

A regular meeting of the Malone Town Board was held Wednesday, September 24th 2008 at the Malone Town Offices, 27 Airport Rd, Malone, New York, commencing at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Supervisor Howard Maneely
Deputy Supervisor Paul Walbridge
Councilor Louise Taylor
Councilor John Sullivan
Councilor Irving Caplan

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Hafter, Town Clerk
Andrea Stewart, Budget Officer/Bookkeeper
Lillian-Anderson Duffy, Town Attorney
Ona Rushford, Malone Joe Holmes, Malone
Chris LaBarge, Malone Denise Raymo, Press-Republican
Darcy Fargo, Malone Telegram

At 6:00pm, Supervisor Maneely called the meeting to order with a pledge to the flag.

ADDRESS TO BOARD:

Assistance Programs – Ona Rushford, a representative from Franklin County Social Services requested time to address the Board regarding DSS’s many assistance programs, which may be helpful during the upcoming winter. She said eligibility guidelines for heating assistance and food stamps have been relaxed in order to help a broader group of people during this difficult financial time. The Franklin County Public Safety Building will serve as an after hours center for emergency heating issues. Ms. Rushford provided handouts and phone numbers and encouraged all to “spread the word” and to direct any questions to her office. She also said there has been confusion about eligibility for the Federal stimulus checks that went out last fall, and many did not apply. She urges those people, especially seniors, to check to see if they are indeed eligible, before the 10/15/2008 deadline. Those who were eligible last year are automatically eligible this year. DSS will provide assistance with Income Tax filing this year, at One Work Source.

Empire Zone – Chris LaBarge, local realtor and developer addressed the Board asking for a change in Empire Zone boundaries to allow for his Holiday Inn and other, future projects in the Town to be included. He said the EZ Coordinator, Carmen Lorentz asks for input from the Town Board, local business people and realtors on this request. Supervisor Maneely said that the Board will take some time for consideration.

MINUTES:

*On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor accept the minutes of **September 10, 2008 - regular meeting**
CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

REPORTS:

* On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Sullivan to accept the following reports as presented and place on file:

Justice Court - July 2008

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

OLD BUSINESS:

Draft Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Laws – The last scheduled meeting for the Comprehensive Plan Committee was canceled due to an obligation of Attorney Anderson-Duffy’s. Deputy Supervisor Walbridge suggested the Planning board choose three (3) possible dates and get back to the Board.

Planning Board Vacancy – Planning Board member Andy Snell has moved to the Lake George area, with his 7 year term having expired 09/08/2008. Planning Board Chairman, Mark Gonyea asked the Town Board to delay an appointment to this vacancy, pending Mr. Snell’s replacement at Franklin County Soil and Water has been hired.

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* On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor to **table** the Planning Board vacancy issue.

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

PSC meeting – Pat Johnson, a representative from the Public Service Commission met with Town Supervisor Maneely, Village Mayor Stewart, Town Clerk/Village Trustee Hafter and Town Budget Officer Stewart to discuss lapsed franchise agreements between the municipalities and Time Warner Cable. The agreements have been extended periodically, but new agreements have not been approved. Ms. Johnson provided some information that may be helpful in coming to terms. She said it is important that we have an acceptable agreement in place because competition is coming, and any new provider will be required to, at minimum, meet the terms of the contract currently in place when they apply. She also informed us that TWC provides a little advertised level of service called “Life Line” for about \$9.00 per month. Life Line includes the 3 major networks plus a few cable stations, and is a good alternative for senior citizens on fixed incomes. Another feature the Town and Village can take advantage of is the availability of a free cable drop in any municipally owned building and 1other location of choice.

* On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor to set up a joint meeting of the Town and Village, with Time Warner and PSC, to negotiate new franchise agreements with Time Warner.

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS: Superintendent Livernois was not present. Supervisor Maneely reported that 400 tons of road salt has been ordered for the coming winter.

BOARD MEMBER/COMMITTEE ITEMS:

Councilor Caplan reported that NCAS is doing well with help from a large donation.

Deputy Supervisor Walbridge suggested the town provide more parking on Airport Road for the sporting fields, Farmer’s Market and increased Justice Court traffic.

CORRESPONDENCE:

From Town Clerk Hafter – a request for permission to attend a Local Government Shared Services and Efficiency grant workshop.

* On the motion of Supervisor Maneely with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor to permit Town Clerk Hafter to attend a Local Government Shared Services and Efficiency grant workshop to be held Wednesday, October 1st 2008 in Plattsburgh, with no charge to her accruals, and with any associated costs to be covered by the Village, as she is also attending as a Village official.

Discussion: Supervisor Maneely asked Clerk Hafter, in her capacity as Village Deputy Mayor, whether and when the sharing of Town and Village Code services is going to happen. He said he has offered the old Pilot’s Lounge building, on Malone-Dufort Airport property, for use as a combined Code Office. Deputy Mayor Hafter said she can not speak for the Village Board, but she would be willing to discuss Code issues with the Town at any time.

Deputy Supervisor Walbridge said that the Town and Village cannot let shared services fall apart and “that is why we got elected”. He said that if the Village chooses not to accept the Malone Central School District’s proposal for a shared garage facility that the Town and Village should be talking about sharing Highway and DPW needs.

Deputy Mayor Hafter agreed that is the direction to work toward.

Vote: **CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).**

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From H.O. Properties – a request for the renewal of a Payment in Lieu of Tax agreement for Malone Housing Redevelopment, as the previous agreement, signed in 1988, has expired.

Supervisor Maneely said H. O. Properties has enjoyed 20 years of reduced taxes at Malone Housing location, and must now prove they are not-for-profit in order to be considered for a PILOT extension. He **tabled** any further action on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tentative Budget 2009 – Budget Officer Stewart presented the tentative Town budget for fiscal year 2009. Supervisor Maneely said that the tentative budget is prepared using each department and employee request as submitted. He said the rates shown now will not stand. The Budget Officer reported that a new law requires the her to include the amounts of and impact on the tax rate for all exemptions and partial exemptions. She noted that within this tentative budget she has not allowed for the hiring of a part-time planner, but has tried to allow for increasing energy and operational costs. She said this is the earliest she has ever presented the budget, and that the Board will need the time because there is lot of work to do. As the tentative budget stands, the rates would be as follows:

Inside Village: \$2.65 per thousand of assessed value (\$2.645794)

- An increase of \$.21 per thousand over the 2008 rate (+8.61%)

Outside Village: \$8.51 per thousand of assessed value (\$8.513225)

- An increase of \$1.06 per thousand over the 2008 rate (+14.23%)

Using these tentative rates, someone with a house assessed at 50,000 within the village limits would pay \$132.00 in town taxes (an increase of \$10.50 from 2008); for a house in the town assessed at 50,000 the amount due would be \$425.50 (an increase of \$53.00 from the 2008 amount).

A budget work session is scheduled for 3:30PM, Tuesday, 09/30/2008.

Local Government Conference – The annual Local Government conference will be held in Potsdam on Tuesday, October 14th 2008. The Town Offices will be closed that day as most of the staff is planning to attend the training conference. The Town and Village Justice Courts will remain open.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* At 6:50pm, on the motion of Supervisor Maneely with a second thereto by Deputy Supervisor Walbridge that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations, with all Board members and the Town Attorney to be in attendance.

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

At 7:20pm, the Executive Session ended and the Regular Meeting resumed, with no action taken.

BILLS FOR AUDIT & PAYMENT:

*On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor, that the following bills, vouchers # 725 – 755 be paid:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 28,006.15 |
| Part Town General | 4,336.65 |
| Highway DB | 99,699.34 |
| Chips | 70,390.16 |
| Trust & Agency | <u>27,575.52</u> |
| Grand Total | \$ 230,007.82 |

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

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ADJOURN:

* At 7:23pm, on the motion of Deputy Supervisor Walbridge with a second thereto by Councilor Taylor, there being no further business to come before the board, that it duly adjourn, with the next regular meeting to be held Wednesday October 8, 2008 at 6:00pm.

CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING IN FAVOR (5-0).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Susan M. Hafter, Town Clerk
October 8, 2008