

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sweden was held at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York, on Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

Town Board members present were Supervisor Robert Carges, Councilperson Rebecca Donohue, Councilperson Robert Muesebeck, Councilperson Donald Roberts, Jr., and Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook. Also present were Town Attorney Jim Bell, Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham, Building Inspector Walt Windus and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were Annie Crane, Jess Simboli, Josephine Matela, Marcella Stickles, Judy Waldock, Jackie Morris, Bill Andrews, Gary Skoog, Heather Packer, Jean Sauberan, Allan Gray, Thomas and Patricia Pawlaczyk, Linda Ketchum, John and Helen Maier, Village Mayor Margay Blackman, Lee Lee Muesebeck, John Keiser, Sri Ram Bakshi, Shirley Schuff, Helen Simpson, Kevin McCarthy, Henry and Shelley Earle, Karen Carges, John LaPierre, Christine Hunt, Bill Rowe, Doug Hickerson, Mark Kristansen, Village Trustee Carol Hannan, Thomas Mangan, Rhett King, Joan Hamlin, Barb Windus, Meaghan McDermott from the Democrat and Chronicle and Kristina Gabalski from the Suburban News. Others were present but did not sign in.

Supervisor Carges called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor Carges acknowledged the visitors and stated that he understood most were in attendance for concerns of the proposed Clinton Street tax exemption which is not on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Carges wanted to clarify to the visitors that the board has discussed the topic openly at several meetings and workshops since July 2013. He added that the members of the board has several legal concerns with the wording and interpretation of the proposed local law. The Town has very little “say” in the county exemptions such as COMIDA. Mr. Carges pointed out that four of our five board members reside in the Village.

Village Trustee Carol Hannan spoke in favor of the exemption noting that the Town has expended tax dollars on revitalizing/repairing historic structures in the past. She asked why the Town would not support the Village’s effort to revitalize a historic property in the Village.

Linda Ketchum spoke in favor of the exemption and informed the board that she has seen the developer’s project in Mt. Morris. She thanked the Greater Brockport Development Corporation for acting on this proposal. Ms. Ketchum feels that the exemption would help to revitalize the canal front area and benefit all the businesses on Clinton Street.

Gary Skoog spoke in favor of the exemption. As the past president of the Greater Brockport Development Corporation, Mr. Skoog was involved with the remediation of the property and the expenditure of funds to do so. He feels the exemption is a “win/win” situation and encourages the Town Board to revisit and approve the proposed exemption.

Heather Packer read a letter written by Pam Ketchum in favor of the exemption. Ms. Ketchum feels that by granting the exemption the revitalization of that area will provide jobs to construction contractors and increase sales tax revenues.

Annie Crane spoke in favor of the exemption and asked the Town Board to approve the exemption. She feels that the exemption makes good historic, business and civic sense.

Thomas Mangan spoke in favor of the exemption. The property, owned by the Greater Brockport Development Corporation, is currently tax exempt. Once the property is sold, it will go back on the tax rolls. Mr. Mangan pointed out the business exemptions that the town has granted in the past.

Doug Hickerson spoke in favor of the exemption and asked the board what their reasons were for not approving the exemption.

Helen Maier spoke in favor of the exemption and felt that by doing so it would benefit both the Village and the Town.

Kevin McCarthy spoke in favor of the exemption and is amazed that Bill Andrews and the Greater Brockport Development Corporation were able to get the developer interested in investing millions of dollars to revitalize the property. Mr. McCarthy also believes the exemption is a “win/win” situation for the Town and Village.

Marcella Stickles read a letter written by Phyllis Lista in favor of the exemption. Ms. Lista owned a business on Main Street and still has family connected to Brockport. She would like the Town to go forward and support the exemption.

Sri Ram Bakshi spoke in favor of the exemption. Mr. Bakshi didn't understand the Town's hesitations when the Village and School board have already approved the exemption.

Judy Waldock spoke in favor of the exemption and informed the board that she has researched the developer and spent the day in Mt. Morris enjoying the community and spending money.

Josephine Matela spoke in favor of the exemption and explained that the Clinton Street property is not a new project to the Village. They have worked very hard to preserve the building. The Greater Brockport Development Corporation found the developer and are impressed with his plans.

Jean Sauberan spoke in favor of the exemption and asked the board to put it on the agenda for discussion, to answer questions and make a decision.

Village Mayor Margay Blackman spoke in favor of the exemption and thanked the Town Board for hearing comments concerning the exemption. Ms. Blackman explained that the proposed exemption is a special kind of exemption and does not feel that it would be “open” to other businesses. She added that the Village administration wants to work with the Town and this project is one way to do that.

Richard Fenton spoke in favor of the exemption and asked the board what their next step is concerning the exemption after hearing all the comments presented at this meeting.

Mr. Carges said the board would take the comments received into consideration.

Village Trustee Bill Andrews thanked the board for listening to the comments.

No other comments.

Councilperson Windus-Cook read a statement received from resident Benton Hart. Mr. Hart is not in favor of the exemption. He feels that current tax paying residents invest a great deal of money to improve their property with no exemption and asked if the project could be completed without the exemption. Mr. Hart mentioned the efforts put forth by volunteers to revitalize a property on Fayette Street which was done without a special exemption.

Councilperson Windus-Cook read a prepared statement addressing why she is not in favor of the exemption. Ms. Windus-Cook recognized several individuals that “truly invest in the community” with their structural restorations, both residential and commercial. She stressed the importance of staying within the state's 2% tax cap and her duty as an elected official to maintain a responsible budget. Ms. Windus-Cook is unclear as to the developer's plans for the property – no specific information has been received by the board. She feels it is not in the best interest of the Town.

**Supervisor Carges called for a five (5) minute recess at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilperson Roberts made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Muesebeck to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 28, 2014. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence noted.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

January 2014 departmental reports were received and reviewed by the Town Board from the following departments: Building Department, Phyllis Brudz; Finance Director, Leisa Strabel; and Deputy Town Clerk, Kathy Roberts.

REPORTS

Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham reported the bulk of the departments' time is being spent on snow and ice control and truck maintenance. They also removed a tree from an area in Lakeview Cemetery and serviced the sewer pump station. Mr. Ingraham provided photos to the board detailing the restoration of the sign indicating the first town meeting which is posted at the intersection of Swamp Road and Route 19. Discussion of snow and ice control.

Town Attorney Jim Bell informed the board that foreclosure proceedings have begun on Sable Ridge (aka WSR, LLC or Spaziano Development). Discussion of the infrastructure already in place and releasing of funds.

Councilperson Muesebeck reported that he is helping to plan the car show in June for the Bicentennial celebration.

Councilperson Windus-Cook reported on the successful skating event held February 1st at the Town Park. She thanked all involved in the planning of the event. The next event scheduled is a presentation by Cynthia Howk to be held at the Senior Center on March 8th at 3 p.m.

Supervisor Carges reported that he met with the Brockport Bisons baseball club to discuss the agreement for the upcoming season.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 25 Appoint Heavy Equipment Operator – Yeager

WHEREAS, vacancies exist in the Town of Sweden Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, the vacancies were duly advertised and interviews held; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highways has recommended hiring Michael Yeager as Full Time Heavy Equipment Operator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby appoint Michael Yeager as Full Time Heavy Equipment Operator.
- Sec. 2. That the rate of pay will be \$18.50 per hour.
- Sec. 3. That the start date will be February 17, 2014.
- Sec. 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Windus-Cook
Seconded by Councilperson Donohue

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Donohue	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Muesebeck	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Roberts	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Windus-Cook	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Carges	<u>Aye</u>

Submitted – February 11, 2014

Adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 26

Appoint Laborer – LaMartina

WHEREAS, vacancies exist in the Town of Sweden Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, the vacancies were duly advertised and interviews held; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highways has recommended hiring Joseph LaMartina as full-time laborer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby appoint Joseph LaMartina as full-time laborer.
- Sec. 2. That the rate of pay will be \$18.50 per hour.
- Sec. 3. That the start date will be February 17, 2014.
- Sec. 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Roberts
Seconded by Councilperson Donohue

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Donohue	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Muesebeck	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Roberts	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Windus-Cook	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Carges	<u>Aye</u>

Submitted – February 11, 2014

Adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 27

SEQRA Determination – 2014 CDBG,
Owens Road Sidewalk Project

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden, Monroe County, New York, applied for a Community Development Block Grant for a project titled 2014 Owens Road Sidewalk Project; and

WHEREAS, to aid the Town Board in determining whether such Project and other actions of the Town in connection therewith (the “action”) may have a significant effect on the environment, the Board has caused to be prepared an environmental

assessment form or similar information (“EAF”), a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly reviewed the EAF and related documents with respect to the above-referenced action and duly considered the impacts which may be expected to result from such action with the criteria set forth in Article 8 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder (“SEQRA”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. Based upon the review by the Town Board of the EAF and other necessary criteria, the Board hereby finds that the object of the above-referenced action (a) will result in no major impacts and, therefore, is not one which “may have a significant effect on the environment,” (b) will not have a “significant effect on the environment,” and (c) no “environmental impact statement” need be prepared, as such quoted terms are used in SEQRA. The proposed Project does not constitute a “Type I Action” as such quoted term is defined in the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (6NYCRR Part 617, as amended). Reasons supporting this determination are set forth on the notice of negative declaration of the Board attached hereto and hereby made a part of this resolution for the purposes of SEQRA. This determination constitutes a negative declaration for purposes of SEQRA.

Sec. 2. A copy of this resolution, together with the notice of negative declaration, shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Town where the same shall be available for public inspection during business hours and such notice of negative declaration shall be filed in such offices, posted in such places and published in such newspapers as shall be necessary to conform to the requirements of SEQRA.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Roberts
Seconded by Councilperson Donohue

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Donohue	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Muesebeck	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Roberts	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Windus-Cook	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Carges	<u>Aye</u>

Submitted – February 11, 2014

Adopted

DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resident Barb Windus thanked the highway department for taking such good care of the roads especially during this hard winter season – residents notice a difference traveling from one town to another.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Muesebeck moved to adjourn the February 11, 2014 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 8:15 p.m. Councilperson Roberts seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk