

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
OF
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at the Town Hall 933 CR 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Kryzak opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:00 PM.

ATTENDING WERE: Supervisor Matthew Kryzak
Councilman Joshua Beers
Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak
Councilwoman Amie Burnside
Councilman Peter Mahan

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent David Pecylak and Employees Salvatore Spinnato & Dan Rohrmiller, Previous Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Previous Highway Employee Blake Shaver, Hometown Heroes Committee Member/Confidential Administrator Lisa DeGross, Planning Board Chairperson Bill Hall, Library Trustee Members Mary Ann Witt, Laura Tenney & Angela Carkner, Fire Co. President Adam Alvarez and Members Kim and Kevin Slingerland and Alan Clickman, Deputy Town Clerk's Jaimee Motschmann & Michelle Rose, Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately 13 residents.

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to open the meeting. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 17, 2025. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded, all in favor motion carried.

TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR REPORT (JUNE 2025)

Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Rose reviewed the Town Clerk report for June 2025. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to approve the Town Clerk report for June 2025. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORT (JUNE 2025)

Supervisor Kryzak reported the general fund is 47.5% expended and 103.4% collected. He indicated the Town needs to send some money from the general fund to other funds such as highway. Sales tax still needs to be collected. Highway is 56.8% expended and 33% collected which is partly because the Supervisor hasn't sent them their share of the sales tax yet. All the other funds are tracking appropriately. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to approve the

Supervisor's report for June 2025. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

INVESTMENT REPORT (JUNE 2025)

Supervisor Kryzak reported that the total reconciled balance is \$3,995,288.34. The Town received \$22,767.45 in receipts and disbursed \$1,764,716.34 which left the Town with a reconciled balance at the end of June of \$3,841,339.45. The total interest earned with BOGC for June was \$5,018.46. Total year to date interest earned with BOGC is \$29,235.96. As far as the collateralization statement is concerned, the value is \$3,893,655.13 which is more than what was deposited. Mr. Kryzak indicated he is keeping a place holder with NYCLASS. The total amount with NYCLASS was \$469.68, which earned \$1.44 in interest for June bringing the total to \$471.12. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to approve the Investment Report for June 2025. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo has had unforeseen expense in the following account; and
- WHEREAS:** the Chief Fiscal Officer has determined that in order to maintain proper balances within various accounts, a budget amendment is necessary; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby authorize Town Supervisor Matthew Kryzak to make the following transfers.

Capital Improvement Reserve Fund & General Fund

| <u>Amount</u> | <u>From Account</u> | <u>To Account</u> |
|---------------|--|--|
| \$2,745.00 | 230.8 Capital Improvement Reserve Fund | (A) 1620.2 – Buildings – Capital Outlay (asbestos testing) |

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 78 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY BILLS (JULY 2025)

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** the Town Board has audited the monthly bills, be it hereby
- RESOLVED:** the following July 2025 bills be paid Voucher # 344 through Voucher # 419 in the amount of \$233,864.06.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilwoman Burnside,
Councilman Mahan, Councilman Beers

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 79 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervisor Kryzak advised that the Town received a written report from the Justice Court who collected a total of \$3,174.00 for June. He also received a written report from the CEO.

LIBRARY

Library Trustee Angela Carkner reported the following for the library:

- The library is more than just books check them out.
- There are museum passes, bicycles, fishing poles and more that can be checked out.
- The ancestry workshop is a popular program with Gayle Hannay the Town Historian. The next workshop is on August 14th at 6 pm. Reservations are recommended.
- Reptile Adventure will be there on Tuesday, July 22nd at 6 pm. Reservations are recommended.
- Every Thursday from July 10th through August 14th from 5 pm – 6 pm, join them for their summer program which includes science, technology, engineering, art and math. Hands on activities for kids of all ages.
- Keep an eye on their Facebook page and the website.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Lisa DeGroff mentioned they approved the purchase of new frames for the veteran's photos in the hallway. The other frames were old and were falling off the walls. They will be hung back up soon.

PLANNING/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairman Bill Hall reported there are currently two applications before the Planning/Zoning Board and the public hearings will be held next Monday. They will also be reviewing some suggestions for signage.

