

**OCTOBER 24, 2011**  
**ONTARIO TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A regular meeting of the Ontario Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Kelsch at 7:00 p.m. in the Ontario Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Robert Kelsch, Council members: Jason Ruffell, Lori Eaton-Smith, Frank Robusto, Michael Melino, Director of Parks and Recreation William Riddell, Superintendent of Highways Jerry Santangelo, Library Director Sandra Hylan, Justices Paul Sucher and Reginald Higgins, Accountant Paul Liess and Town Clerk Debra DeMinck.

39 residents and visitors were present at portions of the meeting.

Mrs. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Revisions to the Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Melino, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to **add a computer upgrade under new business and information on the two tax cases under board reports.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays  
MOTION CARRIED

The Legal Notice of Public Hearings on the proposed 2012 preliminary budgets and contracts for the Town of Ontario was posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board and published in the Wayne County Mail on October 20, 2011.

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract with the Ontario Volunteer Emergency Squad (O.V.E.S.) at 7:03 p.m.**

Mr. Kelsch explained the request of \$50,000 from OVES which is up from \$20,000 the previous year. They plan to use this one time request by hiring two (2) paid staff to operate the office from 6 am until 6 pm. They have volunteers for evening coverage. By using third party billing they will be able to fund their operation. Half of the money was found in the budget and the other half was given by the Union Hill Fire Department, who will be taking \$25,000 less this year.

Mrs. Jodie Watson responded that they were grateful for the negotiations and to the Union Hill Fire Department.

Mr. Dick Doyle asked if the reason for hiring is to bill third party?

Mr. Kelsch responded that no, that is how they would be paid. Volunteers are difficult to find during the day.

Mr. Doyle asked if they would be self sufficient next year. Mr. Kelsch responded that the board will not pay the \$50,000 next year.

Mrs. Joan Stark commented that they (OVES) has been doing third party billing quite successfully for the past ten years until now. Volunteerism is down, hence they haven't been able to do as much third party billing. Calls are being dropped during the day due to lack of staff. This is the reason they need paid staff and they need the start up money.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Melino, to **close the public hearing at 7:12 pm.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract with Northeast Quadrant Advanced Life Support (NEQALS) at 7:13 p.m.**

Last year the Town provided \$8,109. This year they have asked for \$8,000. They provide advanced life support wherever it is needed. It is not a transport service.

A motion was made by Mr. Melino, seconded by Mr. Robusto, to **close the public hearing at 7:14 pm.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract for fire and ambulance service with Union Hill Volunteer Firemen's Association at 7:15 p.m.**

Last year the Town provided \$98,000 in funding. They provide both fire and ambulance on the west side of town. Initially this year they proposed \$110,000. They will do \$85,000 for 2012 and \$110,000 for 2013 – which would be a two year contract.

Hearing no comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to **close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract for the Ontario Fire District and the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District at 7:20 p.m.**

The Ontario Fire District is governed by a Board of Fire Commissioners. This covers Lincoln Road east down Ridge Road to Fisher Road. The Ontario Rural Fire Protection District covers the east side of town. They are asking for no increase this year.

Hearing no comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to **close the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract with the Business Improvement District at 7:25 p.m.**

The Business Improvement District (BID) is asking for \$1,495. A dollar more than last year. This money goes to improvements to the downtown business district. The boy scouts have done improvements on the north and south sides of Ridge Road.

Hearing no comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Ruffell to **close the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application on behalf of Optimax Systems, Inc. at 7:35 p.m.**

Dave Richards with the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency/IDA explained to the audience that the Town held a public hearing in May to invite public comment regarding the Town's potential interest in filing a Small Cities Grant Application and to assist the Town in identifying possible projects and to review the preliminary application of Optimax Systems, Inc. The grant is for an amount up to \$250,000.

Dr. and Mrs. Norman Loomis would like to support this project. They feel it is wonderful for the community.

Mr. James Switzer asked if it was competitive or non-competitive money. Mr. Kelsch responded that it is non-competitive.

Mrs. Smith wishes them well.

Mike Mandina, owner and president, stated they were just recognized as one of the Top 20 companies to work for.

A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to **close the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.**

**Mr. Kelsch opened a public hearing to consider the proposed 2012 contract for General, Highway, Library, Water, Sewer and Watershed Management funds, Lighting District #1 and Lighting District #2 at 7:45 p.m.**

Mr. Kelsch gave an overview of the 2012 preliminary budget.

Mr. Richard Vanhoover asked why parks and recreation don't have their own line? He would like to know how much money they take in. The board responded with they do have their own separate line items in the budget.

Mr. Kelsch brought the budget up on the smart board to show the audience and Mr. Riddell explained the Parks and Recreation budget.

Superintendent of Highways Jerry Santangelo asked if this version of the budget is based on union concessions and when would they begin. Mr. Kelsch responded that he had a meeting tomorrow with the union. This budget is based on no one receiving a raise. Versions 1, 2 and 3 are different with regard to raises but the tax rate and tax levy remains the same with all three.

