

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 6, 2024

249 DUNCAN ROAD, UNION VALE, NEW YORK

UNION VALE TOWN HALL 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Steve Frazier

Town Council: Pat Cartalemi, Kevin Durland, Kevin McGivney, John Welsh

Highway Superintendent Ed Kading (Absent)

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Town Attorney: Attorney Jeff Battistoni (Absent)

Supervisor Frazier called the meeting to Order to Order and Salute to the Flag at 7:30PM

Motion Approve Minutes: Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the February 21st 2024 Meeting minutes which was seconded by Councilman Cartalemi and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisors Report

- Supervisor Frazier spoke about the rules of public comment due to the number of speakers. 3 minutes each and no shared time

Board Member Reports

Councilman Durland – reviewing the capital projects and the ongoing library projects

Councilman Welsh – reviewing budget and looking to see where money can be utilized for the larger projects mainly the salt shed due to losing the grant and the roofing project.

Councilman McGivney- keeping up with correspondence, he also reminded the residents about Day Light Savings time.

Councilman Cartalemi- stated Attorney Jim Nelson is working on the TC zoning updates and he will pass this along as he obtains the information to share with the Board

Town Clerk Report Clerk Casey reported shredding day has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th. Also, a German Shepherd puppy was found Monday, if anyone has information on the dog's owner please contact the Town Hall or Mutts Mansion, where the dog is being housed.

Tax Collector Report

Tax Collector Saglibene stated she had collected 81% as of February 29th. The vacant land donated by the Redel family was made fully exempt which means the warrant will be short \$306.00 and save the Town \$911.96 from school and property taxes. She advises there will be a 2% penalty will start March 1, 2024. The Union Vale Fire District, remainder of General Fund and the drainage district was paid out.

Public Comment Agenda Items

Jean Moore – Spoke about a prior survey and how the majority wanted library services, but not a physical library. She noted her issue with the hourly rate of \$220 for the employee tasked with setting up the library. She asks the Board to honor the desire of residents and join the MHLS again. Had issues using the UV library during the advertised hours. (full comments on file in the Town Clerk's Office)

Eileen Pucci-Hoofprint Road, would like to reiterate, again, she would like to support the town Board signing the MHLS Contract. She has had issues contacting the library director to obtain books, in person and through email. She feels there is no library after 5 years of talking about it and would like the contract to be signed for this to be resorted instantly.

Debbie Lee- Wisseman Road, lifelong library user strongly urges the Union Vale Town Board to reinstate the agreement, people want to use the library closest to them, they already exist and therefore, would not like to reinvent the wheel.

Sue Kilcrease-Darren Road, to her this night discussion isn't about building a library but supporting our neighboring library, she notes it has been 5 years since Union Vale has not, despite this it hasn't always been easy she urges the town board to sign the contract with MHLS.

Chuck Richwine, On the Green, does not think they should be supporting the mid-Hudson Library Association, they just are not being used, he noted his grandson's school (Elm Drive)

being suspended, he feels libraries are not what they should be, he notes they are community centers with books on the shelves, not libraries.

Tillman – Shaughnessy Road, she feels they do not need a library and it is too late, the cost is too high she feels they should contract with the Library system, she is old and tired of this and would like to just take out a book. She also inquired about when the library meetings if they are public.

Karen Reilley- Walsh Road, she notes those waiting with her this evening all spoke and agreed they would like library services in the form of contracting with mid-Hudson library systems.

Vicki Pittman-Bruzgul Road, thanks volunteer ambulance for saving her last year, she loves living here. She noted all the surrounding libraries and the necessity for reading as a former English teacher. She thinks paying libraries for their time and expertise is essential for society and feels we should pay for what we are using.

Corinna Kelley-W. Clove Mtn Road, she has been speaking about this for 10 years and noted her son was 10 when he couldn't check out a wii game, she noted that the last town board made history authorizing a library but feels the timeline is too long, she urges the town board to sign the contract as it protects the town of union vale, she urges this is not an either or it is an "and" to have until everything else is in place and begs the Board to do the right thing.

Mike Tucci, Bloomer Road, wants to go on record paying for library services though MHLS.

Leah Struzzi, Wingdale Mtn Road, lifelong resident and has children and grandchildren that grew up here. She is a supporter of the town signing the contract with mid-Hudson library system. She feels the town does not need the expense or liability of another library. She noted the other libraries provide more than enough for the Town and is very concerned about the ongoing costs of having our own Library in the Town.

Judy Spica, library is very important to her and would like the contact reinstated and does not feel we need our own library as it duplicates services.

Mike McPartland Verbank club Road, is on the Library Board of Trustees, has heard a lot of great comments, he likes the idea of having an interim solution while they await the approval of the Charter. He notes this is a function of the Town Board but feels the current agreement is not in the best interest of the Town. He would like to know the exact services that residents are lacking and noted the services that the current digital/ temp library structure they are offering.

Ivonne Chassagne, Bruzgul Road, wanted clarification on the numbers that were just stated if that is the case she supports mid Hudson system.

Kathy Dunham, Highview Road, uses Beekman library multiple times a week, she feels this is a political thing and not a necessary thing to have a Union Vale Library when there are libraries established. She supports signing a contract with Mid Hudson and would love to see the money spent on other useful items for the Town.

Mark Bendel (email Jordan Court) is in favor of signing the contact with mid Hudson and his family has benefited from the services they offer such a speech therapy, he has expressed concerns in the past to prior administration. He finds contacting the current library by email difficult to get a response. He has further concerns about costs and the children of the town suffering.

Jennifer Rubbo, Eddy Road, Email writes to support signing the contact with the Mid Hudson library system.

Karen Snare, Verbank, Email, wants to express her strong support with signing the contract with mid Hudson library System and restoring full library access.

Mary Jane Zukowski, Highview Road, Email, thanks the Supervisor for resuming the conversation with Mid Hudson Library System and feels this has been ignored too long and worries about the senior population suffering from this lacking.

File Cabinet for Building Dept

The one offered to be donated did not meet his needs. Supervisor Frazier provided 3 quotes.

Councilman Welsh noted this is important and needs to be purchased. The cost is \$1865.00 plus freight shipping estimated \$400 fee. The amount in the budget was \$1200.00.

Motion to Purchase Fire Proof Cabinet for Building Dept.

Councilman Welsh made a motion to purchase the least expensive file cabinet and provide it to the Code Enforcement Officer and move \$1,000 from fund balance to that budget line. This was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Roof Replacement

Supervisor Frazier received second quote from another TIPS member it was about 10% higher than the original quote. Supervisor Frazier feels it will save the Town money, time and guarantee a good contractor. Councilman Cartalemi would like to see the amounts in the quotes in order to decide, he stated his opinion from Council was that the number can be shared and disagreed that this number was confidential. Councilman Cartalemi wants on record that he requested these quotes and until he receives them he cannot make a proper decision on which way to proceed. Supervisor Frazier said he would share the amount once the Board decided if they wanted to proceed with the TIPS program or put it out to bid but did note the quote range is between \$900,000.00 – \$1,000,000.00.

Councilman Welsh prefers to go through the bid process as this is a project with great magnitude and feels this would allow the most competitive process.

Councilman McGivney noted the bid process would be more costly and add further time to the repair process.

There was further discussion on this issue about which projects are priority and the ARPA funds that need to be spent. Councilman Durland suggested the Board view each roof and everyone agreed the Board should do a walk through to determine and prioritize and evaluate the roofing issues.

Recycling Center

Councilman McGivney met with the employees and noted an item of request would be signage and information board as to what is acceptable in each receptacle. The shed door also is not designed for its current usage and needs to have a better set up for efficiency of heating and cooling. Another more expensive project is pouring a concrete slab under where the dumpster is located for better placement and positioning. Another item is a double hung window that would be utilized as a slide window so door is not needed to be opened as often.

Councilman Cartalemi agreed the bulletin board and re-labeling is a great idea to help the residents navigate. He also agrees the door and window need attention. He is concerned the concrete pad is not the correct material as this will be destroyed as a long-term issue, dirt and blacktop can be repaired quickly and cost effectively. He was reviewing the bills, he feels the Town could purchase a compactor and feels they are paying too much for recycling as it is above market value. Supervisor Frazier and Councilman Welsh noted the downside to purchasing our own then being responsible for the maintenance which is covered under the rental fees.

Mid-Hudson Library Services Contact

This contract expired on March 11 but was extended since there was not enough time to review. It is an annual membership fee of \$93,787.00 which is a substantial number but the resident feedback has been to renew in the interim. They also received a letter from MHLS that stated if the Union Vale Library cannot offer the same level of services they will not lift the restriction. Councilman Welsh pointed out that this is the same contract from 2 years ago but the price has increased \$20,000.00. He is concerned that this does not protect from actually lifting the restriction and still refers to Union Vale Residents as ‘non-preferential access’. Councilman Cartalemi echoed that stating Union Vale residents would be referred to as “non-resident borrowers” and read excerpts from the contract that noted verbiage “residents from their taxing district” still having preferred usage. Although they “may not impose restrictions” it still concerns him they would have the ability with payment. There was disagreement between the Board if this had delayed the chartering process. Councilman McGivney noted this has been an issue since he began his tenure on the Board. He knows the residents would like to have unrestricted service and was the only Board member, at the time, who voted against building a

Union Vale Library due to the ongoing cost, regardless of donation. Nothing has changed in 4 years other than a plan to build it and depending on the length of time, residents will be without access during that entire time. He is concerned the problem will not go away until the library is constructed. There was further discussion on this topic.

