

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GLENVILLE
JANUARY 23, 2019
AT THE GLENVILLE MUNICIPAL CENTER
18 GLENRIDGE ROAD, GLENVILLE, NEW YORK

Supervisor Koetzle called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM;

Supervisor Koetzle asked the Town Clerk, Linda C. Neals, to call the roll.

Present: Supervisor Christopher A. Koetzle, Councilmen John C. Pytlovany, Michael Aragosa, Michael R. Godlewski and Councilwoman Gina M. Wierzbowski

Absent: None

Also present were Michael Cuevas, Attorney for the Town and Jason Cuthbert, Comptroller and Vicki Hillis, Director of Human Services and Stephen Janik, Chief of Police

Discussion...

Police Chief Janik – “Thank you for coming in for this special meeting tonight. Obviously when I started to research the potential for the hire of Will Quandt based on Civil Service Law the fact that the list was about to expire. We had to move very quickly. Will was interviewed back in May of 2018. The interviewing committee consisted of members of the police department, Supervisor Koetzle, Councilman Pytlovany and Will was ranked very high on the list of potential candidates that we were going to hire. Unfortunately he wasn’t chosen. One candidate that was Officer Matt Glass, has completed the academy, went to the academy with Will. Will was subsequently hired as a SUNY police officer and is now in field training with SUNY Police. But continued, during his course at the academy, to talk to Matt Glass who he actually was a schoolmate with in Scotia-Glenville, he is friends with and continued to talk about his desire to be a Glenville Police Officer at some point and time. With that in mind we called Mr. Quandt back into the office and re-interviewed him. He was very happy to be interviewed again showed how interested he was in becoming a Glenville Police Officer. He purchased a home on Spearhead Drive. Has a long term relationship with his girlfriend and plans to stay here for good. I think he would be a great addition to the police department. Fortunately enough he is out of the academy so that is good for us to get a certified police officer that would need very little training if any other than some orientation with our department. We have been notified by Officer Tracy Nethaway who has been with the police department for twenty years. She plans to retire April 1st. We wish her very well. With that in mind we didn’t want to wait, we wanted to make sure we had a valid candidate and that is why we went forward with this.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “Did you confirm that we do not have the responsibility for the training costs?”

Chief Janik – “We do not have that responsibility.”

RESOLUTION NO. 52-2019

Moved by: Councilman Pytlovany

Seconded by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski

WHEREAS, a need will exist in the Police Department for the position of police officer due to the retirement of one budgeted position as of April 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, William Quandt is on the current certified list from Schenectady County Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, an Interview Committee consisting of elected, town and police officials met with potential candidates, conducted interviews and made its

recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief hereby concurs with the recommendation of the Interview Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby approve the appointment of William Quandt, of 1174 Spearhead Drive, Glenville N.Y. 12302 to the position of Police Officer in the Glenville Police Department, with an effective date of April 1, 2019,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the compensation and benefits for William Quandt be as set forth in the current P.B.A. Contract as a first-year officer upon his hire and as a second year officer effective July 5, 2019; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk, on behalf of this Town Board, be and she hereby is authorized and directed to notify said officer of the aforementioned appointment.

Ayes: Councilmen Pytlovany, Aragosa, Godlewski, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstentions: None

Motion Carried

Discussion...

Dana Gilgore, Deputy Highway Superintendent/Commissioner of Public Works – “We did receive about one-half dozen applications and conducted interviews and Mr. St. Louis was far and above the most qualified individual based on what we read, how he interviewed, is answers to our questions, his references. His employer is sad to see him go, his loss is our benefit. Travis is a lifelong Scotia-Glenville resident and he is looking for a long time career here with the Town of Glenville.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “This position is for current vacant position. So that would bring you to full complement, one on disability still.”

Mr. Gilgore – “Correct and we are hopeful when Craig Myers comes in in the second week in February we will know then whether he will be able to come back. There is also a recommendation for a laborer position and if we could continue to move forward with that it would help to fill some more seats. As we explained to Mr. St. Louis he is not only going to be repairing heavy equipment he will be plowing snow as well as picking leaves.”

RESOLUTION NO. 53-2019

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski
Seconded by: Councilman Pytlovany

WHEREAS, there is a vacant Heavy Equipment Mechanic position in the Glenville Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville advertisement for the position on the Town website resulted in five applicants for the position; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent conducted interviews to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent recommends that Travis St. Louis be appointed to the position; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville hereby provisionally appoints Travis St. Louis, 148 Horstman Drive, Glenville, New York to the position of Heavy Equipment Mechanic, effective February 4, 2019, at a starting rate for such title of \$28.12 per hour and benefits as determined by the agreement between the Town and the CSEA Highway Employees Unit.

Ayes: Councilmen Pytlovany, Aragosa, Godlewski, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstention: None

Motion Carried

Discussion...

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “Perhaps with the record and for those who might see this meeting at some point in the future could we perhaps give some examples of where the AIM Funding goes for the town so we could show some examples of the real impact this loss of funding will have for us?”

Supervisor Koetzle – “AIM is direct in to the unrestricted operating budget so it is operating money. It would mix, I guess it would swirl you would say with the levy and it is interchangeable so in the eighteen million dollar budget, eight million is levy this offsets the need for that to be eight million, one-hundred and eight thousand dollars. Direct unrestricted aid. But the type of impacts it does have is on, that’s two employees. We are hiring two employees tonight. What it will have to do is come out of fund balance and it kind of brings us back to that old discussion about protecting the fund balance and having the fund balance when you need the fund balance for these types of things. We are one of a few towns who are actually positioned okay to absorb it for this year but it is an ongoing and compounding problem each and every year going forward. It goes to salaries, it goes to people, it goes to the services we deliver, and it is unrestricted and necessary”

Councilman Godlewski – “I thank you for convening this body here tonight. I think this is certainly an important issue. If you are watching at home, if you are a resident, a tax payer of the town or village you need to contact your local state representative or write the Governor’s Office directly. The impact that this will have on towns and villages is really critical and the timing of this considering that all towns and villages have gone through the budget process really puts us at a disadvantage if we had to absorb this. I thank you for doing this, I think this is important and I will support this resolution.”

Supervisor Koetzle – “The only two things I want to...because someone has asked me is “why would the Governor do this” and there are a couple of answers for that and I will give you the answers that he has presented himself in public. One he said that towns and villages have brought their fund balance back. I don’t know state wide what that means if everybody is kind of building their fund balances but we have certainly done a good job protecting our fund balance but I will again restate that a fund balance is not meant to be used for operational expenses, that’s not what it should be used for. You can’t continue to use that annually going forward because you are going to run out of money. Second thing he said though struck close to home for me and I think is worth discussing and certainly in the future. He said that the state is having record level sales tax collections by the counties and that that’s where the towns should be getting their growth. I kind of agree with the Governor on that one and I think it is something that we need to really focus on going forward. The time of ignoring this subject is over. If the Governor takes aim and the Governor says you are supposed to replace it with the growth in sales tax then we have to look at that and we have to go to the County and step up. The State can’t take our money away, the County can’t keep the money from us and us to continue to operate the way we are operating. I think that is a wakeup call for counties to make sure they are fairly sharing their sales tax with the towns and that’s something we are going to have to look at if this proposal goes

through.”

Councilwoman Wierzbowski – “Not only would this be harmful to towns and villages throughout the state and taken on its own making these real property tax increase 2% cap permanent, taken on its own might not seem like such a big deal but this is yet another example of the state giving us a burden and giving us no relief. The 2% tax increase was put in place but we received no mandate relief from the state. In fact our costs that are mandated by the state go up every single year and we have no control over them. This is actual a double whammy for towns and villages throughout the state because not only are they taking away aid but they are not giving us any relief in lieu of that aid and then putting the 2% tax cap on top of it. I have to agree with you, having a healthy fund balance is great but you don’t pay your mortgage with your savings account. That would be a can that we would have to start dipping into the fund balance to cover some of these funds that is pretty much we would end up doing and it would just be a very downward spiral, a backwards motion for us as a town.”

RESOLUTION NO. 54-2019

Moved by: Councilwoman Wierzbowski

Seconded by: Councilman Pytlovany

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo released his fiscal year 2019-20 Executive Budget on January 15th; and

WHEREAS, in that \$176 billion spending plan, he called for the complete elimination of the unrestricted state aid known as Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (“AIM”) for most towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Budget contains language to make permanent the cap on real property tax levy increases of two percent due to sunset in the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, such an elimination of AIM would hurt local governments and property taxpayers across the state of New York, threatening core services, making compliance with the tax cap more difficult, and leaving upstate New York in a worsened fiscal position; and

WHEREAS, this cut in aid would have enormous negative impacts on local communities in upstate New York leading to property tax increases or service reductions across towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, in Schenectady County alone, our towns and villages would collectively lose well over \$500,000 annually in state aid; and

WHEREAS, thirteen hundred towns and villages would be impacted across the state, yet the governor keeps all AIM to cities intact; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glenville would lose \$176,465 in AIM funding each year, equivalent to an annual 2% tax increase on all Town residents every year; and

WHEREAS, by comparison the city of Schenectady would keep all of its \$11,205,994 in AIM funding under this proposal, meaning the governor is essentially shifting a greater fiscal burden onto town and village property taxpayers while protecting city residents; and

WHEREAS, such elimination of aid would take \$59 million away from local governments across the state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Glenville hereby calls on the governor to rescind his proposal to eliminate AIM funding for most towns and villages and encourages him to restore all funding with an

upward adjustment for inflation and further asks that the Legislature codifies such indexed annual increases into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town Glenville directs the Town Clerk to send certified copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator James N. Tedisco, and Assembly member Mary Beth Walsh.

Ayes: Councilmen Pytlovany, Aragosa, Godlewski, Councilwoman Wierzbowski and Supervisor Koetzle

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstention: None

Motion Carried

Supervisor Koetzle asked for a motion to adjourn; motion to adjourn; Moved by Councilman Godlewski; Seconded by Councilman Aragosa, everyone being in favor the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

ATTEST:

Linda C. Neals
Town Clerk