

# Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Supervisor Bruning,  
Held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at the Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Bruning

Councilmen: Kevin Smith, Scott Mickelson, Paul Schoonmaker  
and Mike Dean.

Also present: Highway Superintendent Dan Van Sadlers

The Town Clerk gave the Board members the agenda.

The minute book was signed prior to the opening of the meeting.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Public Hearing for proposed Local Law titled "Cold War Veterans Exemptions" called to order by Supervisor Bruning. Supervisor Bruning read the proposed law and gave an explanation and cost analysis for the law. Maximum taxpayer saving is \$41.50.

- Resident Peter Spottl asks if only the smaller of the two tax bills are effected. Response by Supervisor Bruning, yes only the Town's portion of the property tax bill is affected.
- Brief discussion follows.

The public hearing is closed by Supervisor Bruning at 7:09 p.m.

Reading of last months' minutes by Town Clerk Joy Ann Monforte.

Motion to adopt as read by Councilman Mike Dean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Scott Mickelson, All in favor. Motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.

Correspondence: by Bill Bruning

- ❖ Resolution #344 from the Ulster County Legislature regarding HAVA costs incurred by the tons. The Town of Denning charge back will be \$2,732.00 instead of the original \$4,301.00

Highway Report by Superintendent Van Sadlers

- FEMA job finished on the S curve on Sugarloaf Road.
- One week later a FEMA job was done shoring up Round Pond Road.
- Both job where done by Sheeley Excavating.
- 1 snow, 1 ice storm.
- Working on enclosing the highway breezeway, the door has been installed, the ceiling is started. The Board comments on a professional looking job that is being well done by Highway Employee Bob Houghtaling.
- Radio back up system put in and worked during the last storm.
- A meeting had been scheduled with Ulster County Soil and Water. It was postponed due to the last storm however it has not yet been rescheduled due to an inventory at the County level.
- Kerosene, diesel and gasoline will be delivered by Kosco. Fuel oil by Bottini.
- Discovered a problem with the sweeper while doing the Round Pond Road shore up. The wheel bearings are out on the front wheel. Brakes and brakes line had to be done.
- Resident Peter Spottl inquires as to the Town plowing of Barns Road; how far is it plowed and the pull off - who did that?

Response by Superintendent Van Saders, he plows Barns Road to the turn around and he plowed the pull offs as a courtesy for a hunter to be able to park off of the road.

- Mr. Spottl remarks Barns Road was never plowed in the past. He is appreciative that it is now.
- Continuing with his report Superintendent Van Saders informs the Board the plows have come back from Amthors and suggests a different brand in the future.
- Two FEMA jobs still open a small one regarding Sheeley Bridge, putting rip rap down and the Peekamoose Road Stream project by Paul Hnatiw's.
- Councilman Mike Dean asks what the base is on which the riprap was put on Round pond Road?
- Response ledge rock and soil. Brief discussion follows.
- Supervisor Bruning informs Superintendent Van Saders of a conversation with Robbie Totten in which he was informed that 2 windshields on the big trucks have been broken. Superintendent Van Saders remarks yes when the antennas hit them and that they will be repaired in the spring.

#### Code Enforcement – No Report

#### Refuse & Recycling Report by Bill Bruning

- Mr. Spottl asks if it is possible to have the hours extended?
- Response no by Supervisor Bruning because of costs. He asks if they have any time or day in mind?
- Mr. Spottl no but perhaps a container could be put inside the gate and people could just throw it over.
- Supervisor Bruning remarks it would be a mess.
- Mr. Leyh suppose a gate was put in with a long walkway to the back?
- Supervisor Bruning explains problems with that and the next question of garbage pick up. Informing them of the Board search for Sundown residents just to put a garbage truck there once a week for several hours cost \$25,000. 4 or 5 years ago.
- Open discussion follows.

#### Highway Equipment Report by Supervisor Bruning

- ❖ Informs the Board and Highway Superintendent that he has looked at the books and after he receives the year rend report from Cindy he believes the Town can replace the dump truck next year.
- ❖ Brief discussion follows; Superintendent Van Saders will look at the Kodiak truck at Robert Green.

