

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GLENVILLE
APRIL 4, 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, Director of Operations James MacFarland, and Highway Superintendent Tom Coppola.

Town Council Reports:

Councilman Ramotar reminded everyone that grievance day is May 24th.

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “With regard to the leaf and brush pickup County Waste is only picking up from their customers at this time. It used to be that they would pickup from who ever put bags of leaves and brush out but as of now they are only picking up from their customers. If you have brush and leaves you should contact your carrier and find out if they will be picking them up. This was not a Town provided service in the first place, it didn’t cost us anything but we just want to make sure that everybody understands the situation.”

Councilman Boulant – “The developer forum that we are holding at the Lighthouse on April 19th, the attendance is coming in pretty good. There is quite a buzz through the business community about it and I think it is going to be well attended. We are looking forward to it.

I would also like to congratulate the administration and the Town employees on our bond rating. To have our bond rating be upgraded in a climate like this is a pat on the back for everybody so, “congratulations”.

The following people exercised the privilege of the floor.

James Valachovic, 35 Joyous Lane, part of the Glenville Business Professional Association – Mr. Valachovic expressed his opinion on the proposed agreement, on the agenda this evening, with PC Public Affairs. He stated that he felt this was important that the Town have a professional service for the Town, as we try to move forward and compete with other townships as the regions economic climate changes. Mr. Valachovic informed the Board that Forbes Magazine rated the Albany/Schenectady area as number 5 in the country in job creation. He further stated that there are a lot of things happening and that we were in a unique location; closer to G.E. headquarters, Global Foundries, Continental Sciences, we have an industrial park, railroads, County Airport that we need to make sure we get out and tell the enterprises that are relocating to the area what we have and be able to have a nice concise professional message. Mr. Valachovic has attended three (3) national conventions; he brought the town’s marketing material with him, it’s nice but compared to other communities, what they have, we could be better and he thinks we should be better. He feels it will add an adverse effect on our quality of life when we start getting more of these enterprises here; it will expand the tax base.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “Jim, I want to thank you on behalf of the Board for your work on the SBED.”

John Gaetani, 49 Cedar Lane – Mr. Gaetani expressed his opinion on the proposed agreement with P.C. Public Affairs. He stated that he could not make a decision

on it because he doesn't have any information on it. He further stated that there was nothing in the paper about it and asked about the cost; was it in the budget; what are we going to get out of it. Mr. Gaetani questioned as to how anybody can make a decision on this when there is no information on it. He said that the Town Board sometimes gives out information and sometimes doesn't and he feels that when they have a pet project to get through they don't give out information. He stated the he is not sure why we need an advertising company for.

Supervisor Koetzle – "I just want to clarify some things. This was not done under the cloak of darkness; it went through the Small Business and Economic Development Committee (SBED) which is a public forum. It is duly advertised on our website, people are invited to it. They can come and listen to the deliberation and it was brought from the SBED to the Town Board as a recommendation through a public process. It was also in the media, newspapers, we talked about it weeks ago and I know it was well read because I received a lot of inquiries from firms, so it was well in the public realm, there is no question about that. The fact that you missed it, I'm sorry, but it certainly was in the public realm."

Supervisor Koetzle shared the following information:

Moody's has increased our ratings from a good rating, which we have had for years and years to a strong rating. We went from an A1 to Aa3, so we are now in a strong category. This is going to impact our 16.5 million dollars of outstanding debt; it will impact the 3.3 million that we are refinancing, getting a lower rate saving more money. The really good news is what was issued in the report from Moody's that I think the Town Board, the Town Committees and the staff really ought to congratulate themselves on, is the fact that they see the Town in a strong financial position now. They see the management of the Town being effective in what we are trying to achieve. They talked about things like us having a manageable debt burden, minimal future borrowing plan; they noted as a strength our significant operating reserves and strong liquidity position. That's exactly what we have tried to do from day one in protecting the fund balance and I think now that is starting to pay off where Moody's has seen that as a favorable strength of the Town. The only challenge they gave us is the same challenge that everyone is facing in the State, operating within a 2% levy. In their write up, what they call a detailed credit discussion, they noted the healthy financial operation evidence by the strong liquidity and favorable reserves.

