

January 19, 2010

The regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on January 19, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Thomas with members present:

Councilman Dale Aldrich

Councilman Stanley Ross

Councilman William Liebl

Councilman Harry Paul Gill

Absent: Attorney James Cooper

A motion was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to accept the December 15, 2009 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich to accept the December 29, 2009 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

January 2, 2010 minutes:

Discussion: Councilman Liebl questioned the change of the February 23, 2010 meeting. He knows this has been already approved but his question is why are we changing it because it's going to be four board members here. Supervisor Thomas stated he will be at the Association of Towns in NY City. Councilman Liebl stated you will be but your Assistant Supervisor is going to be here. Supervisor Thomas stated yes, Councilman Liebl stated four board members.

Supervisor Thomas stated this isn't anything new, we've been doing it for years.

Councilman Liebl stated we only done it, we use to do it when there was not enough board members left here, but what he is saying is he believes we made a mistake by changing that from a regular town board meeting because above there it says hold the Town Board meeting every third Tuesday of each month at 7:00. Supervisor Thomas stated ok. Councilman Liebl stated auditing of bills at 6:30 with the exception of February. Now yes if there was three board members going to NY you don't have enough to have a town board meeting then we use to change it. Supervisor Thomas stated ok so what's the problem with this, people have plenty of notice. Councilman Liebl asked if we sent notices out, we put it in the paper that it was going to be changed? Supervisor Thomas stated we haven't in the past but we certainly can. Councilman Liebl stated what he is saying is there is no need to change the Town Board meeting. Supervisor Thomas stated maybe he would like to be at the Town Board meeting.

Councilman Liebl stated then don't go to NY. Supervisor Thomas stated that's not possible either. Councilman Liebl stated what he is saying is there is no need for him to be here when you have four board members here and you can have a town board meeting even if you have three board members you can have the town board meeting.

Supervisor Thomas stated he is correct but right now we need to approve the minutes and asked if there were any addition or correction, do we want to change this resolution or what do we want to do. It's up to the board.

Councilman Ross stated he doesn't care when we have it, it doesn't matter to him.

Councilman Liebl stated he would say this, this year being that we approved these minutes already go with it. Supervisor Thomas stated we haven't approved the minutes we did pass the resolution.

Councilman Liebl stated we passed the resolution but thinks next year we should watch for this and if there is going to be three board members home here especially the Deputy Supervisor is going to be here why do we change the board meeting. So he thinks next year we should watch for that. He wanted to bring it up, there is no need to change it this year. Supervisor Thomas stated we have been doing it for since he's been on the board, 16 years. Councilman Liebl stated we've done it before. Supervisor Thomas stated now all of a sudden it seems to be a problem. Councilman Liebl stated no, we've done it other years, there had been at least three board members went to NY.

Supervisor Thomas stated he would question that one too. Councilman Liebl stated the year Beaver, (Councilman Aldrich) went three of them went the year before that.

Supervisor Thomas stated that was what four years ago. Councilman Aldrich answered uh-huh and stated this was all drawn up prior to back in January and a lot of people haven't made up there mind whether they are or not going until after the fact. So this kind of covers the regular board meeting and this is the way we've been doing it.

A motion was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to accept the January 2, 2010 minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.

035-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$13,350.35. Roll call vote, all in favor.

036-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Liebl seconded by Councilman Gill to pay the Highway Fund bills in the amount of \$44,738.75. Roll call vote, all in favor.

037-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Gill to pay the Fire Fund bill in the amount of \$2,151.21. Roll call vote, Councilman Aldrich-Yes, Councilman Ross-Abstained, Councilman Liebl-Yes, Councilman Gill-Yes, Supervisor Thomas-Yes.

Supervisor Thomas stated in all three abstracts are the worker's compensation bills for this year and they are 50% reduced from what they would have been. The county decided to take half of worker's compensation this year out of the Reserve Fund that they have. It's just for this year that is one reason it doesn't show up in the budget as being lower because if you lower it for this year you are going to spend it and going to have to raise it back up again and he didn't think that was a good thing to be doing. He will say that the workers compensation did increase by about \$4900.00.

