

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven J. Walters	Supervisor
Michael Quinn	Councilman
Cheryl Potter-Juda	Councilwoman

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk
Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Mary Dosch, Sr. Account Clerk; Tom Best Sr., Highway Superintendent; Michael Williams, Police Chief; Martin Denecke, Director of Youth, Recreation and Senior Services; Sean Crotty, Coordinator of Emergency Management Team; Kurt Allen, Supervising Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Taylor, Sr. Public Safety Dispatcher

Supervisor Walters calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Supervisor Walters comments that he has a letter of intent from Bob Bieber stating his intention to continue the contract for the concession at Woodlawn Beach for another year.

He then states that he received a letter from a resident proposing to do an ice cream stand at the Seaway Trail Visitors Center. They looked at that a couple of years ago and because of the grants that the Town had accepted they were unable to do it. He doesn't know if that time has passed or if the Town Board wants to allow it.

The Town Board decides that the Town Attorney should look into this.

Thom Taylor, Sr. Public Safety Dispatcher, comments that with the Windows 7 upgrade on the computers he is having technical problems with his program. It was not designed to work with Windows 7, it was designed to work with Windows XP. He has \$25,000 in his budget to put towards a total cost of \$39,000. The Chief of Police said that he will put in \$6,000 from his budget and \$4,000 from drug seizure funds, so he would need the Town to come up with \$4445.00 for a new 911 recording system. The \$39,000 includes the maintenance for next year. He will also try and sell the old system. Thom then states all the benefits of the new system.

Supervisor Walters comments that he does not feel this is an unreasonable request. The money would be available in the Contingency Fund.

The Town Board agrees to pay for the new system.

Sean Crotty, Coordinator of Emergency Management Team, comments on the after action plan stating that there are some things that they have identified and some things they thought they could improve upon. One of the big things they want to do is get more personnel trained in high level incident command so that they can manage more effectively. They could do collaborative efforts more seamlessly and really improve the way they can be prepared in our Town. He spoke to Highway Superintendent Best, Chief Williams and Supervisor Walters and then identified areas that he felt needed training. This would include personnel with patrol duties, S.W.A.T. duties, key personnel on Superintendent Best's roster, as well as people from the Emergency

Management Office. There is a state of the art facility at Texas A & M and he has been to three classes there. People travel from all over the world for this kind of training and it would be during the regular work week and expenses are covered. They are already filled through June and they need to get signed up now. He was looking to send 8 personnel that are Town employees and 2 more (Fire Coordinator and Assistant Fire Coordinator) and John Carlin. He would suggest sending four at a time. He would like to send all the Police Command staff at some point because it is that important. There are also classes for Finance and Administration. As they identify priorities in the After Action, this would be the first step.

Mary Dosch hands out a summary worksheet in regards to what they have spent to date on Capital Projects.

Supervisor Walters explains that Mary Dosch is present to talk about some of the projects going on in the Town. The good news is that both projects are just about done. The Senior Center is scheduled to open on February 17th and the Library is scheduled to open early next month. With a renovation project, as opposed to a new build, they have run into issues along the way. The initial estimated cost for the Senior Project was \$2 million and the total cost to complete is just over \$2.3 million. The Senior Center initial estimate was \$3 million and the total cost to complete the project will be just under \$3.7 million. The Town initially earmarked \$2 million, cash on hand, for the projects and subsequently borrowed \$2 million and received a State Library Grant in the amount of \$743,000. In addition, the Library Committee stated that they would raise an additional sum to cover the gap. The library fundraising has not gone according to plan and with the cost overrun they have come to the Town Board for a third round of borrowing for the two projects.

Kurt Allen, Project manager, comments that both projects exceed any Capital Project that the Town has ever undertaken. They are large Capital Projects. In the construction industry, when you are dealing with a project of this size, it is very difficult to adopt a budget. They have battled with Architects and estimators on the projects. When you are dealing with a lot of intangibles regarding renovation projects it is not unusual to have over runs in the amount of 15%, then when you get into additional costs, such as furniture, equipment, etc. it is even more. He produces paperwork showing that the original contract was for over \$3 million dollars to start, but they didn't have any additional coverage for contingency costs. He outlines the change orders that were necessary to complete the project. The site work for the Senior Center will have to wait until spring and the Library is rapidly coming to conclusion. He invites the Town Board to take a tour.

Councilman Quinn questions how much money they need, in total, to complete the projects.

Kurt Allen responds \$1.3 million.

The Town Board reviews and discusses the worksheet that Mary Dosch handed out showing what the expenses are to complete the projects.

Supervisor Walters comments that if they borrow the necessary amount of money to complete the projects they are still below the 10 year average on Town debt. They have taken strides over the last ten years to bring the number down. In 2005 the Town owed \$16 million, in 2007 it was at \$18 million and now the Town owes just over \$8 million total.

Councilman Quinn responds that he can't give him an answer right now. The numbers are too large.

Supervisor Walters responds that what they would like to propose today is that they have an Unappropriated Fund Balance of over \$5 million in the Part Town Fund. The Town is allowed to give up to a one year inter-fund short term loan. They would like to move the \$1.3 million from the Part Town Fund into the General Fund to fund the completion of these two projects. This will be in anticipation of this July when the BANS become due and they will be in debt, an additional \$1.3 million, in order to pay back the Part Town Fund.

Councilman Quinn questions how much was originally borrowed to cover the projects?

Supervisor Walters responds that the loan they took out plus the other funding sources would have covered the \$5 million cost for both projects. The actual cost for both projects is now \$6 million dollars which means it has come in \$1 million over budget for both projects. In addition, the Library Board has not met their goal in fundraising. They hoped to raise \$400,000 and have only raised \$40,000. They will be meeting with them to discuss that.

Councilman Quinn questions when this has to be decided on.

Supervisor Walters comments that there will be bills coming in that will be waiting for payment.

Councilman Quinn responds that he would like to wait for the next meeting.

The Town Board and Mr. Allen discuss how to handle the shortage.

Councilman Quinn agrees to meet with Mr. Allen to discuss this.

Marty Denecke, Director of Youth, Recreation and Senior Services, comments that they are planning on holding the ribbon cutting for the new building on February 17th. He then states that the current Senior Services building and Adult Day Care building has an unusual maintenance arrangement. They contract out to Josh Farrell, who does an outstanding job, and has been with the Town of Hamburg for 13 years. Mr. Farrell has been very dedicated, detail oriented, versatile and is a creative problem solver. He has outlined that in a presentation that he hands out. He approached his Liaison, Supervisor Walters, about keeping Josh on and there are two options. His preferred option is to transfer money out of his contractual funds into B & G to be able to hire Josh as a Laborer and keep him at the new building. He has discussed the matter with Superintendent Best and he is willing to work with the Town Board to make this transition happen. The other option would be to keep Josh on as a contractual employee. The problem with that is that he is a quality staff member and his work has to be bid out periodically and they could lose him. He is asking for this because the quality of work and dedicated service he has

given the Town over the last 13 years. The new Youth, Recreation, and Senior Services Center will be in great hands if they keep him on taking care of the maintenance and the big cleaning and whatever else it takes to make that building work.

Tom Best Sr., Highway Superintendent, comments that he has seen Josh's work and he has some unique qualities and he is the only one he knows of in his staff that has the capability of cleaning the pool. If they don't hire him as a Laborer he would have to contract out to clean the pool. However, he does not have any Laborer positions open and the Town would have to petition Civil service for another Laborer position. Josh would also not be able to perform as many duties as a consultant because of Union restrictions.

Mr. Denecke comments that he will get more specifics on the costs to the Board.

Tom Brown, President of the Southtowns Police Club and P.B.A., comments that he represents the Patrolmen and Detectives of the Police Department. He asks that the Town Board starts the process to look for the next Chief of Police. Chief Williams is going to be leaving in about 40 days and that is not a lot of time. When Chief Kesner retired the decision was made to have what they referred to as the "Chief of the Month Club". It was a disaster and it didn't help his agency at all. He wants them to make a decision so that everyone knows that there is a plan in place and that they are moving forward. It is important that they have continuity and a smooth transition. The last time they had 3 months without a permanent leader. The Town Board may have a plan in place. He just wants to make sure that the process has started. On another note, they need more Officers. In 2011 they had nine detectives working in the Bureau, two of them Sergeants. Today they have seven Detectives and no Sergeants. Crime has gone up, population has gone up and they are hiring and people are retiring but they are never catching up. They have another person retiring next month and they cannot sustain any more loses. This Town Board is the only ones who can do it and if they have any questions they can contact him.

1.

On a motion of Supervisor Walters, seconded by Councilman Quinn, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Walters, Quinn, Potter-Juda
	Noes	0	

RESOLVED, that the Town Board move into Executive Session at 6:55 pm on a Police Investigation and Personnel Matter.