

TOWN OF ELBRIDGE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

**REGULAR MEETING:** The Town Board of the Town of Elbridge met in regular session on September 19, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Town Municipal Building, Route 31, Jordan, New York.

Supervisor Bush called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Ken Bush Jr., Councilor George Betts, Councilor Bruce Ralston, Councilor Vern Richardson and Councilor Rita Dygert.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dirk Oudemool, Attorney, Dennis Pelmeur, Highway Superintendent; Deb Stapleton, Deputy Clerk Town Clerk, John Clark, Attorney; Robert Herrmann, CEO; Floyd Godfrey, Ron Rosen, Tammy Jones, William Jones, Ray Scouten, Dan Conroy, Doug Blumer, Robert Zealous, John Meixner, Cathy Meixner, Herm Fedrizzi and D. Karen Platten, Town Clerk.

**ADOPT MINUTES:** On a motion of Councilor Dygert seconded, by Councilor Betts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 5, 2007 and adopt minutes as written. UC.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**FROM:**

- 1) Regional Medical Services, Inc.- Flu/Pneumonia Clinic is October 2, 2007.
- 2) Department of Finance – Tax Delinquent Parcels

**GUESTS:** William Jones said their Attorney would be speaking for them. Attorney, John Clark representing the Elbridge Rod & Gun Club spoke regarding the claims on the club. For background the club has been in existence since 1968 with 700 members and club activities are unchanged during this period of time. The individual that has lodged the complaints purchased land near the club, built a home and became a member. In addition he has purchased a second parcel that is across from the gun club with area staked out for a sub-division. Will address this later. The nature of this complaint is that supposedly there have been projectiles leaving the gun club property and passing over to his property. The club doesn't believe this is happening and it is our belief that this is not a matter for the town. It is a two party dispute. The club has tried to work with this individual. This individual complained to the town and the Town's Attorney, Dirk Oudemool, contacted me. We have tried to resolve this for the past several months. Have made many proposals and restricted activities at the club. Have tried to address these complaints but have been rebuffed by the complainant. We think the real issue is noise, which is a very difficult issue. The Town of Elbridge doesn't have a noise ordinance that I'm aware of. To circumvent the lack of a noise ordinance this individual has alleged through the town that the club has violated the zoning status. It's a known fact that the club does rent out its facilities to local law enforcement agencies for training purposes. Just because the club receives income doesn't violate the zoning status and is still a non-profit club. The club is still willing to try to come to a resolution in addressing these issues. I urge the Town to realize it's a nuisance fight. We feel it's a dispute between two private parties and town money should not be used for this. I have had many contacts with Attorney Oudemool.

Supervisor Bush wanted it noted that no one on the board has ever said they want the club to close it was never discussed.

Councilor Dygert said our concern is in regards for safety issues for our residents.

Attorney Clark stated there has never been any evidence of bullets.

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Councilor Betts wonders if the board should be involved. Regarding the bullets the Town should make sure it's not a public safety issue.

Much discussion followed as to the changes of the gun club since 1968, number of vehicles has increased at different hours. Wondered what steps the club has done to prevent stray clay pellets or to possibly prohibit. Talked of surrounding the range with berms, installing bullet traps etc. The police only practice on the pistol range. Attorney Clark said that there is no admission and just want to be a good neighbor. Feels it is a noise issue. It is a difficult situation to address.

Supervisor Bush said the town received a petition from the residents against the club. It was stated the club could have a petition in favor.

Councilor's asked if the direction of the range could be changed, could hours be changed. Their attorney said they are willing to work and to eliminate the situation. Thanked everyone for allowing them to be at this meeting. They will try to find a solution within reason.

Councilor Betts thanked Attorney Clark and club members, as it has been good to see faces of people. The Town is working on a noise ordinance.

Herm Fedrizzi said he built his house 30 years ago and has owned the property for 50 years. The shooting is every morning and evening and it used to have restrictions. Not against the club but it has changed.

Bill Jones said there are 104 members and 58 family members that live in the Town of Elbridge. We don't shoot before 8:00am and end at sunset. Onondaga sheriffs never shoot past 10:00 o'clock. Police use the clubhouse for training and classroom work., thus you would see cars leaving late.

John Meixner – stated that no one from the club has ever approached him about anything. Whether you believe him or not we have had bullets ricochet over our property. He has never called the police. Even joined the club a few years ago. He said he approached one of the members and he told him they (the club) were here first. (It was noted later that he was not an officer from the club nor can he make any decisions). It was noted that meetings are Thursday nights when the officers are there and have never seen him there. Mr. Meixner said he wished someone could have apologized. John stated he is a sportsman too and he had approached the previous president. They need to shoot southwest or set up other berms etc.

Ron Rosen- President of the Elbridge Rod & Gun Club spoke and apologized to Mr. Meixner. I did not know you and I thought you would come to us if you had any problems. We will address the issue. We've had professionals' exam the area to see if there are any problems. John Meixner said he came to the club years ago and nothing was done. Discussion followed.

Attorney Clark appreciated being able to talk to the Town and we are willing to discuss with the Town or John anytime. We have sent letters to all members to make sure they abide by all club rules.

