

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT HENRY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 4303 MAIN STREET
PORT HENRY, NY 12974

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Guerin, Trustees Curran, Davenport and Smyth, Village Clerk; Denise Daly, Acting Treasurer; Janelle Jurkiewicz, Deputy Superintendent of Water and Streets; Daniel (Digger) Laing and Port Henry Fire Chief; Jim Hughes.

ABSENT: Trustee Brassard.

ATTENDANCE: Jackie Viestenz, John Viestenz, Sandra Lovell, Margaret Parah, Louise Belden, Cathy St. Pierre, Town of Moriah Counsel woman; Lucy Carpenter, Ann Marie Adamowicz, Town of Moriah Supervisor; Tom Scozzafava, Tim Bryant and Ann Tesar.

Mayor Guerin called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 PM, led the salute to the flag and thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Guerin indicated that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to award the bid on the Rice Lane Project, discuss the next steps with regard to the dissolution process and review the draft zoning law.

The Laberge Group reviewed the bids for the Rice Lane project and provided the Board with their award recommendation. A motion was made by Trustee Curran, seconded by Trustee Smyth to adopt a resolution to award the Rice Lane Water and Sewer Line Replacement Project to Luck Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$527,527.00. Vote:

Aye: Mayor Guerin, Trustees Curran, Davenport and Smyth.

Nay: None.

Absent: Trustee Brassard.

By a vote of four to zero, the above listed resolution was duly adopted by the Village of Port Henry Board of Trustees on the 22nd day of August, 2016.

The August 16, 2016 Referendum on the Dissolution Plan resulted in favor of the electors of the Village of Port Henry accepting the plan by a vote of 208 to 188. In accordance with the Dissolution Plan the Village of Port Henry will dissolve on March 31, 2017. Mayor Guerin indicated that the Village will reach out to the Laberge Group with regard to the next steps in the dissolution process and transition period.

The Village Board was presented with the draft zoning law on May 18, 2016 for review. The Board was to discuss any suggested changes/deletions/additions to the draft law, and forward them to Ms. Stolzenburg for incorporation. Mayor Guerin indicated that Ms. Stolzenburg could not make the meeting this evening however he has set up a meeting with her, Bill Ball and himself on Friday August 26, 2016 at 12:30 pm to review changes to the draft zoning law. After the proposed law has been presented to the Board with the incorporated changes, the required public hearing may be scheduled and held prior to its adoption.

Public Comment Period: Sandra Lovell read a statement aloud as follows:

It is the second morning after the Tuesday 16th vote and I no longer feel the deep sadness I felt as I left the Port Henry Fire House voting venue Tuesday night. I no longer harbor that instant immature reaction of, "I'm just going to sell my house, get out and let them find out just how wrong they were!"

I am still Sandra Lovell. I still live where I have lived for over ten years and owned for over forty years. The homes of the village still trickle down its mountainside; the lake

still washes against the foot of this mountain. The train still announces the hours of the day and night, more or less on time. There will still be resident apathy. There will still be generation-old grudges which are believed to demand unquestioning allegiance of thought and action, whether harmless or harmful. All will be the same, but it isn't. It won't be!

What must I, Sandra Lovell do, to make myself, me, life-joyful again? I must not nurture anger or sadness like a demanding child; nor should I forget the "whys" I fought so hard to maintain this first level of government – the Village. I must however, turn my complete energy toward helping that which is inevitable become that which I can whole-heartedly love and enjoy as deeply as I have my Village of Port Henry.

Can I do this? Yes I can, but only because I believe there are at least 187 other people around me who will be supporting me in this effort.

Janelle Jurkiewicz addressed the Board with regard to her helping out as the acting Treasurer. The Board indicated that they hoped she was willing to stay on and help through the transition. Ms. Jurkiewicz agreed to do so and will set her own schedule based on the workload.

John Viestenz asked the Board if the large maps will be available to view during the meetings on the zoning law. Mayor Guerin indicated that they will be displayed for the meetings.

Town of Moriah Supervisor Tom Scozzafava informed the Board that he has been working with Clerk Daly and acting Treasurer Janelle Jurkiewicz, with regard to information he has requested from the Village in order to prepare his preliminary 2017 town budget by November 1st. Supervisor Scozzafava commented that it is imperative that we start the process of forming a fire district while the Village is still a municipal entity. Mayor Guerin indicated now that dissolution has been confirmed we will move forward with it.

