

REGULAR MEETING

TOWN HALL 46 COUNTY ROUTE 11

AUGUST 8, 2007

WEST MONROE, NY 13167

Present: Supervisor Gary Ross; Councilmember Michael Hickey, Kelley Davis
Deputy Clerk Louise Herbert
Town Justices DeMong and Inman
Patrick Duffy, Assessor
Oswego County Legislator Art Gearsbeck
10 people in the audience

Absent: Debra Macdougall and Tim McCarthy

Supervisor Ross lead those present in the pledge to the flag then moved to approve the bills as audited. Ms. Davis seconded the motion with unanimous approval of those board members present.

GENERAL FUND, abstract #8 vouchers #217 to #256 in the amount of \$13,828.81
HIGHWAY FUND, abstract #8 vouchers #204 to #217 in the amount of \$3,949.19
BIG BAY SEWER FUND, abstract #8 vouchers #69 to #76 in the amount of \$7,795.50

Supervisor Ross stated that he does not have the reconciliation report completed at this time therefore will have it ready for the next board meeting.

Ross Lacombe, 277 Co. Rt. 23A, explained that he looked up 8 assessments and was amazed at what he found. One was \$35,000 under assessed, some were at least \$25,000 high, and some were right on. Mr. Lacombe asked, what can be done to fix this problem. Supervisor Ross explained that there is a grievance process in place for anyone who feels they are assessed inappropriately. Mr. Ross also explained that the town board has been discussing going a reval, but has not made any decision on that. Mr. Duffy, assessor said that you have to understand that he assess everyone on the street as it should be. When property owners come in to grieve their assessment and the Board of Review lowers it or the property owner takes it one step further than the Board of Assessment Review and it is reduced, the assessor has no choice in the matter, he has to go with there decision. The law is what the law is, Mr. Duffy said.

Mr. Hendrix, Shaw Rd., asked when will the town be doing a complete revaluation and how does that take place? Mr. Ross explained that at this time he does not know the specifics, when it comes time to consider that our assessor, Mr. Duffy, will explain the process as well as the pros and cons of doing a reevaluation. Mr. Hendrix asked if it would be one person or a group. Mr. Ross said that it has been a long time since that has been done in the Town of West Monroe, so he really doesn't have the particulars however with budget time coming up the town board will be discussing this topic once again.

Bill Winks, 195 Pinnacle Rd. addressed the board explaining that the dust problem, caused by the trucks going in and out of the tire yard, is down sum what. However, Mr. Winks asked what is going to be done about the road? The trucks going in and out have torn the road up already, and there are several years yet to go before this clean up is done. Supervisor Ross explained that the Highway

Superintendent, along with himself, OGS, DEC, Delaney working on this problem. Mr. Hickey explained that even before this project began, he insisted that the agreement that the DEC would insure that the road be repaired when the project was complete. But, it was never put in writing. Mr. Gearsbeck added that he attended the meeting with DEC & engineers and they did agree to replace the road when they were done, but not in writing. Randy Shaw was at the meetings and is on top of this and is working with the DEC and Delaney to get this problem taken care of.

Donna Schrader, Camic Rd is concerned regarding 911 fire emergencies in the Big Bay area. One of the fires she herself called in and she stressed to the dispatcher that they are in the Brewerton Fire District. West Monroe fire trucks came down. Ms. Schrader expressed concern that perhaps the fire could have been caught quicker if Brewerton Fire Dept. was dispatched first. Ms. Davis explained that she doesn't think it is a 911 dispatch problem at all. In general, when there is a structure fire called in, all area departments are dispatched at the same time. You may see West Monroe arrive first because they got a crew before Brewerton did. Brewerton, like many fire departments in the area, are having problems getting day time crews to go to the fires during the day time and therefore everyone else is dispatched immediately after the home fire department.

Ms. Schrader then asked what is the law for burning in the Big Bay area. Supervisor Ross responded that there is no burning garage or construction debris anywhere in the Town of West Monroe, but it would be best to contact Mike Yerdon, Code Enforcement Officer. There are many piles of construction debris and junk in the Big Bay area and if Mr. Yerdon would go down there he would be able to see the problems.

Ms. Schrader asked how the junk on a neighbor's property affects a person's assessment. Mr. Ross asked Mr. Duffy, assessor, to explain the assessment procedure. Ms. Schrader expressed the opinion that if the town has a law that addresses this type of situation, that it should be enforced, people should not have to call to have a law enforced.

Norma Jean Howard asked if Mr. Duffy could come to a town board meeting to explain the assessment procedure etc. Mr. Ross said that he would not be allowed to discuss particular property examples but he would check with Mr. Duffy to see if he could put something together for a future meeting.

Mr. Ross distributed a copy of the Agreement with United Mobile Home regarding their assessment. This litigation has been discussed in executive session over the past months. Mr. Duffy has reviewed the agreement and found that the numbers are accurate and therefore Mr. Ross moved to approve and sign the agreement with United Mobile Homes of Buffalo as presented by the town attorney. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion with unanimous approval of those board members present.

Gary Ross moved to approve a public notice to be posted for accepting applications for Zoning Board of appeals members. Ms. Davis seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the motion.

Mr. Ross then explained that the Town of West Monroe needs to revisit the MASTER PLAN, as it needs to be updated. Therefore, Mr. Ross moved to advertise that the town is looking for interested residents to serve on this newly formed Master Plan committee. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, with unanimous approval of the board.

The town board then scheduled an audit of the Justice records for 2006 for Wednesday 8-22-07 immediately following the Special meeting.

Mr. Ross addressed the situation of replacing the court house. The Town of West Monroe has received \$50,000 from Jim Wright's office and \$12,500 from the insurance. Anticipating that a couple bans, which the town currently owes, will be paid off within the next year and therefore financing of the new building will not be a big burden on taxpayers. There are additional grants available and we should be aggressive in trying to obtain as much as we can. Mr. Gearsbeck asked if there is room in this building. There is not, Mr. Ross responded.

Mr. Hickey reported that the Youth program is over as of 8-9-07 and all went well, with about 100 children that were signed up.

Ms. Davis reported that the Emergency Plan for the Town of West Monroe is just about ready to be accepted. There is a hazard analysis that needs to be done before we can accept it but that will be completed by the end of this month. Therefore, she would like to make a motion that 9-12-07 to hold a public hearing at 7:30 to hear all comments on the Emergency Plan for the Town of West Monroe, which will be available in the town clerks' office. Mr. Ross seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

REPORTS:

- Town Clerks monthly report
- Code Enforcement
- Supervisor's report

CORRESPONDENCE:

- APW school district calendar and agenda for the upcoming school district
- Tug Hill Times
- Fort Brewerton/Oneida Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Judge Inmans' report from July (\$2,027.50) and June (\$2,532.80)
- Judge DeMong's report from July (\$3,495.)
- Copy of the Municipal Training at the ON Center in Syracuse
- Real Property Office that equalization rate is 3.65%
- Letter regarding MS-4 training, cost is approximately \$5,000, which will be addressed at the September board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM