

SPECIAL MEETING  
TOWN OF LAKE PLACID TOWN COUNCIL  
MONDAY MAY 16, 2011 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Mayor John Holbrook called the special meeting of the Lake Placid Town Council to order on Monday May 16, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at Town Hall, 311 W. Interlake Boulevard, Lake Placid, Florida. This meeting was called as a visionary meeting to get input from the citizens of the Town on what they would like the Town to pursue.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor John Holbrook  
Council Member Cheryl Davis  
Council Member Steve Bastardi  
Council Member Ray Royce  
Council Member Debra Worley

Town Clerk Arlene Tuck  
Town Attorney Bert Harris  
Town Utility Director Gary Freeman  
Town Police Chief Phil Williams  
Town Planner Mark Hill and Susan Buchans

DISCUSSIONS:

A. Mark Hill – County Planning Services – Mr. Hill stated the County has been furnishing the Town's core planning services for several years and they would like to continue the relationship. Mr. Hill stated the fee for last year was \$25,000.00. He stated that his staff keeps track of all the time you spend on the Town of Lake Placid's planning issues, including attending meetings, taking phone calls, developing ordinances, staff reports, etc. Council asked Mr. Hill if he had any idea of what the cost to the Town would be this year and he stated they had not done an analysis on the time spent this pass year. He stated that would determine their fees. Mayor Holbrook asked if he could have a fee to us by July 15, 2011, so that we could proceed with our budget. Mr. Hill stated he felt sure he could have something to use by that date.

B. Accounting Services – Mrs. Tuck stated she felt the method that was done this year by having The NCT Group come in and do the clean up and then have Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. do the audit worked very well. Council Member Worley stated she would still like to see The NCT Group do the audit because she felt Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. have been doing it so long, it is time to change. Council asked Mrs. Tuck to contact Mr. Quinlin, with The NCT Group and see if he could provide some information about securing audit/accounting services.

C. Restructuring the Staff – There was a lot of discussion on the issue of a Town Administrator. All Council Members were favorable about going with a Town Administrator. Mrs. Marlene Barger suggested the Council form a committee of one Council Member and citizens of the Town to look at the pros and cons of a Town Administrator. Council also asked that they come up with different scenarios; such as a Town Administrator with engineer background or a Town Administrator with planning background, etc. Mayor Holbrook asked Council Member Davis to chair the committee, which she agreed to do.

D. Sidewalks – Council Member Royce and Mrs. Tuck stated they had attended a Safe Route to School meeting and during the meeting the School Board had a project on South Main Avenue that they were proposing for Safe Route to School. Council Member Royce stated if the school would consider helping the Town get our project on West Interlake Boulevard declared the number one project, he would bring it before the Town to do sidewalks down South Main Avenue to help the school children walking home on the southeast corner of the Town. Council Member Worley asked Mrs. Tuck to call the Avon Park Academy to see if they were still doing sidewalk construction. She stated they teach the students different trades and several years ago one was lying concrete. Mrs. Tuck stated she would call.

G. Tangerine Avenue – Council Member Royce stated he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda because Tangerine Avenue needs some major repairs. He stated he didn't know if the Town wanted to pursue asking the County to help being as a lot of the users are County residents or if the Council just wanted to repair the bad areas for the time being. Council Member Bastardi stated he would like to see the Town just repair the bad areas and wait for the complete redoing of Tangerine Avenue in a few years when maybe the County can assist us.

H. Sanitation – Council Member Worley asked Council to consider going with Choice (the County's collector) because they will be doing recycling along with the garbage collection. Council Member Royce stated he felt this was the way the Council would eventually go, but would like to wait and see how the County's negotiations come out with Choice. County Commissioner Jack Richie, was present and stated they would be taking it up soon.

I. Town Restrooms – Council Member Worley stated she has had several residents ask her about public restrooms. Council Member Royce stated he felt we should see if there is any business in Town that would be willing to furnish a public restroom during the week and the Town could reimburse for supplies, etc. instead of spending \$50,000.00 or more to build a restroom. Mr. Robert Brown, president of the Lake Placid Merchants Association was present. Council asked Mr. Brown to do some research to see if there was any business in Town that would be willing to have a public restroom, with handicap accessibility. Mr. Brown stated he would report back to the Town.

H. Railroad Tracks – Mr. Robert Summers asked that the Town look into cleaning up the railroad tracks on the north end of Town. Officer Heather Mulligan (Code Enforcement Officer) was present and she stated she had contacted the railroad and asked that they clean the tracks on the south end. She stated she had no trouble getting them to cooperate. Council Member Worley asked her to see what she could do about the North end.

I. CRA – Council Member Worley stated she would like to see the Town go with a CRA (Community Redevelopment Association). She stated she has brought this up several times and felt that if we had a CRA we could have a zero basis ad valorem. She stated the monies that would be collected from the County for the CRA could provide infrastructure for the Town. Council Member Bastardi stated he would be interested in learning more about the CRA. Council Member Worley stated she would get the gentleman who runs the one in Sebring to come down for one of our meetings and she would contact the State and see if a representative could come down. She stated she would get with Mrs. Tuck to set up a day and time.

J. Laptops, live Internet – Council Member Royce stated he would like to see the Council go all automated. He stated Mrs. Tuck had given him a DVD containing the agenda and that it

eliminated all the paperwork. Commissioner Richie stated the County has gone with laptops and they no longer get packets. He stated it saves on paper and staff's time. Council Member Royce stated he would also like to see the Council meetings put on the internet. Mrs. Tuck stated she would look into this.

K. DeVane Park – Mr. Bill Brantley, the Town's project manager for the renovation of DeVane Park, gave an update on the Park. Mr. Brantley stated the rededication of DeVane Park would be this Saturday May 21, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Brantley also brought to the Council's attention that he has had a lot of problems with the Project Manager for FDOT. His name is Joseph Hurney. Mr. Brantley stated several of the sub-contractors have also had problems with the gentleman. He stated Mr. Hurney would come behind him after he spoke with the contractor and told them not to do what Mr. Brantley stated because he had no authority to be there. Mr. Brantley stated the sub contractors have told him that Mr. Hurney has said on several occasions he does not care what the Town wants they will get what they get and be happy with it. Mr. Brantley stated there are over a dozen people who have heard him say that. Mr. Brantley stated he was writing a letter to FDOT about this, the contractor had written a letter and he would appreciate the Town writing a letter. He stated he would like the Town to write a letter to DOT stating we are appreciative of the funds we have received from them, we look forward to dealing with them in the future, but Joseph Hurney would not be our Project Manager on any of our jobs. He stated he does not have the best interest of the Town at heart and we do not think he would be the DOT manager we would want on the future. Atty. Harris stated he would be glad to write the letter for the Town on Mr. Brantley behalf. Council Member Royce made a motion the Town Council authorize Atty. Harris to work with yourself and Mr. Brantley to compose a letter for your signature expressly the concerns we have about the project management aspects of this project to be sent to all the appropriate parties that should be notified of this issue; motion seconded by Council Member Worley. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Royce stated he would like to discuss the recreation at the future meeting or special meeting. Mayor Holbrook asked Council if they wanted to schedule another meeting at this time or wait until a later date. Council scheduled another special meeting on June 6, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.

Council Member Worley made a motion the meeting adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member Royce. Mayor Holbrook hearing no objections, declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.