

NOVEMBER 1, 2012 – WORK SESSION

Minutes of a work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening November 1, 2012 at 7:55 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:       Supervisor       Mary Beth Murphy  
                  Councilman       Richard G. Clinchy  
                  Councilman       Frederick J. Morrissey  
                  Councilman       Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.

ABSENT:        Councilman       Richard A. Benedict

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor said that she would like to move the Planning and Engineering review and comment of the Bockhaus Wetland Application – 16.06-2-46 to the first item on the agenda. She explained that this was a referral from the Planning Board asking for a comment from the Town Board. She said that her review of the application showed that everything on the Bockhaus property was in the buffer. The Supervisor said that they would like to build an addition that would be in the buffer as was the entire property. The Supervisor said that she had no comment with regard to the application.

Councilman Clinchy asked if the Planning Board referred it to them to make comments. The Supervisor said that it was part of the Town Code that the applications be referred to the Town Board for comment. He said that he did not have any comments with regard to the application.

Councilman Garrity said that it was his understanding that the inground pool on the property was closer to the stream than the addition would be. He said that he had no objection to the application.

Councilman Morrissey said that he had no comment with regard to the application.

The Supervisor said that most of the residents were not seeing this meeting live because they did not have television, cable or electricity in their homes at that time. She said that she wanted to give an update of the status of things in Somers at that time for those who had a way to view the meeting. She said that as of Thursday November 1, 2012 at 8:00 PM she could assure that Somers Police, Fire, Highway, Parks and Recreation, Town Councilmen, Heritage Hills Society and Security, Emergency Preparedness Committee, County and State Representatives had all been working very diligently, around the clock, and collaboratively to provide resources, shelter and to get NYSEG moving on the restoration efforts. The Supervisor said that at that time there were 7,261 NYSEG customers in Somers still without power that was down from 8,300 customers as of yesterday, they were moving in the right direction. She said that that day they were notified of dates for major restoration, they were told that the majority of the Town could expect to be restored to power by midnight on Sunday, November 4, 2012 and the remainder restored by midnight Wednesday, November 7, 2012. She said that the shelter at Heritage Hills was still active; they had a terrific group of volunteers who were working there providing lunch and dinner to people. The Supervisor said that they found during the day the numbers of people using the shelter increase and there were some people who spent the nights. She said that the Salvation Army had been terrific as they were during the last storm event. She said that they provided food for all those who were in the shelter. The Supervisor said that they were also fortunate that day through the efforts of Reverend Key at Saint Luke's Church and Councilman Clinchy worked very hard to get up and running a Community Kitchen. She explained that there were going to be dinner meals served there between 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM through the duration of the storm event. She explained that this was a bring something for them to cook the next round of meal, it was a potluck situation. The Supervisor said that people were donating food of edible quality and it was being prepared by the Saint Luke's parishioners. She said that there was the ability to charge devices there, they will refrigerate any medication that needed to be and they were working to get WiFi service. She said that she believed that it was an Optimum Hotspot, anyone who had Optimum they could access it there. The Supervisor said that dry ice had been a problem, as everyone knew; they had been getting extremely limited quantities from NYSEG, not nearly enough. She said that they were getting 100 bags of dry ice at a time when there were

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8,000 residents without power and that had been an issue. She said that she had to thank Councilman Garrity for helping by making trips to Brewster to get the dry ice and Councilman Morrissey for his help in the EOC and working with the County as well as the other Councilmen. The Supervisor said that roads were difficult especially at night, there were still partial blockages on many of the roads, it was hard to see them at night, please slow down and realize that they were still driving in a hazardous situation. She urged the residents that if they did not have to be on the roads to stay off of them. She said that there was a list on the Town's website of roads that had blockages. The Supervisor said that Route 139 had been opened that evening and they had to thank a DOT crew from Region 7, Upstate New York, that came down to work the entire day on opening that road. She said that also on the website there was from the County Health Department, thanks to Councilman Morrissey, information with regard to generator, stove and chainsaw safety. She said that this was very important information and these items need to be used safely she urged all to go to the Town website to ensure that they were using the items safely. The Supervisor said that she was very happy to report that throughout the entire storm there had not been an injury or a fatality in Somers. She said that unfortunately their hearts went out to their neighboring community, North Salem. She said that what they were bearing was a very sorrowful tragedy at that time. The Supervisor said that the most important thing for all was to be safe and stay safe and that required patience and good judgment. She asked that the residents exercise both.

This being a work session the following action was taken:

The Supervisor said that she would like the authorization to prepay the Salvation Army a \$500.00 payment for meals. She explained that they had been delivering meals to the Town's shelter the last several days and they asked the Town for \$500.00. She said that she felt that amount was minimal compared to the services that they had been providing.

Thereupon motion of Councilman Clinchy, seconded by Councilman Morrissey, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize payment of \$500.00 to the Salvation Army for meals being served to the Somers residents during Hurricane Sandy.

Councilman Clinchy said that the Salvation Army did well by Somers throughout the year. He said that the Somers Salvation Army location was in Peekskill and they served meals during Thanksgiving to Somers residents in need at that location.

This being a work session there were no further actions taken.

Thereupon motion of Supervisor Murphy, seconded by Councilman Garrity the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Town Clerk