

The November 17, 2009 regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Wormuth in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at the New Town Hall, 2 Halfmoon Town Plaza, with the following members present:

Melinda A. Wormuth, Supervisor
Walter F. Polak, Councilman
Regina C. Parker, Councilwoman
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman
Craig A. Hayner, Councilman
Mary J. Pearson, Town Clerk
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney
Matthew J. Chauvin, Deputy Town Attorney

The Town Board Workshop was held in the Board Room at 6:15 pm; no action was taken; the Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilwoman Parker led a moment of silence for Army Sgt. Amy Seyboth-Trador who recently lost her life in Iraq.

Supervisor Wormuth stated that Jim Connolly from Ellis Hospital will provide a presentation on a proposal the hospital is making before the Department of Health. She stated they have spent several months meeting with them discussing the possibility of bringing some additional emergency room care to Southern Saratoga County.

Jim Connolly thanked the Board for the opportunity to be before them to explain what is going on at Ellis Medicine. He stated the two most significant things that are changing is that they have changed their name. He stated the problem is when they came together as three institutions people didn't know who was doing what or on what campus. He stated they are the main provider and main infrastructure for the entire community of Schenectady and, if they look at all the services they provide throughout the region they are no longer one institution and they are a body of scientific knowledge and information and they came up with the name Ellis Medicine. He stated they have three main campuses and try to convey what is done on those campuses. He stated Ellis Hospital on Nott Street is carrying that name because that is the place where they deliver all their in-patient acute medical surgical care; they have the Bellevue Women's Center which is the enter for their OB services and the third is the former St. Clare's Hospital which they had been calling the McClellan Campus and they changed that name to the Ellis Health Center. He stated part of the problem is that on campus they have an emergency room, ambulatory surgery, imaging center, wound care center, infusion therapy center, a sleep lab, a medical home, pediatric practice, family health center and there is no one name that captures all that so ergo they call it the Ellis Health Center and they are an array of different services. He stated in 2007 the three institutions operating lost collectively \$7 million dollars and in their first year of assuming responsibility they had an \$8 million dollar gain, this year will be a little less than that probably between \$5½ and \$6 million but anytime a health care institution can be in the black it is an accomplishment. He stated they are one of the regions largest employers with 3,400 people in their work force, 600 active physicians and, they are the only hospital in the State and, one of only 76 in the Country to be ranked in the top 5% of US hospitals for patient safety and clinical excellence. He stated they believe they have the fastest times in the Capital region and the lowest mortality rate for interventional cardiac procedures anywhere in New York State. He stated they are committed to provide exceptional quality care, make sure they have improved access of care, attract the best and the brightest to the community and they see that as a two fold mission to attract to Ellis Hospital but they also think they have a responsibility as a health care organization to strengthen the community so they also can attract the best and brightest businesses and people to come work in that community. He stated they want to avoid duplication and maximize the potential of operating efficiently and meet community needs.

He stated they plan on building an ER that is part new and part integrated with the existing ER, which will be renovated. He stated there will be a 230 space parking garage that will add about 130 parking spaces and underneath they will put some infrastructure. He stated they operate two ER's in Schenectady one at St. Clare's campus and one on Nott Street about 1½ miles apart and is a duplication and they don't need two full service ED's so they will convert one of those ER's to an Urgent Care Center and will serve a different level of care and a different number of patients. He stated this is the busiest ER in the entire Capital Region and when one is turned into an Urgent Care Center and move the additional volume to Nott Street they will need to be able to

see 60,000 people, which means the ER will need to be capable of handling 80,000 to accommodate the volume.

He showed the proposed satellite emergency department in Southern Saratoga County and one of the things they are saying to the Department of Health is when they consolidate they should be allowed to take the ED that's duplicating service and move it into an area where an emergency department is needed in the Southern Saratoga County Clifton Park Halfmoon area. He stated they are proposing a 20,000 square foot facility that would see between 10-15,000 visits a year and their ideal would be to be within a quarter of a mile of the intersection of Route 146 and the Northway. He stated this will be a 24-hour full service ED, fully staffed by their emergency room doctors and nurses and will be able to handle ambulances and anything that comes in that door. He stated they will be stabilizing people and transferring if they need in-patient care but it will be a full service emergency room and will have the ability to hold up to 12 patients overnight for observation if needed.

He stated when they took over the Bellevue operation they thought they were going to have vacate that campus because the infrastructure was in tough shape but they have been able to repair some of the infrastructure. He stated the one thing they couldn't get around is that Bellevue didn't have enough space with only 40 beds/20 semi-private rooms and people want private accommodations. He stated they are creating a 1 ½ story facility that will allow them to go to 28 private rooms and 6 semi-private and be able to accommodate up to 34 women in private rooms and the 35th would go into a semi-private. He stated they also would expand the nursery and intensive care nursery on this campus, which will accommodate the deliveries they do now, and the numbers keep going up.

He stated the Medical Home is on the Ellis Health Center on the McClellan St. campus is a link a number of community organizations through the nurse navigators and also gives people one place to go when then need a wide array of services and the areas are all contiguous. He stated they are relating their Nursing Home which is 82 beds located on the 5th and 6th floor of the hospital from Nott Street to McClellan Street and will give residents of the nursing home a larger footprint and more space for activities for daily living and providing amenities and is under construction now opening in March. He stated when it does they will be able to recover the 82 beds of long term care. He stated Ellis Hospital is licensed for 455 beds, 380 of them are medical surgical beds and right now they are not operating at 380 but are operating every bed and every square foot and get at 95% occupancy and things start to slow down and they need more bed capacity. He stated this would be the easiest most cost effective way to recover some of that bed capacity by taking the former nursing home beds and converting them into medical surgical beds.

He stated they have a number of regulatory approvals certificate of needs, which are before the State; they need to secure the financing for the Nott Street ED. He stated they have to pay for these projects out of future earnings. He stated they submitted the "Certificate of Need" asking the State for approval to allow them to operate any in licensed entity that is off their campus, the State evaluates your application and determines whether to grant approval. He stated they put theirs in to the State in August and had a number of meetings with the State and one of the first things they said is that other hospitals might be interested in putting in application and number two, they are not so sure there is a need for an emergency room in Southern Saratoga County and asked if they have seen any data or studies that suggest that patients are dying because they have to travel twenty minutes by ambulance as opposed to being able to access something in their community in five minutes. He stated it is unlikely people are dying because they have to go 15-20 minutes as opposed to five minutes but if that is the definition they would never do anything to expand, upgrade or improve any emergency room anywhere. He stated it is more than life and death and there is pain and suffering and they think there is a lot of legitimate need in this community. He stated they have talked to them about the density of the population in this region and has one of the densest populations in New York State without an emergency room and they started to press them to rethink their definition of need. He stated the next question will be who should be the provider of that need and they have said to them Ellis is already the closest hospital to this community and is the largest provider of care in this immediate community and they have very quick response. He stated the other thing they say is if you are going to have a free standing emergency room they have experience in operating one and have been operating one for over a year and a half at the former St. Clare's Hospital and they are willing to give that up and move it to Saratoga County and in the process they believe they will save the region about 2½ million dollars compared to the next alternative and they believe it should be a full service hospital, a stroke center, an open- heart cardiac surgical program and a full array of services. He stated that will be the argument they make for Ellis

Medicine and their own merits. He stated they do not expect the Department of Health to give a decision before January and possibly February.

Councilman Polak asked if he understands correctly that they are looking at Maxwell Road in Clifton Park; Mr. Connolly stated that is one location and there are three locations they are actually considering, one in Clifton Park, one in Halfmoon and one is on the border but technically in Clifton Park on Route 9; Councilman Polak stated he couldn't comprehend why they would want to go to one of busiest roads and intersections in the County that is backed up most of the day; Mr. Connolly stated their criteria is to be within a quarter mile of the intersection of Route 146 and Route 9 and they need to have a footprint large enough to accommodate the ER and its parking, physicians offices and its parking and that is what is primarily driving them; Councilman Polak stated we have all of that right here.

Councilwoman Parker stated that is why they want them to come here, they have two Urgent Cares, we have none, and all the cardiac people and physicians are already here in that busy area and she has met a lot of them. She stated she differs with DOH and can tell him countless times that the house shutters when medivac helicopters go over her home and it would be a lot easier to bring them to a facility in this location than it is to go to Ellis, Albany Medical or St. Peters and the need is definitely here; Mr. Connolly stated they believe the same thing.

Mr. Connolly stated they had to put a site in the "Certificate of Need" at the time and the site that met their needs was in Maxwell Park but they told them that absolutely there were other sites and they had made no commitment.

Councilman Hotaling asked when they designed the size for the building they are proposing how did they come up with that size calculation; Mr. Connolly stated they did a market analysis and there are about 45,000 visits that are recorded in the emergency rooms and there are countless other visits people go to for urgent care that are not true emergency rooms and are not recorded and they have no way of knowing the numbers. He stated usually if 20 people show up in an emergency room 5 are going to be really true level 1 or 2 acute emergencies and the other 15 are going to be not true emergencies to something right on the border where it can't be determined. He stated they will be here to provide emergency and specialty care.

Councilwoman Parker stated the urgent care closes at 8, 9 or 10 pm and this community needs a 24 hour service desperately; Mr. Connolly stated people said to them why don't you open an urgent care center but they want to do it correctly and has to be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, it has to be fully staffed and be able to accept ambulances.