MUSEUM

Museum President Bill Hall reported there is someone interested in the open position on the Museum Board which was discussed last month. He asked the Town Board to approve an ad so the position could be advertised appropriately.

LOCAL LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (LLRC)

Mr. Hall reported the LLRC will be discussing battery storage systems to make sure that it is all up to date.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent David Pecylak reported the following:

- Purchased broom and chip box from the Town of Rensselaerville and traded a mower head.
- Going up for an auction is an over the rail mower, two dumpsters and a backhoe.
- Replacing some culvert pipes on Lake Rd.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

CEO Pine submitted the following report:

Report - Building/ Zoning -Jeffry Pine BI/CEO – for June 2025

Applications processed or pending before the boards

Special use – 1 / Variance request- 3 / Sub– divisions – 2

Building permits issued – 6

New houses –1 / Swimming Pools – 1 / Additions, renovations - 1

Accessory structures – 1 Solar Pv – 2 / Other – 0 Cell tower / commercial - 2

Construction inspections- 23

Site visits – 14 / Fire calls – 1 / Fire safety inspections and follow ups - 2

5 - In-service Training hours. 20 hrs. YTD (24 hours required to maintain certification for 2026)

Town Justice Joshua Ostrander asked where the Town was with the RFP for the courthouse. Mr. Kryzak responded they are almost ready to put that one out, should have it together soon, just need a resolution from the Town Board and need the language from George McHugh.

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE & DEPT. REPORTS

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to accept all committee and department reports. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE OPEN MUSEUM POSITION

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is an opening on the Museum Board, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for the vacancy in the newspaper for the opening on the Museum Board.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Mahan,
Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Pecylak

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 80 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that the two pickleball courts are now open for business. The Town is just waiting for the posts that hold the net for the tennis court.

NEW BUSINESS

LIBRARY & MUSEUM EXEMPTION FROM ZONING FEES

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Westerlo Heritage Museum desires to place **garage** on their property and,

WHEREAS: A **garage** requires a permit and a variance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby exempt the Westerlo Heritage Museum from having to pay a fee for the variance required for the placement of the **garage** as noted in the current Town of Westerlo Zoning Law.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Perylak,
Councilman Beers, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 81 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Westerlo Library desires to place shed on their property and,

WHEREAS: A shed requires a permit and a variance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby exempt the Westerlo Library from having to pay a fee for the variance required for the placement of the shed as noted in the current Town of Westerlo Zoning Law.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Perylak,
Councilman Beers, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 82 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

CR 401 & CR 404 ACCIDENT

Supervisor Kryzak indicated that Albany County Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor Lisa Ramundo is currently conducting a traffic study with car counters on either side of the intersection of CR's 401 & 404. It will provide information on the type of vehicle, speed of vehicle, and number of cars passing the intersection. Albany County is also evaluating data on the number of accidents, what type of accidents have taken place, if the accident took place at the intersection, and the time of year accidents occurred. Mr. Kryzak indicated there have been three accidents at this intersection in 2025 per the county, but he believed it's actually 4 accidents. The results of the study will determine what is warranted as far as action goes from the county. Short term fixes, the county cut down some of the trees surrounding the area as part of routine maintenance in the intersection to help visibility. Ms. Ramundo indicated residents can email or call Albany County DPW with any concerns and they will do an evaluation of any intersection. People should report blockages or if the grass is high. Right now, there is a petition circulating by Leanne McDonald on change.org. There are over 1,900 signatures. Mrs. McDonald indicated a change needs to be made quickly. Statistics show since 2007 there have been 28 personal injury accidents and four fatalities at this intersection. She understands that the intersection is within compliance, but sometimes you must look beyond compliance. Councilwoman Burnside thanked her for spearheading the petition. Mr. Kryzak previously asked the Town Board's opinion on a traffic light in an off the record conversation they all had. His plan is to put a request in writing and use the petition along with a letter letting the county know this is what the residents are requesting. There are a lot of options; rumble strips, additional signage but he wondered if the Town Board was interested in a blinking traffic light. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** After a recent car accident and fatality at the intersection of CR 401 and CR 404 and the history of accidents at this intersection, and
- WHEREAS:** resident Leanne McDonald started a petition on change.org to make this intersection safer; be it hereby
- RESOLVED:** The Town Board will request in writing to the county that a blinking light be installed at the intersection of CR 401 and CR 404, and further
- RESOLVED:** That the letter be accompanied by the change.org petition in support.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, ` Councilman Mahan, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 83 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

Confidential Administrator Lisa DeGroff asked if the Town Board could ask for more than one item in the letter. She suggested solar powered blinking lights that say traffic light ahead as a

warning that there is a blinking light ahead. Mr. Kryzak advised that the goal is to send the letter tomorrow or the day after. It's up to the county to do what they wish with the request, but he has a feeling that with the number of signatures they have from the petition and a letter of support from the Board, it's a powerful request for the traffic light and he is hoping they will get it. Angela Carkner asked if it was possible to get the speed reduced on CR 404. She explained there are two blind turns on that road which is currently 55 mph. People cross the yellow line often. If the speed limit is reduced, it may give people a chance to see the stop sign. Mr. Kryzak indicated there was a speed study on CR 404 and average mph on the road came back at 68 mph.

Resident Samantha Mackey mentioned if anyone sees Mark Boomhower or Christian Sperry, please thank them. They cut back the entire bank at the intersection.

Resident Bruce Bishop mentioned that on CR 404 the road allows passing just before you get to the bridge. He indicated on CR 401 heading toward South Westerlo, there is passing there as well just before the intersection. He indicated there needs to be solid lines.

A resident suggested that the Town and the county go around and straighten up signs that are laying backward/forward or are at an angle. He did not believe a light was needed, and mentioned people need to do their job.

A resident wondered what would happen if the request for a blinking light was denied. Supervisor Kryzak was not sure what the recourse would be, but he has a feeling they will not deny it with the history of the intersection and the petition. If it does get denied, he indicated the Town will go after them even harder. She wondered how long it would take to get approved and get done; Mr. Kryzak was unsure, but he would try to talk timelines. Once he knows a timeline, he will announce that to the public as quickly as possible.

Another resident indicated they have received a lot of anti-change inspirational messages from people. He wondered what about this intersection makes it more prone to accidents, how many cars go through this intersection, etc. Discussion continued regarding the data in the documents that the Confidential Administrator received which had been requested in May and wasn't received until the end of June. The resident indicated that the traffic engineering that the county is going to get will likely disqualify the interest of this intersection due to the lack of capacity. Using the engineering report as the access for change will likely not be relative because the volume is going to be too small. Looking at history, there has been a problem since 1986. The accidents are generally people that don't know the road traveling on CR 404 heading west bound colliding with people traveling on CR 401. The video footage from the truck of the vehicle going through the intersection from the most recent accident shows that the vehicle traveling on CR 404 was airborne. He advised he can't get that information, only certain people with interest can get that. It's a challenge to get the records. The Town may want to ask for

these records. Mr. Kryzak indicated the Town can ask for more data. Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that regardless of what the data and the traffic study says, the Town no longer wants to deal with fatalities, he expects an outcome with the petition.

Bruce Bishop does not think a light is needed there. The county did clear the trees and installed a brand-new stop ahead sign that is twice the size to replace the smaller one. It is clear as day. Once the county gets the corner fixed up and moves that stop sign in, he doesn't think a blinking light is needed. Mr. Kryzak indicated the Town would be asking for the blinking light. Mr. Kryzak mentioned he spoke to some of the first responders who responded to 29 fatal accidents. They believe traffic lights have decreased fatalities in Westerlo. Discussion continued.

Alan Clickman asked where the Town Attorney is when there is something this serious. Mr. Kryzak responded he's not here tonight, but he has been a part of the situation for what the Town can and can't do.

Resident Barbara Russell indicated the Town puts on a lot of activities and programs. She suggested that the Town hold a driving education program to get people up to date on traffic laws. It may provide a 10% reduction on insurance. Mr. Kryzak would need to investigate that.

Resident Bobby Sherman did not think reducing speed would help. A lot of it is the signs and reducing brush along the side of the road. If people can't see the signs, they won't see a blinking light but if you have two big stop signs on both sides of the road that are moved in, that will help.

Supervisor Kryzak indicated he will provide the public with whatever information he hears as fast as he can and the Town Board will write for the request for a blinking light. Mrs. McDonald will get the Supervisor a copy of the petition.

OPEN BURNING ON CR 410

The Supervisor advised there have been a few issues with a property owner on CR 410 regarding illegal burning. The Fire Co. was called out to deal with it before. There are paint cans and some other things that are not supposed to be burned in the burn pile. This person has been ticketed by NYS DEC. CEO Jeff Pine is working with the resident to make sure that the illegal burning stops and their property is cleaned up appropriately. Resident Mimi Dygert, who lives on CR 410, indicated that one day she woke up to her property filled with smoke and she didn't know what was going on. She found three piles of garbage up the street burning unattended. She called NYS DEC who came out and located the owner. There is also a house there filled with garbage that needs to come down. The person is burning items that are not allowed to be burned. Mr. Kryzak mentioned that if this guy continues to disobey the law, he will leave in handcuffs and the Town Court would handle that.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE POSITION VACANCY

Supervisor Kryzak advised he was looking to appoint Nick DeFrancesco who is a Town resident to the Building and Maintenance position. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** The position of Building/Parks Maintenance position is vacant and,
WHEREAS: The vacant position has been advertised and,
WHEREAS: A Westerlo applicant has applied and been interviewed and,
WHEREAS: Nicholas DeFrancesco has expressed an interest in assuming the part time position of Building/Maintenance Person, now therefore be it
RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby appoint Nicholas DeFrancesco to the position of Building/Parks Maintenance at the approved hourly rate of \$30.74 per hour for a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 29 hours per week, effective July 16, 2025.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows

- AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, ` Councilman Mahan, Councilwoman Burnside
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 84 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** There was a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees, and
WHEREAS: The vacant position has been advertised and,
WHEREAS: A Westerlo applicant has applied and been interviewed and,
WHEREAS: Catherine Hannay has expressed an interest in assuming the position of Library Trustee for a five-year term, and,
WHEREAS: Two Library Trustees' terms are due to expire, and,
WHEREAS: Angela Carkner and Gaye McCafferty have expressed an interest in renewing their five-year team as Library Trustees, now therefore be it
RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby appoint Catherine Hannay, Angela Carkner and Gaye McCafferty to the positions of Library Trustees for a five-year term effective August 23, 2025, to August 22, 2030.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

- AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, ` Councilman Mahan, Councilwoman Burnside
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 85 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

TRAINING APPROVAL FOR PLANNING/ZONING BOARD

Mr. Kryzak indicated Chairman Bill Hall completed a one-hour training on Land Use Moratoriums and a one-hour training for County Referrals. Barbara Maughan completed a two-hour Planning and Zoning Introduction training as well as a one-hour training on County Referrals. Sean Leary completed a two-hour Planning and Zoning Introduction training and a one-hour course for both the County Referrals and Land Use Moratorium. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Planning Board Chairman William Hall and Members Barbara Maughan, and Sean Leary completed training on May 1st held by Albany County Dept. of Public Works for their Planning and Zoning Spring 2025 Workshop; be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board approves 2 hours training for Chairman William Hall, 3 hours training for Member Barbara Maughan, and 4 hours training for Member Sean Leary.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Mahan, Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 86 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

PLANNING/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Kryzak indicated the Town Board needs to appoint a member to the Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals due to the resignation of Guy Weidman. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals member Guy Weidman has resigned his position effective June 22, 2025, and,

WHEREAS: There is now a vacancy on the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, and

WHEREAS: An Alternate Member of the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals has expressed an interest in becoming an appointed member of the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals and,

WHEREAS: Daniel Vincent Dawdy-Navarez has expressed an interest in assuming the vacant position on the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals to assume the remaining term of the vacancy, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo does hereby appoint Daniel Vincent Dawdy-Navarez to the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals effective July 15, 2025, 2025 to December 31, 2029.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Mahan, Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 87 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

MVP GRANT FOR FITNESS COURT @ TOWN PARK & RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE SEEKING GRANT MONEY FROM COUNTY

Supervisor Kryzak advised that the Town applied for the MVP Fitness Grant and was awarded \$40,000. He read the letter that was received awarding the grant. A meeting was held with them today regarding what they are looking to do for the fitness station. It needs to be 100% non-taxpayer funded. Along with the \$40,000 grant that was awarded, he is contacting the county who is also offering money for this purpose. The Town of Berne was just awarded one. Mr. Kryzak mentioned the Town should be able to get the remainder of the money from the county. He will keep everyone up to date. The Town will not do it unless it can be done with 100% non-taxpayer money. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo has submitted a Grant Application to National Fitness Campaign (NFC) for participation in their 2025-2026 initiative to install and activate outdoor Fitness Courts® in over 1000 municipalities and schools across the country, and;
- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo will accept a \$40,000.00 National Grant from the NFC Grant Committee and Statewide Partners, and endeavor to provide a local match in the amount of \$50,000.00 from budgeted or internal funds within fiscal year 2026 to promote and implement a free-to-the-public outdoor Fitness Court®, and;
- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo will endeavor to secure supplemental funding within 120 days from the NFC notice of award as needed through community sponsors, which will be made available and committed to this program for the purchase of the outdoor Fitness Court®, and;
- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo will endeavor to provide a local funding confirmation in the amount designated on the quote detailing the remaining funds for participation, provided by the National Fitness Campaign no later than November 19, 2025, as identified on the official Grant Program Requirement document.
- WHEREAS:** the Town of Westerlo Town Board believes joining the National Fitness Campaign is an important step in building a healthier community, commits to funding/fundraising to participate in NFC's 2025-2026 Campaign, and will earn local and regional recognition as a leader in providing accessible health and wellness infrastructure and programs, now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** that the Town of Westerlo Town Board will collaborate with NFC to join the National Fitness Campaign, implement the outdoor Fitness Court® program, and make fitness free for community residents and visitors.

Councilman Mahan seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Mahan,
Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 88 – 2025 was thereby duly adopted.

Councilwoman Burnside indicated she has been on the Town Board since before the Supervisor and Confidential Administrator were here and she has never seen grants come through the Town like they have in the last three years. She thanked them for saving the taxpayers. Mr. Kryzak mentioned they are up to \$48,000 this year and the extra \$8,000 is to fund the After Party and if they get the remainder of the grant from the county, they will be up to over \$200,000 for the year.

AFTER PARTY

Mr. Kryzak advised they are having the After Party again this year which consists of music, fireworks and a food truck. His office raised \$6,000, the other money is for other things such as WildPlay Thacher Park. He thanked GNH and Callanan's, this is the second year they sponsored this event. There is no cost to residents for the After Party.

ALBANY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING FARMERS MARKET COUPON BOOKS

Confidential Administrator Lisa DeGross indicated Albany County Dept. of Aging is offering coupon books for farmers markets in the area and they are free to seniors 60 yrs and older who are income qualified. Most should qualify. No proof is needed, just a form that needs to be completed. See Mrs. DeGross for the booklets. They are good through November.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF AN INDIVIDUAL

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to enter into an executive session at 7:03 pm to discuss the employment status of a particular individual. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to close the executive session at 7:11 pm. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to reopen the Regular Town Board meeting at 7:12 pm. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Hall asked if the Town could do anything about digging the mulch out to get rid of the prickles at the playground in the park, maybe digging down and putting rubber chips in. Mr. Kryzak mentioned he wants to try a rototiller first. If that doesn't work, they will dig out the mulch.

