

Work Session  
December 20, 2004  
S-6100 South Park Avenue  
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

Supervisor Hoak calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:	Patrick H. Hoak	Supervisor
	D. Mark Cavalcoli	Councilman
	Kathleen C. Hochul	Councilwoman
	Joan A. Kesner	Councilwoman
	Thomas Quatroche, Jr.	Councilman
Also Present:	Catherine Rybczynski	Town Clerk
	Robert Brown	Sr. Account Clerk
	Richard Boehm	Deputy Town Attorney
	Kurt Allen	Supervising Building Inspector

6:00 p.m. - 6:10 p.m.	RESOLUTIONS
6:10 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	HOPEVALE
7:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	EXECUTIVE SESSION PERSONNEL & LEGAL MATTERS

Councilwoman Hochul comments that the next resolution is in response to the fact that the NYS Thruway Authority is considering a 25% hike in tolls and somehow they didn't hear them loud and clear enough. We are trying to make our voices heard once again and hope that other communities will join us as well.





Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.:

Duane R. Rybarczyk  
5196 Scranton Road  
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

Moved: Kesner                      Seconded: Quatroche  
Roll Call:    Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                 Abstain: Kesner  
                 Noes: None  
                 Carried

**VIII.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the hiring and termination of personnel for the Building and Grounds Department as follows:

1. Barbara LaRosa	Seasonal Clerk Typist	12/18/1004	Terminate
2. Barbara LaRosa	P/T Clerk Typist	12/20/2004	\$9.97
3. Jody Gavin	Seasonal Clerk Typist	12/17/2004	\$9.23
4. Frederick Best	Seasonal Laborer	12/17/2004	\$9.09
5. Jim Sortisio	MEO	12/17/204	Terminate
6. Jim Sortisio	Laborer	12/17/2004	\$19.42

Moved: Quatroche                      Seconded: Cavalcoli  
Roll Call:    Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner, Quatroche  
                 Noes: None  
                 Carried

**IX.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the Audit of Cash Disbursements as follows:



facility and there is a paper trail of correspondence that they feel supports that. They supported their expansion, as they have supported them as an institution, in our community. They feel it serves a purpose and is important and despite some challenges for our Police Department they have accepted it and been good neighbors. It was their understanding that it would always be a female facility and believe, for a variety of reasons, that is the way it should stay. They understand there are financial reasons for them looking in the other direction. More people are being treated in their homes which has resulted in the decline in the number of people participating in a facility like Hopevale and that affects their bottom line. She knows they believe as a Board that for their long term health they need to introduce boys into that facility. This, in her judgement, could be the slippery slope, as girls start declining in numbers because they are being sent to homes and the boys, who are perhaps more troublesome and one step from prison in some cases, will become the greater population. You start with one cottage and another female cottage becomes available and boys fill the next one and before you know it is an all male facility. Not to say there is anything wrong with that but, they are located right near a neighborhood with children and young families. This is not the best location for a male facility. They have always supported it as a female facility and will continue to support it as such. But in good conscience, representing the surrounding neighbors who are frightened by the specter of having young males there, and these are not just typical teenagers they are juveniles with identified problems. They as elected officials feel they have an obligation to protect the people who have made it their home. That is their position, she doesn't feel they will deviate from that. They have wonderful programs, the caliber of the staff is outstanding and they have tremendous community support and what they are proposing here is going to damage that relationship. They are changing the conditions that they agreed to when they agreed to let them expand.

Councilman Quatroche wants to echo her thoughts on the positive things she said about the facility. He used to be a counselor and it is tough to find places for people to go. Hopevale came to the Town with regard to a PINS for girls and they were hesitant on any other program for higher level residents. They still supported it. Looking at some of the Police reports, even though some of it may not have happened, it still takes Police work that has to be done. Even if they were to come in about expanding for females, he would have a question because of the ability to staff the facility however the funding may work. They realize that any facility like this will have issues, they have supported it, but they have to be conscious of the community that surrounds it. There are some issues with the male program, but he would have issues with any sort of expansion because of where they are located and the number of Police calls. These programs are not as funded as they should be. They represent the neighbors as much as they represent Hopevale and there has to be a balance. He personally doesn't see a balance in the proposal that is coming forward.

Rev. Gary Bagley comments that they are not trying to build a bigger ship, they are just trying to keep the one they have afloat.

Councilman Quatroche responds that the program expands their services and brings in a whole other level of concerns. He directly talked to people who have worked at the facility and he knows how difficult it is to manage what they have, with the restrictions they are under, and he can't imagine dealing with those restrictions with boys.

Rev. Bagley responds that this is their last option, not the first option. With Erie County being tight on money this is a trickle down affect. Their position as a Board was, how do they keep their heads above water and how do they maintain any facility there. He has been on the Board for over thirteen years and those of them with long tenure are in the situation most reluctantly. They would love to be in the position where they could look at the mission of Hopevale and rebuild the lives of young girls. That is why he got on the Board 13 years ago. The support from Erie County for this just isn't there. If there is no facility there is nothing. They don't help girls they don't help anyone.

Mark O'Brien wants to express their appreciation for all the support and the wonderful relationship they have had with the Town over the years. This is something they value and will continue to value going forward. He also acknowledges that when you work with troubled youth you do take up some resources. He wants to clarify some things because there is some fear expressed. There are a number of motives for them to be doing what they are. He refers to an informational packet. First of all why are they doing this. The mission of Hopevale is to rebuild young lives. They currently serve a co-ed population throughout all of their services. They are about more than just the campus. They have wraparound services and have been integrated for some time. This isn't just about them staying in business.

He was in private practice for 12 years, New York State Sexual Abuse Advisory Commission and he dealt with sexual abuse survivors. He continued to work in the Diocese of Buffalo

teaching clergy how to work with sexual abuse survivors. Hopevale has a mission and this corresponds with his own personal mission as well. As they looked at some strategic planning they asked what did they need to do to maintain viability and also to take some of the key services going forward. There has been a shrinking placement of girls. One of their efforts has been to up replacements. They want to increase their own placements from their own detention. The detention center on East Ferry is disgusting, the kids would be better off at the Zoo. This isn't a comment on the wonderful work of the workers but the facility itself. Erie County was the last County to get out of non-secured detention business and they were approached. They thought they could do it more humanely and they have and they thought they could have an impact and they have. Almost none of the calls referred to were from detention. They also wanted to up their referral base by being tied into the system so they would have a steady stream. That hasn't worked out as well as they would have liked. They are at 59% of the existing beds of the system for females beds, they average about 20 -25% even out of their own detention. They are increasingly challenged. What the Court Judges are doing is giving all youth choices. Most of their placements are involuntary. When they are given the choice most girls say they don't want to go to a same sex facility. They have had multiple meetings with the Supervisor of Detention, the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of Detention. They question the decision to give these kids choices, but it is not their decision. There is a real market impact. His School Superintendent has made multiple journeys to other Counties. Other Counties are also strapped for money and increasingly are seeing placements as an expensive option. You are challenged, if you are going to stay in business, to get that bigger share or to diversify what you are doing. They have been challenged by that. They have been recognized by Erie County, some other Counties and United Way for the trauma work that they do. They have adopted some models that are an evidenced based practice for working with people who are trauma survivors. They do anger replacement therapy and a whole host of other programs. They also have developed some skills that are not out there. They have been working with Heritage Centers for the developmentally disabled and they increased their community partnership. They have the girls scouts coming on campus and several faith based organizations coming on campus. They send their PACT ( parent and child trauma program) therapists to Heritage Centers to work with developmentally disabled adults. Most people are unaware of how many times physically disabled consumers are physically, emotionally and sexually abused. But, because they work with those survivors, who are emotionally in that 10 - 12 year old range, if you are dealing with a 40 year old, a lot of the approaches are the same. They are hoping to contract with them to go to the developmental center to work with their consumers and staff on how to do this. They have been doing this with Heritage Centers for several years and producing some really terrific results. This is ground breaking. A number of their kids are cognitively challenged and they have increasingly got that. There is a hole in the services. There is an opportunity for Hopevale to move into that. They have been working with the DDSO ( Developmental Disability Service Organization) which is the local office of the Office of Mental Retardation Developmental Disability. They are looking at developing with the a level of care that would open to IRA's (Individual residential alternatives) on campus. The kids they serve are the kids who have been hurt. They are the victims.

Councilwoman Hochul questions if the boys they are looking to bring in would be victims.

Mark O'Brien responds that this has nothing to do with the boys program. He is talking about diversifying. They looked at their competencies and their mission and they looked at the things they wanted to do. This is not all driven by the dollars. The people who work in a place like this are in for a reason. The last thing they are looking at is developing community base services because there will be less placements. Not only the Erie County wrap-around, but the diversion programs from other Counties. They will do what they can to place less kids. So, care coordination is the wraparound program that they got. They are at 40 slots and one in wraparound does not equal one in foster care or one in residential financially. Wrap around wraps services around the child so that you can keep him there. Erie County just received a big grant for over 7 million dollars and it is called the family voices network. They are part of the planning process. This will have a major impact in the coming year.

Councilman Quatroche comments that there are a couple of different missions going on. Obviously those programs are thought to be better and if that is the way things are trending, is it possible that those programs will grow and places like Hopevale will not be the norm anymore.

Mr. O'Brien responds that with the wrap around movement they don't want the residential treatment to go away, they want it to look different. Erie County is saying that kids can be better served in the home. There is a need for RTC's but, with less placements and a 4-6 month stay. Whereas the average stay now is 10-11 months.

Rev. Bagley comments that there are people on their Board that say what the County is doing is

a nice idea, but they will come back to saying there is a need for residential treatment facilities. There is a core population of kids that just need what they have always been.

Councilman Quatroche comments that there have been some group homes that have de-institutionalized and never went back. None of them have a crystal ball but, they are trying to plug the hole of something that is going to happen as they move forward.

Mr. O'Brien comments that you have to evolve. Group homes are in worse shape than the residential treatment centers, they are closing. They looked around the State and there are only three facilities in New York State that are not co-ed. They looked around to the Counties and they told them they are used to working with co-eds. It is a very normalizing environment and they were surprised to find that it meant more to them that they were an all girl facility than it did to the Counties.

Rev. Bagley comments that they looked at them and said "this is the normal environment - what is the question".

Councilwoman Kesner responds that they have documentation that Commissioner Ruffino did not want boys on that site. There was an incident with boys on that site from PINS, and he was assured that this wouldn't happen.

Mr. O'Brien comments that Hopevale has always been forthright in all their dealings with the Town. His credibility means a lot to them and he knows the Board feels that they somehow renege on an agreement. He doesn't believe that is the case. They came to the Town in 2000 as part of the requirements for detention which required local Town approval. Detention is under different regulations than a residential treatment center. When they got together to talk about detention, it was about detention only.

Councilwoman Kesner responds it was for girls only.

Mr. O'Brien responds he understands that. Then explains that with detention the program is different and the kids that come to them are different as well. The kids that come for detention are kids that can be dropped off either by detention workers or Police. They can have very little information on them and it is a non-decline situation. They are an arm of the County in that case. They have to take them. For the residential treatment center, it is a treatment program, it is long term, they have already been adjudicated through the County, through the Court system and they come to them on a referral basis. They have psycho-social histories, often medical psychiatric histories and they have the ability to turn down kids. They can chose these kids. There are huge differences.

Councilwoman Hochul refers to a statement that he made in writing to Mr. Ruffino on Oct. 26, 2001 stating "As you know with our meetings with the Town of Hamburg we committed, we were not asked to expand our detention capabilities nor will we seek to serve males in a residential or detention program."

Councilwoman Kesner comments that the mission of Hopevale has always been the sisters to serve females. She was watching news and they were breaking ground in the City for a new house for unwed mothers. Those are the services they would support him to provide at Hopevale. Why aren't they going after that.

Mr. O'Brien comments that looked at that and that is home space and they are programs that are impossible to budget for and they are not running at full capacity.

Councilwoman Kesner comments that they are not questioning his ability to serve his clients, he does a wonderful job and she couldn't do what he does. But, they have to balance their obligation to the residents. She lived in that area and she knows of incidents that happened in her neighborhood with his clients. It is not a fear it is real concerns, real police issues. They had 180 calls a year, documented at the time they sat in 2000. He talked about a new security system at that time. The security measures that are operating now can't handle the case load on site. For them to bring males to the site will bring more issues. They have major, legitimate concerns about protecting the community around them.

Rev. Bagley comments on the Gateway Home in Amherst, he lived there 25 years ago with 25 nuns and not once in 21 years was there ever an incident.

Mr. O'Brien acknowledges the letter referred to. When they spoke to the Town, it was very

clear from his perspective, that it said their detention site would remain female and not expand beyond 12. He remembers an incident when boys came onto the campus because they were being transported to another facility.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that she also has a copy of a letter to Supervisor Hoak which copies the letter to Mr. Ruffino. She then quotes from that letter “They had no advanced knowledge that there would be boys or detainees from other facilities in the Erie County Vans entering Hopevale. They are committed not only to providing a quiet, safe environment for the young women in their care, but also to be good neighbors and prevent disruption to the good people in Hamburg”.

Mr. O’Brien comments that again, they had no screening on those kids. If you talk about safety on campus and he wants to publically state his appreciation for the Police, Emergency Medical Services and Big Tree Fire Co., but it has been reported that they have 220 calls a year. He reviewed the records and there are reports of 10 more kids who went AWOL than they have accounted for. There is also a record of a suicide and to his knowledge there has never been a suicide.

Councilman Quatroche comments regardless of statistics, there have been incidents and will continue to be incidents. They are not blind to that and accept that. In the letter to Mr. Ruffino he talks about safety with boys and the fact that this is the last resort. As far as being a Town Board member his responsibility is to that neighborhood. He is sympathetic to their financial concerns and would be willing to help with that, but, that is not the right reason to do this. It is in the wrong place for it and they will have to go back to the drawing board and find other creative ways to financially be solvent. They need to hire a professional fundraiser or find resources for what they do. They are good programs, he just doesn’t believe it is the right place for them.

Mr. O’Brien comments on a page in the packet entitled Police & Emergency Services Calls 2003-2004. There is an average of 220 calls and anytime you have a Police call for anything, it is a drain of resources.

Councilwoman Kesner comments that they were assured when they sat down in 2000 that it would go down. They averaged 180 calls at that point. They were putting in a new buzzer system and now they are averaging 220 calls. They are not doing better with the security.

Mr. O’Brien responds that the conversations in 2001 were for detention only. The buzzer system is a delay bar system in detention. That is not on the rest of the campus. They are talking about one building as opposed to seven on campus. In detention, they get very few AWOL’s. He then discusses the page from the packet concerning the calls.

Councilman Quatroche comments that they understand that these things happen and that the numbers are higher than they both would like. However, they are talking about adding a whole new dimension to the facility. He doesn’t have statistics of other facilities and problems that they do or do not have. He would also like to know their location.

Mr. O’Brien comments that they canvassed other facilities like theirs and there are statements in the packet that state that the boys are easier.

Councilman Quatroche states again, these are good programs but this is not the place.

Mr. O’Brien comments if they are simply talking finances, there is a straightforward threat in the near future. Part of it is market.

Councilman Cavalcoli comments that one of the issues that hasn’t been addressed are procedural issues. When you go back to approval for the housing there was no CO required because it was for the same use, it was clearly stated that it was just for girls, if it were to proceed in any other direction this would have to go through approval.

Mr. O’Brien comments that this is not a change of operation and in terms of business with the Town, they send information to the Town just to let them know. They do not have to have Town approval, or even input for this. For the detention, yes. As they talk about OMRDD facilities they will talk to them about that. There are positions he has not filled just to make sure they can continue to pay the bills.

Councilwoman Hochul asks the opinion of the Building Inspector as to what they have spoken about.

Kurt Allen, Supervising Building Inspector, comments that the numbers are important. In 2001 they were approved for under 12 residents in building six. So they treated it as a non-secure family group. Which is basically a home. If they exceed the number 12 it puts it into another occupancy classification.

Mr. O'Brien responds that it has nothing to do with building six.

Kurt Allen responds this would be anywhere on the premises, not exclusively building six.

Mr. O'Brien responds that the building six approval, at 12, and the rest of his site, which is certified for 108, are separate.

Mr. Allen comments that they are treating the Hopevale site as a facility, so it is not exclusive to a building.

Mr. O'Brien responds that the citing they came back with was for 12 beds, non-secure, which had nothing to do with the residential treatment center and they have not changed or increased their capacity from the 108.

Mr. Allen comments that currently in terms of housing for PINS or Jds how many beds do they have.

Mr. O'Brien responds they are two different programs. One is non-secured detention and one is a residential treatment center. In the non-secured detention they house 12. That will not change. They rent the property from the sisters, it is not on their property. In the packet he put in the difference between non-secured detention and residential treatment center. It is not the programs, but where the kids are in the process and their ability to make choices about these kids. He understands their concerns and he feels they are fair-minded people trying to do what is best for their constituents, on the other hand, he looked around for what he needs to do for his kids to keep them in treatment and do what Hopevale does very well, probably better than anyone around. He is concerned that they have incidents and any incident is one too many, but they are troubled kids and they try and bring in Town resources as little as possible. The reality is that for the most part, the times the Police are on campus, the surrounding neighbors have no knowledge of it unless they are running through that neighborhood.

Councilman Quatroche questions if Hopevale closes tomorrow what happens.

Mr. O'Brien responds that if Hopevale closes there will be about 300 people out of work, the kids would be sent around to other places.

Councilwoman Kesner questions the total number of kids in all the programs, is that 219.

Mr. O'Brien responds yes.

Councilwoman Kesner comments that Business First had it printed recently that the budget was \$10,000,000 for 219 kids. How can they be having financial difficulty.

Mr. O'Brien comments that if you look at the balance sheet, there is no big endowment. They receive \$113,000 in charity support, which they don't have access to. Their total budget includes all assets and liabilities. They receive \$168.00 per day per kid. That translates into about \$58,000 per year. They have had a whole cottage closed for over a year. He has cut every expense conceivable. Another thing is if they don't spend the money at the State rate they calculate it every year based on the last two years. Their rate is continuing to shrink, so what they are doing today to be fiscally prudent will come back to bite them tomorrow. They are losing about \$158,000 per month in revenue. They have looked around and what everyone is telling them is everyone is going co-ed. They took a lot of time with this and he understands that they are trying to do what is in everyone's best interest, so are they, and they believe in good faith that they are doing what is best.

Councilman Quatroche comments that he has been very up front, however, when they sat at the table and they specifically talked about males, he emphasized that this would be female only.

Mr. O'Brien comments that the County approached them to expand detention and he reminded them that they expressed their intentions to the Hamburg Town Board in 2000 and they had no intention of expanding detention or bringing boys into detention. Detention has not been a great thing from a business point to them.

Councilman Quatroche comments that the other portion is where the calls come from and that is where he wants to add the boys.

Mr. O'Brien comments that they are not going to do that and there has been no other approach.

Councilman Quatroche comments that times have changed and that is why he is coming to them with this, but, their position hasn't changed on the issue.

Councilman Cavalcoli comments that something they haven't talked about is that while they are facing financial difficulties, so is the Town. They are looking at cutting staff and services even in the Police Department and if they support a change that might have greater Police action, how are they going to support it. Our tax payers are crying because we are raising their taxes, as well as the County. They are facing similar situations. This is one more piece of the decision that they have to make.