Supervisor Frazier made a motion to sign the contract with the Mid Hudson Library System. Councilman Cartalemi asked if the lawyer had reviewed it to which Supervisor Frazier said no, the lawyer has not been available.

Motion to Sign MHLS Contract

Supervisor Frazier made a motion to sign the contract and pay an annual fee of \$93,787.00 to Mid Hudson Library System to have unrestricted access which was seconded by Councilman McGivney.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cartalemi- Nay

Councilman Welsh- Nay

Supervisor Frazier- Aye

Councilman McGivney- Aye

Councilman Durland- Nay

The motion failed to pass with 3 Nays and 2 Ayes

Planning Board Alternate Motion

Councilman Welsh made a motion to appoint Chuck Richwine as the Planning Board Alternate which was seconded by Councilman Cartalemi and all were unanimously in favor.

Planning Board 2nd Alternate Motion

Supervisor Frazier made a motion to appoint Helen Schweitzer as the 2nd Planning Board Alternate which was seconded by Councilman McGivney.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cartalemi- Nay

Councilman Welsh- Aye

Supervisor Frazier- Aye

Councilman McGivney- Aye

Councilman Durland- Nay

The motion passed with 2 Nays and 3 Ayes

Board of Assessment Review

They have received 2 applications, 1 as late as today and the majority of the Board wanted to wait and interview the second candidate before deciding.

Motion to Appoint BOAR vacancy

Supervisor Frazier made a motion to appoint Amy Harrington to the BOAR vacancy which was seconded by Councilman McGivney.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cartalemi- Nay

Councilman Welsh- Nay

Supervisor Frazier- Aye

Councilman McGivney- Aye

Councilman Durland- Nay

Motion to Re-Appoint Library Trustee

Councilman Welsh made a motion to re-appoint Diane Capizzuto to the Library Trustees which was seconded by Councilman Cartalemi.

Roll Call:

Councilman Cartalemi- Aye

Councilman Welsh- Aye

Supervisor Frazier- Aye

Councilman McGivney- Aye

Councilman Durland- Aye

CAC Appointment

Councilman Cartalemi made a motion to appoint Liselotte Vince as Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council and Jean Pfeiffer as a member to fill the vacancy for a 2-year term. This was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Cell Tower

Supervisor Frazier noted he has been working on the progress of the cell tower. He has spoken to the State Senator and Assemblyman to get in front of the State Legislature to alienate the parkland. He noted this will be done in June 2024.

Public Comment on Town Issues

Kevin Harrington Chestnut Ridge Road – feels they have wasted time on the roofs. He noted the Town does not “have a library” as there is no charter. He noted the trustees and budget should be controlled by the public. He is awaiting a call from the Education Dept and the Regents. He hopes to have more information next meeting. He is concerned the Senior Citizens are displaced.

Leah Struzzieri, Wingdale Mtn Road, agreed the language of the contract is not ideal and is hoping there is language that can be negotiated. She hopes something can be negotiated in the interim and the Board works together based on the issues that were raised tonight by taxpayers.

There was further discussion from the Town Board on timing of the contract and meetings with the Mid Hudson Library system and Library Trustees and other Town issues.

Chuck Richwine – On the Green, urges the town board to be less siloed and work together. He also said going out to bid for that price is the right direction. He also feels the attorney should be involved in contract negotiations.

Betsy Maas, Clove Road, unfortunate there is a disagreement, going back to 2010 the town has been arguing with MHLS. She summarized the monetary requests, and spoke about the library steering committee and noted during the findings were not put into action as they were during a contract term. They have an ongoing and open offer to the existing libraries to give them their prices for our resident usage and this has not been accepted. She asks to support the library trustees.

Vicky Pittman, Bruzugul Road, noted that every single board member has good ideas and good points and knows that everyone is reasonable and really would like the board to work together. She noted that this is obviously an important issue and she asks the board to work together when speaking to MHLS, not as individuals for the benefit of the residents. Kaye Saglibene N. Parlman, thanked the Supervisor for what he has done this year and also asked the Board to work together since each tax dollars matters a great deal for residents.

Mike McParland, Library Trustee, agrees the plan to work together is very important, and also feels an interim solution may be a viable way to go. Although he feels this was early to accomplish all of this tonight. He pledges to the Town Board that he will sit and talk and work together. He also invites the public to meet with the trustees so that they can answer questions as there is a significant amount of misunderstanding. They want to be treated fairly and an equitable deal for everyone involved.

Approve Budget Adjustments, Transfers, Warrants, Pay Bills

Councilman Welsh made a motion to pay the bills and which was seconded by Councilman Cartalemi and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Adjourn At 9:07 PM Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Casey, Town Clerk