

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, May 25, 2004.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilperson Rob Carges  
Councilperson Patricia Connors  
Councilperson Thomas Ferris  
Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook  
Supervisor Lester

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Finance Leisa Strabel  
Town Attorney James Bell  
Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine  
Town Clerk Janet Olivieri

Student visitors from Brockport High School Government and Technology Classes:

1. Jesse Cervini, 1167 Whittier Road
2. Nick Papaqelis, 396 Campbell Road
3. Alana Carr, 221 Willowbrooke Drive
4. Sarah Hull, 1340 Covell Road
5. Colleen Quinn, 49 Highview Circle
6. Katie Lester, 20 Timber Trail
7. Whitney Dupra, 3779 Lake Road
8. Tyler Kine, 284 Campbell Road
9. Mandy Datro, 391 Washington Street
10. Missy Perkins, 35 Cloverwood Drive
11. Stacie Coon, 11 Blossomdale Circle
12. Katie Phillips, 151 Ladue Road
13. Chris Mosher, 1517 Drake Road

Other Visitors:

1. Jim Hamlin, 50 Park Ave.
2. Lauren McCracken, 650 White Road
3. Lori Skoog, 6142 Lake Road S.
4. Charles Scott, 850 West Sweden Road
5. Ute Duncan, 23 Brook Terrace
6. Christine Hunt, 854 White Road
7. Dottie Scott, 850 West Sweden Road
8. Neva Mault, 411 White Road
9. Gary Mault, 8253 Redman Road
10. Dorothy Keable, 8 Carolin Drive
11. Mary Jo Nayman, 5 Carolin Drive
12. Frank Lapinski, 4016 Sweden Walker Road
13. Julie Lapinski, 4016 Sweden Walker Road
14. Alvin Anheier, 1291 W. Sweden Road
15. David Stettner, 46 Beadle Road

Supervisor Lester invited the public to address the Town Board regarding their reassessment notifications, concerns or questions. The following comments were heard:

- Ute Duncan, 23 Brook Terrace, distributed a memorandum to each Town Board member expressing her concerns regarding the reassessment process.
- Lauren McCracken, 650 White Road, stated that the assessment notices were not sent to property owners in a timely manner thereby giving them sufficient time to acquire the proper documentation for the Assessment Board of Review process. Mr. McCracken said that the comparable property information was not accessible.
- Gary Mault, 5743 Redman Road, stated that he understands that the town needs revenue and that the public is the backbone of the community. He said that the reassessment review process was not long enough because the property owners felt pressured and pushed to acquire their supporting documentation.

Councilperson Carges clarified to the public that the State requires a constant market rate on assessments and that the tax assessments do not determine the revenue for the town.

Supervisor Lester agreed that an explanatory cover letter should have accompanied the reassessment notices. However, the "Snapshot" did have an article written to the public and the Village of Brockport and Town of Clarkson officials were aware that the reassessment notices were being sent to property owners. Supervisor Lester stressed the point that the town reassessment notices have nothing to do with the Village of Brockport budget and assessments, as they pay their own assessor.

- Don Shetler, 423 W. Sweden Road, asked who hired the assessment firm and why some property assessments went up and some did not. Mr. Shetler agreed that comparable property information was not available to the public.

Supervisor Lester stated that the Town Board hires the assessment firm. He explained that approximately 3,000 reassessment notices were sent out and only 10% - 15% of the property owners had an objection.

- Dottie Scott, 850 W. Sweden Road, expressed her love for her approximate 100-acre property. She is concerned that with the rising assessment she will not be able to afford to pay town and school taxes and maintain her property. She is asking that the Town Board be responsible, through the control of tax increases, to help the taxpayers to maintain their properties. Mrs. Scott stated that reassessment notices did not allow for adequate preparation time, there was no research information available and total miscommunication between the town and the property owners. Mrs. Scott said that the town master plan states the need to preserve green space. She requested that the Town Board help the taxpayers so that the constituents who own areas of green space do not lose their properties to the spread of housing. Mrs. Scott asked if the Town would consider buying farmer's development rights.

Supervisor Lester stated that to control urban sprawl some taxpayers have deeded, by gift, their land to the town with restrictions that the property remains as green space. With the increase cost of operating government, the construction of new developments offset the increase in property taxes. To ask voters to float a bond to buy farmer's development rights would require public hearings and a new tax increase to voters. The Town is not ready to do this.

- Lori Skoog, 6142 Lake Road, questioned the reason for the tight time schedule for property owners to investigate their reassessment. She asked why the notices were postmarked with the last possible date. Mrs. Skoog was concerned about the inconsistencies between properties that she investigated and the lack of information that was available.

Councilperson Ferris encouraged property owners to take advantage of the grievance process if they were not satisfied with their new assessment. The committee is composed of real estate and assessment specialists.

Supervisor Lester stated that next year commercial properties will be reassessed.

- David Stettner, 46 Beadle Road, encouraged the Town Board to pay attention to the assessment firm they hire. Mr. Stettner was discouraged by the lack of information available and way the public was handled during the investigative process. He stated that the property owners felt belittled. Mr. Stettner requested that the town be more prepared before the next reassessment. Mr. Stettner told the Town Board that they were doing a "good job" overall.
- Christine Hunt, 854 White Road, stated that she found the reassessment process extremely frustrating and embarrassing. She said that the inability to find imperative information from the town to back her complaint was shameful and disrespectful.

Supervisor Lester stated that the Town Board does want the process to work better and reinforced that the Town Board does listen to the public's concerns.

The Brockport High School Technology class presented the final design update for the Sweden Town Park sign. Students described the material that will be used and the construction process. The Town Board requested that the acrylic sign be painted tan with dark green vinyl lettering and the word "Sweden" will be smaller font than the second row of words "Town Park". The estimated cost of the sign will be approximately \$2,000.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- On motion by Councilperson Carges seconded by Councilperson Windus-Cook the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 11, 2004. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

2004	Received From:	Comments:
1.*	Matthew S. Beeman 5/24	Resignation letter as Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Leader effective June 11, 2004.
2.*	Trevor N. Gage 5/19	Resignation letter from Sweden/Clarkson Community Center effective June 1, 2004.
3.	Muffy Meisenzahl, Office of Monroe County Emergency Preparedness 5/17	Copy of the March 2004 Revision of the county's "Hazardous Materials Response Plan"
4.	NYSDEC May 2004	Meeting Announcement – Public Availability Session – Cleanup Plan for Tributary #3 Storm Sewer Pipe – Seymour Public Library, June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 6 - 8:30 pm
5.	NYSDEC May 2004	Fact Sheet regarding 3M/Dynacolor Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site
6.	James McMahan, Director of NYS Public Security 5/17	Reimbursement for Public Security Costs Incurred During Orange Alert Period Dec. 21, 2003-Jan. 9, 2004
7.	Lynette Lemcke, Court Clerk	Request for Lynette Lemcke, Katie Corcoran and Theresa Weed to attend County Court Clerks annual summer conference June 4, 2004

\* Board has copies

In regard to correspondence #1:

- On motion by Councilperson Ferris seconded by Councilperson Connors the Board unanimously approved the resignation of Matthew S. Beeman, Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Leader effective June 11, 2004. Motion carried.

In regard to correspondence #2:

- On motion by Councilperson Carges seconded by Councilperson Connors the Board unanimously approved the resignation of Trevor N. Gage, Sweden/Clarkson Community Center Clerk PT, effective June 1, 2004. Motion carried.

In regard to correspondence #7:

- On motion by Councilperson Ferris seconded by Councilperson Connors the Board unanimously approved the request for Lynette Lemcke, Katie Corcoran, and Theresa

Weed to attend the Monroe County Court Clerks annual summer conference on June 4, 2004.

Since no written communication was submitted, the Board made the following motion:

- On motion by Councilperson Carges seconded by Councilperson Connors the Board unanimously approved the resignation of John Kiriazides, Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Assistant, effective May 14, 2004. Motion carried.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- Fred Perrine, Highway Superintendent reported that the excessive rain in the past week caused minor problems in the town. East Canal Road was closed due to flooding from Saturday night to Monday evening and some topsoil was washed away at the Town Park.

Mr. Perrine stated that the Highway Department has started to clear the land near Bethel Drive for the new road construction and that he will be filing an annual Federal Mandated Stormwater report to the DEC.

Mr. Perrine stated that the fence for the skate park and a flagpole, which is being donated by the Zastrow family for the Town Park, has been ordered. The flag pole will be dedicated on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BOARD REPORTS**

- Councilperson Carges reported that he attended a government conference in Mt. Morris on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Councilperson Connors stated that she reviewed candidate applications for the Recreation Director position and she will be attending a Comprehensive Plan meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> to review Chapter 6 goals.
- Councilperson Ferris reported that he will be meeting with the interview committee regarding the hiring of a new Recreation Director. A new director will be chosen within the next two weeks. He also attended a museum committee and a Historic Preservation board meeting.
- Councilperson Windus-Cook stated that she will be attending a Park meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Supervisor Lester reviewed meetings he attended in the last two weeks, which included the Council of Government, Workers Compensation, and Health Insurance. He also met with residents regarding reassessment notices and water and drainage issues.

Supervisor Lester reported that the State has approved the permit for the waterline to the Town Park.

Supervisor Lester stated that a retirement party for Scott Rightmyer, Village Treasurer, is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**

The Board members reviewed the invoice audit journal.

- On motion by Councilperson Carges seconded by Councilperson Ferris the Board unanimously agreed to authorize payment of the bills in Abstract 5 dated May 26, 2004.

General Fund: In the amount of \$98,053.35 as set forth in Abstract 5 dated May 26, 2004.

Highway Fund: In the amount of \$32,883.06 as set forth in Abstract 5 dated May 26, 2004.

Special District: In the amount of \$159,451.52 as set forth in Abstract 5 dated May 26, 2004.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilperson Carges seconded by Councilperson Ferris the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Olivieri  
Town Clerk