Mr. Joseph Molino asked about street lighting and who pays for them. Mr. Santangelo responded with just the people who live in the district with lights pay for the lights. Mr. Molino also wanted to know why he has to pay a sewer fee when he will never have sewers.

Mr. Vanhoover asked why the purchase of a mower for the highway department was turned down. Mr. Kelsch's response was the county may have a mower we can use. Parks and Recreation may have a mower that can be used.

Mr. Switzer feels the equalization rate needs to be kept at 100%. This is very important. He also had a question regarding allocating \$60,000 of the property levy into the highway fund (DA) for equipment. This is not being done in the 2012 budget.

Mr. Switzer also wanted to know the balances in the Highway Reserve Fund and the General Fund. Those balances weren't immediately known.

Mr. Robert Fenn wanted to know when the Wayne County Water contract expires. Mr. Ruffell responded that it is being negotiated right now.

Mrs. Joan Stark wanted to know what happens if health insurance increases more than the projected 12%. Mr. Kelsch is pretty confident that the increase will be no more than 12%.

Mr. Dave Stark asked if there was a hiring freeze. Mr. Kelsch stated the town has eliminated several positions already. Mr. Stark asked about Parks and Recreation summer help. Mr. Riddell addressed that question.

Ms. Sue Yantch feels laying people off will jeopardize highway safety and she is concerned.

Mr. Richard Vanhoover asked if stipends would be increased by 3% if version three is adopted. Jason Ruffell responded that stipends allow the board flexibility and he is confident they are doing more with less. There was a lengthy discussion on stipends.

A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to **close the public hearing at 9:05 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Melino, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to **approve the minutes of the October 10, 2011 Town Board meeting as presented.** 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstention (Ruffell) MOTION CARRIED

**Correspondence** – None

**Reports by Department Heads & Town Agencies** – A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to **accept the September 2011 Economic Development Department report as presented.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Riddell gave a verbal update on the Rite Aid project. They have renewed their building permit and he expects construction to begin by the spring of 2012.

**New Business** – A motion was made by Melino, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to **authorize the purchase two HP computer upgrades and two office software licenses for an amount not to exceed \$1,800 as requested by the Town Clerk.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Melino, to **adopt a Resolution for**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A NYS OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL  
SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION  
ON BEHALF OF OPTIMAX SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Brief Description:** This resolution authorizes the Supervisor of the Town of Ontario to execute an application and any other related documentation required on behalf Optimax Systems, Inc. for assistance in an amount up to \$250,000 under the Office of Community Renewal Small Cities Economic Development Program.

1. The New York State Office for Community Renewal is accepting applications for funding under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program.
2. The Town Board held two public hearings on May 23, 2011 and October 24, 2011 to invite public comment and suggestions regarding the Town's potential interest in filing a Small Cities Grant Application and to assist the Town in identifying possible projects for inclusion in the application and to review the preliminary application of Optimax Systems, Inc..
3. The Supervisor of the Town of Ontario is authorized and directed as the official representative of the Town to execute and submit the Small Cities Economic Development Grant Application to the Office of Community Renewal in an amount up to \$250,000, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and is authorized and directed to act in connection with the submission of the application and provide such additional information as may be required.
4. The Supervisor of the Town of Ontario is further authorized and directed to authorize the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency to submit the NYS online Consolidated Funding Application for this project on the Town's behalf. 5 Ayes 0 Nays RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**2012 Budget Discussion**

**Appointments/Resignations** – A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Robusto, to **hire Betty Premo as Assistant Site Manager for the Lunch Club “60” (nutrition site) at a rate of \$9.00 per hour without benefits, effective November 7, 2011 as recommended by the Director of Parks and Recreation.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

**Reports by Town Board Members** – Mr. Kelsch stated the Gullace and DKR tax certiorari cases are finalized and the town will be sending the county a check for each settlement.

Mrs. Smith thanked all the volunteers who participated in the fall event at Casey Park on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Melino asked Mr. Riddell how many people attended the event. Mr. Riddell estimated that just under 900 people came to the park. They sold 159 chicken barbecues in 47 minutes.

**Approval of Claims** – A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Melino, to **approve the abstract of claims for October 24, 2011 including vouchers #2624 through #2731 (2639 used by accounting) with a grand total of \$80,953.87 and to authorize the Supervisor to issue payments for same.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

**Comments from the Public** – Mrs. Joan Stark announced OVES had a food drive at the Tops plaza last Friday evening. They received over 1000 pounds of food and about \$123.00 in cash. The drive was very successful and many thanks to all who participated.

**Executive Session** - A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Robusto, to **move into an executive session at 9:15 p.m. on proposed, pending or current litigation.** 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

**Reconvene** – 9:46 p.m.

**Adjourn** – A motion was made by Mr. Melino, seconded by Mr. Robusto, **to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.**  
5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Debra DeMinck  
Ontario Town Clerk

The above minutes will become official upon approval of the town board.