Attorney Clark said we would continue to work with Attorney Oudemool.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

Elbridge Rod & Gun Club Members, Kathy Meixner and MaryAnn Porter left at 7:34PM.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Attorney Oudemool said the advisory committee has reviewed the fence ordinance tonight and made some changes and gave the board copies with the changes. Will take to SOCPA tomorrow for their review. Councilor Dygert explained the changes. Discussion followed regarding fences on property line.

On a motion of Councilor Dygert, seconded by Councilor Richardson the following resolution was

ADOPTED: 5 AYES BETTS RALSTON RICHARDSON DYGERT BUSH  
0 NAYS

**Resolved:** that the Town Board of the Town of Elbridge set October 3, 2007 at 7:00 PM to hold a Public Hearing to repeal Section 30.46 and to adopt a new Article VIII titled fences for chapter 30 to include 30.80 et seq.

On a motion of Councilor Richardson, seconded by Councilor Betts the following resolution was

ADOPTED: 5 AYES BETTS RALSTON RICHARDSON DYGERT BUSH  
0 NAYS

**Resolved:** that the Town Board of the Town of Elbridge requests that a letter be sent to the Department of Transportation to have the speed limit sign on Laird Road moved and be extended from the current location, south to the Elbridge Rod and Gun Club.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilor Dygert: After discussion of a grant application, a resolution for purchasing a vehicle was presented.

On a motion of Councilor Dygert, seconded by Councilor Betts the following resolution was

ADOPTED: 5 AYES BETTS RALSTON RICHARDSON DYGERT BUSH  
0 NAYS

**Resolved:** that the Town Board of the Town of Elbridge agrees to apply for a grant for purchasing a vehicle to be used to transport seniors and the disabled. A copy will be sent to Senator DeFrancisco's office.

Councilor Dygert said she and Leo met with Fayetteville FISH Program. Some municipalities could find volunteers others have trouble. We have put together information for the Jordan Fall Festival hoping to recruit some volunteers. Leo and Mark will be manning the booth.

The Planning Board has approved the Tessa Site Plan Review - addressed the lot line adjustment.

Bill Hamilton and Marilyn Dominick also addressed the board regarding the sign at the High School.

James Spano of J& J Storage presented plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of their building.

Summit Ford presented their plans.

Councilor Dygert just volunteered to become a member of the Onondaga County Planning Board. It's a board that is being re-established.

Megan Blumer entered at 7:53PM

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Councilor Richardson: 67 children registered for the Ultimate Goal Soccer.

There is a recreational advisory board meeting tomorrow night.

130 signed up for fall soccer so far.

Received a letter from the Pool Committee. It was written because the Town said there were no problems, but there were some concerns. Councilor Richardson said he hadn't heard from anyone but will address this at the recreational meeting tomorrow night.

Registration was one of the problems, as the pool didn't have a copy of membership.

Supervisor Bush stated it sounds like a solvable situation.

Floyd Godfrey left at 8:00 PM.

Councilor Dygert said she has a fun project—naming the Senior Newsletter. Board members need to pick 10 names from the list. Will have at the fall festival so people can vote.

Councilor Ralston: Trash day went well, not as many as spring.

Work on the roof has been started.

Four bids were received on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the fuel/separator project. Not as many as expected. Reviewing with Plumley Engineering. The low bid has been thrown out, as it was not filed correctly.

Still working on the gathering of places for the survey.

Councilor Betts: Tarolli will start installing hydrants on Sandbank Road (3 or 4).

Public Safety Committee: the first meeting is on Tuesday, September 25 at 9:00AM with representatives from Fire Department, school and villages and the town.

Presented pictures to the Planning Board on signs being considered for the town entrances. Tom Brennan is to work on the signs.

Supervisor Bush said there is a budget modification.

**BUDGET MODIFICATIONS:** Councilor Ralston, seconded by Councilor Dygert made a motion that authorized the Supervisor to transfer the following monies into the designated accounts:

FROM: A1990.0 contingency \$765.00

TO: A1450.1 Personal Services

A couple personnel issues: Linda Faulkner, Court Clerk is in the hospital. And Rich Mastin, building & grounds worker is home and recuperating. Mrs. Mastin told Rita that he would be resigning.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Dan Conroy of Sandbank Road asked about the cost of the hydrants. Councilor Betts said they are \$3500 each.

Also asked that Seymour Lofft Park and the Jordan Pool be given equal amounts. They are all we have in the Town.

Megan Blumer of Whiting Road- re: senior exercise program, it will be the 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> week starting in December – April on Monday and Wednesday @ 10:00 AM. Grant was \$1500. Free to Onondaga County residents over 60. Have to buy weights.

John Meixner of Laird Road- asked the board as to where he stands. Supervisor Bush said we have to talk with legal counsel and to see what involvement the town has legally. Councilor Betts said we are addressing a noise ordinance.

John Meixner said we have sounds of gunfire that is continuous this is the problem.

Supervisor Bush said we received a petition and asked what do the neighbors want to do to settle this. Safety is my concern replied Mr. Meixner.

Mr. Fedrizzi said he felt the need for hours.

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Discussion followed with hours, need of an outside expert to design the club and maybe shoot south instead of north.

Councilor Betts said it was encouraging to hear and have both sides at this meeting and hope to bring a resolution.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, on a motion of Councilor Ralston seconded by Councilor Richardson the meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM. UC

Respectfully submitted,

D. Karen Platten, Town Clerk