

Minutes of the Special Joint Town Board Meeting of the Town of Arietta held September 29th, 2015 at the Piseco Common School, commencing at 6:00pm.

Others present: Paul Beaudoin, Rose Ann Beaudoin, Susan Knapp, Fred Knapp, Bill Edwards, Helen Vail, Doris Sloan, George Sloan, Christopher Northrop, Stephanie Northrop, Christine Meixner, Bryan Rudes, Sarah Rudes, Vickie Orr, Charlotte Minich, Thomas R Hersy Sr., John Simons, Carol Dorr, Pat Leadley, Winkie Colby, Tony Colby, Bob Poe, Judith Poe, Lynn Wilt, Gail Doherty.
Supervisor Wilt opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Roll Call:

Barry Baker	present
Michael Knapp	present
Jackie Grier	absent
Christy Wilt	present
Richard Wilt	present

Mr. Wilt gave the floor to Mr. William Hotaling.

Mr. Hotaling gave the findings of the committee, appointed this past February, to ascertain if it would be feasible for the Town to move their offices over to the Piseco School building. He reported that the committee was given a list of things to look at to see if this move was a viable option in their opinion.

The committee consisted of: William Hotaling, Marie Buanno, Pat Leadley, Barry Baker – Town Board, Susan Casey – Piseco Common School Board.

He stated that the committee met five times over the summer.

He gave the findings as follows:

- 1) **What would happen to the Community Hall where the Town presently have their offices and who will take care of it?** Answer: Nothing it will still be there and will be used in the summer months for functions. It would be closed in the winter.
- 2) **How old is the Community Hall?** Answer: About 1930 it was built and used to be called Dream Land.
- 3) **Can the Town get a loan for the needed repairs for the Community Hall?** Answer: They don't need a loan they presently have the adequate funds for all repairs. (**Mr. Wilt** – Supervisor said that the Town Board just received a budgetary number of around \$230,000 fix the roof and ceiling on the Community Hall.
- 4) **Where can the Woman's Auxiliary raise funds for the Fire Department if they no longer use the Community Hall?** Answer: That is not applicable because they will still be able to use the Community Hall in the summer for all of their events the same as now.
- 5) **Can the Community Hall be rented?** Answer: Yes.
- 6) **What is the Town's penalty for exceeding the tax cap if the necessary funds are not met for the repair of the roof of the Community Hall?** Answer: There would be no penalty because the Town has the adequate funding now.
- 7) **Does the Community Hall leak in the summer?** Answer: Yes when it rains. Mr. Wilt said it also leaks in the winter.
- 8) **Would there be a security risk to children if people are arraigned in the same building?** Answer: No. Because most arraignments take place at night and if they did take place during the daytime the sheriff usually calls the justice if a defendant in. He said the judge could say bring the defendant in at 3:00pm or later. Also they could come in through a different part of the building. They say no problem with it at all.
- 9) **If the School reopens after the Town moves their offices in where will the Town go?** Answer: The committee feels that there would be adequate room for both the Town and School in the building to function in the same building.
- 10) **How many students would it take to facilitate opening the school?** Answer: They could not answer that question. He asked the School Superintendent – Dick Rose and Mr. Rose said that is a hard question to answer. He isn't sure if there is a set number and it is highly unlikely due not only here in Piseco but in upstate New York due to the lack of jobs here in this area.
- 11) **Does the after school program have to be in the school?** Answer: I probably doesn't have to be in the school but there is adequate room for both the after school program and the Town offices to be in the school building.
- 12) **Ever consider day care?** Answer: No.
- 13) **Does the Town have any say in location of the offices in the school as tenets or are they subject to the decision of the school board?** Answer: Again we feel there will be joint cooperation the Town and School use the same architect and they would come in and figure out where everyone would go.
- 14) **Could the Town and the School form a separate entity that would rent to the school and the town?** Answer: They didn't have an answer for this question. Mr. Rose said that the school board isn't looking at this as a way to generate revenue. They are looking at this as a way to make the school a community center to be more efficient as there are

things that the school and the town can do if under the same roof like telephone & wifi services, copier contracts things like that make this more attractive.

- 15) Can you hold bingo in a school building?** Answer: Yes if it is not sponsored by the school but, that isn't an issue because the community hall can still be used.
- 16) Can one perform a comparison of the cost of the Town staying in the Community Hall and making the necessary repairs and moving to the school?** Answer: They did not answer that question. He said that they didn't see a huge savings because the cost of heating the community hall isn't that much. They did feel that the school building was there and a lot of money was just put into the roof. The whole building is heated all year long why not utilize it to its fullest potential.
- 17) Should we hire an architect to perform such repairs?** Answer: They said not at this time but when it comes time total agreement on moving the Town to the school then an architect would be used.
- 18) Is there a difference between the school raising money for taxes than the town?** Answer: Well Mr. Hotaling said he is the assessor and the town tax base is larger than the school tax base because there are four school districts in the Town of Arietta. There is Piseco, Long Lake, Raquette Lake and Wells school districts. The Town has about 30% more taxable value than the school district so it is better to levy a tax against the Town than the School district.

Mr. Hotaling said that after they answered the questions the best they could the committed toured the school building. Mr. Hotaling measured the community hall offices and Mr. Baker measured the school. They found there is more than enough space to move the Town offices to the School. They envisioned using two of the schools rooms for offices. He said that a lot of storage would stay in the community hall. The committee after acquiring their findings felt that it would be in the best interest of the Town to move the Town offices to the School. Mr. Hotaling asked for a show of hands of who is in favor of moving ahead with the Town moving to the School. There was an almost unanimous show of hands.

Mr. Wilt said that the two boards will now have to decide if they want to go ahead with the move and if they both agree to the move then they will look into the logistics. If it does take place the move probably wouldn't be until sometime in the spring of next year. Mr. Rose also agreed.

Motion was offered by: B. Baker

To adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm.

Second was offered by: M. Knapp

Ayes: Baker, Knapp, C. Wilt and R. Wilt. **Nays:** none **Absent:** Grier

Entered by:

Kenneth Parslow, Town Clerk