

MINUTES OF THE 447th MEETING
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building
Middlefield, NY

July 13, 2009
6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Jeff House at 6:04 pm.
2. Introductions were made and roll call taken.
- 2a. T. Bliss confirmed Mark Babilonia, Tom Clarke and Dave Parker have been reappointed to the board. The following members were recorded as present: Phil Durkin, Mark Babilonia, Flo Loomis, Jeff House, Tom Clarke and Dave Parker. Scott Fickbohm arrived at 6:30 pm. Betty Anne Schwerd was excused. Ron Streek was absent.

Also present were Terry Bliss and Karen Sullivan – staff.
Guests included: Jim Simpson, Butternuts.
3. Minutes of June 8, 2009. Upon a motion by T. Clarke seconded by P. Durkin, and unanimously approved (6-0 vote), the board adopted the minutes of June 8, 2009.
4. Report of Communications – none were received
- 5a. Report of Committees – none were received.
- 6.a Old Business - D. Parker asked the board to consider the future of Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie Authority, (MOSA) and the level of involvement this board and the department may be facing. There are many changes ahead that may or may not involve the planning board. T. Bliss reminded the board that the Planning Department absorbed the Solid Waste Department four years ago. J. House said it makes sense to keep the board informed of changes to MOSA.

J. House noted the agenda should reflect referrals after Report of Communications item 4. The board decided to continue as outlined but will note the change for the next month’s meeting agenda.
- 7a. New Business – T. Bliss stated that with the budget trimming the department has eliminated overtime spending which will prevent Psalm and Karen from participating at the meetings. If the meeting is changed to a day meeting, Jeff House has indicated he will not be able to continue as a member. Following further discussion, T. Bliss agreed to discuss the possibility of “Flex Time”, with the Intergovernmental Affairs committee at a meeting Tuesday July 13th, 2009. If we can institute flex time, we can leave the meeting time at 6 pm. Bliss will e-mail members following his meeting with IGA.
- 7b. S. Fickbohm spoke with County Representative Sam Dubben and James Powers to clarify the status of the formation of a sustainability committee. According to S. Fickbohm, J. Powers said the idea is not dead and there is still consideration of what the committee will represent.
- M. Babilonia referenced communication from Psalm Wyckoff dated May 29th in regards to the money available to update the County Farmland Protection plan. Upon a motion by M. Babilonia, seconded by S. Fickbohm the board approved to place the discussion on the August agenda. (7-0 vote)
8. K. Sullivan presented referral # 23-09-03 from the Village of Otego ZBA for an application by David Brower for a special use permit and site plan approval. Following discussion and concerns of permitting the special use permit without confirmation that the applicant has met all the NYS building code requirements the board, upon a motion by

M. Babilonia and seconded by P. Durkin, approved to postpone a decision until the August meeting at which time comments from the Village public hearing, held on June 30th, can be obtained. (Vote 7-0)

9. T. Bliss reported the department recently hired Jody Taylor from the Town of Maryland as the new Director of Weights and Measurements for the County. The Planning and Solid Waste Department now includes the Department of Weights and Measures.

The department continues to work on the County Housing Study; the inclusion of the last six municipalities into the County Hazardous Mitigation Plan; Telecommunications; Agricultural district reviews and enrollments; and the purchase of new buses for the transportation system.

T. Bliss mentioned he recently spoke with representatives from a wind energy company inquiring of the area's receptiveness to wind turbines. Apparently the company is interested in a small size wind farm in the County and has a few locations in mind.

The Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee is meeting the 23rd of this month and will be discussing the MOSA service agreement.

The department recently responded to questions from the local municipalities of Plainfield, Hartwick and Burlington in regards to specific land use questions.

Gas drilling has resurfaced at the county board level. There are many questions when discussing an acceptable method and protocol for the baseline testing of water. The department is working with Scott Fickbohm and the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to pull together professional resources to address concerns of water quality and gas drilling. S. Fickbohm updated the board on his department's efforts to consider the potential impact of gas drilling to the county's water resources. The SWCD will be doing its best to test for public water supplies and surface water/spill response, soil erosion and road improvements. Scott mentioned his department submitted a grant application to the Susquehanna River Basin to help do a watershed natural resource inventory and planning document.

10a. Upon a motion by P. Durkin, seconded by F. Loomis, and unanimously approved (7-0 vote) the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th 2009 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Sullivan, Sr. Planner

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