They said that the Town's financial operations have consistently demonstrated strong reserves over recent years, do in part to conservative budgetary practices. That is the work of the Board, the Committees, staff and management; everyone should be congratulated for that. The work that went into that should not be underestimated. Moody's went on to say maintenance of favorable operating reserves helps offset the vulnerability of reliance on economically sensitive revenue. We talked about that, we know our revenues aren't where they used to be and they are not going to be there so what we did with our operating reserves has helped offset that. They also said that the Town has drawn down modestly on reserves over the past three (3) years and results indicate another general fund operating deficit of \$181,000, so going forward we are in a position to deal with that because we have drawn down our reserve dependency over the past three (3) years. The combined three (3) operating fund balances are relatively stable they say, management ability to maintain adequate reserves going forward will be an important factor in future ratings. How our fund balance holds up is going to be an indicator of what the bond rate will be. Moody's anticipates the Town's tax base remains stable. We have a desirable residential housing sector, they note, in the proximity to employment in the Albany/Schenectady area. There are a lot of new retail and residential construction planned in the Town with a Target retail scheduled to open October 2012 which played a role in their decision as well and I would say the investments that we have made in the Town in economic development also played into that.

What we have done in the past 2½ years is starting to come home. Moody's believes that our moderate debt burden will remain manageable over the coming years and that they say that going forward, they will give us advice of what would make a rating go up and what would make it go down. Generally speaking they were happy with the

Town of Glenville's financial position.

I attended a breakfast at the YMCA honoring students and educators from school districts across the County. There were many students both Scotia-Glenville and Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake that were honored.

A few of us attended a breakfast hosted by Center for Economic Growth (CEG) on Tech Valley marketing and speaking about the marketing initiative the entire symposium was about how we can market ourselves in the region because really that's what we have to do, we are in competition with so many other regions for jobs and businesses and our own Ed Capovani, member of the SBED Committee, was a panelist. He represented Glenville well; people in this Economic Development Committee know Glenville now, they take Glenville seriously when it comes to economic development. I want to congratulate Mr. Capovani for his work on that.

I attended the grand opening last week for Jumpin Jack's. After seeing what happened to them in August from hurricane Irene, it was an emotional opening for them. It is a right-of-passage here in Scotia-Glenville when they open but this year was extremely special.

Attorney Cuevas will be attending a lunch on "ways for towns and municipalities to save on health insurance". CEG is hosting it on April 24th; at the Italian-American Center. It will be a panel discussion on how towns can lower health insurance costs.

The final sign grant is complete for the 2011 Ready Sign Program. There are about 4 or 5 in the program for 2012.

The agreement with PC Public Affairs that we are going to take up tonight was recommended by the SBED. The Committee felt strongly that the Town needs to pursue a marketing plan, to be pro-active in our economic development efforts instead of re-active. This did not go out to bid because it is a professional service; we have received the opinions from the Comptroller and the Appellate decision. I just want to take a minute to read them. I think it is important for the public record because there are questions on it.

Regarding professional services, the opinion of the Comptroller is: a contract for publicity and promotional services including development and implementation marketing strategies would fall within the professional services acceptance to the bidding requirement. The Appellate decision states this: because development and implementation of marketing strategies calls for not only specialized skills and expertise, there are also such intangibles as to the judgment and discretion, the prudent exercise of which is very often the difference between success and failure; services which were to be provided to promote county, in this case, county convention site, where by nature professional and fell outside the realm of competitive bidding statute.

I appreciate the residents making sure we are above board but I can assure you we "are" above board. PC Public Affairs is a professional service, I spoke to four (4) different firms myself and SBED met with PC Public Affairs and decided that it was the best fit for what we want to do.

The election is coming up on April 16th, the referendum regarding the abolition of the elective office of Receiver of Taxes. It will be held here at Town Hall between 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm. We are looking to change the full-time Receiver of Taxes position to an appointed part-time position which we believe will save us about \$25,000 year over year going forward when we engage the professional services of a bank. We believe we are expanding the service by allowing residents another outlet to pay their tax bill which includes Saturday hours, it includes branch hours, drive thru, it may include ATM services and it will include ACH payments. So not only will your services be expanded you will also still be able to pay here if you want. You can still come in and talk about a problem you may have on your tax bill with an appointed receiver of taxes.