Tim Bryant asked if a list of Village assets will be published and if all of the assets will be liquidated. Mayor Guerin indicated that yes, there will be a list of assets provided. The Laberge Group will be consulted to determine what assets may be liquidated.

Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that a plan to maintain snow/streets, etc. will need to be looked at as well. Mayor Guerin indicated that this will also be discussed in the meetings with the Laberge Group.

Ms. Jurkiewicz indicated that the fire engine will be paid off before the Village dissolves and the fire district is formed. There will be one piece of equipment with debt remaining on it at the time of dissolution and that debt will be shared town wide. There will also be debt remaining on the water and wastewater treatment plants. Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that if that debt is in the form of municipal bonds it can not be paid off early.

Supervisor Scozzafava commented that this is a time for healing and moving forward; we are all taxpayers and now need to focus on what is best for the community as a whole. Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that he guarantees that everyone will save money right off the bat, as a result of dissolution. Tim Bryant commented that he has no hard feelings however is looking at the matter from a business standpoint; when you move, you don't just leave your house, you sell it.

Ann Marie Adamowicz asked if the public will be permitted to submit questions for the dissolution meetings via e-mail. Mayor Guerin did not see why not, as this was done previously.

Mayor Guerin asked acting Treasurer Jurkiewicz if the Village could pay down the debt on the water or wastewater treatments plants. Ms. Jurkiewicz was not entirely sure however the debt scheduled for payoff in 2021 is through the USDA and that may be able to be paid down beforehand.

Supervisor Scozzafava commented that most of these questions are addressed in the Dissolution Plan. Tim Bryant indicated that not everything is addressed in the plan for instance; the front end loader is not included in the Dissolution Plan. Trustee Smyth commented that page 31 of the plan states that all equipment used to service former Village residents will be kept.

Chief Hughes indicated that the dissolution required the Village to apply for a \$50,000 grant and that to his knowledge \$42,000 of those funds have been used. In moving forward what will be used to pay for future meetings with the consultants and/or additional expenses incurred with regard to the process of dissolution? Mayor Guerin indicated that the Village and Town are both eligible to apply for an additional \$50,000 each, for the purpose of implementing dissolution; legal fees, formation of districts, etc.

Digger Laing addressed the Board with regard to the paving and sidewalk repairs that still need to be taken care of. Mr. Laing indicated that the DPW loses about a week every month due to garbage and recyclable pick up and they will not be able to pave after the middle of September. After that, water meters will need to be read for the November water and sewer billing. Mr. Laing asked when the Village would stop garbage and recyclable pick up as a result of dissolution. Mayor Guerin indicated that the general consensus at this time is that the garbage and recyclable pick up in the Village will cease at the end of the year.

Sandra Lovell asked how the Town bills for water and sewer. Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that residents are billed a flat fee of \$295 per year for water and commercial users are metered. Town residents are billed for sewer based on a point system. Town residents also have the option of paying their water and sewer bills in four installments. Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that Village residents will also be billed a flat rate upon dissolution, with the exception of commercial properties; which will be metered. A point system will be developed for the Village sewer rates and users.

Digger Laing informed the Board that he also has two fire hydrants in the Village that need to be repaired and he does not want to leave a laundry list of items for the Town upon dissolution. Supervisor Scozzafava indicated that Mr. Laing could call the Town Water Department, who will help with anything that he needs.

Supervisor Scozzafava asked Ms. Jurkiewicz what would happen to the Village revenues if the water meters are not read for the November billing and residents are billed a flat rate for water. Ms. Jurkiewicz indicated that she was not sure because there is a water rate increase scheduled and the billing system would have to be programmed for such. She assumed the Village would do the water and sewer billing in November 2016 then let the Town take over the future billings upon dissolution. Supervisor Scozzafava commented that we will need to get the Village in sync with the Town system.

Ms. Jurkiewicz indicated that some people are hesitating paying their Village property taxes this year due to the dissolution however the Village needs those funds to pay for expenses through March 31, 2017.

Supervisor Scozzafava commented that he has read through the draft zoning law for the Village and both he and Councilman Salerno support it. He will consult with the rest of the Town Board and indicated that the Town may look into zoning also.

Mayor Guerin called for further public comment; there was none.

A motion was made by Trustee Curran, seconded by Trustee Smyth, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:50 pm. Yes; Mayor Guerin, Trustees Curran, Davenport and Smyth. No; none. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNED

Denise C. Daly, Village Clerk