Town Clerk Report:

Dog license	<u>\$3.83</u>
Total Town Revenues to Supervisor	3.83
County Treasurer	<u>1.17</u>
Total disbursed	\$5.00

Correspondence:

Stony Creek Free Library- permission to use the town hall February 27, 2010 for a Book and Bake Sale.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich authorizing the Stony Creek Free Library use of the town hall on February 27, 2010 to hold their Book and Bake Sale. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

Jill Diamond, President of the Stony Creek Free Library and Wayne Williams, UW Marx Construction Company updated the town board and residents on the conversion of the church into the town library.

Mrs. Diamond stated that they have been working on primarily time light of events were handed to the Supervisor and the board members. She stated since the last time she was here the biggest thing that's happened is they have moved from the broad picture of what they would like to do with the church space as far as transforming it into a library space. They have done a lot of homework on what condition the building is in and so forth. At this point they want to move from what kind of a conceptual idea of what they would like to do with it to getting some professional and help them out with design and construction documents. Request for proposals were sent out and they received 11 proposals. The Board and Buildings Committee sifted through the proposals establish some criteria of what they really wanted to see in architectural and engineering firms of what they could offer to the project. Argus Preservation is very well respected for their preservation work. That is part of what they felt leant them to the project they want them to do at the church. With that information in place they thought it would be great to get them in the building, walking through the building measuring, crawling through every knick and cranky. They were in the bell tower they had them in every spot that they could possibly be in and picked it over with a fine tooth comb and they hired them to give them an existing conditions report. What they wanted to know was what condition the building is in. They have the expertise. Their constructional engineer was there they had their MEP person. They had two or three different people from the architectural firm including the principal architect herself. They wanted to know what their professional thought of the building was. Mrs. Diamond reported not to long ago they received the existing conditions report back and it was good news, the building is generally in very good condition. They wanted to know if the building is structurally sound, is it a building that's been well taken care of what are the issues if there are any. The report shows that it is really in very good condition beyond that is a fine specimen of the architecturally period of it's time. They were very impressed. The principal architect knows so much about different architectural periods. She knew different parts of the building by looking at it and could tell them about the history of the building. At the same time they had been working on getting the property listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Mr. Williams was crucial in helping get that done and they were notified in December that the building was approved by the Review Board to go on the State Register of Historic Places, which is really awesome for the town with the wonderful recognition to have a building in town that is being recognized for being a Historic Building.

Part of what happens now is once it's on the State Register it automatically gets nominated for the National Register and Mr. Williams received a letter about a week ago that the process is in motion so now it goes on to the review board for the National Register of Historic Places. So what that means for us as a town is that it is great recognition of something to be proud of but also for the project, what it means for them is that it opens up some more funding resources because now there is, once you are on the Register the building becomes eligible for Preservation Funding.

They having been working with the State Office of Historic Parks and Recreation they have been working with them all along so they have a very good relationship with them and they know what they want to do with the building. Mrs. Diamond stated that it has been exciting to get the property listed. What they have been working on since then is grant writing. Eve Wenger who is a Grant Writer in her professional life, that is her personal life that is what she does for her job and she has been helping them with the grant writing. Mrs. Diamond stated she has been working quite a bit on grant writing herself. They have about 20 letters out to private foundations, some small some large that they are waiting to hear back on. They are working on a \$30,000.00 to the NYS Council of the Arts for a grant that is exactly what they want to do, which is to take a building of cultural importance and switch it's usage to a different culturally significant usage. They are taking the former church building and turning it into library space. If they were granted that money it would help to fund the architectural engineering fees they need in order to access some of the pots of money down the road when they would get to construction. For example the State Library Construction Grant money they have to have construction documents in place from architectural engineering firm and that really is the next huddle, we need to get money to help with those fees. That is where they are.

Wayne Williams stated it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Library Board of Trustees. He can't add much to what Jill said already the thing he has done is try to help them, guide them through this project. It has been a long haul they are going down the best path. Everybody knows that funding is drying up but again getting the State Historic Preservation part of this gives them another avenue to follow and chase grant money down. There is money out there it's just a matter of shaking the right tree.

