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- [Home](#)
- [Messages](#)
- [Pending Post](#)
- [Chat](#)
- [Files](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Database](#)
- [Members](#)
- [Pending Calendar](#)

- [Promote](#)
- [Invite](#)

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Message # Search: [Post Message](#)

[Up Thread](#) | [Message Index](#) | [View Source](#) | [Unwrap Lines](#)

Message 1407 of 1425 < [Previous Message](#) | [Next Message](#) >

From: "Lynne Eckardt" <midfarm@bestweb.net>
Date: Fri Sep 30, 2005 4:45 pm
Subject: SE Town Board Special Meeting 9/29/05

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[As has been my habit of late I've deleted my comments from the CRSE version. Please e-mail me if you'd like them sent.](#)

Hi All,

Last night I had the distinct displeasure of attending a Southeast Town Board 'Special Meeting'.

Why was it 'Special', you might ask? Because if it's 'Special' the TB can hold a voting session without benefit of the meeting being televised. This comes in especially handy when you're going to pass a \$1.5 million dollar 'no bid' contract. As an added bonus there's no need to put up with those pesky questions coming from the peanut gallery.

This is a really sleazy way to do town business. The Board has known for months about the AWD/AWS contract. They also have one more regular televised meeting on the calendar before the November 1 deadline. You know, a regularly scheduled meeting where residents can ask questions or make comments. And you can watch the action on channel 8.

Oh, and in one of my other favorite moves the Board talked 'sotto voce' so that I had to move to the front row. I always hate this as it makes me feel like I got caught passing notes in third grade.

Well, let's begin at the beginning. As always the comments that follow are simply my biased view on life in Southeast. They are mine (all mine- who else would want them) and reflect no one else's opinions.

WORK SESSION:

1. Pepsi-Cola Vending Machine- Scolpino Park
A vending machine out at Scolpino Park was damaged and the insurance company won't pay for it. Pepsi says that the Town is responsible. The machine has been removed. A letter will be sent.

2. Boiler Replacement:
Three written bids came in with wide range in cost. In the 'Special Meeting' the board voted to accept the lowest bid.

3. Defensive Driving:
The Board felt that those who drive Town vehicles should have to take the course and that the Town would pay the full cost. For other town employees the Town will pay 50%. Mr. Dunford mentioned that the Town vehicle fleet is extremely old.

4. Garbage Contract:

A memo from Special District's manager, Michael Levine, was read. The Board discussed the benefits of the current garbage contract.

Mr. DiNardo of AWS/AWD asked if he could speak since he was invited to the meeting. Supervisor Dunford said that normally they didn't allow speakers at Work Sessions but that Mr. DiNardo could make a statement.

Mr. DiNaro thanked the Board for inviting him to this meeting. He gave a history of his involvement in the garbage industry and explained his ties to Southeast although he now lives in Danbury. He stated several times that he was confident of AWS/AWD's prices and service being the best and that certainly the town could put the contract out for bid.

Mrs. Mitts asked Mr. DiNardo if Southeast put the contract out for bid if AWS would honor the current contract. Mr. DiNardo answered that he would abide by whatever the contract said. Mrs. Mitts asked if he would re-bid the contract as well and Mr. DiNardo said he'd have to defer to the company attorney.

Councilman Bonanno asked the same question which wasn't answered directly. When Mr. Johnson brought up a memo sent from Willis Stephen's law firm Bonanno snapped that he hadn't gotten the memo until immediately before the meeting but that he had read it and didn't agree.

The Board went into Executive Session.




The Board came out of Executive Session and voted 4-1 (Councilman Bonanno was the lone dissenting vote) to extend the current contract to AWS/AWD without any bidding.

By the way, minutes were taken of this Oh-So-Special Meeting and, in theory, will be available in two weeks.

Whew- that's it from here. For your viewing pleasure I'm hoping that the video will be aired on Suscom. After all, the unvarnished truth is always the best.

Have a wonderful weekend-

With best regards,
Lynne Eckardt

[Up Thread](#) | [Message Index](#) | [View Source](#) |
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Message 1407 of 1425 < [Previous Message](#) | [Next Message](#) >

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