you need to create destination points for small businesses to thrive and sometimes need those anchors. We could argue if there are enough anchors already, or if there is not, but we have got to do what we can to get business here and I think those anchors will bring small businesses.

I am not an apartment guy and I have tried to fight those for a while. There is not a lot we can do when they are zoned; they have the right to come. At some point I believe this Board is going to have to want to look at the moratorium on that. I proposed that a couple of years ago, it didn't go anywhere with the previous board but at some point we have to look at what is the tipping point on apartments in a community."

No one else wished to speak; Supervisor Koetzle closed the privilege of the floor.

Supervisor's Comments:

Supervisor Koetzle shared the following information:

I will present the 2012 Strategic Plan at our February 15th Town Board meeting at 7:00 pm.

A number of town officials recently toured the GSA (General Service Administration) site in the Glenville Business and Technology Park, particularly the DLA (Defense Logistic Agency) they lease a portion of that property as part of their mission of stockpiling strategic commodities. The DLA lease will end in a few years and other GSA properties now available currently. The Town and Metroplex are working together to acquire the property for potential town use, a significant economic development opportunity through Metroplex's effort.

I want to send out kudos to Tax Receiver Pat Aragosa and his staff, Deputies Nancy Adams and Sandy Daly for providing quality services. We had a very quick transition, obviously, with the previous receiver leaving and the new receiver coming in, handled it beautifully. I do think going forward, the model we have, which we will lay out very clearly for people, is going to be a very efficient model, a very good model for the Town. A variety of other towns have done this, at least a dozen do this already.

Through the good work of our Wellfield Protection Committee and staff I recently signed a letter of interest for funding from the State Office of Emergency Management to litigate a flood threat to our water treatment plant. We are proposing an engineered berm to be constructed around the water plant and although no funding is

guaranteed at this time the actions begin really concrete steps that will insure the safe and reliable pristine water supply for our residents.

The Maritime Center Board of Directors met last week. We have heard a lot about what is going on there lately. They heard a presentation from an organization called Fast Break Fund regarding their programs and the possible use of the Maritime Center. The Maritime Center is continuing to seek lessees for the center and we hope there is some good news to report soon.

Opening Meeting Law change, starting tomorrow we have a new mandate from the State. This one is not going to cost us much; I know it will be a little more work for our Town Clerk, so essentially every piece of paper that we consider, for all committees, will have to go on our website prior to the meeting which includes the resolutions as well. They will also have to be available at the meetings so we will have a few copies available but we don't want to be wasteful.

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “With regard to the Watershed Committee, they are an asset that is kind of like a hidden gem. They are a group of citizens who came together because they are concerned about our water source and how to protect it. Their knowledge and information is quite impressive, I am the liaison to that committee. I don't think people realize how close we came to losing the water supply when hurricanes Irene and Lee came through this past summer. We were very, very close for a number of hours and there work is going to bring us so much farther forward in the protection of our water supply which is something that once a community loses it, it takes quite an amount of time to get it back to the point where it's potable water where people can actually drink it. We were very, very close to losing that supply and I think that that committee and some of the other steps that we have taken as far as rebuilding the road and things like that to protect the water, the wells and the well heads and the water treatment plant, I think that we are actually doing a great service to the Town. That Committee works for free; they are just a number of concerned residents. They are a huge asset for this community and I know they are going to do a great job.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “I agree and it isn't just about flooding it's all that is going on in the Town. The development that is going on in the town and they want to, they want to make sure the run-off and all of those types of things impact the water supply.”

Supervisor Koetzle moved ahead with the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 53-2012

Moved by: Councilman Ramotar

Seconded by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski

WHEREAS, in order to provide for maintenance and supervision of Indian Meadows Park and its skating rinks during the winter months, a seasonal recreation attendant is annually employed by the Town of Glenville,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Michael Archibald, 12 Irving Rd., Scotia, NY, is hereby appointed to the position of seasonal Recreation Attendant effective 1/20/2012 at the budgeted rate of \$8.00 per hours with no benefits.

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

Supervisor Koetzle made a motion to amend the language in the fourth WHEREAS to read - **\$12,000 of the \$35,000 funding should be used** to support a

Town-sponsored grant, program...Seconded by Councilwoman Wierzbowski, everyone in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 54-2012

Moved by: Councilman Boulant

Seconded by: Councilman Pytlovany

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville Town Board budgeted \$35,000 in appropriations for 2012 for the purpose of supporting local business retention in Glenville, an appropriation commonly referred to as the REDI (Revitalization Economic Development Investment) Fund; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the REDI fund for business retention is a key recommendation of the *Town of Glenville Strategic Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Town Board members, Town staff, the Small Business and Economic Development Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission all offered ideas on how best to apply this fund in 2012; and