Mr. O'Brien comments that when talking to a colleague that worked at Hopevale, Windomlawn and Gateway, he commented that he worked in all female and then he worked in co-ed and from his perspective the boys have a more normalizing effect on the environment. They expect that there will be no marked increase, they are hoping that there will be a decrease.

Councilwoman Hochul comments they already have that normalizing effect during the day, so if there is to be a benefit he is at that now. Having boys in the bedrooms at night or overnight is not good.

Mr. O'Brien comments they would not be in the same cottages. They will be co-mingling in certain situations, whether it is in certain therapeutic activities or social recreation activities.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that they are in school together now.

Mr. O'Brien agrees during school hours they are together.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that Hopevale is a tax-exempt property worth 2.2 million and if they were taxed they would be bringing a significant contribution to the community financially.

Rev. Bagley comments that since he has been on the Board he has watched the employees, who are not getting rich but have dedicated their lives to this. If Hopevale is not viable there will be a number of people, who are Hamburg residents, with a substantial amount of income who will be getting a thank you for all the years they have dedicated to Hopevale with a goodbye and good luck. The girls they are treating and kids who need help, the institution itself and the employees are the ones he feels responsible for. Besides everything they have talked about, there are a substantial amount of people who live in Hamburg who have dedicated 10 to 15 years.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that he has been on that Board for 13 years and she has been on this Board for 11, he feels responsible for his people and she feels responsible for the thousands of people who live next door. She doesn't have any assurances that they will control a large 17 year old boy who gets out of hand and goes into the neighborhood. Hamburg is a safe place, they pride themselves on that, they have a circumstance where they are not keeping these kids on the grounds and they are presenting a scenario where it can only look worse.

Rev. Bagley comments that for 21 years he lived in the safest Town in New York State, Amherst, with 25 fragile ladies all over 65 and never once had to worry about the boys from Gateway which was right next door. He has had the experience of living right next door to a co-ed facility, Gateway, and never once had his car broken into. That was his experience.

Councilwoman Kesner comments that her experience has been different. She had neighbors cars that were broken into. The bottom line is the Police calls have increased. She is not convinced that their security measures have improved.

Mr. O'Brien comments that the runaways have decreased substantially. They have changed their behavior modification system and they have changed the escort policy. When they go into the cottage at night they have to surrender their shoes and coats. They have made changes and he can show data that shows that the number of AWOL's has gone down. They consider anyone who steps off campus an AWOL. They have had increasing referrals because of this. From 2003 - 2004 they have had no kids missing and they are proud of that.

Councilwoman Kesner responds that they understand their mission of taking care of troubled females but, to change the mission, they have a responsibility to 2,000 homes surrounding that neighborhood.

Supervisor Hoak comments that he is speaking for the minority party of the Board. This is a passion for him. He has served on many Board's in his lifetime, from Brylin to Cazenovia Recovery Systems and it gets very frustrating when you deal with, whether it is a Town, Village or organization, to try to help people. The Township of Eden, City of Buffalo and South or North Buffalo do not have a good site in their community to house Hopevale. They do not except it, so unless they ship this outside the Western New York Region you won't find a Town to support this. History has shown that neighbors have made up stories about problems and then they find out what good neighbors they can be. In Eden they filled the Town Hall when they wanted to put alcoholics on Sandrock Road. They complained that they would do damage to the community. They came in anyway and within two years purchased the house next door. This time the community came out in support saying they had been an asset to the community, they painted the schools and shoveled the sidewalks. The problem he sees, that they are not addressing, is where in the Southtowns do they address problem boys. They have started interaction and cohabitation for people with problems on Legion Drive in South Buffalo. If you go for drug rehabilitation or alcohol rehabilitation the males are catered to. There is a need, and there are boys in the Hamburg community that are less fortunate than most. The Police calls that they have discussed amount to 25 calls or 2 per month, is this a burden on their Police Department. Does this increase if there are males on campus, he doesn't know. Is there a need for service, so they can turn into Judges or lawyers, like Hopevale has produced, can there be something done at Hopevale to help out boys or girls. If there are only three in the State with only females, why are they one of only three. Why are they declining and saying girls are fine and boys are not. He does not agree that they should only co-mingle during school hours. They should be allowed to mingle after hours, that is part of growing up, communication and learning to deal with people. He doesn't want to deny those troubled youths that opportunity. Hopevale did not have to come in. It seems that they can proceed with something in the short run. With or without Board approval. They wanted to be good neighbors and address the problems. In treatment, what happened in 2001 is far different than in 2004. The Police have been saying that we have a major drug problem in our Town. These people are the ones they are treating. He wants a solution to address these problems for boys and girls in the Southtowns. He certainly understands the concerns of the Town Board, but there is a need that he would like to pursue to help our youth. They want to keep this relationship going because they are going to be changing or maybe leaving. He doesn't think anyone in the room wants to see that happen.

Mr. O'Brien expresses his appreciation and respect for the Town Board and the Town and appreciates the time given to this and their concerns.

Councilman Quatroche thanks him for the work that they are doing, a lot of people aren't able to deal with what they do. They are a special group of people.

Mr. O'Brien comments that he is blessed to have the people working with and for him and the Board that he has. He can say in all seriousness, it is not a job, it is a passion and a mission. You feel it, live it and breathe it.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that he is expressing exactly the way she feels about representing the people of the Town of Hamburg, the same passion about their safety.

Councilwoman Kesner comments that, in closing, she would like to say that they have had their fair share of incidents with his facility and they understand society changes. They just opened a division for Domestic Violence, they had over 1,000 calls and they did something about it. They are not cold monsters. But, should all the problems of all the communities fall on our backs. Why aren't other communities opening up their doors to put up a facility for boys if there is such a lack of facilities. Why does Hamburg have to have it all on their back. For them to ask more is very difficult because they have an obligation to the residents.

Rec. Bagley complements everyone as well. He was the youth director for the Diocese for 25 years and they were the organization who sponsored and set up the YES program. He spent a ton of time making sure there was funding for that program. He knows Hamburg, West Seneca, Cheektowaga and Tonawanda and it has been his belief that the private sector and public and all the non-profits need to work together. Even when the conversations can't be smooth, easy and automatic. He will go back with a deeper understanding of the Town Boards concerns

Councilwoman Hocul responds that it isn't the NIMBY syndrome, our Town has more group homes per capita, they have supported Hopevale, they support Domestic Violence and they have taken on more of societies issues and hit them head on with our dollars and resources than any other community. This is not something they back away from and they are proud of that. She proposes that she would like to meet again in six months, if indeed boys do start coming to the facility over their objections, with the Chief of Police and look at reports and see if what he is projecting is true and there is indeed a decrease in criminal activity and Police calls. If there is an increase she would like to know how they can adapt for that.

Mr. O'Brien responds that he would support that, they are always about trying to improve what they are doing.

Rev. Bagley comments that he is the Chaplain for the Volunteer Fire Company in Eggertsville and they have a couple of group homes in various well to do neighborhoods and they get more false alarms at the group homes and that is part of being a Volunteer Firemen. They respond to that call the way you do for an accident.

Supervisor Hoak comments that in May or June they will call to schedule a meeting and in the meantime do whatever they can do pro-actively to improve the security situation.

Mr. O'Brien comments that he would like to meet soon to get any thoughts and ideas as they go forward.

Councilwoman Hochul comments that if the boys come to be and there are additional revenues associated with that, then they should divert some of those revenues to additional security measures and more personnel.

**X.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board adjourn to Executive Session with Legal.

Moved: Hoak

Seconded: Quatroche

Roll Call: Ayes: Hoak, Cavalcoli, Hochul, Kesner , Quatroche

Noes: None

Carried

---

Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk