

**WESTERLO TOWN BOARD
WORKSHOP MEETING
OF
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a workshop meeting on August 20, 2019 at the Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Acting Supervisor Bichteman opened the workshop at 7:02 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
 Councilman Sherman

Also attending were: Lyn Derway with NYCLASS, Bob Scardamalia with Census, Matt Rogers with LaBerge, Town Attorney Javid Afzali, Historian Dennis Fancher, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board Chairperson John Sefcik, Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. President Kelley Keefe, Deputy Town Clerk II Karla Weaver and approximately 8 residents.

CENSUS 2020

Acting Supervisor Bichteman introduced Bob Scardamalia with the US Census who discussed the upcoming census and how important it is. He indicated the Census Bureau is the Nation's largest and most accurate statistical agency. He discussed confidentiality of information which is protected by Federal law, security of information (information is private for 72 years) and how to get the town involved to help. Responses can be made by internet, telephone or by mail. If responses are not made that is when people start knocking on doors. Mr. Bichteman asked if on the census form there is an area to mark which town you live in. Mr. Scardamalia responded it does not however addresses have a specific point on the ground similar to how GPS works and he explained that zip code boundaries bare no relationship.

NYCLASS

Acting Supervisor Bichteman introduced Lyn Derway from NYCLASS to discuss an investment option for the Town of Westerlo accounts. NYCLASS is a cooperative investment program that works with schools and municipalities with over 550 participants across the state with a 2.1% daily compounded rate which is much better than what the banks are paying. It is very similar to a savings account however there are no limits on the number of transactions a month, no minimum balance requirements or transaction fees. Money would be moved back and forth through their secure portal from Wells Fargo bank to your normal bank account through wire or ACH. Approximately 75% of their portfolio is in US Treasuries and backed by a full faith and credit by the US Government so they don't require collateralization. The remaining 25% is collateralized in accordance with general municipal law either with treasuries or with irrevocable letter of credit from the federal home loan bank. She provided the Town Board with a summary sheet as well as rate information. If the town is interested, the Town Board would need to adopt a resolution and NYCLASS would need to be re-authorized at the organizational meeting yearly as an official depository.
in and you get credit for the day if money is left in until after noon time and funds are fully collateralized. If interested, the Town Board would need to adopt a resolution and NYCLASS would need to be re-authorized at the organizational meeting yearly.

PROFESSIONAL PLANNER FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Acting Supervisor Bichteman introduced Matt Rogers from LaBerge who is a consultant/professional planner who enjoys working with small communities. His services would include providing an outline, establishing a schedule and keeping the committee on track. He could be involved as much as the committee likes. He discussed potential grant monies and believed a reasonable estimate for their services would be about \$30,000.

SOLID WASTE LAW REVISION

Councilman Filkins indicated there was some confusion with the drafts which Interim Attorney Afzali clarified. Attorney Afzali suggested that the current draft be reviewed and the Town Board provide him with their comments/questions via email. He plans to provide a final draft for the September Town Board meeting.

CEMETERY BUDGET FUNDING

Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned he was awaiting budget information from Westerlo Rural and was finding it difficult to justify providing them with the majority of the budget set aside for the cemeteries as they are the only show in town. Discussion continued between cemetery volunteer Betty Filkins and Mr. Bichteman regarding what the funds would be used for and their fund balance. Councilman Boone wondered if they have any historical expense data for the last few years; Betty indicated they have the last 2 years available and they will work on a budget to provide to the Town Board.

TOWN PARK RULES

Councilman Sherman believed rules and regulations were passed in the last 8 years for the town parks. Acting Councilman Sherman believed the law should be updated and that employees should have to pay a deposit if they are planning to use the park. Supervisor Bichteman mentioned he has been approached about the Greenville School asking to use the Town of Westerlo tennis courts for practice. It was also mentioned that the Albany County Sheriffs patrol the parks after 10pm which helps keep vandalism down. Councilman Boone mentioned that on occasion lights are left on in the park and to solve the problem it was suggested LED lights be installed with timers.

FUNDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Acting Supervisor Bichteman suggested spreading the budget for the Comprehensive Plan over 3 budgets and that the town shouldn't count on potential grant money. Councilman Sherman suggested \$5,000 this year and \$12,500 the next two years. Discussion continued regarding tasking the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Employee Handbook changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Flensted indicated he met with the Greenville Rescue Squad and they answered 350 calls which is about the same as what Westerlo answered last year. He mentioned he was looking into options so the town doesn't lose services but didn't want to waste his time if the Board was uninterested. Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned Albany County is interested in the Rescue Squad building but the ambulance belongs to the Westerlo Rescue Squad. He mentioned the squad can donate the building and ambulance to the town or to another entity but cannot sell it. Mr. Bichteman believed it was a good idea to allow Mr. Flensted to continue and update the Board at the September Town Board meeting.

ZBA Chairperson Sefcik mentioned his Board has never received an Employee Handbook however it was believed they were given to the ZBA and PB. Mr. Bichteman responded that he will provide him copies if they have not received them but they would need to be signed for.

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 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Weaver