Councilman Liebl asked about the stained glass windows. Mrs. Diamond stated the answer to your questions in full honesty is that the plans aren't set in stone yet. But, the current thought is that and the State Historic Preservation Office, the board and Mr. Williams talked about is that the stained glass windows would stay. Councilman Liebl stated that some of those stained glass windows were donated. Mrs. Diamond stated the names are on them. Councilman Liebl stated that they could be placed and preserved between double paned windows. Mrs. Diamond stated the intention is to keep them there.

Councilman Liebl asked about the bell in the tower. Mr. Williams stated the bell still sounds and beside the pull rope there is a hammer. It has a great tone to it.

Councilman Liebl asked about the kitchen downstairs. Mrs. Diamond stated it is likely the kitchen would not stay a kitchen. It's likely this would become tutoring space or storage space of some sort. There are a lot of possibilities and again that all depends on what the architectural engineer firms would say to them, what is the best usage of that space.

Councilman Ross asked other than an old building what was some of the qualifications they had to meet to get on the List of Historical. Mr. Williams stated it is mostly the architectural building. Mrs. Diamond stated if anyone wanted to, you could go to the SHPO website NYS Historical Preservation Office and find the nominations for December. You can see the actual application pages. It doesn't say Stony Creek Methodist Church it says Methodist Episcopal Church. They had to give it its official name.

Councilman Liebl asked what is going to happen to the existing library. Mrs. Diamond stated that is still up in the air she can't answer that. Councilman Liebl stated what he would be interested in, you are going to move the kitchen out of the church if you could put it into that building and make that building into a Senior Citizens building. Mrs. Diamond stated they will keep that in their mind. At this point they couldn't make a decision they are finishing their feasibility study and if the money doesn't roll this way we can't go forward which would be an unfortunate thing because there is not any room to expand on the present library property right now. To answer Councilman Liebl's question they don't know and won't know until they come up with. Councilman Liebl stated he is just putting the seed out there. Mr. Williams stated that this is an excellent idea. Mrs. Diamond stated they need all the good ideas they can get. Supervisor Thomas thanked Mrs. Diamond and Mr. Williams for coming and giving an update and would like to specially thank Mrs. Diamond and the Library Trustees for taking on this project. When the church closed it just sat there and the library stepped up took a hold of it and decided to move forward with it, it has taken a lot of work and time and still a lot of work and time yet and he would like to personally thank them for their efforts. Councilman Ross stated he hopes the funding goes through because it is going to be a nice asset. Mrs. Diamond thanked them for their support.

#### Cemetery:

Supervisor Thomas stated he had a request to bury someone in the Vanauken Cemetery. He did tell them that it was a town cemetery however the town really hasn't controlled it in years. Supervisor Thomas gave a copy of the Rules and Regulations for the Glassbrook Cemetery to review and look over and he thinks this is something the town should address he isn't sure how much room is available however the cemetery does belong to the town and the town should take control over it. Councilman Ross stated that Harold mows it, Supervisor Thomas stated yes Harold mows it. Councilman Ross stated then we maintain it. Supervisor Thomas stated we maintain it anyways. Councilman Ross stated then how do we control it, do you mean by burial plots? Supervisor Thomas stated right. As far as who is being buried and how to bury it. Councilman Ross stated yes, he thought it was full. Supervisor Thomas stated he isn't sure it might be. He can't say for sure. John Thomas asked if there were any plot plans now to show who is buried in there now. Supervisor Thomas stated he doesn't believe so. Councilman Ross stated there may be a list of people but not where they are buried. Mr. Thomas stated he talked to Art Brewer and sometimes they would have their own list about cemeteries. The Town Clerk stated Cindy Cameron, Town Historian has information of the cemeteries, Councilman Ross stated he thinks the Historical Society put it out.

Supervisor Thomas stated or Mr. and Mrs. Haskell did. Supervisor Thomas stated he put this in front of the Board to get their thoughts about it. People have been buried there by funeral directors and just by family. He doesn't know if there was ever a fee charge, and doesn't know if they would want to charge a fee. There is 10 pages of rules for the Glassbrook Cemetery. If we want to adopt the same kind of rules, less rules or if you want to try to expand it. These are questions in his mind that need to be answered before someone else comes along and asks to be buried there or else say that's it. Councilman Aldrich stated he has been there but really don't know if there is room for more. There are 18 cemeteries in town and asked if we should declare them inactive or something like that and declare Glassbrook Cemetery as the primary. Supervisor Thomas stated that is an option. Supervisor Thomas stated the other cemeteries aren't actually owned by the town they were family cemeteries and after 14 years according to State Law the town has to maintain these cemeteries. They still belong to whomever. Councilman Aldrich stated there is a lot of gray area here, with all the cemeteries there are then all of a sudden we start selling lots here and there and beyond.

Councilman Liebl stated there is a cemetery in Bakertown, where they call Bakertown Clearing. There use to be a community there years ago. Supervisor Thomas stated if we can find it we will take care of it.

The Town Board will review the rules and regulations to see if additions or deletion should be made.

Councilman Liebl stated he see the power company is changing these poles up through here and he is not sure but he thinks he has seen markers on the Glassbrook Road. They were suppose to take the line out of where it goes across the town's cemetery, they are suppose to move that out to the highway along the road. Along the same line he stated he is officially moving to 39 Glassbrook Road, He is moving into Gene Lambs residence.

#### Committee reports:

Supervisor Thomas stated if you recall we applied for a grant from the Federal Government for the trails at the Historical and ESF Property and we were turned down. After that the county included that project in their First Heritage Corridor plans. The Planning Department applied for another grant to the Department of State and this trail project was part of that application and he was notified last week that is project along with Luzerne and Chestertown was awarded funding. He really doesn't know the particulars to the grant. He doesn't know if it's an 80/20 match or 50/50 match or what they put in the grant as to what we were going to do, until he finds out we'll see. When he does he will be sure to share it with the board, on the surface it sounds like a pretty good thing.

Supervisor Thomas stated he also talked with Mr. Quinn who represents the ESF College Foundation and he assured him that we would have a signed agreement in March.

#### New Business:

Supervisor Thomas stated the Comptroller put out last August a new reporting of requirements for elected and appointed officials in the past elected and appointed officials that belong to the retirement system or participated in the retirement system had to keep a calendar for one month as to their activities and what they worked to justify there time spent to the retirement system.

Now back in August the Comptrollers Office has changed it now from one month according to three. It pertains to anyone that belongs to the retirement systems that doesn't punch a time clock. So anybody that is appointed or elected, if you don't belong to the retirement system you don't have to worry about it. If you do you have to do this within the first 150 days of either being elected at the start of your term or being appointed. You have to keep a three-month record of your activities and the town has established the minimum workweek for various folks. You have to keep the logs for three months then turn it in to the Town Clerk, the Town Board reviews them or makes sure that everyone has done a log, we pass a resolution the Clerk certifies the resolution it's posted either on the website or on the bulletin board for 30 days and a copy of the resolution is sent to the Comptroller's Office. Once you do this if your elected to your term you do it for this three months then you can re-certify this same calendar for eight years. If you don't do this and you don't do your minimum hours they won't credit your retirement. This all came about because some Attorney's in the lower part of the State were basically participating in their retirement system not working, gaining a pension and doing nothing to gain it.

A special meeting will be held on February 9 at 6:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to hold Settlement Day and review the Investment and Procurement Policies.

038-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit A9030.8 Social Security in the amount of \$3300.00.

Credit A9035.8 Medicare in the amount of \$3300.00.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

039-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Liebl seconded by Councilman Aldrich authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit DA9030.8 Social Security in the amount of \$5000.00.

Credit DA9035.8 Medicare in the amount of \$5000.00.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

040-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit A9010.8 State Retirement in the amount of \$5716.03.

Credit Prepaid Expense in the amount of \$5716.03.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

041-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Liebl seconded by Councilman Aldrich authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit DA 9010.8 State Retirement in the amount of \$8940.45

Credit DA Prepaid Expenses in the amount of \$8940.45.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

042-10. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Liebl authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit Appropriated Fund Balance in the amount of \$66709.31.

Credit A6410.4 Occupancy Tax in the amount of \$66709.31.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Supervisor Thomas reported the Census Bureau has jobs and will pay \$13.00 an hour 50¢ per mile and 4 days of training.

From the floor:

Mrs. Diamond reported the website for SHPPPO is NYS Historic Preservation Office.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington  
Town Clerk