

MINUTES OF THE 429th MEETING
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building
Cooperstown, NY

November 1, 2007
6:00 P.M.

1. The regular meeting of the Otsego County Planning Board (the Board) opened at 6:04 pm in the Conference Room of the Meadows Office Building near Cooperstown. Chairman Ron Streek called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

a. Members present were Ron Streek, Tom Clarke, Joanna Ahern, Wendy Mitteager, Doug Ghode, Jeff House Mark Babilonia and Flo Loomis. Philip Durkin was excused.

Also present were Terry Bliss, and Karen Sullivan – staff.

Guest included Doug Czerkies, Director of Building Services, and Robert Augenstern from the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board (STERPDB) and members of the public. Highway Superintendent Ron Tiderencil was unable to attend.

3. Reading of the minutes.

a. The minutes of the October 4, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Mark Babilonia offered minor changes to the minutes to reflect an accurate description of his background. Upon a motion by Mark Babilonia, seconded by Wendy Mitteager, and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept with changes.

4. Report of Communications

a. T. Bliss mentioned that he received a letter October 31, 2007, from Chairman Donald Lindberg, officially appointing Mark Babilonia to the Board. The Board will cover this later in agenda item 6a.

b. T. Bliss, through telephone conversations with the Town of Hartwick, updated the board on current projects in the Town. According to T. Bliss, the Planning Board approved the Hampton Inn project with the recommendations from the County Planning Board. According to NYS DOT, any further expansion at this intersection would require a traffic light. Construction on the turning lane and traffic light started at the Dreams Park and the aquifer study is underway with the assistance of Oneonta State University and Alpha Geoscience consulting engineers.

5. Report of Committees

There were no standing committees to report.

6. Old Business

a. T. Bliss welcomed Mark Babilonia as the newly appointed member to the Board. Mark's term expires June 2009.

b. T. Bliss reminded the Board of the Energy Symposium in Ithaca November 17, 2007, from 9 am -5 pm. Karen and Psalm plan to attend. The department will cover the registration cost if anyone is interested in attending.

7. New Business

a. T. Bliss introduced Doug Czerkies, Director of Building Services. Doug discussed the county's policies on energy efficiency.

Comments by Doug included:

- The county is working with NYSERDA. They are in the feasibility stage for implementing energy

measures in the County Office Building and The Meadows. An audit on both buildings is complete.

- Payback estimates exceeded 100 years. They are now looking at upgrade as a comfort approach.
- Presently no cost to the county, but will be later with implementation.
- The county is looking at some major upgrades, which will depend on the available money.
- The county saved \$6-7000 on cost with the replacement of the roof at the Meadows by utilizing existing layers of foam and adding to it for an R-38 rating in the roof; R-22 in the walls. They are considering the same approach at the Annex Building.
- The new EOC building will have slab heating with a high efficiency propane boiler.
- Lights were upgraded 12-14 years ago. The department is looking to improve the efficiency of the current breaker system.

Questions from the Board included:

Q. Does the county have an approach toward the little things? R. Streek

A. Yes, lights, drinking fountains and possibly motion lights. D. Czerkies

Q. Who does the engineering on new projects? Is there anyone to oversee and encourage a “greener” Otsego county? J. House

A. It depends on the project. Laura Child and I handle the expenses. We are starting to chart usage for each building. D. Czerkies.

Q. Is there any thought to alternative energy? W. Mitteager

A. A percentage of our energy comes from wind power, but the capital is not there for us to implement projects. D. Czerkies.

Q. Is the county considering purchasing hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles? F. Loomis

A. The infrastructure of the county highway needs to upgrade in order to accommodate alternative vehicles on a large scale. Though these are great ideas, it is not happening here right now. (T.Bliss) The option of Bio-fuel exists, but we will have to spend more to save more. (W. Mitteager)

T. Bliss and the Board thanked Doug for attending the meeting and answering their questions.

7c. T. Bliss mentioned receipt of the Village of Otego, GML Section 239 waiver agreement. Upon a motion by W. Mitteager and seconded by J.Ahern, the board unanimously approved the waiver agreement.

7d. J. House updated the board on the status of the Bresee Building in the City of Oneonta.

Andrew Minnig mentioned the Cherry Valley Alternative Energy Committee is meeting on November 13, 2007.

7b. Robert Augenstern, Executive Director of the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board presented a power point presentation “Overview of Windmill Generation of Electricity”. General discussion followed.

8. There were no referrals to be reviewed.

9. Report from the County Planning Director

Terry Bliss reported on department activities with local municipalities. Psalm Wyckoff is attending the Springfield Planning Board meeting for discussion of a motorcycle track proposal. The department has been working on updating and modernizing zoning maps as a service to the towns. The final contract agreement for the public transportation system has been signed. The office is working with the IDA and a telecommunications committee for a proposed Shared Municipal Service Incentive Grant for the improvements and restructuring of our emergency service and broadband communications system in the county.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm.

The Board will meet on December 6, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the Meadows Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sullivan

November 2, 2007

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