

Minutes of the special meeting of the Jerusalem Town Board held on July 30, 2008 at 11:30 A.M. PRESENT were: Supervisor Jones, Councilpersons Hopkins and Stewart, Highway Superintendent Payne, Town Clerk McMichael.

Excused: Councilperson Folts and Simmons

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider applicants for the part-time clerical position for the Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Jones introduced the following letters he received today from Councilpersons Folts and Simmons into the minutes:

To: Town Board

I will be absent for today's meeting. I have a prior commitment.

After listening to our Governor Patterson and thinking about budget, and not knowing where we will be with the price of everything affecting our budget, I have decided not to support adding new staff. I think we should wait and see how things look at budget time.

Councilman: Michael Folts

July 30, 2008

Supervisor Daryl Jones:

Joyce & I have a long awaited appointment with a specialist in Canandaigua so I won't be on hand, for the special meeting this morning.

#1. Your middle of the day special meetings has always been a concern of mine, that evening's meetings would be better.

#2. We had a sub-committee of Tom Close, Bill Wolf, Tim Culver & Ron Kenville take a look at problems, issues and some recommendations in code enforcement and assessor offices. They did a lot of work and I went yesterday and talked at length with one of those people to get their spin on your proposed new hire because we have the money saved. Hope you have reviewed that report and talked maybe one on one with a member or two of that committee.

#3. The Governor says we are in trouble and need to make cuts. Our suppliers for fuel, salt, blacktop & road oil all talking record unbelievable increases in prices. County says sales tax revenues are down. Schools are in trouble with their budgets. Our town of Jerusalem residents are paying all time high for gas

and home heating.

#4. I feel we are sending a mixed message if we do a new hire today and try to hold the fine line on our budget in a few weeks.

#5. I know you have the votes counted and the deal is done. You have the person selected and want them to start on Monday. I don't agree with the process or a new hire at this time. I want this letter included in minutes of special meeting.

Neil Simmons, councilman

Board members in attendance commented on the correspondence as read into the minutes.

Councilperson Hopkins stated she requested the meeting be scheduled during the lunch hour as she has been told by another board member that everyone has lunch and that would be a good time for meetings, but apparently it wasn't good today. She concurred with the fact that we are all aware of the increased costs associated with this hire, however, this position was included in the 2008 budget and the Code Enforcement Officer is behind with the work in that office. Timely completion of fire inspections is now mandated and requires filing an annual report of the inspections with the State. She feels filling this position to assist him is still a necessity.

Supervisor Jones stated he did speak with sub-committee member Tim Culver. Mr. Culver was not opposed to hiring additional help. He did however note that the sub-committee thought if everyone were doing their job according to their job description, we may not need anyone else.

Councilperson Hopkins requested Highway Superintendent Payne attend today's meeting because we have been questioned by the public why we are hiring staff for the Code Enforcement Officer while the Highway Department has let their summer help go. Payne responded that he made this decision in an effort to cut back by letting his seasonal help go earlier than usual this year. He still has funds available in his budget for additional help, but will try to get by without it. The employee left with the understanding that we may call him back to help us if needed. Payne stated his decision regarding the Highway Department had nothing to do with the Code Enforcement Officer's clerical position. The Board stated their appreciation for Highway Superintendent Payne's effort to control costs as there was no directive from the Town Board regarding cost cutting measures at this time.

Councilperson Stewart met with the Sub-committee. Mr. Close saw the ad for part-time help in the newspaper and had the same

position as Mr. Culver that if everyone were during their job according to their job description, we may not need anyone else. Councilperson Stewart said he does not know the answer on how to make that happen.

At the July 16, 2008 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Jones appointed Councilpersons Folts and Simmons to implement the recommendations of the sub-committee.

Councilperson Hopkins stated the search committee for the clerk to assist Code Enforcement Officer, John Phillips, interviewed six applicants. Of the six, it was narrowed down to three candidates. After a blind vote numbering of the three, Eleanor Lambert was the unanimous choice. Previous to the interviews, Supervisor Jones and Councilperson Hopkins discussed the salary with Code Enforcement Officer Phillips. We came to an agreement on \$11.00 per hour. That will fit into the budgeted amount.

Highway Superintendent Payne stated he needed to get caught up and brought extra help in. The Highway Department is not doing as much work this year due to increased costs so he did not keep the extra help on.

There was discussion back in May of hiring a college student for \$10/hour, but that was not done and the busy season is upon us. There have been no college applicants. Applicants for this position had to be certified by Civil Service which delayed hiring a clerk as proposed. If clerical support does not address the problem, the position will not be budgeted for next year.

Resolution #113-08

APPOINTMENT - PART-TIME CLERK FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

On a motion of Councilperson Hopkins, seconded by Supervisor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Hopkins, Jones, Stewart
	Nays	0	

Whereas the search committee for the clerk to assist Code Enforcement Officer, John Phillips interviewed six applicants; and

Whereas the six applicants were narrowed down to three; and

Whereas after a blind vote numbering of the three applicants, Eleanor Lambert was the unanimous choice; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that upon the recommendation of the search committee, Eleanor Lambert be hired as a part time clerk for the Code Enforcement Officer at a salary of \$11.00 per hour.

Councilperson Stewart read his disclosure statement regarding his employment on a part-time basis by Crooked Lake Management, doing

business as Carey's Farm and Home Centers.

Supervisor Jones has been informed by Code Enforcement Officer John Phillips that the recently enacted Steep Slopes regulations stipulate the Planning Board to provide an application form and the Town Board to set the application fees which have not been done to date.

Councilperson Stewart, Recreation Committee member stated the Recreation Program received enhanced funds this year that were to be used for a field trip in September. He has been informed that we do not have staff available and there is limited interest by the children because they will be back in school. He will address this with Councilperson Simmons, who also sits on the Recreation Committee. A field trip on the Esperanza Rose has been scheduled and additional equipment for the program will be purchased.

With there being no further business, on a motion by Councilperson Hopkins, seconded by Councilperson Stewart, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk

Special Town Board Meeting
July 30, 2008