

MEREDITH TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
June 30, 2008

The Special Meeting of the Meredith Town Board was held on June 30, 2008 at the Meredith Town Hall. The following were in attendance:

Supervisor: Keitha Capouya

Council Members: Ronald Bailey
Daniel Birnbaum
Roger Hamilton

Absent: Paul Menke

Clerk: Betsy K. Clark

Townspeople: 5

The supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

The Supervisor said the first thing they should do is the EAF form for this Ordinance.

Roger Hamilton said we should make a motion to file the same EAF form that was done for the first Ordinance.

A motion was made by Roger Hamilton to file the same EAF form that was filed with Ordinance # 1-2008 "Establishing an Interim Application process for Wireless Telecommunication Facilities", with the Ordinance # 2-2008 "Continuing an Interim application process for Wireless Telecommunication Facilities: The motion was seconded by Ron Bailey and passed, Paul Menke was absent.

Keitha asked after having considered the comments on the ordinance, does anyone want to make a motion on the Ordinance.

Ron Bailey made a motion to approve Ordinance # 2-2008 and duly advertise the final approved Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Daniel Birnbaum and passed by the following role call vote

K. Capouya - Aye
R. Bailey - Aye
D. Birnbaum - Aye
R. Hamilton - Aye
P. Menke - Absent

Keitha said we have the municipal grant form for the Municipal Grant for Farmland Protection. What she suggests is that they take out the Alliance for Meredith which doesn't belong on collaboration, which on page 4. I would just say an agricultural advisory committee in part appointed by the Town Board.

Frank Bachler asked about a letter he brought to the Town Clerk to be read at the next meeting of the Town Board.

Keitha said she would read his letter tonight. She also explained this was not the Pasture Bank Grant; this is about a grant to study preserving farmland in the Town of Meredith.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding these issues and others pertaining to Meridale Farms and farmland protection.

RESOLUTION # 59A - 2008

A resolution by motion was made by Ron Bailey to authorize the Supervisor to submit the application for the municipal grant for "Farm Land Protection Planning". The motion was seconded by Roger Hamilton and approved by the following vote.

K. Capouya - Aye
R. Bailey - Aye
D. Birnbaum - Aye
R. Hamilton - Aye
P. Menke - Absent

Keitha read the following letter submitted by Frank Bachler to the Meredith Town Board:

Dear Town Board Members,

On April 8th 2008, the Meredith Town Board passed a resolution (Resolution # 42-2008) recommending to the Region 4 Regional Advisory Committee to have the Meridale Farms property included on a priority list for protection under the Open Space Conservation Plan. First of all I feel that the Board acted inappropriately by voting on an important issue without the presence of the full Board. Secondly, according to the minutes there seems to have been very little substantive discussion on the effects that the placement on the "priority list" would have on the residents of Meredith.

The Town Board should be aware that as part of the New York City Memorandum of Agreement, the City agreed to forgo purchasing land in fee in designated Hamlets. The Hamlet of Meredith Square was designated by the Meredith Town Board at that time. Enclosed please find copies of pages 12 and 13 of the MOA. Article II section 68. It is my feeling and also the feelings of many others in Meredith and Delaware County that by selling our land to New York City, we are selling our future!

We can expect that in the future, there will be lawsuits regarding tax assessment that we can ill afford.

One understands, this placement on the “priority list” would be an important step in fulfillment of the plan for funding the “Meridale Farms Project”. One of the possible ramifications of this project are the tax losses to residents of Meredith. There are questions as to whether one of the proposed purchasers (New York State) would pay “any tax” at all. Did the Board do “due diligence” in researching the tax issues?

The Board should be aware that the “Meridale Farms Project” was presented to the Delaware County Farmland Protection Board and that after lengthy discussion, it was decided not to make any recommendations at that time.

Does the Board feel that it is wise to use over 5 million dollars of taxpayer money to fund and experiment with questionable financial results for both the Town and the young farmers that it is supposed to help.

I would request that my letter be read in its entirety at the next meeting of the Town Board and placed in the minutes of that meeting.

Frank Bachler
57 Bachler Road
East Meredith, N.Y. 13757

Frank said he had contacted Land and Lakes and Alan Lord had asked the city for a quote for buying the land of Meridale Farms in the DEP territory. But the letter from the Meridale Historical Society supporting this grant from Frank Waterman was not supported by the whole Historical Society. My wife Gretel is a member of the society and it was not put up for vote. There was more discussion on the Meridale Farms issue.

Ron Bailey requested that the supervisor have her own designated phone line in the Town Hall. This was discussed.

Ron Bailey made a motion that the supervisor have a private line in the Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Daniel Birnbaum and passed unanimously. Paul Menke was absent.

Daniel Birnbaum asked if we could find out exactly where we are with the budget and get a report. Keitha said Sandy was working on it.

There was a discussion on where the FEMA money is for the bridge. Keitha said she heard from Scott Carpenter of SEMO who gave her a list of project work sheet for FEMA work that was paid for but SEMO couldn't find the project work sheets. Frank Bachlor said to ask the former Highway Supervisor Paul Johnson.

Lisa Barrows gave a report on when the speed trailer would be in Meridale.

The Bond on the FEMA bridge project was discussed. The interest being paid earned on it has dropped. And no longer covers the interest being paid.

Keitha asked the Board to get any comments or changes for the Cell Tower Law to her by the end of next week so she could incorporate the changes.

Ron asked if she could then have a draft to the Board by next week. Then if it is a final draft they can set a public hearing. .

The Clerk informed the Board she would be on vacation from July 14, 2008 to July 24, 2008. She is going to redepute the former deputy clerk Yvonne Osterhout because she knows how to run the office.

Keitha discussed with Lisa Barrows, the Delaware County DWI coordinator, about getting her used computer because she is getting a new one. They think between municipalities they can get the old one.

Marc Goldberg made comments on the Cell Tower Ordinance. His comment was that the Board was relying on a document from the Department of State which is a 2001 document and technology has changed.

Viviana McCarthy asked if there was going to be a community wide informational meeting regarding Meridale Farms land. It seems like in the community there is a lot of misinformation.

Keitha commented on the proposed covenants in the Meridale Farms subdivision application that was submitted to the Planning Board.

There were a lot of comments made regarding what Bob Lesperance of Land and Lakes has done or said and it was decided the only way to clarify the comments would be to ask Mr. Lesperance for his reasoning or intent with him present.

A motion was made by Daniel Birnbaum to adjourn the special meeting. The motion seconded by Ron Bailey. The special Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy K. Clark
Town Clerk