We saved in the 2011 – 2012 budget \$45,000 already and what we want to

codify in law is already being implemented, that savings is already there and when you take in the work with the Town Clerk and her leadership in her office on what we have done between the two (2) offices it's about \$100,000 savings from 2011 to 2012.

Supervisor Koetzle moved ahead with the agenda items.

RESOLUTION NO. 79-2012

Moved by: Councilman Pytlovany

Seconded by: Councilman Boulant

WHEREAS, a Member of the Town Board of the Town of Glenville is introducing a Local Law to amend Chapter 255, "Vehicle and Traffic" of the Code of the Town of Glenville; and

WHEREAS, a duly scheduled public hearing must be held in order to amend the existing code by Local Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville will meet at the Glenville Municipal Center, 18 Glenridge Road, Glenville, New York on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 7:30 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, at which time it will hear all persons interested in the proposed local law to amend Chapter 255, "Vehicle and Traffic" chapter of the Code of the Town of Glenville; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the proper public notice of said hearing in accordance with law, as follows:

Section 255-4. – Yield Intersections

ADD:

Intersection	Yield Sign On	Entrance(s)
Bigwood Road – Cypress Drive	Cypress Drive	South

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect when filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried

Discussion...

Supervisor Koetzle – "I want to thank Tom Coppola and Councilwoman Wierzbowski for their work on this. I think it is an important program for our residents. I think it is a challenge for us as we go forward, we can't expect the cost to be \$10,000 year after year, which it has been so we have to think about in the next budget how we are going to deal with that. I am a strong advocate for the program so I hope we can continue to fund this but we have to be reasonable in what the cost would be."

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – "We are currently working with County Waste on coordinating a date, which will be in May; we just don't have a specific date. As soon as we know we will be publishing it in the Daily Gazette, on our website www.townofglenville.org and posted in Town Hall."

RESOLUTION NO. 80-2012

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski
Seconded by: Councilman Ramotar

WHEREAS, Thomas R. Coppola, Commissioner of Public Works has requested an RFP from five vendors for the Annual Bulk Item Program to be conducted curbside; and

WHEREAS, vendors Advantage Waste, Springer Waste, Allied Waste and Waste Management declined the opportunity to submit a proposal therefore one proposal was received ~ County Waste in the sum of \$16,950; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Public Works to enter into an agreement not to exceed \$16,950 for services to be rendered by County Waste & Recycling Service, Inc. of Clifton Park, NY for the Annual Bulk Item Program in the Town of Glenville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said program is a budgeted item and to be funded by the Recycling Line 02.00.8160.4192.

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstention: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 81-2012

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski
Seconded by: Councilman Ramotar

WHEREAS, Thomas R. Coppola, Commissioner of Public Works has informed the Town Board that extensive tree & shrub removal, garbage removal was necessary for the retention area of Drainage District No. 4 – Sheldon to ensure proper flow and storm water management; and

WHEREAS, this work has not been done in some time therefore leaving sufficient funds in the drainage districts fund balance, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Comptroller is hereby authorized to increase the drainage district line [35.04.8130.4000] in the sum of \$3,100 for work complete by the highway crew and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said funding shall be made by budgetary transfer of \$3,100 from Drainage District No. 4 Fund Balance to Drainage District No. 4-Contractual [35.04.8130.4000].

Ayes: Councilmen Boulant, Pytlovany, Ramotar, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None

Motion Carried

Discussion...

Councilman Boulant – “I was going to be quick but I would like to respond to some of Mr. Gaetani’s comments regarding how he was not informed and then just left.

