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CRSE · Concerned Residents of Southeast

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From: "Lynne Eckardt" <midfarm@bestweb.net>

Date: Tue Mar 16, 2004 5:48 pm

Subject: Brewster/Southeast Joint Meeting Recap

Hello All,

This is long- sorry. It's difficult to write a condensed version of last night's meeting as there was over 2 hours of discussion. Many intelligent questions were raised. About 40 people attended.

Below some highs and lows...

MEETING:

Supervisor John Dunford opened with the following observations:

- a. Correspondence between the Village and Town has been through editorials and newspaper articles.
- b. The town proposal issued in October had been ignored.
- c. Partisan politics has clouded debate surrounding Town/Village offices.
- d. The October proposal must be accepted 'as is'. Yes or No.

Mayor Cesar spoke about the possibility of a mail sub-station opening in the village, parking and an Indian Point disaster escape route.

Discussion between board members and trustees followed.

Trustee Santos asked the town board to consider an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between Brewster and Southeast. An IMA would protect Southeast if joint offices/courtroom are constructed on village property. In the October proposal the town had asked the village to cede 5 acres to them as protection.

Board member Mitts suggested that IMA's don't specifically cover joint municipal offices. Board member Paul Johnson suggested that sharing office/court space might 'trigger' a village bankruptcy.

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At this point, trustee Degan suggested that an IMA should be explored in the 'spirit of co-operation'.

There was some discussion of Village and Town finances. Both entities seemed in the dark about each others financial condition. It was decided that both the town and village would supply financials and wave the FOIL fees.

There was talk of the village acquiring 20 Main Street by eminent domain. The buildings assessment is \$325,000. The estimates to rehabilitate the building are approximately \$860,000. The other building considered was 50 Main Street but this building is assessed at \$2,000,000.

There were numerous questions from the audience. Village Justice, Rick O'Rourke, suggested exploring whether a private developer could construct town/village offices. This concept has been successful in White Plains and New Rochelle.

Two village residents were strongly against ceding any village land to the town.

Supervisor Dunford had 'great faith that the village would survive without town offices.'

Mayor Cesar was against using eminent domain in any way.

Jim Clarke asked what would happen if the town and village were consolidated. Co-incidentally, Town Tax Assessor, Ford, happened to have these figures worked out. Village property owners would save over \$500 per year on property taxes while Southeast residents would pay \$5.00 more.

County Legislator, Dan Birmingham, asked Mr. Dunford if he had signed the agreement with the county regarding 10 acres at Tilly Foster (land near the large glass building on Route 312, but part of the county owned Tilly Foster Farm). Mr. Dunford had signed. Asked if he would reconsider his signature Dunford replied, No.

County Legislator, Tony Hay, said that the parking problem needed to be addressed before any decisions were made. He also mentioned the possibility of the Town, Village and County sharing space at 50 Main Street.

When asked about the October proposal to the village as far as the sheriff's patrol being resumed Mr. Dunford said that this part of the proposal had been taken off the table.

The town board felt they could meet again with the village in 45-60 days. Mr. Dunford said he would consider 'liaison meetings' between the two municipalities.

CRSE looks forward to this continued dialogue and hopes that sincere co-operation between the town and village will follow.

As always please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you may have.

With Best Regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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