Hi All.

Okay, I'll admit it- it's been a while since I last did a recap but there are several good reasons for this. One: I've pretty much dedicated this summer to Assemblyman Ball's overthrow which takes up a lot of time and Two: These meetings have become painfully repetitive. While the early midwinter sniping held some intrigue and allure it's now tedious beyond belief. There used to be some rather creative and ingenious ways either side would insert some grand touché but now it's totally formulaic and thus predictable a mile away.

Sadly, I think my major inspiration for pounding out this report was the ecumenical prayer subbing for the now trite and lackluster belting-out of 'God Bless America'. Because during this brand new event, for some unfathomable reason, I imagined God looking down for a spilt second, cocking his head at the sound of a new prayer, then rolling his eyes while thinking... 'Oh, it's *them*.'

At any rate, I intensely dislike a mix of church and state and besides, knew this gesture would be useless from the get-go. Although to be fair we got all the way to agenda item number 4 (Budget Transfers) before the sniping resumed. Way to go guys!

I think my favorite item on the agenda was the proposed funding of two 'Laser Devices' for the State Police. SE taxpayers funding speed devises for New York State??? I mean, what gives...? But then I had my light bulb moment. Supervisor Rights and Councilman Yee made this item to appear almost 'life or death' and mentioned the words 'safety and security' about a billion times. Oh, you can bet these sound bites captured on film will be trotted out relentlessly during the next SOS campaign. I can see it now: Still shots of gruesome car wrecks (excluding Mr. Rights' flipped Jag, of course) with the voiceover: "Did you know that Councilman Honeck, Johnson and Gross voted against ensuring our children's safety?" Arggggggggggh. More on this under item 15. I only wish that the Board had allocated money for Tasers which could be used on various members at the mere mention of, "With all due respect" or 'I didn't interrupt you, so don't interrupt me.' Now *that* would be money well spent.

The 'Sleaze Award' of the evening went to the old guard for introducing a resolution which would have sent Supervisor Rights to the Board of Ethics for his recurring role in 'Parkashgate'. On the other hand the Drama Queen trophy was handily won by Councilman Yee when he ripped the resolution in two with a flourish and a smile.

Look, it wasn't that Rights shouldn't be hauled in front of the Ethics Board. Nah, it was the eleventh hour resolution that bothered me. Sure Rights did the same when he tried to interfere with the SE court in regards to Parkash- but aren't we all getting a little weary of tit-for-tat?

And finally I have to say the Hallmark moment of the evening was the Town Clerk's gripping and heartfelt plea for the Supervisor to stop making fun of her physical appearance during work hours.

Let me first state that the one small accommodation I try to make in my over-the-top recaps is to leave fashion and appearance out of the mix. Believe me, sometimes it's really tempting (especially when a sweat suit is involved...) but unless it's flattering (like my covetous jealousy over Supervisor Rights' 'Breck Girl' hair or how incredibly natty Mr. Lepler is) I just don't think it's right. Besides I'm not quite supermodel material (okay, okay not even remotely close) and hardly a fashionista so I know when not to cast stones. Given the litigious work place today I think it particularly unwise and unseemly for the Supervisor to mock any employee or elected official's physical appearance- no matter how tempting. This is an harassment suit waiting to happen. So my words of advice to our beloved and beleaguered Supervisor: Knock it off.

I'll apologize in advance for the length of this recap but there were 23 items and three hours of riveting items to sit through. As always the scathing, unfair and impatient comments are my small-minded take on the state of politics in Southeast. They represent no group unlucky enough to have me as a member.

Regular Town Board Meeting 19 June 2008

Public Hearing Continuation- Contractor's Law:

Closed with little comment.

1. Correspondence:

Reading waived. Passed 5-0

2. Approval of Voucher List:

\$978,607.30 Approved 3 Yeas 2 Abstentions (Yee and Rights) Yee had questions on vouchers ranging from \$9 to \$8000.

3. Setting of Meeting Dates:

July 10, 2008 Work Session- 7:30 July 17, 2008 Work Session- 7:30

July 24, 2008 Regular Meeting- 7:30

July 24, 2008 D'Uva Special Permit-7:30

4. Budget Transfers:

There was a brief discussion over \$2000 budgeted for the Supervisor to attend conferences. This item was tabled (5-0) as last month was mixed into this month.

5. Putnam County Humane Society Conveyance of Land:

This is the 10 acres subdivided from the open space the town acquired last year. The \$130,000 purchase price will go back into the Open Space budget. Passed 3-2 with Rights and Yee abstaining as they didn't feel they had enough information on the PCHS fee schedules and were concerned about their financial future.

6. Peach Lake- Amending Previous Resolution

Passed 5-0

7. Minor Road Stop Sign:

Passed 4- 1 (Councilman Johnson voted 'no')

8. Alcon- Set Performance Bond

Passed 5-0

Adopt ARB Report:

Passed 5-0

Mr. Alfredo was then asked how long the planning process took and he answered 3 years. Alcon is on Fields Lane.

9. Durkin Water Company- Amended site plan- Establishment of Performance Bond.

This project is on Fields Lane where it 'mines' water for sale. There is a 500,000 gallon above ground storage tank.

Performance Bond: \$3100. Passed 5-0

10. Fisher Subdivision and Lot Line Adjustment- Establishment of Performance Bond.

Bond set at \$6100. Passed 5-0

11. Golay Subdivision- Release Performance Bond

\$14,000 released- 5-0

12. MS 4- Annual Report

Town Planner Graham Trelsted gave a brief overview. Report is on town website. The deadline for passing this was June 1st. It was late last year as well. Passed 5-0

13. Landfill Closure Entry Permit:

The Town will owe Metro North \$610,000 for the trackside portion of the clean-up. It was suggested that \$250,000 given by the DEP in 1996 (part of the Memorandum of Agreement) should be used. Work was supposed to commence on June first but has been delayed. This will be on the July 10th agenda.

14. Griffin Construction:

Councilman Yee said he had put this on the agenda so he would be authorized to write Griffin Construction so they could be asked to appear at a Town Board Work Session. Griffin had built the \$17,000 dugouts at 'Volunteer Field' that had to be razed due to the 'unsafe' structures. The Board said that they had already authorized this letter.

15. NYS Police Laser Devices:

Councilman Yee and Supervisor Rights asked the Board to authorize payment of \$6800 for two speed detecting devices. Councilman Gross asked why we should be underwriting a NYS purchase. Yee said that the devices the police were using now were antiquated. I asked if the devices would only be used in SE. Answer: Mostly. I asked why we would be spending money to underwrite other communities when we should really be looking at our \$60,000 Sheriff's Contract which has never been clear. Yee said he was working on it. Resident, Denis Castelli, asked 'what if the police asked for a new car?' Yee thought this was stretching the point.

Motion did not carry. 3 to 2 (Rights and Yee)

16. Library Board Members:

Ms. Serra and Mr. Thomas were appointed 5-0

17. Fencing Budget:

The Library has asked for \$12,000 in funds for a new fence out back. A \$6500 Main Street Grant was mentioned to help underwrite the purchase. I mentioned (serving on the Reed Library Board) that it was very unusual to go back to the town for funding. The town now funds the library for over \$200,000. I asked why we even needed a fence. Denis Castelli will pursue a possible Main Street grant through the County. No vote taken.

18. Board of Ethics:

Councilman Johnson read a resolution regarding Supervisor Rights May 28th letter to Special Counsel Joseph Charbonneau. Johnson felt it was highly unprofessional for the Supervisor to be intimidating Town employees over the Ved Parkash matter. There was a lot of back and forth as this resolution had not been seen by Yee or Rights until 7:30 Thursday evening. Right's 'Parkash' resolution was brought up as two members of the TB had been kept in the dark about this. Clerk Mazzei mentioned that several people had FOILed for the letter but she didn't have it.

Yee asked who had written the resolution and then ripped it in two. I asked why- once something had gone to the judicial branch, there was any interference at the executive level. Rick Stockberger felt that there would be no harm in sending this along to the Ethics Board.

The vote to refer did not carry. 2 Yay 2 Nay (Rights and Yee) and 1 abstention (Gross).

19. Credit Card for Town Hall Purchases:

This would have been for small purchases. Defeated 3-2 (Rights and Yee)

20. Recreation Fee Schedule for Field Use:

This was bumped up to number 5 on the agenda. There is no fee schedule yet.

21. Volleyball Courts- Pumphouse Road:

This item was also bumped up in the agenda. These will be built where the in-line skating rink was supposed to go. The cost is estimated at \$24,172. The cost can be kept to this if built by Town employees. Honeck said he would look into the insurance costs to make sure building it ourselves was okay. I asked about the wetland buffer encroachment. It was thought that the courts would have far less impact. I mentioned that over \$30,000 had already been spent. on the last project. This will be on the July 10th Work Session.

22. Returnable Container Act:

This was a resolution asking for support for the bigger, better bottle bill. Defeated 5-0.

23. Budget Reductions:

(Added to the agenda) Because revenues are down Roger Gross has been speaking to Ron Hund in accounting and he is asking for a 2.5% reduction in spending for the remainder of the year in '08 and a 2.5% reduction for '09 as well.

Passed 5-0

Ms. Mazzei read a statement asking the Supervisor to refrain from making fun of her personal appearance in front of others in Town Hall. She said she has been subjected to denigrating 3:00 AM emails and other personal attacks. Rights said that she was whining and that the TB Meeting was not a proper outlet for these complaints.

COMMENTS/OPINIONS:

4. Budget Transfers:

This was noteworthy as the first shot of the evening was fired. Rights asked for 2 grand to underwrite conferences that he would be attending- "unlike the last Supervisor" he intoned. To which Honeck replied, 'That conference was back in February.' And why on earth were last month's transfers mixed in with this month???

5. Putnam County Humane Society:

The Putnam County Humane Society conveyance of land was another real head scratcher as Yee and Rights abstained- I guess in a poor man's attempt at a vendetta as they were outvoted when they wanted to switch the contract to another facility.

On a personal note, while I'm glad the Humane Society will have a new home I'm still resentful that we got stuck with such a crappy piece of 'open space' because honestly, this land purchase was engineered to accommodate the shelter- not serve the residents of Southeast. There were far more important and better pieces of property to buy but Bondi wanted his Tilly Foster/Humane Society legacy and we got left holding the bag.

7. Minor Road Stop Sign:

Whew. In an unbelievable display of courage the TB finally managed to vote on this highly controversial and weighty matter. And I'm pleased to report... our long national nightmare of the on-again-off-again stop sign is mercifully over. Even calling in an expert witness several weeks ago (in this case a State Police officer) this little number managed to perturb a few (me especially). I only wish half this kind of angst could be expended on issues like the Landfill closure and/or Sheriff's Contract.

8. & 9. Alcon and Durkin Water:

For old times sake I'm lumping two Fields Lane favorites together. Sure I'm obsessed, but I was pushed over the edge when one TB member asked Mr. Alfredo how long it had taken Alcon to get through the planning process. 'Three years' said a beaming Alfredo. Grrrrr... of course this perennial favorite query was asked to prove that the Town really, really gives a sh*t- while in actuality, this project has taken 3 years to meander through the process because it was off the agenda numerous times.

As for Durkin Water (because nothing says 'Executive Park' like pumper trucks entering and exiting a property with a gigantic above-ground water storage tank) there was a great deal of concern in the beginning of this process as some residents felt their well yield has been impacted by Durkin. I don't believe that these concerns were ever adequately addressed but eventually most angry residents fade into the sunset as the process drags on and on and on.

13. Landfill Closure Entry Permit:

Oh, lucky number 13. I just loved these guys bandying about the \$610,000 figure like it was chump change. Because all I could think was that this entire mess could have been cleaned up in 1996 for around \$525,000. Well, I suppose better late then never but remember the \$610,000 figure is only the tip of the iceberg.

14. Griffin Construction:

This was fun as Yee had his Jockeys in a twist and started a completely pointless Griffin Construction rant that the other councilmen thought had been solved several meetings back.

I happen to agree (gulp) with Yee on this one, in that if the dugouts built by Griffin were indeed shoddy I don't want to pay for them. While I know how much fun it would be for Yee and Rights to publicly humiliate a former Dunford protégé (I mean, just think of the campaign fodder this would provide!) I believe, like many disputes, this would be better handled behind the scenes- When solved, an announcement of the outcome would be appropriate.