Angela Carkner questioned \$300,000 potentially being given to the Westerlo Fire Co. by the Town of Westerlo for a fire truck. Mr. Kryzak indicated it is not a gift; it would aid the Fire Co. in paying off the new truck that they purchased recently. It is pre-conversional right now. It would be from funds that have been set aside in the general fund, fund balance which has been unused from prior years in the Town's budget. It would not be something that would need to be collected in the Fire Co.'s budget, it would just be a transfer from the Town of Westerlo like how the capital improvement fund was set up. He mentioned it is preliminary, whatever that dollar amount turns out to be, will be brought before the Town Board. Mrs. Carkner wondered why that would not be factored into the Fire Co.'s budget. Supervisor Kryzak responded, if it was factored into the budget, it would have to go into the funds for that year, and the Town is held to a cap, there is no way to fund that without blowing the tax cap which would raise taxes and would require a local law. Instead, just like the Town did with the capital improvement plan, the Town saves money over time and sets it aside in the general fund, fund balance. The Town can set up a fund with money that has already been accounted for from taxes of excess funds that can be transferred to either the highway department, capital improvement plan or in this case the Westerlo Fire Co. The Supervisor indicated the Town Board will also be looking for ways to help the Fire Co. out with the new fire house with the same method. Mrs. Carkner indicated you can't transfer money unless it is budgeted for the Town of Westerlo Fire Co. because they are not part of the government. Supervisor Kryzak indicated he hasn't ironed that all out with the town attorney yet to know how that works but the Fire Co. is also an entity of the Town, they collect their money from the Town just like the highway and museum, so he needs to check with the town attorney. Once he has numbers back from BST the Town's accountant, he will have a better idea of what he can and can't do. There are things that need to be set aside next year for equipment for the highway department that the Town wants to purchase and to help the Fire Co. without raising taxes. The goal is to use the money the Town has and fund it from the savings. Mrs. Carkner questioned if that would be a lump sum that would be given or distributed over so many years. Supervisor Kryzak responded no, each year, the goal would be to be able to put a lump sum into certain savings accounts. The Supervisor indicated the State Comptroller doesn't have a law saying you can only have x amount of money in the general fund, fund balance, but they like to see reasonable savings and what you are doing with that money. The goal is to set aside funds for each organization, so they have money to do what they want to do but it's not coming from the Town's budget. You can't put that money in the budget as it will blow your tax cap. Angela Carkner advised that the Fire Co. is contracted with the Town but is not part of the Town like the Museum and Highway. Mr. Kryzak indicated he will not debate with her; when they have all the things that can and can't be done legally, he will be happy to debate with her as always.

Barbara Russell commented since the Town has so many funds, why not work with Albany County to get a pool. Mr. Kryzak indicated that the idea was brought up before, but the Board was lambasted for the idea. Nothing is off the table. There are going to be more options moving forward and a lot of the things Ms. Russell is talking about can be funded through grants.

Confidential Administrator Lisa DeGroff indicated in past years there was an Albany County Parks and Rec Grant which is a smaller grant that wouldn't fund a pool. This year it's coming from the County Legislature. She recently became aware of a NYS Municipal Parks Grant which opens and closes and is a larger grant to possibly fund a pool but has a 10% match. She has not had time to finish the research on that grant to find out if a pool would be eligible. Applications are currently closed right now. She explained the process.

Court Clerk Jaimee Motschmann questioned if Mr. Kryzak received results for the mold testing that was done at the court. Mr. Kryzak indicated he believes they are back, and he will get that to her, noting there was nothing remarkable found.

Mary Ann Witt wondered if there was any update on the union. Mr. Kryzak indicated that PERB is going to acknowledge the union which brings them to the negotiation table. That should be coming out shortly.

Lisa DeGroff mentioned the Independence Day parade was a collaborative effort between the Fire Co. and the Town of Westerlo. The people who served from the Town were Mr. Kryzak, Mrs. Pecylak and herself and from the Fire Co. was Chief AJ Lounsbury, Nick DeFrancesco and Shari Ragone. She indicated the event was successful and thanked the Fire Co. for working with them. Next year is the 250-year celebration which will be bigger and better. A resident indicated there needs to be more than one food vendor. The ice cream truck did not show. Mrs. DeGroff indicated that she already has 3 food vendors, fireworks and a band booked for next year. The Committee is going to meet in August to evaluate.

Kevin Slingerland thanked the Town Board for addressing the issue on CR 401 & CR 404.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

With there being no further comments or questions, Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to close the meeting. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Rose
Deputy Town Clerk