

TOWN OF FORESTPORT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES RE: TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF THE
FORESTPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
July 24, 2019 @ 8:30 AM

Members Present

Supervisor Entwistle
Councilman Scott
Councilman Scouten
Councilwoman Kardash
Councilman Rockhill

Members Absent

Town Clerk, Tracy Terry

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Entwistle at 8:30am.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE:

Recited.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Supervisor Entwistle read the legal notice.

DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Entwistle started the meeting off by saying, This Board, during the process of closing the school wrote letters to the school board in opposition. They have not been in contact with the school or business office inquiring on purchasing the school. The Board values the schools place in the Community as it is the heartbeat in the Community. They also believed the school would have gone for over a million dollars. Michael Conley, from Pyramid Brokerage left a message with Supervisor Entwistle on Friday, but has not yet spoken to him. Pyramid Brokerage and the Adirondack Central School have listed the school for \$279,000.

Councilman Rockhill stated the heating alone in the current Town Hall should've been replaced years ago. Supervisor Entwistle stated the first thing the Board should do is have a Public Hearing to have the Public involved in the process. With the school closing, the public felt as if they were left out of the process. The sale of Forestport Elementary School includes approximately 14 acres, 19,000 square foot of building, a 4 bay steel structure garage. The current Town Hall is looking for a new boiler and new roof within the next 3-4 years. When Parker Snead was Supervisor they had an estimate on a new roof around \$25,000. The next issue would be the Operation costs. Bookkeeper, Dawn Campbell ran some numbers. Forestport Elementary currently runs \$15,000 /year in electric and \$16,000 in fuel oil, water is almost \$4,000/year. The numbers would go down. The school runs lights 6am-6pm and that number should go

down at least by half. They need to find out if the heat is zoned by room or by quadrants. The Town Halls runs almost \$13,000 in heat. Councilman Rockhill asked about renting to Tenants. The Town currently has Karate, Girl Scouts, The Chamber and other people rent the building for meetings and birthday parties. Someone mentioned a Satellite Station for the DMV. The other suggestion was Makerspace, where people come in to teach classes, examples would be stained glass, pottery and making maple syrup.

Supervisor Entwistle has been doing research for years into getting a new Town Hall. It would cost around 1.5 Million dollars to construct a new Town Hall. Councilman Scouten asked if the kitchen equipment was included in the price. The only possibility in terms of segregating would be to use the back corner for the Justice, so they would have a separate entrance for inmates. Supervisor Entwistle thinks the Operational costs are going to be slightly higher than what the Town is currently paying. The School's operation cost for a 5-year period was \$82,000. Supervisor Entwistle believes the school discussed owing capital improvement money around \$150,000. If they sell it to another School District or Municipality that money is forgiven. Supervisor Entwistle has reached out to a local real estate agent. She recommended getting an appraisal for the Town Hall. The cost would be \$400 and it is good for 3 years. The School district has had two independent appraisals.

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilman Scouten to hire an outside appraiser. Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Entwistle-yes

Councilman Scott-yes

Councilman Scouten-yes

Councilwoman Kardash-yes

Councilman Rockhill-yes

In December 2014, the Town had \$287,485 in CD's at the close of 2018 there was \$303,927. Savings in December of 2014 were \$287,485 and at the close of 2018, there was \$352,452. Discussion took place on how this could be paid for. Councilman Scott stated if the Board is interested, the Board should move quickly before someone else gets it. A construction company called Supervisor Entwistle inquiring on the need for apartments in the Town of Forestport.

Councilwoman Kardash said if the Town purchases the School, she would like to make it a Community Center. Rentals, Volleyball and to open it up to the Public more. She stated she wants to be up front because what the school system did to the community is wrong. It bothers her that the school system that taxes are paid to weren't upfront. Supervisor Entwistle stated when this came about, he attended the initial School Board meetings and sat and listened. He had phone calls the next day asking if the Town was purchasing it. Having a pickup and drop off location for the School was discussed.

Councilman Rockhill stated the school should be kept for the Town and perhaps in the long term could possibly become a school again and the Town could build a smaller Town Hall. A visit needs to be made to the School, find out the age of the boiler and the roof. Jen Piper is working on finding grant money to help the Town move. The Town

can get on the schedule to have the prisoners help with the move.

Motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilman Rockhill to schedule a Public Hearing August 13, 2019 at 6:30PM. Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Entwistle-yes
Councilman Scott-yes
Councilman Scouten-yes
Councilwoman Kardash-yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes

Supervisor Entwistle stated Natalie Roth from Benn Realty has offered to help with the buying and selling. No reasonable offer would be refused.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

Ed Clarey, from the Gallery discussed a possible Charter School. There are grants available. The State is encouraging Charter Schools in Rural areas.

A motion was made by Councilman Rockhill and seconded by Councilman Scott to authorize Supervisor Entwistle to make a refundable security deposit to secure a sale. Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Entwistle-yes
Councilman Scott-yes
Councilman Scouten-yes
Councilwoman Kardash-yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Rockhill to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

Supervisor Entwistle – yes
Councilman Scott – yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes
Councilman Scouten-yes
Councilwoman Kardash – yes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 am by Supervisor Entwistle.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy M. Terry
Forestport Town Clerk