

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on February 21, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

PRESENT: Supervisor - Edward P. Mahoney
Councilmen - Peter DeLucia, Al Perruzza
Town Attorney - Jessica Bacal
Town Clerk - Kathleen G. Cory

ABSENT: Councilman - Allen Hershkowitz, Suzanne Whalen

Also attending were Deputy Supervisor Joann Vasi and Facilities Maintenance Manager Joel Smith.

Mr. Mahoney called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Employment History

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted 3-0 to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted 3-0 to come out of executive session. Mr. Mahoney noted that the Board convened early this evening to accommodate people who wanted to be interviewed for positions on Town boards and committees. More interviews will be conducted at the end of this meeting.

MINUTES – Approved

On motion by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Perruzza the Board voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 7, 2006.

MEMORIAM – Elisha Keeler

Town Historian Maureen Koehl addressed the Board, advising of the passing of former Town House resident Elisha Keeler, who passed away on December 19, 2005.

Mrs. Koehl said the Keelers go back to the first land speculators in town. The Keelers were part of the Ridgefield Proprietors. At his death at age 98 Elisha Keeler was the last of the nine children of Thaddeus Keeler. Mrs. Koehl read from the following story she had written about Mr. Keeler:

“There is no easy place to start recalling the incredibly creative, busy and long life of Elisha Crofut Keeler who died December 19, in Raymore, Mo. at the age of 98. Elisha was the last of the South Salem Keelers, a line that stretches back to the mid eighteenth century in our town. One of the nine living children of Thaddeus and Gertrude Bishop Keeler, he was born May 12, 1907, the fourth of five brothers and four sisters. He probably achieved the most far-reaching fame of the

bunch. It is not hard to describe the man! He was the human version of the Energizer Bunny, never still, always smiling, telling stories, working at his flowers, and most of all, playing, talking and living his love of music!"

Mrs. Koehl said Elisha Keeler was well known throughout New England as a square dance caller. He grew up in what is now the Lewisboro Police Station, across from St. John's Church on Spring Street. In 1922 the family bought the building that is now the Lewisboro Town House. At that time Elisha was a teenager. In about 1948 the Keelers sold the building to the Town and it was converted to an office building. Ms. Koehl said this Town Board meeting is taking place in the parlor. The kitchen is now the Town Clerk's office and the dining room is now the Receiver of Taxes' office.

The Town House property included land on which the post office, library and highway garage now stand. In 1979 Elisha and Lois moved to Florida. Prior to their move they lived for many years in property just north of the post office. Their home was called "Happy Home Flowers".

In 1996 Mrs. Koehl visited the Keelers in Lehigh Acres, Florida and recorded Elisha and Lois talking about the family's purchase of the Town House.

On the tape Elisha is heard saying that when his family bought the present Town House in 1922 they bought 23 acres "including that big house and all the way across the present Lake Truesdale." Although the present lake wasn't constructed at that time there was "sort of a made-pond, always called Truesdale Lake where the dam is." He said the area was farm land, his father's pasture. Lois Keeler is heard on the tape saying that later when the corporation that developed the area had swans on the lake, Elisha used to take care of them during the winter, cutting ice by the clubhouse so the swans could swim. She said they lived up there through one winter and that was enough, "because to share a house with General O'Ryan's secretaries..." Mrs. Koehl said the tape continues with Elisha talking about a garage out back of the present Town House which was part of the sawmill that his father had behind the police station. Where the library is now was Elisha's vegetable garden, and the area was all pasture land down to the lake. His father and brothers did the logging to cut the trees down in the swamp to make the lake around 1927.

Mrs. Koehl said the Keelers have done a lot for the town. Elisha's brother Tim was on the Town Board for a number of years, and was also president of one of the Ridgefield banks. Unfortunately all the Keelers moved out of town to various places--Idaho, Vermont, Florida. To list a few of Elisha's accomplishments, Mrs. Koehl said he was a horticulturist, one of the founders of the Westchester County Horticultural Society, (he grew prize-winning African violets), and he was the first custodian of Lewisboro School (then called South Salem School) in 1941. Mrs. Koehl said Elisha Keeler had a landscaping business and opened Happy Home Flowers and did landscaping work for some of the bigger houses in the area. Elisha was a musician first, his first love was square dance calling. Every two weeks there would be a square dance in the barn behind the present police station, and people remember those square dances to this day. In the 1960's Elisha was the caller for a George Balanchine ballet called "Square Dance" and he did the calling for the ballet company for about ten years. He continued to do calling for square dances in LeHigh Acres, Florida but he complained it wasn't fun to call for

mostly women. The Joffrey Ballet Company revived the ballet in 1973 and asked Elisha to be part of their production from 1973 to 1977. (Mrs. Koehl noted that when their children moved Elisha and Lois to Missouri, Elisha was asked, at age 97, to help with another production of the "Square Dance" ballet in St. Louis.)

Mr. Mahoney thanked Mrs. Koehl for her presentation on behalf of Elisha Keeler. Mr. DeLucia said it was "amazing" that tonight Mrs. Koehl could stand in the Keeler home to give her tribute to Elisha.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Lewisboro Town Board and all who knew him were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of former Lewisboro resident Elisha Keeler, who died on December 19, 2005 at the age of ninety-eight, and

WHEREAS, Elisha Keeler was born in Lewisboro on May 12, 1907, the sixth of ten children born to Thaddeus and Gertrude Keeler, and a descendant of the original families to settle in this area, and

WHEREAS, in his youth Elisha Keeler and his family lived in the home that is now the headquarters of the Lewisboro Police Department, and

WHEREAS, in 1922 Elisha Keeler and his family moved to a home on Main Street in South Salem that we now call the Town House, and

WHEREAS, throughout his life Elisha Keeler was a man of many talents, most widely known for his square dance calling. His musical talents included playing the piano, banjo, cello, trombone and harmonica, and

WHEREAS, Elisha Keeler was also an accomplished horticulturist and the proprietor of Happy Home Flowers in South Salem, was the first custodian of the new South Salem School when it opened in 1941, and was a founding member of the South Salem Fire Department, and

WHEREAS, Elisha and his wife Lois were very active in church, community and civic organizations, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Lewisboro Town Board mourns the passing of Elisha Keeler, an illustrious son of Lewisboro, and does hereby express its sympathy to his wife Lois and his family.

* * * * *

Tom Herzog noted that he learned square dancing from Elisha and Elisha was godfather to one of his sons.

MEMORIAM – Edgar Barth

The Board noted the passing of former Councilman Edgar Barth, who died in late December, 2005.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro was saddened to learn of the recent passing of former Councilman Edgar Barth, and

WHEREAS, Edgar Barth served as a Councilman from 1976 to 1979 and is remembered as someone who gave generously of his time for the betterment of his community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board mourns the passing of former Councilman Edgar Barth and extends its sympathies to his family.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Leon Levy Preserve Funding/Pool Project

Bonnie Robins of Perch Bay Road, Waccabuc questioned the Board on the progress toward getting the \$1,000,000 payment from New York City for the easement on the Leon Levy Preserve and the search for a realtor. She also asked the status of the auditor’s report.

Mr. Mahoney said the audit report is expected shortly. Mrs. Robins also requested the unaudited financial reports. Mr. Mahoney said they also should be available shortly. Mrs. Robins said it is important to get all the financial information in place before spending any money on bonding. She said it was her understanding that the Town Board has up to five years to bond the money. She also suggested the Town borrow the money from another one of its funds. If the Town does bond she suggested the Town bond for Oakridge at the same time.

Mr. Perruzza said the Town has spent almost \$1,000,000 on the pool and must put a project manager in place to know how much has been done and what must yet be done. He also said it is important to know how much cash the Town has on hand and then with the projection of pool

costs the Board can determine a course of action. Mrs. Robins asked if the Board knew how much cash they had on hand. Mr. Perruzza said the real issue is how much of the surplus is not designated for specific things.

Parks and Recreation – Andes Property

Bonnie Robins questioned the status of the county’s offer to build ballfields on the Andes property in Cross River. She asked that the Board continue to consider the Andes property and also that the Board hold a public hearing on the issue. Mr. Mahoney said the Town Board will hold a public hearing on the matter.

Emergency Planning

John Lansdale of West Road, Vista questioned the Town’s disaster plan, noting that his power was out recently for 30 hours. Mr. Mahoney noted that the Vista Fire Department is prepared to be an emergency shelter. Ms. Bacal added that the Emergency Preparedness Task Force is putting together a plan and is waiting for Federal funding.

COMMENDATION- Highway Department Employees

Mr. Mahoney read a letter of commendation to the Highway Employees from the Superintendent of Highways regarding their work during the recent snowstorm.

REFUSE LICENSE – Renewal Granted to Mayfield Carting

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized to issue a refuse license renewal to Mayfield Carting for a period of one year, commencing January 7, 2006.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Town Pool – Payment of Invoice #4

The Town Attorney said she has reviewed and approved Scott Pools request for payment #4. A meeting has been held to establish the procedure for submission and payment of bills. Mr. DeLucia noted he had received the approved plans for the wading pool. He noted there will be changes to health department regulations that may affect the wading pool, and the plans should be reviewed with that in mind.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – Authorization to Hire 12th Person

The Board reviewed a request from the Highway Superintendent for permission to hire a 12th person in his department. It was noted there is money in the budget for this year. Mr. DeLucia noted that the department has been short one person.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Highway Superintendent be and hereby is authorized to fill a 12th position in the Highway Department.

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL – Authorize Contract

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the 2006 Agreement Among Bedford, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge for the Drug Abuse Prevention Council.

TOWN CLERK – Authority to Attend Conference

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized to attend the annual New York State Town Clerks’ Association conference in Saratoga Springs, New York from April 23 to 26, 2006.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Authorization to Lease Vehicle

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Joanne Marchesani be and hereby is authorized to lease/purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle for her department at a total cost of approximately \$14,972.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Authorize Seasonal Salaries

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the 2006 part-time seasonal staff salary ranges as proposed by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in a memo dated February 13, 2006 are hereby approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Authorize Agreement re LiveScan System

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro hereby agrees, subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, to enter into an Inter Municipal Agreement with Westchester County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Lewisboro Police Department to join the Bedford Police Department in the attempt to obtain funding for a Livescan fingerprint system. The system will be a scanning device that will allow immediate scanning of fingerprints after arrests and for identification purposes. It will be kept at the Bedford Police Department.

ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN – Authorization of Payment to Leslie B. Maron, Esq.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the payment to Attorney Leslie B. Maron for legal services in January of his retainer of \$5,000 plus an additional \$300 for litigation services.

CLAIMS – Approved for Payment

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza the Board voted 3-0 to approve payment of claims in the amount of \$420,708.71.

THE MEADOWS – Water Problem

Mr. DeLucia reported that there has been a problem with the water at The Meadows condominiums in Cross River. He said they have a need for cartridge filters due to an MBTE contamination. The neighborhood has been put back on bottled water. The neighborhood was notified last June that it was an emergency situation. There has been an application pending before the Planning Board for an extended period of time. Mr. DeLucia said he expedited the process and as of Friday the neighborhood has an approved building permit to start to solve the problem. He suggested that in the future there should be a way to fast-track the approval process when there is an emergency situation.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW – Reappointment of Richard Ferrarone

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE: Yes	- Mahoney, DeLucia, Perruzza,	(3)
No	- None	(0)
Absent	- Hershkowitz, Whalen	(2)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that Richard Ferrarone be and hereby is reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term commencing October 1, 2005.

REPORTS – Monthly

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the report from the Planning Board was received and filed.

GRANTS – Watershed Grant

Mr. Perruzza noted that the Town applied last year for a \$312,000 watershed grant. He said the Town has been advised that the application is not up to specifications. Mr. Perruzza said he will have a conference call with representatives from the local lake organizations, the County Planning Office and a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection to go over specifically what they need. He said it is imperative that the grant be completed properly. He said he was disappointed it wasn't prepared appropriately.

Mr. Mahoney said the grant consultants will be coming down at the end of the week to review the situation with current grants. Mr. Perruzza said there three grant projects on his follow-up list, a grant available for Invasive Aquatic Species, Round 8 of the watershed grants, and the Oakridge grant.

WESTCHESTER MUNICIPAL PLANNING FEDERATION – Seminar

Ms. Bacal noted that the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation is holding its annual planning and zoning seminar in March and suggested that newly appointed members of those boards should attend.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

The next Town Board meeting will be held on March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Grants

Bonnie Robins of Waccabuc questioned the status of pending grants. Mr. Perruzza said the status of new and pending grants will be confirmed at the meeting with the grant writer later this week. Mr. DeLucia said all Town departments are involved in seeking grants.

Cellular Towers

Mr. Mahoney noted that Crowne Communications represents the State Department of Transportation regarding a proposed cell tower on Route 22 in Goldens Bridge. The DOT does not have to apply to the Town for permission for the tower, but they are willing to come before the Town Board and make a presentation.

Mr. DeLucia said it may be academic but they should come and talk to the Town Board. Mr. Mahoney said their appearance will be put on a Town Board agenda and will be well publicized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Employment History

On motion by Mr. Mahoney seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted 3-0 to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, the Board voted 3-0 to come out of executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Mahoney, seconded by Mr. Perruzza, the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn.

Kathleen G. Cory
Town Clerk