

Village of Ellenville  
Board Meeting  
Monday, November 24, 2008

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mayor Kaplan, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to enter into executive session to discuss personal matters to reconvene to public session at 7:00 p.m.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan	Present
Deputy Mayor Raymond Younger	Present
Trustee Efrain Lopez	Present
Trustee Francisco Oliveras	Present
Trustee Patricia Steinhoff	Present

**ALSO PRESENT**

Philip Cataldi, Village Attorney  
Philip Matracion, Chief of Police  
Elliott Auerbach, Village Manager  
Brian Schug, Code Enforcement Officer  
Linda Polkoski, Village Treasurer  
Dan Hauspurg, Economic Development Officer  
Noreen Dechon, Village Clerk

**PRESENTATIONS**

Michael Sommer, Village Assessor, was asked to tonight's board meeting to discuss a few issues in reference to assessments. Mayor Kaplan's first topic was the Ellenville Scrap Iron property and the possibility of lower their assessment value to a minimum assessment and Mr. Sommer responded that there is a new property owner and he will be looking into the matter to see if the parcel in the Village was also sold.

Also discussed were tax exempt properties that are within the Village and for Mr. Sommer to do an analysis of these properties to see if they meet the two standards necessary to give them this status. If they do not meet the criteria, it was requested that Mr. Sommer place an assessment on the parcel and ask the County of Ulster to sell them at a property tax sale. In addition if these tax exempt properties are income producing parcels, do we adjust the assessment accordingly? Discussion ensued about the antenna

farm on the mountain and what does the Village need to do to make sure this property is assessed appropriately. It was requested that Attorney Cataldi draft legislation in reference to obtaining from the antenna companies income statements.

Mayor Kaplan urged Village residents to challenge their tax assessment when the Town of Wawarsing has their Grievance Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May. Village residents should insist that the Town of Wawarsing do a town-wide re-evaluation at their level. Mr. Sommer stated that the data collection for this re-evaluation would take approximately 1 ½ years for a total of approximately 6,100 parcel at a cost of \$80-\$100 per parcel.

**MOTION TO  
OFFER TO PAY PORTION  
OF BILL FOR VILLAGE PROPERTIES  
FOR TOWN-WIDE  
RE-EVALUATION  
#112708-1**

Motion by Trustee Oliveras, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to request the Town of Wawarsing conduct a town wide re-evaluation and the Village of Ellenville will offer to pay the portion of bill for Village properties.

All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
APPROVE MINUTES  
#112708-2**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Trustee Oliveras to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008 as presented.

All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**PLAQUE PRESENTED  
TO IRIS FRIEDMAN**

Mayor Kaplan on behalf of the Board of Trustees presented a plaque to Iris Friedman in appreciation for all her volunteerism in our community. Ms. Friedman, has been a member of the school board for many years, and is a key members of both the Farmer's Market and the Art Alliance. Ms. Friedman always makes sure that things get done when she is involved and the board thanked her for all her work and for making Ellenville a better place to live.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone –Mayor Kaplan discussed the continuance of the Village's commitment to the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone and the yearly contribution of \$5,500.00. There has been little participation on the part of property owners in the zone

and a letter requesting their input was sent and to date no one has expressed interest in taking advantage of the Empire Zone benefits. If the Village does not renew their obligation to the zone, the “grandfathered” business owners would not be jeopardized and the cost incurred would be \$500.00.

Dan Hauspurg, Economic Development Officer received a call from Ulster County Development Corporation with a one time offer that they would pay \$2,750 towards the annual fee.

**MOTION TO  
ADVISE KINGSTON/  
ULSTER EMPIRE ZONE  
#112708-3**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Trustee Oliveras to advise the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone that the Village of Ellenville will continue to pay \$500 for grandfathered properties but decline paying the \$5,000 for properties in the blog. All in favor - Aye - motion carried

Dissolution Committee – Keith Eighmey and Manual Torres were before the board tonight to read a brief statement of their Mission Statement and their consensus to change the name of this committee to Ellenville Government Study Committee. Mayor Kaplan thanked them for their time and applauds their efforts. Two members have resigned from this committee and Mr. Torres requested authorization to fill these vacancies.

