

The Town Board of the Town of Spafford assembled at the Spafford Town Hall, 1984 Route 174, Skaneateles, New York with Supervisor Mary Bean presiding and the following Board members present: Councilor Chris Fesko, Councilor Jeff Ireland and Councilor Dave Venezia. Councilor Lou Hanlon was absent.

The following Town Officers were present: Highway Superintendent Carl Wiers, Town Clerk Lisa Valletta, Code Enforcement Officer Howard Tanner, Attorney Scott Chatfield Planning Board Chair Chad Marsh, and Planning Board members Les Morton, Chris Kozub, and Kate Cormack. Planning Board member Diane Dolcemascolo was on speakerphone for the session. Supervisor Bean called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The main purpose of this meeting was for discussion between the Town Board and the Planning Board.

DISCUSSION

Planning Board Attorney

Town Law states the Planning Board shall have the power and authority to employ experts, clerks and a secretary and to pay for their services, and to provide for such other expenses as may be necessary and proper, not exceeding in all the appropriation that may be made therefor by the Town Board for such Planning Board.

The Planning Board intends to pursue employment of a Planning Board attorney. They seek approval to obtain requests for proposal/quotes (“RFP/RFQ”) and to learn the amount of funds the Town Board has determined to be available for employment of such attorney.

Supervisor Bean asked if the Planning Board was seeking to employ an attorney other than the Town Attorney. Mr. Marsh responded the intent is to seek résumés from attorneys, including Mr. Chatfield, to determine who would best serve the needs of the Planning Board. The résumés will be sought via RFP/RFQ.

Attorney to Advise on Revisions to Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Chatfield clarified the Planning Board can employ an attorney for their needs; however if the intent is to retain an attorney for guidance and advice on revising the Zoning Ordinance that is at the Town Board’s discretion.

Zoning Ordinance Revisions

There was discussion of the sections in the Zoning Ordinance which need revising. Mr. Chatfield offered to work with Mr. Tanner to correct the minor issues. The Town Board charged Mr. Tanner and Mr. Chatfield with the task of drafting the necessary corrections to the Zoning Ordinance. Their recommendations will be presented to the Planning Board and then the Town Board.

Comprehensive Plan

There was brief discussion of determining the intent and plan for the future of the Town. Mr. Chatfield explained comprehensive plans are not a necessity and that he is not in favor of them. He further stated the law desires a comprehensiveness of planning through uniformity of the zoning ordinance, sub division regulations and applicable local laws. This could be accomplished with a preamble or statement of intent attached to the Zoning Ordinance.

8:45 p.m. Mrs. Dolcemascolo ended her telephone connection to the meeting.

Zoning Amendment

Supervisor Bean reopened discussion of amending the Zoning Ordinance to remove the requirement of a Public Hearing for removal of a member from either the Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”) or Planning Board and to allow for alternate members to on each of those Boards.

Mr. Chatfield advised that Town Law requires a hearing of the matter in public, not necessarily a Public Hearing which allows public comment.

Supervisor Bean explained her goal for establishing alternate members is to have a replacement member available in case of an unplanned vacancy. Town Law states a town board may, by local law or ordinance establish alternate positions for purposes of substituting for a member in the event such member is unable to participate because of a conflict of interest. Alternate members shall be appointed by resolution of the town board, for terms established by the town board.

Discussion included the criteria to determine when an alternate may serve and changing the 75% attendance requirement. The Town Board requested the aforementioned revisions by Mr. Tanner and Mr. Chatfield include the Public Hearing and attendance requirements.

NEW HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK

There is a proposal before the Town Board to purchase of a new heavy duty dump truck under Onondaga County contract. The full cost of the truck, with accompanying equipment/accessories is \$295,605. The Town Board’s intent is to make an initial payment of \$80,000 and finance the purchase over a five year period.

Mr. Chatfield described the legal process of municipal financing, including the requirement of a Permissive Referendum should the Town Board desire to use reserve funds. There was a discussion of using reserve funds or unallocated funds. Mr. Chatfield will draft the necessary resolutions for purchase of the truck for the March 12, 2015 Town Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. was made by Supervisor Bean, seconded by Councilor Fesko. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Next meeting to be held
Thursday, March 12, 2015 @ 7 p.m.
@ Spafford Town Hall

Lisa M. Valletta
Town Clerk
Town of Spafford