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

Date: Fri Oct 22, 2004 5:15 pm

Subject: SE Work Session Recap 10/21/04

Hi All,

Below please find a recap of last night's Town Board Work Session. The meeting was mercifully short as there were only three items.

As always the recap is unofficial and the catty remarks my own. As this was a Work Session there are no official minutes.

WORK SESSION:

1. Gold Star Mothers:

Gold Star Mothers are the mothers of any service man or woman killed in the line of duty. Local veterans are trying to collect \$200,000 to erect the first memorial to Gold Star Mothers in the United States. The statue will reside in Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park. The bronze will be sculpted by Andrew Chernak. A power point presentation was made. The project has thus far received the following contributions: County: \$25,000, NYS Funding: \$25,000, Vietnow: \$5,000 and Town of Carmel: \$5,000.

2. Open Space Committee: The committee has been selected and will be named at next week's Regular Meeting. This will be a seven member board. A mission statement has been written. Candidates were selected by a rating system.

3. Budget:

The Town Board was divided into sub committees to tackle the budget. Highway was the first discussed. Salt and snow removal were increased. New truck was included.

Engineering line was increased. The Board felt that the town engineer would be asked to consult and site walk more often this year.

Recreation increased by 3%. Councilman Johnson didn't want revenues underestimated.

Fire safety inspection hours increased. Changes to special districts although not specified. Fuel costs to be reexamined due to high cost of heating oil.

COMMENTS:

Wow. What a benign meeting. The Gold Star power point presentation set the tone and all was peaceful for the remainder of the evening.

The 'Open Space Committee' portion was a little strange. Drum roll please.

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The Board agreed that they were happy announcing the new members next week and that the Committee should 'get to work' right away. Although they would all have to be reappointed in January. Oh yeah, and there's ten grand in the budget for the new Committee. Mentioning the ratings system seemed a tad peculiar. Gosh, and all this time I thought they just drew names out of a hat.

I wonder if the scoring is done like diving, gymnastics, figure skating or golf? Is personality taken into account? Looks? Thank God no talent or swimsuit competition. And I wonder if one can FOIL for their ratings if they didn't make the cut? Hmmmm, ratings? Fun. Ingenious. Who knew!

Finally... The budget. Well, I have a lot of questions on the budget. But as one can't ask questions at a Work Session I guess I'll just have to save them for the Public Hearing next Thursday.

One really interesting aspect of the budget is the opening page which lists all Town Board members, Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent's home's assessed values. Showing both the '03 and '04 figures. Fascinating. Lots more absolutely riveting material but it will keep until the 28th. I trust everyone can bear the unrelenting suspense until then. By the way, I have a copy at the shop if anyone wants to take a look- it set me back over 18 bucks and took a week to get so I'm more than happy to share.

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

Have a great weekend.

With best regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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