

**WESTERLO TOWN BOARD
WORKSHOP MEETING
OF
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a workshop meeting on July 16, 2019 at the Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Acting Supervisor Bichteman opened the workshop at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Acting Supervisor William Bichteman Jr.
 Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
 Councilman Joseph J. Boone
 Councilman Richard Filkins

Absent were: Councilman Sherman

Also attending were: Managing Land Use Planner Charles A Voss, Historian Dennis Fancher, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board Chairperson John Sefcik, Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. President Kelley Keefe, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato, Deputy Town Clerk II Karla Weaver and approximately 8 residents.

PROFESSIONAL PLANNER FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Acting Supervisor Bichteman introduced Charles A. Voss a Managing Land Use Planner from Barton & Loguidice who has years of experience with Comprehensive Planning. Mr. Voss is also the Planning Board Chairman for New Scotland. He has a staff of technical experts as his fingertips such as water and sewer engineers, transportation engineers, environmental scientists and people who can do all kinds of graphics and mapping all of which work in his office.

Mr. Voss believed he could help shape the plan for what the town wants and needs. He would be available as a technical advisor to help move the process along. He could be as involved as the town wants and understands if the committee prefers to do a lot of the work themselves; and would then act as a coach, assisting as needed. The goal is to have a viable planning document that the Town Board and residents can rely on and use. Mr. Voss indicated that it's typical to review a Comprehensive Plan about every 5 years and updating a plan can take 8 months to 1.5 yrs to complete. He highly recommended having public involvement and agreed that a committee of 9 people would be sufficient. The Committee should contain a liaison to the Town Board, a Planning and ZBA member, Historian and a blend of residents, an overall good representation of the town. He briefly discussed obtaining grant funds and fielded questions from the Town Board and public. The Town Board thanked Mr. Voss for attending.

TOWN PARK USE

Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned that Town Employees at one time were able to use the Town Park for free. He has discontinued that policy as it is not stated anywhere in the law. If the Town Board wishes, it can be discussed at the Town Board meeting. Deposits have been and will continue to be waived for non-for-profit organizations.

MID-HUDSON CABLE / FRANCHISE FEES

Mr. Bichteman indicated that Mrs. Verch was having difficulty getting a response from Mid-Hudson Cable regarding franchise fee payments. The Town Attorney, on behalf of the Town will be sending a letter to Mid-Hudson Cable asking for more information. Mr. Bichteman indicated that the Town Board may need to consider doing something more formal. If it can be established that Mid-Hudson's billing is off by 10% or more, the town can make them go through an audit.

Councilman Boone wondered if it would be more beneficial if another BRC member was able to attend Mid-Hudson Cable meetings with Mrs. Verch; Mrs. Verch indicated that Mr. Wilcox normally does attend.

POTENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY MORATORIUM

Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned there were three proposed moratoriums in front of the Town Board this evening. He believed, based on emails there was interest in extending the solar moratorium to prohibit energy storage and wind

generation systems. All proposed moratoriums in front of the Town Board currently are essentially the same; the local law format and duration period. The first includes prohibiting Energy Storage and Wind Generation Systems in the Town of Westerlo, second is for Commercial Solar and the final is a combination of all three; Commercial Solar, Energy Storage Systems and Wind Generation Systems. All will be available for the Public Hearing.

SOLID WASTE LAW REVISION

Acting Supervisor congratulated everyone involved with creating the draft law, mentioning they did a good job. He had some questions and comments and reviewed them with the Town Board. He believed the penalty section seemed harsh and should be reviewed. The Town Clerk also reviewed the document and found some typos and the Deputy Town Clerk indicated she would email them to the Town Board for their review. The public hearing for the proposed Solid Waste Law will be scheduled at the Town Board meeting in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident suggested putting meeting dates on the bulletin board at the Transfer Station.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Filkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion carried by those present. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Weaver