Councilman Hayner thanked him for coming here tonight and it is a very comprehensive plan and very exciting and much needed for this community and we would love to have him in Halfmoon; Mr. Connolly stated they have three developers looking at the three sites and they will go out with a whole series of questions and each site has plus and minuses and they are at the middle of the final selection process and will give every consideration to the campus because there are a lot of advantages to it.

Supervisor Wormuth thanked Mr. Connolly and has worked closely with herself and the planning staff and visited the hospital numerous times and they worked identifying sites. She stated they would ask because of the potential for a the growth they know is going to happen in Southern Saratoga County certainly they are going to support this and they ask that if it comes down to it to make good decision and look at five or six years from now and having a longer range plan. She stated the \$3 million dollar facility here is a small portion of what they are doing and hopes the hospital is mindful and doesn't take it on a short sight; Mr. Connolly stated one of the major advantages the Halfmoon site has is the expansion for growth if needed.

Supervisor Wormuth stated Halfmoon is one of the fastest growing Towns in Saratoga County and we still have a huge amount of undeveloped land and with AMD coming it will continue. She stated if they need any help talking to landowners or developers or trying to work out the financing deals certainly herself and Mr. Watts will be more than happy to do that.

Councilman Polak stated it would like him to convey to his group that he has been on the Board a couple of years and previous to the present board past boards were out looking for a hospital before a hospital was looking for us.

RESOLUTION NO. 244

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Hayner: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

WHEREAS, Constance Luke has served the Department of Motor Vehicles and the citizens of Saratoga County since August of 1998; and

WHEREAS, Constance is a resident of the Town of Halfmoon and has been active in the community both civically and socially; and

WHEREAS, Constance's professional service and dedication to the County of Saratoga Springs and to the citizens of the State deserve the recognition of the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon; and

WHEREAS, Constance has showed exemplary service to our community, through her work at the Department of Motor Vehicles together with her creation of beautiful flower arrangements for those that need cheer brought into their lives; and

WHEREAS, although we are sad to see Constance retire, we encourage her to take the time to enjoy her hobbies including enjoying the park, the gym, singing and photography;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon recognizes and commends Constance Luke for her years of service to the County of Saratoga and the community; and it is further
2. That a framed copy of this Resolution be presented to Constance Luke in recognition of her dedicated service to the Town.

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Councilman Polak reported that the Town Highway department will be on their winter hours as of November 23rd, the hours are Monday through Friday 7 am to 3 pm.

Councilman Hotaling reported he wanted to thank everyone for making the annual Holiday Parade such a success; this coming Saturday the Halfmoon Senior Center will be having their holiday bazaar and bake sale; on Sunday they will have the annual Character Counts food drive starting around 10 am; he stated he wanted to give thanks to our Troops, policemen, fireman, our ambulance corps, highway department, water department and everything we take for granted. He also wanted to thank this Board for keeping everybody safe in this community.

Councilwoman Parker reported she also would like to thank everyone for this past weekend and it was nice to see families come out in warm weather; and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and she is very grateful for everything they have been able to do and keep all our employees with jobs in these economic times.

Councilman Hayner reported that the Town's Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on December 3rd to light the Town tree and there will be carols sung, refreshments served and Santa will be there. He stated they also will be lighting trees honoring the memory of loved ones in the Town gazebo at 6:30 pm; trees can be purchased for \$45.00 each and includes a tree and a sign that tells about your loved one and the lights and, if interested, people can contact Kevin Tollisen at 664-2951.

Councilman Hayner reported that Élan Planning & Design firm will present a public informational meeting format on the Hudson River Waterfront Park, 2½ acre site down by Route 4, on December 1st, 2009.

RESOLUTION NO. 245

Offered by Councilman Hayner, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board sets a Public Informational meeting session for the Hudson River Waterfront Park on December 1st, 2009 at 7:00 pm with Élan Planning & Design.

Supervisor Wormuth stated she would like to thank our own County Clerk, Kathy Marchione as well as other Clerk's in the State who have been standing up to Governor Patterson on the license plate issue and hopefully saving all of us some money and it looks like they are making very good progress and hopefully it will be repealed and stay that way.

Supervisor Wormuth opened public privilege for discussion of agenda topics; no one had questions or comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS-month of October

1. Town Justice Tollisen

Total cases – 787

Total fees remitted to the Supervisor:

\$46,777

Filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received from Town Senior Planner notification of decision of the Halfmoon Planning Board to deny the McHargue Minor Subdivision application, due to not meeting the required minimum lot area.

Received and Filed.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 246

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Hayner: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves and orders paid all vouchers for all funds listed on Abstract dated November 17, 2009, totaling: \$118,032.81.

RESOLUTION NO. 247

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves minutes of Town Board meeting of October 20th, 2009 as presented by the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 248

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Hayner: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the Supervisor's Report for month of October 2009, as presented.