**MOTION TO  
AUTHORIZE  
FILLING THE TWO  
VACANT POSITIONS  
ON THE COMMITTEE  
#112708-4**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to authorize the Ellenville Government Study Committee to fill the two vacant positions at their discretion. All in favor - Aye - motion carried

YMCA Contract – Sam Bugna, was before the board tonight to discuss the 2009 YMCA budget. The Village of Ellenville’s share would be \$90,000. Mayor Kaplan commented that the contract states that the maintenance of the “school pool” is the sole responsibility of the Village, but feels that since the summer recreation program uses this pool exclusively that it should be a 50/50 split with the Town of Wawarsing and requested Attorney Cataldi to look at this issue.

The \$90,000 for the Village's share of this contract represents a 10% reduction allows for 250 children in the summer recreation. Mrs. Bugna updated the board on the flag football program, tree lightning ceremony, the No School Today Program and a trip to Frost Valley for snow tubing.

**PETITIONERS &  
CORRESPONDENCE**

Joe Tso – Creamery Lane – request for rezoning and it was the consensus of the Village Board to forward this matter to the Planning Board for their review and recommendations.

Number of pets in a residence – Mayor Kaplan received a complaint from a resident whose neighbor has 6-7 dogs and requested Attorney Cataldi to research if other communities have legislation for limiting the number of dogs allowed in a residential home.

False Alarm Fees - Letters received from Stanley Rosenstock and Earl Thornton in reference to the fines charged for false alarms. There was discussion about reducing the amount of the fines and this matter will be discussed with Chief Mattracion at the next board meeting.

Chamber of Commerce – Holly Houghtaling requested permission to close Liberty Square on December 20, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for their Holiday Sing and the placing of a tree in front of the Hunt building. Mayor Kaplan commented on a letter recently received from the Chamber's president in reference to the Village's contribution to their organization.

**MOTION TO  
AUTHORIZE  
THE CLOSING OF  
LIBERTY SQUARE &  
THE STREET DEPARTMENT'S  
HELP FOR PLACING OF TREE  
#112708-6**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Deputy Mayor Younger to close Liberty Square from traffic on December 20, 2008 from the hours of 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and for the assistance of our Street Department in placing a tree at the Hunt Building  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
TABLE THE BELOW  
RESOLUTION  
#112708-7**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Oliveras to table the amending of motion #102708-08  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION APPROVING  
THE BASE AMOUNT OF  
SEASONAL WORKER  
#112708-7**

Motion by Trustee Oliveras, seconded by Deputy Mayor Younger to approve the base amount for a seasonal worker that has been in the employ of the Village of Ellenville for at least five years by .50 per hour.  
All in favor - Aye – 2; Nay – 3, Mayor Kaplan, Deputy Mayor Younger and Trustee Steinhoff  
Motion not carried

**MOTION TO  
APPROVE THE  
PUBLISHING THE  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO  
REQUEST A RELEASE OF  
FUNDS  
#112708-8**

Resolution by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to approve the publishing the Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds for program title: Micro-Enterprise Small Business Development Project.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
ESTABLISH A  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
WITH THE HUNT MEMORIAL  
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
#112708-9**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Deputy Mayor Younger to establish a workshop meeting with the Hunt Memorial Preservation Committee for the purposes of reviewing their Annual agreement on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT  
DEDICATION OF  
PUMP STATION AT ELLENRIDGE  
#112708-10**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Deputy Mayor Younger to accept dedication of the pump station at Ellenridge after inspection and approval the Village engineers.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
APPROVE THE  
EXPENDITURE UP  
TO \$600 FOR THE  
FIRE HYDRANT TESTING  
AT ELLENRIDGE  
#112708-11**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Deputy Mayor Younger to approve the expenditure up to \$600 for the fire hydrant testing at Ellenridge. Balances of fee to be paid by Ellenridge Homeowners Association.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
SET PUBLIC HEARING  
DATE FOR THE  
DEDICATION OF  
ROAD SURFACE AT  
ELLENRIDGE  
#112708-12**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Oliveras to set a public hearing date of December 8, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. in reference to the dedication of road surface at Ellenridge.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
SET PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR ZONING TABLE  
CHANGE  
#112708-13**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to schedule a public hearing in reference to a zoning table change for Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:15 p.m.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION TO  
SET PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR ZONING CHANGE  
#112708-14**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Younger, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to schedule a public hearing in reference to a zoning change for Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Used Auto Sales legislation- Attorney Cataldi stated that he had given the Planning Board and Dan Shuster proposed legislation and requested this matter is placed on the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to give them time to review.

Uniform Building Code – In reference to this matter, the Village of Ellenville had adopted a local law in 2007.

Cell Phone Policy – It was requested that Attorney Cataldi review this policy.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sewer fund review – Treasurer Polkoski reviewed with board members the difference between an operating budget versus a budgetary deficit.

Different issues discussed were the infiltration program and the purchase of a sewer camera. Mayor Kaplan spoke about a letter that he had sent to the school district, Town of Wawarsing and the County in reference to shared services for storage tanks for gasoline and heating oil.

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

D&H/O&W Heritage Trail project - Manager Auerbach told board members that he has discussed this issue with the State in reference to modifying the project and is still awaiting a letter from the school district in reference to a “right-of-way.”

Deputy Mayor Younger left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Energy Audit – given to board members and will discussed at the next meeting.

**BOARD REPORTS**

Mayor Kaplan requested that a letter be sent to the Northern Orange Yellow pages in reference to their recent distribution of

phone books. The distribution was done in a poor manner and if it done again this way, a fine will be imposed.

**MOTION FOR  
APPROVAL BY THE  
WATER COMMISSION  
FOR ANY WORK DONE  
ON PRIVATE PROPERTY  
#112708-15**

Motion by Trustee Steinhoff, seconded by Trustee Oliveras that any work done on private property to assist the replacement of water/sewer lines cannot be done without prior approval of the Water Commission and to include an administrative fee.

All in favor - Aye - motion carried

**MOTION FOR RECOMMENDED  
ENGINEERING PROJECTS  
OBTAIN A REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSAL  
#112708-16**

Motion by Trustee Oliveras, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff that any recommendations made by the Village of Ellenville's in house engineer are done by Request for Proposal.

All in favor - Aye - motion carried

Outside Contracts - Mayor Kaplan has a concern that there is not sufficient communication between the Manager and the Department Heads.

Comp Time – Mayor Kaplan wanted to reiterate that there is a board policy that there is no more comp accrued without board approval.

Trustee Oliveras spoke about the infiltration plant and the purchase of a sewer camera.

Mayor Kaplan wanted to thank publicly the Town of Wawarsing, Mr. Davis and their Highway Department for their help today with the asphalt for the salt shed.

Mayor Kaplan requested that the Manager schedule a meeting with Jim Reed to prepare for new snow removal program.

Mayor Kaplan also spoke about a break in the line by the Eastwood pump station and to look at the removal of the old Westwood Avenue storage tank. Mayor Kaplan spoke about the increase in fees in the building department with the permits and the possibility of a centralized dumpster in the parking areas on Canal/Center Streets.



Trustee Steinhoff commented that the audit committee met today with the Treasurer and spoke about questions on delinquent taxes.

Trustee Lopez questioned the status of the “old sweeper” and its need to be sold.

**MOTION TO DECLARE  
ELGIN SWEEPER AS SURPLUS  
PROPERTY  
#112708-17**

Motion by Trustee Lopez, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to declare the Elgin Sweeper as surplus.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

Trustee Oliveras requested a report from our investment firm in reference to the mountain money.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Trustee Oliveras, seconded by Trustee Steinhoff to Adjourn at 9:13 p.m.  
All in favor - Aye - motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Dechon  
Village Clerk