

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; Martin Denecke, Director of Youth, Recreation and Senior Services

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

Jim Jerge, New Wave Energy, hands out packets for each Town Board member and comments that they have done a cost savings analysis. On the front page it states that over the last 18 months the Town has benefited from a \$35,000 savings, by being with New Wave Energy, in comparison with the old utility company that was used. He then gives further details on those savings.

Supervisor Walters comments that the Town Engineer Gerry Kapsiak has since retired and he was the one that was overseeing this program. He had mentioned that their market rates and new wave rates were based on statewide rates and not the zone rates. Had they used the proper zone rates and not the statewide rates, the market rate would have been substantially below what the New Wave rates were.

John Lutka responds he had many discussions with Mr. Kapsiak and the Town did go over budget for a couple of months and that was due to the Polar Vortex. During that time all utility rates were high. He also responds that they are not using state wide rates they are using the rates for this side of the State. Mr. Kapsiak handled mostly the lighting accounts and when he saw the overall rates he was thinking it was an average when he was only looking at market based rates for streetlights. He thought they had explained it to him correctly and when rates went back down that things had smoothed out.

Mr. Jerge explains that lighting and building accounts are different because of capacity demand and all the other components involved. The Town is on a variable rate and there are twelve months in a year. Some months will be up and some months will be down but overall there is a savings. They have to look at the bottom line which is a 10% savings. If they decide they want to continue the relationship they could provide quarterly reports or semi-annual reports.

Walt Rooth, Town Attorney, questions what other municipalities they work with?

Mr. Jerge responds the Village of Lancaster, Village of Blasdell, Town of Aurora, Town of Evans, Town of Cheektowaga, Town of West Seneca, bigger businesses such as the Sabres and the Buffalo City owned parking lots. Most of the municipalities have been with them for at least three years or more.

Mr. Jerge comments that they like to build relationships with their customers. This was the first contract they had with the Town but they would like to keep that going further. If there is anything they could do, or should do different they would like to make note of that and do whatever to keep their relationship with the Town going.

Councilman Quinn questions if they can offer anything else to the Town.

Mr. Jerge responds that one reason they brought the Energy Market update is that it shows projections on where the industry is going in general. They can offer products like fixed priced products or partially fixed price products that some of their competitors can't offer and that the utilities don't offer at all. In 2014 and 2015 if there was a fixed price in place that would have capped what was paid during the few months that the prices were very high. But if you go on a full variable rate you might pay more during some months but save during others. They could talk about doing some hedges, maybe doing 25% fixed to cap some of the costs from escalating that high again. They could provide cost savings analysis reports more often. Right now is a good time to keep the variable rate, however they could come back in a couple of months and take a look at a fixed rate until the end of March. They can customize the program for the Town. He still wants to emphasize that although there were some high rates during the year the end result was a 10% savings overall.

Supervisor Walters comments that he should contact his office the first week of September. That will give the Town Board a chance to discuss whether they should come back at the next Board meeting to discuss their options.

Marty Denecke, Director of Youth, Recreation and Senior Services, comments that he has some partnership proposals he would like to bring forward. The first is from PRN Physical therapy. PRN does both physical therapy and occupational therapy. The way they operate is that they partner with a community group or a setting where they can have access to Senior Citizens and they have a focus of programs that help with issues that seniors may have. They approached him and would like to get into the Senior Center, or to start, they would like to get into the Sowles Road pool facility. They base the rent they offer on what Medicaid considers fair market value. He does not have a figure on that. PRN would need a place to have private sessions in terms of interviewing and assessments and then they would need semi-private or private areas where they could do the physical therapy itself. They are very anxious to move forward on this.

Councilwoman Potter-Juda questions if they ever had a physical therapist before.

Mr. Denecke responds no. This would be a service that the Town could offer. To his knowledge there is no other senior service center in the area that offers this. So he feels this would add to their menu and enhance what they are doing and bring more people into the building.

Councilman Quinn questions if they would charge them rent.

Mr. Denecke responds yes it would be the fair market value rate that they have not provided yet which is based on their relationship with Medicaid.

Councilman Quinn questions if they would bring equipment in.

Mr. Denecke responds no. The biggest piece of equipment would be a table; otherwise they would just utilize the space provided and/or the pool.

Supervisor Walters questions if it is only Hamburg seniors that would sign up for it or would they bring their own clientele in or a combination of both?

Mr. Denecke responds a combination both. They would have their own clientele that they would refer there but they would also be open for business for our seniors that would want to take advantage of that service.

Supervisor Walters questions if this would preclude partnerships with other organizations should someone else down the road want to do the same.

Mr. Denecke responds that he does not have an answer to that question. He thought the question would be, can he do this without putting it out for proposal, like an RFP? He doesn't believe they are asking for exclusive use of the pool.

Walt Rooth comments that he thinks that the other physical therapists in the area would want to take advantage of this too. So, an RFP would be the way to go.

The Town Board and Mr. Denecke discuss further details on this proposal.

Supervisor Walters comments that the first thing to be determined is what the Medicaid rate would be and then they would have to talk to the Town Attorney concerning insurance and liability, etc.

Mr. Denecke comments that the second item he wants to discuss is a partnership with the Family Support Center that is operated out of Hamburg Central School District. Back when the Youth Center was in the Frontier Learning Center that was a partnership that they had. The Family Support Center offers preliminary counseling for children and their parents who are experiencing difficulties in school. They get referred to the Family Support Center and the school provides the counselors. When Frontier owned the building the counseling was late afternoon and evening two days a week. Now that the Youth Bureau is back in that building they are looking to restart that partnership. The benefit to the town is that our Youth Bureau is enhanced by the counseling that is provided at no cost. They are only providing the room and the space is available. He put the resolution on the agenda for this evening. They will provide insurance and a memorandum of agreement which would be reviewed by the Legal Department.

Mr. Denecke comments that the last item he has is, in the 2014 Budget they had money left over and they set it aside to buy a Van in 2015. Their Senior Van Fleet has a lot of miles and they thought if they leased they could get two vans. They have enough money to buy a two year lease on two vans. At the end of the lease they have the option to buy the vehicles. They have \$30,000 set aside which is the cost for two vehicles for 2 years. They would be minivans which would be better on gas and more comfortable for the seniors. At the end of the lease they would have the option to purchase them for a little over \$12,000 each. They have applied for vehicles through a NYSDOT grant. They are hoping to get the vehicles from the grant but that is an unknown factor right now.

Supervisor Walters questions what the sticker price on the vehicles would be if they bought them both outright.

Mr. Denecke responds that sticker price is around \$28,000 per vehicle and the concession pricing for a track lease is \$24,600.

Councilwoman Potter-Juda questions what he will do with the old vans.

Mr. Denecke responds that they could trade them in and that has not been factored into this so that would give them more of a discount.

Supervisor Walters comments that he received a letter late from Scranton Volunteer Fire Company for the appointment of a new member.

The Town Board discusses the number of members in each fire company and how it can affect the budget.

Supervisor Walters brings up resolution #18 and #19 on the Agenda. He spoke with Mr. Bartlett and asked him to call Frontier School District about this. There is an appearance of a conflict of interest. The timing of this proposal is off.

Walt Rooth, Town Attorney, responds that Mr. Best is a member of the Frontier Central School Board and there is no actual conflict of interest.

Councilman Quinn comments that Janet Plarr became the Chairman of the Frontier School Board and had to step down and this is who they recommended.

The Town Board discusses whether they feel it is a conflict of interest or not.

Supervisor Walters recommends that they hold off on this approval until after the election because he believes there is a conflict of interest. Councilwoman Potter-Juda agrees.

Councilman Quinn does not agree that there is a conflict of interest.

Walt Rooth, Town Attorney, does not believe there is a conflict of interest.

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 6:40 pm on two personnel matters.