

- average daily flow - 31,000 gallons
- 2 spare pumps and the blower, approved for repair last month, should be back at the end of the month

Maintenance - reported by Anthony Cidras

- UV lights ordered and 2 were installed - 2 more will be installed in the spring;
- Dales Bridge Pavilion is done and the paths will be graded next;
- finished the wall at the Town Hall;
- cracked floor of the Activity Building was sealed;
- the lake was open for skating from 1/21 - 2/12;
- estimates being gathered for the pump replacement in the ball field;
- 2 faucets were replaced in the Activity Building;
- bid package being prepared for the Dales Bridge grading project

In response to a question about closing the lake to skaters, Anthony reported the lake had been closed since thawing had occurred around the edges of the pond, making it unsafe for skaters. If temperatures refreeze the area, the pond will be reopened for skating. Councilman Craig said the town should make skating information more available.

Police Department - reported by Roger Rekow

- 170.5 hours of patrol time were logged

Economic Development - reported by Corinne Curry

- Points of View opened January 31 - February 28 and had good attendance;
- thanks to Joel Craig, all volunteers and businesses who contributed, with a special thanks to Valerie and Hal Einhorn for lending their space for this project. The Einhorn's want to put the space back on the market so February will be the last month at that location.
- Flamenco Dance demo lecture on Saturday, February 21st
- Councilman Smith added his congratulations for those involved in Art Space and indicated, in addition to finding another locale for future use, he would like to involve Art Space in the Henry Hudson and Palatine anniversary celebrations.
- Councilman Craig added that Art Space is a concept, not a place, and may turn out to be a movable feast that goes from place to place in the town.

Emergency Preparedness - reported by Joel Craig

Councilman Craig said that following the ice storm some folks started looking at the Plan for possible updates. He got together with some experienced people in this field and asked Tim Otty to start laying the groundwork and network with other organizations in town to update the plan for the future. He asked Mr. Otty to report on the progress to date.

Mr. Otty said he was honored by the amount of experienced folks who shared their knowledge, and he was also able to get together with some organizations. He reported:

- in order to qualify for Red Cross/FEMA money the shelter needs to be in compliance;
- meetings on February 10th and March 10th with the Reformed Church to see about using as a shelter;
- he will be meeting with the Fire Commissioners to see about accessing showers in the Fire House;
- American Legion and Fire House Ladies Auxiliary are on board for meal preparation;
- VFW is interested in providing people as well as meal assistance;
- Shelter Within is a program that provides shelter in residents' own home and will be looked into.

Mr. Otty indicated there will be a needs list which will include ID cards and generators, and that the town board will have to determine what the town is prepared to offer and what level of support they can provide for townsfolk in an emergency. A Memo of Agreement between the Town and the Reformed Church, Ladies Auxiliary, etc. is required as part of the process to implement the plan.

Councilwoman Snyder thanked Mr. Otty for all the time he has given to this and that the residents appreciate it as well.

Supervisor Brown said he really appreciates Mr. Otty's work on this.

Re-Zoning Committee - Reported by Joel Craig

- kick-off meeting held on February 9th at which a lot was discussed;
- committee was very impressed by the consultants; they have a good feel of the town and what the town wants to do;
- February 20th Mr. Craig will be riding the entire town with one of the consultants and comparing current land use to the current zoning map and looking for anomalies
- March 9th at 6:00pm will be the next meeting;
- a public form will be scheduled, hopefully the end of April, to talk about the process, what the committee is doing and why, and to get the public's initial reactions and input;
- plans are to include county representatives at the meeting; the issues don't stop at the town borders and the town should be in sync with county coordinators to see what direction they're headed with in southern Columbia County.

Historic Anniversary Committee - Councilman Smith reported that there is a meeting on Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30.

Old Business

Motion to approve the Waste Water Treatment Plant fee increase, as discussed at the public hearing, was made by Councilman Craig with a second from Councilman Smith.
Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Motion to appoint Stephen Reynolds Planning Board Chairman for 2009 was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.
Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Smith: Aye

New Business

Supervisor Brown said he has an Environmental Impact Statement for Sewer Plant maintenance. This short form he prepared will have attached to it photos of areas they're looking to repair. This will help clear the way for the possibility of stimulus money. Mr. Brown, Councilman Craig and Mr. Sharpe met with the town engineer on February 6th to review the engineering report given to the town on the sewer plant. A cost estimate and timetable is being created by the engineer. Part of the process is a negative declaration filling out the short environmental assessment form on the routine maintenance being done. This is for repairs to the plant.

Motion to approve the negative declaration for repairs at the sewer plant made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.
Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Smith: Aye

Motion to pass Local Law 1 and Local Law 2 of 2009 setting the new rate for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemptions and Disabled and Low Income Real Property Tax Exemptions made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.
Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye

Councilman Smith said it's important to make public the information that you may be entitled to a property tax exemption if your income is less than \$35,400.

Councilwoman Snyder received a notice from the Garden Club asking for assistance with some projects they would like to do for the town. They are requesting the board provide some labor and money for perennials and annuals and doing some work at the rock ledge by the lake. Mrs. Snyder said the ideas are good but she'd like to defer any decisions until next months meeting in order to get some cost estimates.

