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**SE Town Board Regular Meeting 9/14/06**

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Hi All,

Wed Sep 20, 2006 5:05 pm

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Last Thursday evening the Town Board held their 'Regular Meeting'. For all you channel 8 junkies this was not recorded for posterity as normally the 'Regular Meeting' is the third Thursday of the month. Apparently, Comcast forgot to send someone or the Board didn't notify them of the date change.

**"Lynne Eckardt"**  
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The meeting was uneventful and flew by until, surprise, surprise, 'New Business' rolled around and then things a little heated up... especially during a dust-up on the 'Sheriff's Patrol' of town facilities. Scheesh, Mrs. Mitts and I came to within inches of eye-scratching and hair pulling (and I certainly accept my half of the blame here- so tacky) while I thought Pat Bonanno's admonishment of the Councilwoman amusing and well deserved.

Councilman Bonanno was my hero of the evening (with apologies to Pat) for two reasons. One: he's maintained his sense of humor over his recent defeat- believe me I've been there. And of course Mr. Bonanno's ability to call a spade a spade- this time on the ever-changing, ever elusive Sheriff's Patrol.

There were several Oscar worthy performances regarding the patrol. My favorite was when several councilmen exclaimed that the Board's hands are tied as far as looking into the patrol as they have to take the Sheriff's word for it. Huh? But then what did I expect from the same Board who trusted AWS to offer the best deal last year.

And speaking of garbage...under New Business the 2007 garbage bids were revealed. And although less than last year the Board seemed completely at ease. In fact, there was barely a shrug of the shoulder. More on that later.

As always the snippy observations are my own jaded take on life in Southeast- not to be confused with any organizations with which I'm affiliated. My apologies for the length but the 'Regular Meeting' always suffers a long agenda.

**Regular Meeting:**

**Public Hearings:**

**7:30PM Pennella, LLC - Special Permit**

It was determined that all new parking spaces would not impact the wetland buffer and there was more pervious area. When asked about wetland incursion the engineer mentioned that there was a basin in the buffer area. I also mentioned that now that the applicant had switched the building ratio to 80% warehouse (down from 90%) and 20% office (up from 10%) it would be nearly impossible for the Town Board to turn this down. While I still had issues with the non-corporate use of Fields Lane all 'Special Permits' had been granted in the last few years.

Mildred Nugent spoke on behalf of Ann Fanizzi. Mrs. Fanizzi feels that a Special Permit should not be granted as Fields Lane should not be all warehouses.

- 1) Review of Minutes - August 3, 2006 Special Meeting  
August 17, 2006 Regular Meeting

Accepted 5-0

- 2) Correspondence

Accepted 5-0

- 3) Approval of Voucher List

Approved 5-0

- 4) Motion - Approval of Budget Transfers - Attached

Accepted 5-0

- 5) Motion setting Meeting Dates:

October 5, 2006 7:30PM Civic  
Center Special Meeting / Work Session  
October 12, 2006 7:30PM Civic  
Center Work Session  
October 19, 2006 7:30PM Civic  
Center Regular Meeting

Approved 5-0

- 6) Motion Calling for the Following Public Hearings:

October 5, 2006 Civic Center  
7:30PM Local Law to Amend Chapter 110 - Scenic  
Roads  
7:31PM Local Law to Amend Chapter 123 -  
Subdivision  
7:32PM Local Law to Amend Chapter 138 - Zoning

October 19, 2006 Civic Center  
7:30PM Reduction of Performance Bond - Ace Endico  
7:31PM Reduction of Performance Bond - Eagles Ridge  
Condominiums

Approved 5-0

- 7) Resolution - Road Name Change - Fields Corner Road  
to Pugsley Road

Approved 5-0

8) Resolution - Release of Performance Bond - Arborscape  
Recommended reduces to -0-  
Approved 5-0

9) Resolution - Road Naming - Waterview Lane  
Approved 5-0

10) Resolution - Establishment of Performance Bond -  
Landau Subdivision  
Bond set at \$35,400 Passed 5-0

11) Motion - Adopting Negative Declaration -  
Amendments to Chapter 110, "Scenic Roads, Chapter 123  
"Subdivision", and Chapter 138, "Zoning" for the Purpose  
of SEQRA  
Passed 5-0

12) Motion - Authorizing Highway Superintendent to  
Install Speed Hump on the West Side of Blackberry Drive  
Passed 5-0

13) Resolution - Individual Program Application -  
Recreation  
Passed 5-0

14) Resolution - Individual Program Application - Youth  
Services  
Passed 5-0

**New Business:**

**Waterview Estates:**

Ricky Feuerman asked about a possible 3-D rendering of the approved Waterview Road onto Allview Avenue. Especially in light of the fact that the neighbors will pay for it (they are concerned over sightline safety). Supervisor Dunford said that they had encouraged the Planning Board to urge the applicant to do so.