#### Planning Board – Supervisor Bruning

- The Supervisor asks the Town Board what should be done with the proposed logging law? He states that he feels the Planning Board is owed a response.
- Discussion follows, including the rescinding of the current law and the possibility of keeping the notification part of the law as a procedure.
- Supervisor Bruning asks about a bond?
- Councilman Mike Dean does not see a problem.
- Supervisor Bruning will send a letter to the Planning Board.

Roll Call Vote for Local Law Number 1 of 2008 of the Town of Denning, County of Ulster which is as follows:

A Local Law to Provide For An Exemption From Real Property Taxes For Real Property Owned By Veterans Who Rendered Military Service To The United States During The "Cold War."

BE IT ENACTED, by the Town of Denning Town Board, as follows:

SECTION 1) FINDINGS. Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes a limited exemption from real property taxes for residential real property owned by veterans who rendered service to the United States during the "Cold War."

Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes municipalities to establish maximum exemption amounts.

In regard to "Cold War" veterans who own residential property within Ulster County, it is the desire of the Town of Denning Town Board to authorize the "Cold War" veterans' exemption and establish maximum amounts.

SECTION 2) INTENT. In accordance with the provisions of Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, residential real property owned by veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the "Cold War" shall be exempt from a portion of Town Taxes.

SECTION 3) EXEMPTIONS. The maximum exemptions allowable from the Town of Denning real property taxation pursuant to Section 458-b of Real Property Tax Law shall be 10% of the property's assessment, not to exceed \$8,000.00 multiplied by the latest final state equalization rate for service during the "Cold War" and a percentage of the property's assessment equal to one-half of any service connected disability rating not to exceed \$40,000.00 multiplied by the latest final state equalization rate.

SECTION 4) EFFECTIVE DATE. This Local Law shall be effective on the date of filing with the Secretary of State.

Local Law No. 1 of 2008 titled "Cold War Exemptions" is approved and adopted following a roll call vote:

Supervisor Bill Bruning	AYE
Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	AYE
Councilman Scott Michelson	AYE
Councilman Mike Dean	AYE
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE

All in favor. Vote is unanimous 5 to 0.

Supervisor Comments:

- To Superintendent Van Sadlers asking for an estimate of salt and sand costs until the end of the year. Next week I will be given the report from Bookkeeper Cindy Mickelson. I will do budget amendments however I need your estimate.
- General fund taxes are going to decrease by 35% for next year.

Board Comments:

- Councilman Paul Schoonmaker remarks that the highway department is putting the money from Senator Bonacic to good use at he barn and it looks professionally done.

Public Comments:

- Resident Pete Spottl remarks he has been here for 40 years and this is his first board meeting he has two questions. He has questions on the equalization rate.
- Supervisor Bruning responds you are not taxed on the market value but on the portion of the value based on the equalization rate, we have no control over county, fire or school taxes. The Town of Denning pays over \$30,000 per student.
- Discussion follows.
- Discussion the opened on tax exempt properties. Supervisor Bruning the Y donates \$102,000 per year that is the reason for the decrease in general fund taxes.
- Pete Spottl inquires if the Town has had any problems with conservatories?
- Response by Supervisor Bruning no.
- Pete Spottl second question is on eyesores in town and how it devaluates properties. Junk cars and debris all over, buildings collapsing.
- Super Bruning informs him that we have a code enforcement officer and an unsafe building law. It is awfully hard to regulate people's yards. Continues with the Town is slowly but surely trying to cleanup. We are aware if it and are working on it.
- Resident Jackie Totten inquires about the generator at the highway barn, stating that a few months ago you said there was a problem with the wiring.
- Supervisor Bruning tells her the Town could use the generator there if it needed to. IT would need to be plugged in a different outlet.
- Jackie Totten asks if it would be considered for next years grant money.
- Response yes.
- Mrs. Totten inquires if the bond would be increasable if there was a danger to the Town infra structure - such as a bridge.
- Supervisor Bruning responds yes he would want it open-ended.

Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. by Councilman Scott Mickelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Paul Schoonmaker, All in favor. Motion carried by 5 to 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Ann Monforte, Town Clerk