15. NYS Laser Devices:

Yeah, I pretty much covered this in the intro but this item clearly illustrated Supervisor Rights inability to give a straight answer. I asked if the \$6800 we'd be spending would result in speeding enforcement equipment that would be used solely in the town of SE. Rights started down the meandering garden path of 'maybe' when I tried to remind him a simple 'yes' or 'no' would do. Undeterred he continued on down the BS trail. It would almost have been impressive if we hadn't seen the act countless times before. When he finally finished I said simply, 'I'll take that as a 'no'.

To Honeck, Gross and Johnson's credit they resisted falling into the 'safety and security ' trap and voted 'no'. You'll never be able to convince me that we should underwrite NY State police expenses- because where will it all end?

16. Fencing Budget:

This one seemed a little sketchy as everyone kind of assumed it would be yet another Volunteer Park fencing update. But, lo and behold, the Brewster Library wants a new fence for the yard behind. Sure the fence is old and cruddy looking but when money is tight this expense in unwarranted. Of course the suggestion simply to remove the unsightly fence fell on deaf ears as we'd undoubtedly lose 'safety and security' (read: end up with unwanted Latinos hanging out) in the library's backyard.

While I think a Main Street grant might work I would urge the Brewster Library Board to raise the additional money with a small capital campaign. People love giving to gardens- especially if they can be memorialized on a teak bench. Better yet (if not already in place) put an overall plan together for the back garden and make it a really inviting, useful and special place.

18. Board of Ethics:

Maybe it's just me but raise your hand if you'd like to be hauled in front of an Ethics Board chaired by Ruth Mazzei? Nah, didn't think so.

This last minute maneuvering was so obviously payback time it didn't tickle. While Supervisor Rights is way, way out of line in his dealings with town employees re the Parkash matter, this eleventh hour bogus resolution undermines the entire process. Plus with Ms. Mazzei presiding over a hearing it will appear to be nothing more than a kangaroo court- the intense dislike between Mazzei and Rights is both toxic and palpable.

I did speak out about the Supervisor's interference in regards to Parkash because I was frankly shocked that Rights would be as obviously biased and out of line as he has been. In addition I hear that less than a month ago Rights was seen hopping out of Parkash's luxe Rolls Royce (and *who* was that blond?) at a GOP function down in Westchester. If true, Rights has even more reason to distance himself from this now tawdry case.

21. Volleyball Courts (Pumphouse Road):

After spending quite the dinero on the in-line skating rink plans we're now thinking volleyball. I'm still not quite sure who ever thought in-line skating would be a winner- gosh, I'd put it up there with female line-backer shoulder pads, Donna Summer and 'Roller Boogie'. Tragic.

Anyhow, if only because of the swimwear, beach volleyball has probably withstood the test of time a little better so this seems like a good idea. I just feel that there are so many expenditures coming down the pike that we may need to be a little more circumspect.

22. Returnable Container Act:

Of course none of these guys was for the bigger, better bottle bill. In fact they really, really didn't want to bother with it or let alone read the resolution (they didn't). And in a sure sign of the Apocalypse they even

voted as a block. Apparently the ecumenical prayer did kick-in on this item but more likely it was anything to screw the treehuggers.

23. 5% Budget Reduction:

I actually think Councilman Gross' idea is a good and necessary one. Revenues are down and we need to plan ahead. That said, what troubles me here is the lip service on the minor stuff. Because we have the Landfill, Old Town Hall, Lakeview Senior Center, grossly overpriced storeroom and A/C for temple Beth Dunford, a possible sprinkler park or new swimming pool and lots more expenses headed our way. So even if we can manage a 5% cut once we have to float a few bonds taxes are inevitably gonna increase. Perhaps a great deal.

Yeah, yeah we're constantly reminded of the Recreation funds but how much will they really be able to cover?

Whew. That's finally it from my desk on this quirky Sunday. Please don't hesitate to e-mail should you have any comments or questions.

With Best Regards, Lynne Eckardt