I take great pride in the effort of the economic development of this Board as well as the Glenville Business Association and the SBED. I will say it again, we have got some of the brightest and most successful business owners and residents on the SBED so a lot of this stuff is not decisions that this Board makes, its people that we put our faith in who are much more educated than we are. As far as the funding goes, this money came out of the REDI fund that last year was used pretty much exclusively for signage but is not exclusively for signage. So that is where the \$12,000 has come from. I think people fail to understand what the benefits of this marketing program are going to be. We have some of the most underutilized assets in the Town of Glenville. The airport being the largest asset, it’s one of the largest runways in the Country; it is longer than Albany Airport. There is so much space with the infrastructure that is there it is totally underutilized and it’s going to be a huge component for the Tech Valley explosion that is going to happen over the next few years. We also have a Glenville Technology Park over in the Scotia/Glenville Industrial Park that has a lot of vacant land as well as with the properties in the Navy Depot that we are trying to secure. We also have a lot of properties in the Town of Glenville that have been vacant for many, many years; I am not going to go into them but I think everyone is aware of these properties. They are basically in every single corridor that we have. The only way that we are going to be able to solve these issues that we have, is to market these to a level that cannot be accomplished at this local level. So to reiterate why we are doing this, it’s because, #1 the Board suggests that we do that and #2 its smart business. You do have to spend a little money to make money. It’s not money that we pulled out of thin air; it’s something that was budgeted to do economic development. I want to congratulate everybody that is surrounded by this because it is putting us in a light a lot more advanced then a lot of other municipalities that surround us. I received a couple of phone calls from large developers who do most of the large projects in the Capital District congratulating us for being a pro-active community.

I wish that Mr. Gaetani had stayed and listened to the explanation of why we did it.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “This Committee is tremendously talented, this is the next piece of our economic development strategy, there’s more to come, we are working on other things in that Committee and I just think it is hugely important for us to move forward. I congratulate the Committee on their work.”

Councilman Ramotar – “Marketing creates a lot of awareness and the focus is also on retention of businesses which prevents businesses from leaving, creating those empty spots. So in addition to this being a great marketing piece to help people to understand the benefits of moving into Glenville, it creates an opportunity to keep businesses surviving within this community.”

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “I have felt for a very long time that Glenville has been poised to leap into a much larger tax base as far as businesses and things go. I think we are uniquely positioned. I have felt that for a long time and it seems like we are finally moving in the right direction. I would like to thank everyone’s efforts because although it may not always be public common knowledge that everyone talks about on the corner when they are getting their kids on the bus, there are people in our community that are working very hard to make this an even better place to live and raise their children. That is one of the reasons that I ran for the Board and I am very proud to say that I am a part of it in what ever way I can be. Thank you Mr. Valachovic and your Committee, everybody else, all of the staff that has worked very hard.”

Councilman Pytlovany – “I would just like to say that what ever we can attract and what ever we can retain is a benefit for the Town of Glenville.”

RESOLUTION NO. 82-2012

Moved by: Councilman Boulant

Seconded by: Councilman Pytlovany

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Glenville has established goals and objectives in its Strategic Plan promote the Town in a favorable manner in order to attract new business to the Town and to assist existing businesses to expand, to increase the commercial tax base, and to create jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board established a dedicated fund, called the REDI fund, in the 2012 Final Town Budget to help accomplish those goals; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville's Small Business and Economic Development Committee (SBED) included marketing in their 2012 Annual Plan stating, "The Town will pursue the development and implementation of a marketing plan that explains these opportunities to interested entrepreneurs and developers that share the vision for quality development in the Town"; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently has insufficient personnel to dedicate an employee to promoting the Town and has no entity providing marketing services specific to the Town of Glenville's economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, PC Public Affairs has proposed to provide professional marketing services to the Town for a six month term commencing April 1, 2012 at the rate of \$2,000.00 per month payable in arrears and the Town Board is desirous of retaining PC Public Affairs to provide such professional services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with PC Public Affairs for the provision of professional marketing services for a six month term commencing April 1, 2012 and terminating September 30, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 during calendar year 2012; such expense being chargeable to Planner, Fees for Services 02.001445.4500.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

New Business

Councilman Boulant – "There are a lot of folks who are community minded that put a lot of effort into things that a lot of people don't realize and with the budget constraints that we have as a town we have had to chop certain areas. Last Friday night, at my place of business, we had a fund raiser for the Schenectady County Conservation Council. We had a maximum amount of tickets that we wanted to sell, which was one hundred (100) and I think we had over one hundred twenty-five (125) people show up. It was unique in that it was put together by Glenville residents, business owners and employees of the Town from the police department, highway department, town hall, Metroplex. It was very well attended. Even though we cut the budget for certain things stocking the Indian Kill, we were able to raise enough money to be able to not only stock the Indian Kill but to do other projects that the Conservation Council does. What makes me the proudest is that we do have a community that bonds together and makes things happen. I want to thank everyone who helped with that."

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 8:10 PM.

ATTEST:

Linda C. Neals
Town Clerk