WHEREAS, based on the success of the 2011 sign grant program, the consensus of those involved in identifying uses for the REDI fund is that \$12,000 of the \$35,000 should be used to support a Town-sponsored grant program for business owners who wish to replace existing business signs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the sign replacement program is to assist local businesses in funding an important element of business operation that is often overlooked or delayed by business owners due to budget priorities. Further, it is the Town's intent to promote uniformity in signage so as to improve the overall appearance of the Town's business community, to meet the objectives of the Town's various master plans, and to generate business and thus improve the economy of the Town; and

WHEREAS, this Business Sign Replacement Grant Program will provide a 50% funding match (\$3,000 maximum grant) for businesses who are seeking to replace one on-site business sign; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Economic Development and Planning Department has developed parameters for the business sign replacement program, as well as a grant application form that is ready for distribution to would-be grant applicants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town of Glenville Business Sign Replacement Grant Program for 2012, including the program parameters identified in the grant program description, as well as the grant application form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding for the Business Sign Replacement Grant Program is to be appropriated from a portion of the \$35,000 REDI fund found in the "fees for services" line item within the Planner's budget for 2012 (02.00.1445.4500); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Glenville Economic Development and Planning Department is hereby charged with administering the Business Sign Replacement Grant Program for 2012.

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 55-2012

Moved by: Councilman Boulant

Seconded by: Councilman Pytlovany

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville has stated its commitment to economic development in the town, and has worked closely with the private sector to bring new development to Glenville and redevelop existing properties in town's business corridors, and

WHEREAS, Mohawk Ambulance Service has recently purchased and is currently renovating a property at 176 Freemans Bridge Road, thereby satisfying certain eligibility requirements for a National Grid sponsored Main Street Revitalization Program, and

WHEREAS, a further requirement for program eligibility is submission of the grant application by a sponsoring municipality,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that per the National Grid Mainstreet Revitalization Program requirements, the Supervisor of the Town of Glenville is hereby authorized to sign and submit on behalf of Mohawk Ambulance Service, Inc., 793 State St., Schenectady, NY, 12307, a National Grid Main Street Revitalization Program grant application for their property at 176 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville.

Ayes Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 56-2012

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski

Seconded by: Councilman Ramotar

WHEREAS, in order to ensure ongoing functionality of the Town of Glenville's Zoning Board of Appeals an alternate position, in addition to the regular membership, is desirable, and

WHEREAS, Harry Willis has previously served in this capacity and is well qualified for this position,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Harry Willis, 12 Washington Road, Scotia, NY, is hereby appointed to the vacant position of Zoning Board of Appeals – alternate, for a term from February 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016.

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 57-2012

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski

Seconded by: Councilman Ramotar

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville (hereafter referred to as "Town") and the

County of Schenectady (hereafter referred to as "County") are municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York and as such are authorized by Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York to enter into agreements for their mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS, the County owns certain real property on Hetcheltown Road in the Town upon which it seeks to construct a new nursing home facility; and

WHEREAS, the current county nursing home on the Hetcheltown Road site is serviced by a water main in Hetcheltown Road which is difficult to access and would be cost-prohibitive to repair due to the age of the main and to changes in the character of Hetcheltown Road since its installation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Water District No. 11 and the new county nursing facility would best be served with a new, reliable and accessible water main and the Town and County have agreed that the cost of replacing the main will be borne 75% by Water District No. 11 and 25% by the County, with the Water District's cost not to exceed One Hundred Ninety Five and no/100 (\$195,000.00) Dollars;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville, acting as the Board of Water Commissioners for Town Water District No.11, hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into the attached inter-municipal agreement with the County of Schenectady for the construction of a new, replacement water main on Hetcheltown Road at a cost to the District not to exceed One Hundred Ninety Five Thousand (\$195,000.00) Dollars.

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

New Business

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – "I would just like to say something with regards to the Receiver of Taxes position. I don't believe that this is something that the Board has taken lightly. There has been a lot of discussion with regards to this position. I feel that we are going to try to provide the services the gentleman mentioned earlier, to try to provide the service to the residents nothing taken away from the service that Joan gave to the Town. She did a great job, but I do believe that we have a responsibility to try to find efficiencies and to try to serve the residents the best we can. In my heart that is what we are trying to do."

Supervisor Koetzle – "This is something that has been on my list, the receiver of taxes position, for about two (2) years. I believe it is vitally important for us to move forward and to bring the efficiency we need to the town. We can enhance service at a lower cost; I think that is incumbent on us to do that. I know what we are going to get out of savings there is going to help us achieve savings in other departments.

I really ask residents to consider coming here on February 15th at 7:00 pm and listening to the plan. There's a plan to all of this and it's going to be talked about, discussed and we are going to look for input from the residents and talk a little bit about budget and finances and where we are going for the year.

We want you involved in the process, so please February 15th at 7:00 pm."

Councilman Ramotar – "There was a comment made earlier that Joan left because of internal reasons or some problems so I just want to point out that Joan left for personal reasons. I just wanted to clear that up."

Supervisor Koetzle asked for a motion to adjourn; motion to adjourn was Moved by Councilman Boulant; Seconded by Councilman Pytlovany, everyone being in favor the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

ATTEST:

Linda C. Neals
Town Clerk