Supervisor Brown said the board needs to ratify the emergency purchase of the new used truck for the Maintenance Department. Money had been put in the budget for this expenditure, but someone backed into the truck and rendered the driver door useless and it's not safe to drive so that speeds up the timeframe to purchase the truck. Mr. Brown has done some research and has documentation indicating that most trucks he looked at were in the \$14,000-\$15,000 range. He found a dealer in Glens Falls and was able to negotiate the price of a 2005 4WD Ford with extended cab pickup truck to \$10,000, which was the amount allocated in the budget. Councilman Craig confirmed with Supervisor Brown that the current truck would be put out to bid.

Motion to ratify the emergency purchase of a 2005 Ford pick-up truck to replace the current one used by the Maintenance Department was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye

Councilman Smith asked for a clearer definition of the purpose of the Oversight Committees, in which 2 council members meet on a regular basis with Department heads, and there appears to be an unequal distribution among council members. Supervisor Brown said the idea of the system is to have more input which will help in recommendations to the board and make for better decisions for the town. Some council members have more than one committee and that if anyone feels they have too much responsibility in this area to let him know and he will shift things around to better accommodate everyone's schedule.

Highway Superintendent Jennings indicated this system is working for him as more seems to get done and Councilman Craig said it's leading to a better understanding of what's going on in each department and helps in decision-making.

Councilwoman Snyder said that she and Councilman Smith are on the Parks and Recreation Committee and there has been much discussion about raising fees in the park. A letter has been drafted to send out to organizations requesting a meeting to discuss what fees the town should be charging, in order to bring recommendations back to the board.

Councilman Craig mentioned that he and Councilwoman Snyder attended a forum on manufacturing at Columbia-Greene Community College, at which 6 state assemblymen and a number of local officials met with manufacturing companies to discuss issues they feel need to be addressed in order to bring business to the county. One of the statistics brought to Mr. Craig's attention is that in the next 10 years, Columbia County will lose 10,000 people, most of them young families, which will have a devastating effect on the county.

Councilwoman Snyder said she was struck by the fact that another issue is companies not being able to receive more power into the region and that Taconic Farms has also been trying to get more power. The start-up fees they would charge up-front is cost prohibitive to businesses trying to get off the ground.

Supervisor Brown indicated there is a meeting with National Grid next week regarding storm damage and he will discuss bringing additional power to Taconic Farms with them, as he has brought the issue up before.

Supervisor's Reports

- Consolidated Assessment Report will be coming in shortly and Supervisor Brown will get copies to board members and post it on the town website for residents to review;
- 2009 Youth Block Grant - currently there is \$30,000 in Youth Bureau budget cuts and \$34,000 in summer recreation program cuts for Columbia County municipalities that have summer programs. \$1,043 is what Germantown will be losing due to these cuts. There is talk by the county committee to move money into the Detention Prevention program from the monies left from the Park and Youth Program and Mr. Brown will keep everyone apprised of how that proceeds.

Councilwoman Snyder read a letter she had received from Senator Saland in response to one she wrote him about restoring money to the state Youth Block Program. She encourages residents to write letters to their congressmen and senators to restore funding to this program. Supervisor Brown indicated that letters went out from the town board as well requesting funding be restored.

Supervisor Brown mentioned the Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group (HVMPG) which is a cooperative and purchases items at a cheaper rate, and would like the board to entertain a motion to have him advocate to the Board of Supervisors that the county join this group. This does not preclude purchase of items at the State rate but indicates another way to save money.

Councilman Smith indicated that purchasing done this way would preclude local vendors and businesses from getting any of the town's business and that benefits is crucial to keeping them in business. Supervisor Brown said this doesn't affect local vendors and Councilman Craig said local businesses can take part in this as well and it may be easier than trying to get on the approved vendor list for the State.

Councilman Craig said he could get more information on this together for the board members and Councilman Smith indicated he would like to postpone any motions until he can review the information and learn more about it.

Supervisor Brown said that sewer bills were sent out in January and in the current economic times some folks have sent in reduction requests. He will forward the requests to the oversight committee for their recommendation on how to proceed with these reduction requests.

The next town board meeting will be March 16th at 7:00pm

Open to Public

Kay Abraham confirmed with Supervisor Brown the environmental impact statement short form will be used to make repairs and some upgrades to the sewer system, not to expand the plant.

Councilwoman Snyder cited the council members and the Oversight Committees they are on:

Public Works and Highway: Joel Craig & Joan Snyder

Buildings and Facilities: Graceann Lamberta & Roy Brown

Zoning, Legal, Police and Emergency Preparedness: Joel Craig & Graceann Lamberta

Parks and Recreation: Joan Snyder & Jerry Smith

Town Planning and History: Jerry Smith & Roy Brown

Budget and salary: Roy Brown & Joan Snyder

Martin Overrington thanked the Highway department again for their road clean up, confirmed the amount of the fee increase in the sewer department and that the Re-Zoning Committee meetings are open to the public. He also confirmed the 18% increase in taxes with Supervisor Brown and that this was after cutting four part-time positions and reducing almost every line item in the budget.

Mr. Overrington asked about the reasons behind the increase in the sewer and if the system could be extended to include more households. Councilman Smith said the engineer's report didn't include any costs but there is concern about what those numbers will be.

Supervisor Brown said he and Mr. Overrington still have to connect on the sidewalk project but there have been some changes in consultant staff and he will be in touch with him as things progress.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,