

Village of Webster
Village Board Meeting
December 22, 2015

Webster Community Meeting Hall
29 South Avenue
Webster, NY 14580

Present: Mayor Cahill, Trustee Balcaen, Trustee Ippolito Jr., Trustee Lancy, Attorney Don White
Absent: Trustee Byerts

Presentation: Matt Chatfield, Executive Director, Webster Economic Development Alliance discussed the final project submission for America's Best Community Competition.

Public Comments

Michael Conn – 610 Webster Road – Commented to the Board in regards to the composting at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Mr. Conn said that he has appeared before the Board three times and he has been discussing this issue for months. Mr. Conn said he would like the Village to stop the composting process because he believes this process is a health issue.

Kansas McDonald – 467 Holt Road – Commented to the Board concerning the composting process at the STP. Mrs. McDonald compared the STP to other plants around New York State and believes there is a health issue concern and wants the composting to stop. She said there has been enough discussion.

Polly Conn – 610 Webster Road – Commented to the Board in regards to the composting at the STP. Mrs. Conn said she has health problems along with her family and believes the issues are related to the composting process. Mrs. Conn would like to see the composting halted at the STP.

Richard Frasier – 592 Webster Road – Questioned the Board regarding an Intermunicipal Agreement dated 2009 between the Town and the Village of Webster regarding the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Mayor Cahill asked for a copy of the Intermunicipal Agreement dated 2009. He said he would compare it to the new agreement which was signed in the summer of 2015.

Pat McDonald – 467 Holt Road – Commented to the Board and said this is a matter regarding health issues. Mr. McDonald believes the composting at the STP is the source of health issues for people living in the vicinity of the plant. Mr. McDonald said there will be a public meeting at the Holiday Inn located on Holt Road on December 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. for a meeting with legal representation regarding this issue. Mr. McDonald invited the Board to attend.

Christopher Ball - 172 Belvista Drive, Penfield – Commented to the Board in regards to his families' health issues in particular his son Logan. Mr. Ball read a statement from his son's pediatrician who recommends the child not visit his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Conn, who live across the street from the STP, because of asthma and allergy problems.

Eric Reynolds– 64 Kircher Park – Made comment to the Board and asked questions regarding the Resolution on the agenda for the discontinuance of composting at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Mr. Reynolds asked what the added cost would be for the Village in regards to the transportation of the sludge to a landfill. He also wanted to know if a cost analysis had been done. Mr. Reynolds believes the resolution should be tabled and put on hold until more information is obtained and more testing can be done.

Mayor Cahill said he disagrees with Mr. Reynolds. He said has done research on bio-solids composting and has also visited the residents that live in the vicinity of the Sewage Treatment Plant. Mayor Cahill said he does not live across the street from the STP and he does not have to endure the smell but they do. He said he has prepared a statement to read.

Gail Wagner – Wall Road – Stated to the Board she has noticed that the odor has gotten worse in the past year in the area of the STP.

Richard Walter – 20 Elm Street – Made comment to the Board and said he would like more testing done in the area of the STP because he would like definitive proof that the various health issues being talked about are actually caused by the composting process. Mr. Walter refuted a prior speaker in regards to the Sewer Treatment Plant being in need of \$2 million dollars worth of repairs. Mr. Walter stated the money needed would be for updates and energy conservation such as LED lighting not for emergency repairs.

Mayor Cahill stated that the \$1.4 to \$2 million dollars was the result of a study that was done on part of the Sewage Treatment Plant it was not a comprehensive study on the entire Sewage Treatment Plant.

Natalie DuBois – 29 Alden Glen – Commented to the Board regarding the health of her daughter and a possible correlation with the odor from the STP. Mrs. DuBois stated she is unable to bring her daughter to visit with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Conn, during the Christmas Holiday because of the odor and the close proximity to which they live to the STP. Mrs. DuBois also stated that the smell does not dissipate with the cold air in winter.

Fritz Hamel – 46 Kircher Park – Stated to the Board that he believes people are being misinformed. He feels the complaints in regards to the employees and the work being done at the Sewage Treatment Plant are false and not the case. Mr. Hamel said there is nothing that the employees are doing wrong at the STP. He agreed and said there is an odor and people do get sick but he questioned if it is the weather making people sick and not the STP. Mr. Hamel went on to disprove a prior speaker who stated that taxes have been raised. Mr. Hamel said it has been a long time since the Town Board or the Village Board has raised taxes. He repeated his opinion that people are being misinformed.

Peter Elder- 59 Dunning Avenue – Stated to the Board that the composting process at the STP is somehow different this year. Mr. Elder believes the current process should be discontinued. Mr. Elder said he would like to know what the actual cost will be to shut down the processing operation and haul away all the bio-solids from the property.

Mayor Cahill read a statement regarding the composting at the Sewage Treatment Plant. He said based upon the input from the Conn's, their neighbors, Supervisor Ron Nesbitt, Town Councilman Barry Deane, and members of the Village Board the following recommendations are for consideration and discussion;

1. The Village of Webster immediately cease all composting operations of bio-solids at the Sewage Treatment Plant.
2. Remove compost piles currently on the front pad which are covered be tarps.
3. Remove any and all bio-solids from the drying beds in the rear building.
4. Immediately begin to haul bio-solids to a landfill unless or until a suitable non-residential area can be found to resume the compost process.

Mayor Cahill said there is a Town of Webster. There is a Village of Webster. We are one community. We are one Webster.

Motion by Trustee Ippolito Jr. and Seconded by Trustee Balcaen to break for a 10 minute recess at 9:23 p.m., all were in favor and carried.

Village Board Business

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Ippolito Jr. and seconded by Trustee Balcaen,

WHEREAS, since on or about 1993, the Village of Webster has composted leaves mixed with bio-solids at the Village of Webster Sewage Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, numerous complaints and concerns have been received by neighbors living in close proximity to the Village Sewage Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, many of these complaints have centered around respiratory problems exhibited by certain of the neighbors and their children that may or may not be related to the Village composting operation; and

WHEREAS, the Village composting operation has negatively impacted the quality of life of certain of the neighbors;

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Village of Webster shall immediately stop composting leaves and bio-solids at the Village of Webster Sewage Treatment Plant site within 45 days subject to the receipt of any required permits, if any.

2. The Village of Webster shall cause the compost piles that are currently located on concrete pads at the sewage treatment plant that are covered by tarps to be removed within 45 days subject to receipt of any required permits, if any.

3. The Village of Webster shall also cause to be removed any and all bio-solids that may be located on the drying beds in the back buildings located at the Village of Webster Sewage Treatment Plant. This removal shall be done within 45 days from the date of this resolution.

4. The Village of Webster shall remove and begin to transport all of the bio-solids produced at the Village of Webster Sewage Treatment Plant to an appropriate land fill within 45 days from the date of this resolution unless or until the Village of Webster can find another more suitable location in a non-residential area to resume the composting of leaves mixed with bio-solids.

Vote on Motion; Trustee Ippolito Jr. – aye, Trustee Balcaen – aye, Trustee Lancy – aye, Mayor Cahill – aye, Trustee Byerts – absent, motion carried.

Motion Trustee Ippolito Jr. and Seconded by Trustee Lancy to approve the Village Board workshop minutes of December 1, 2015, all were in favor and carried.

Motion Trustee Balcaen and Seconded by Trustee Ippolito Jr. to accept claims totaling: General - \$30,174.53 and Trust & Agency - \$683.68, all were in favor and carried.

Motion Trustee Lancy and Seconded by Trustee Balcaen to authorize Jake Singly to sign the agreement with EnerPath to convert a portion of Village hall interior lighting to LED for a cost of \$9,108.88 to be paid from RG&E street lighting rebate, all were in favor and carried.

Motion Trustee Ippolito Jr. and Seconded by Trustee Balcaen to authorize Josette Amalfi, Village Clerk to sign the Cricket Lease Termination and Equipment Transfer, all were in favor and carried.

Motion Trustee Lancy and Seconded by Trustee Balcaen to authorize Jake Singly, Superintendent of Public Works to sign the Municipal Emergency Short Shared Services Agreement between NYSDOT and Village of Webster, all were in favor and carried.

Motion Trustee Ippolito Jr. and Seconded by Trustee Lancy for authorization to approve Jake Singly, Will Barham and John Carnevale to attend the Finger Lakes Building Officials Educational Conference March 14 -17, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$390.00 each, all were in favor and carried.

Attorney

No Report.

Office

The Financial Statements for November 2015 were reviewed with no questions.

Code Enforcement

Mayor Cahill reviewed with the Board the building report for November 2015. Mayor Cahill gave an update on 104 East Main Street. He said Will Barham asked for permission to enter the building to evaluate the structure but was denied. Will Barham will be filing papers with the Town Court for an administrative warrant to inspect the building.

Department of Public Works

Jake Swingly absent no report.

Call In

No Phone Calls.

Adjournment

Motion Trustee Ippolito Jr., and Seconded by Trustee Balcaen to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m., all were in favor and carried.

Josette Amalfi, Village Clerk

John J. Cahill, Mayor