**The Meadows:**

Ricky also asked if the Town was going to appeal the most recent decision handed down by the appellate court. There was some confusion on the Board- Councilman Johnson thought only the Planning Board was involved but no definitive answer was given

**Peach Lake:**

Brad Schwartz asked the Board the status of the DEP variances sought. The Supervisor stated that the town can not move forward without a district formed. Mr. Schwartz followed up with a question regarding the DEP's leanings on the variance. Mr. Dunford said that the DEP is in favor of the variance.

**Open Government:**

I mentioned that the Committee on Open Government did not feel it appropriate to ask questioner's affiliations. In fact, questioners at public meetings do not have to disclose their name when asked. The Board would like this opinion in writing.

**Sheriff's Patrol:**

I asked several questions on the Sheriff's Patrol. I asked if the Board received quarterly reports? Ans. 'no' but they are informed of any incidents.

I asked if the Board was renewing this contract for '07. Ans. They don't know.

I asked if any Board member had ever spoken to a PBA rep re the 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM patrol being currently in violation of the PBA contract. Councilman Bonanno said he had. Councilwoman Mitts upbraided him. Mr. Bonanno said that the Town was not getting their money's worth. The town insisted that the Sheriff assures them that the patrol is covered. I said that although we are getting coverage other towns are not as the car is dedicated to Southeast during that time period.

**Garbage:**

I asked about the new garbage bids. I was told that the bid from AWS was \$1.4 million and one from San Jay (spelling- sorry) was \$2.5 million. These bids included two bulk pick-ups a year. I asked how much money would be saved over last year and was told about \$100,000 by Councilman Johnson.

**COMMENTS:**

Except for the always fun 'New Business' there is little to comment on. Yeah, I could go on my Field Lane jag but really, it's a complete waste of ink. I found Ms. Fanizzi's comments interesting as this is the first time in ages, if ever, that she's commented on commercial development in this neck of the woods. That said, I do get the impression that Penella is not exactly a Board favorite. Let's just call Mr. P the 'Camarda' of Fields Lane.

**Waterview Estates:**

For the life of me I can't figure why the applicant doesn't just do this rendering and be done with it. I mean, they don't even have to pay for the damn thing. But then this seems more like a power struggle between Planning and Town- and who doesn't love a good pissing contest?

**Peach Lake:**

Well, thank God Brad is a genius and knows all the right questions. Our Supervisor even inferred that unless precisely asked he wasn't gonna reveal much. And why should he? Oh right, maybe because an interested resident has valid concerns and pays Mr. D's salary as well. I loathe semantic games like this. And really, should we have to play 20 questions when all we're after is a truthful answer? I'm sure if Mr. Schwartz wanted to be on 'Jeopardy' he'd apply.

**Open Government:**

Please. Of course you can't insist that the questioner give a resume before asking a question. Further comment on this is more wasted ink.

**Sheriff's Patrol:**

For the life of me I don't know why no one 'in power' seems to get this- or even cares- of course it's not their money they're spending. When we contracted for a dedicated patrol there was supposed to be a sixth car added (up from five) that did the tour of SE Facilities.

November 1, 2005 the contract goes into effect. For the first week there is no additional car. A Journal News article ensues and the sixth car is added. In mid-July the sixth car is pulled from duty. Completely coincidentally the \$60,000 paid by the town has run out. I'm assured that the county paid their portion so who knows what gives.

Yeah, the facilities are being patrolled but residents of Patterson and Kent are being shortchanged as the float car number 5) is now 'door knob jiggling' in SE. Councilman Boanno completely snapped at Councilwoman Mitts who was busy admonishing him for talking to a union member. The quote of the night was (although paraphrased the 'p' word is exact). "Lorraine, don't get all pissy with me. Not now, not tonight. Especially not tonight." For all of you smart enough to remain above the political fray Mr. Bonanno had just lost his Leg. race two nights before and was clearly not happy about it- although to his credit he did maintain his sense of humor. Earlier he had said to me, "Now I know what it's like to be a Democrat in Putnam County." For those with delicate sensitivities I won't print my retort.

By the way, the 'float car' that was supposed to be checking our facilities that night was likely up at the Patterson Crossing Public Hearing- or at least that's where I last saw it.

**Garbage:**

Of course I feel some small vindication as the contract was lower than last year (with, as predicted, one additional bulk pick up added) and this after the no-bid fiasco of last summer. That's when we were told 'we'll never, ever get better deal'. 'Just look at gas prices'...blah, blah, blah.

Anyhow, I think saving \$100 grand is just terrific. I'd love to know what we would have saved with only the one bulk pick-up but when I asked I was informed it was 'free'. I'll bet. I guess I'll have to FOIL for the other bid sheet. But if I were a betting woman I'd wager that San-Jay charged extra for it. Hey, maybe AWS feels guilty about overcharging us for all those years and this is like a consolation prize- because clearly it's not a parting gift. Or maybe this is 'community service' in advance.

That's it from my desk. As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments that you may have.

With Best Regards,  
Lynne Eckardt

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Lynne Eckardt  
[lynneeckardt](#)

Sep 20, 2006  
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