Councilman Polak stated, relative to the next item, that one of our employees at the Transfer station has to take a leave of absence and Bob Govin has worked at the Transfer Station previously and will fill in until the other man comes back.

Supervisor Wormuth stated they were happy to be able to honor that request for him to take some time off and also appreciate the thoughtfulness of the Highway Superintendent coming up with this as a solution to prevent overtime that may have been a result of this and is a good solution for everybody. She stated Mr. Govin knows it is temporary and is happy to fill in.

RESOLUTION NO. 249

Offered by Councilman Hayner, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoints Robert Govin as temporary seasonal part-time Transfer Station attendant effective immediately to be paid \$11.00 per hour worked.

RESOLUTION NO. 250

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes waiving all building permit fees for construction of the Highway department salt storage shed dome.

The Supervisor stated, relative to the next item, that this money is being expended from a Grant the Town received in June and they are happy to see the project move forward.

RESOLUTION NO. 251

Offered by Councilman Hayner, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner Abstain: Polak

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has awarded a grant to the Town of Halfmoon for the Champlain Canal Trail construction project, and

WHEREAS, a public process for Request For Qualifications (RFQ) was conducted to solicit qualified professional design and engineering firms, and

WHEREAS, the RFQ process rated Clough Harbour & Associates, LLP and its sub-consultants as the most qualified organization to meet the project needs based on their qualifications submitted for review and consideration,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor, with review and approval from the Town Attorney, to negotiate and execute the contract with Clough Harbour & Associates, LLP, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 as the lead consultant for design and engineering services.

RESOLUTION NO. 252

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by vote of the Board: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to make the following Transfer between Appropriations and Creation of Appropriations:

A resolution is needed to create the following budget amendment of appropriations and revenues in the Special Revenue Fund for engineering fees for on site quality inspections. These funds are developer’s monies held in escrow by the Town in a regular checking account and used for the payment of costs for that particular project. This resolution is necessary to comply with proper accounting procedures as set forth by NYS Department of Audit and Control.

Debit: Estimated Revenues 25-510 \$9,391.17
Subsidiary: 25-4-2189 Home & Community Services \$9,391.17
Credit: Appropriations 25-960 \$9,391.17
Subsidiary: 25-5-1440.40 Engineering Contractors Inspections \$9,391.17

Information Only: The above was derived from the following breakdown of charges to be paid on the November Abstract for engineering and related fees:

NAME	AMOUNT
Halfmoon Village/Yacht Club	\$8,156.67
Clemente PDD	\$268.00
Pino Comm Lt Ind Park PDD	\$402.00
Swatling Falls PDD	\$564.50
TOTAL	\$9,391.17

A resolution is needed to increase appropriations for the construction of Capital Project for the new Town Family Park Facilities which was approved on July 7, 2009 in the amount of \$325,000. This increase will be paid for from the Recreation Fund and there will be no new debt created for the Capital Project.

Debit: Estimated Revenues 75 - 510 \$325,000
Subsidiary: 75-4-2001.00 Recreation Charges - \$325,000
Credit: Appropriations 75 – 960 \$325,000
Subsidiary: Parks 75-5-7110.20 - \$325,000

A creation of appropriations is necessary to create the project budgetary accounts for the Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Grant Program.

The Town was awarded \$35,000 from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Grant Program on June 12, 2009. This funding will be used to construct the Hudson Riverfront Park. Park amenities that will be constructed include: pavilion, restrooms, car-top boat access including docking, and parking. This grant was matched by funding from the NYS Department of State.

Debit: Estimated Revenues 35 – 510 \$35,000
Subsidiary: 35-4-4889 - \$35,000 Culture & Recreation Capital Grants
Credit: Appropriations 35 – 960 \$35,000
Subsidiary: 35-5-7150.21 Culture & Recreational Parks - \$35,000

A resolution is needed to appropriate funds available to the Town of Halfmoon per agreement with Saratoga County by its Youth Bureau for expenses incurred in sponsoring activities for local youth in conjunction with Youth Week 2009.

DEBIT: Estimated Revenues 10-510 \$2,220

Subsidiary: 10-4-3820 - \$2,220 Youth Programs
CREDIT: Appropriations 10-960 \$2,220
Subsidiary: 10-5-7140.40 - \$2,220 Recreation Programs
Transfers from Appropriations:

From Account	To Account	Amount	Reason
10-5-1680.20 Data Processing Equipment	10-5-1680.40 Data Processing Contractual	\$4,000	Transfer of appropriations within own budget to cover expenses thru year end

The Supervisor opened public privilege for discussion of non-agenda items.

Councilman Polak stated he wants to thank the Celebrations committee for giving him the honor of being the Grand Marshal in the parade and it was a great honor, not only for him, but also for his family and wants to thank them publicly.

On motion by Councilwoman Parker seconded by Councilman Hotaling the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Pearson
Town Clerk

