

MEETING HELD APRIL 19, 2016

A regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rye, New York, was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:30P.M. at the Village of Port Chester Courtroom, 350 North Main Street, Port Chester, New York with Supervisor Gary J. Zuckerman presiding.

PRESENT: in addition to Supervisor Zuckerman were Councilpersons Lindsay Anne Jackson William J. Villanova, Thomas Nardi, Anthony Baxter and Town Clerk Hope B. Vespia.

ALSO

PRESENT: were Deputy Town Attorney Martha Sokol McCarty, Town Assessor Denise Knauer, Town Comptroller David J. Byrnes and Chief of Staff and Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor Deborah Reisner.

ABSENT: were Receiver of Taxes Nicholas C. Mecca, Superintendent of Highways John DeCrescenzo and Town Attorney Paul J. Noto

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Dr. Phil Tobin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and Deputy Supervisor Villanova read the opening prayer. A video recorder and an audio recorder were in use during the proceedings.

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Supervisor Zuckerman called the meeting to order at 8:40 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Vespia to call the roll.

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Dr. Phil Tobin, a professor at Duke University who has headed the “Tools for Change” projects for the Town of Rye was present to introduce the criteria for this year’s endeavor and to introduce the participating students from the Port Chester, Blind Brook and Rye Neck School Districts. Dr. Tobin explained that “Tools for Change” teaches students to problem solve with community problems and challenges. The purpose of “Tools for Change” is a humble effort to use the motivation of a challenge or problem that the students really care about. This year, the focus was on youth employment. The group engaged in a number of discussions among themselves as to why some high school students look for jobs and others don’t and why some find jobs, while others do not. How people thought about this seems to vary by what high school. The question for this year is “What determines whether a high school student in Rye Town will apply for and get a job?” The students shared their research strategy and preliminary plans to move this project forward. Surveys were distributed by the group to friends, fellow students and potential employers.

The primary search strategy for employment involved utmost networking through family and friends, but only provided employment for 30 percent of the 65 percent of students that applied. The students contacted the Youth Employment Services (YES) program to achieve a way to expand their services to all schools in the Town of Rye.

The students developed survey interview questions for employers as well. Students thought there were few jobs available. Interesting findings shed a light on a disconnection of how teen seekers thought about employment and looked for work and how employers actually hired. Employers indicated that it was difficult to find students to hire whose busy schedules made it impossible for them to work. Students thought grades, skill, experiences and references were the most important attributes to get work. Employers focused more on personality, presentation of self and their goals in making hiring decisions.

Councilperson Baxter, an educator for twenty three years was incredibly proud of the productive work the students performed and congratulated them on a fine job. He asked if they considered why responses did not reflect the populations on all three schools. Councilperson Baxter offered suggestions for them to entertain multiple ways of gathering information and encouraged them to share their data with the school guidance departments.

Councilperson Jackson asked if a job preparedness program had been implemented and offered her assistance to the project. Councilperson Nardi suggested that interested skilled students could look into a trade as a vocation.

Supervisor Zuckerman expressed the different views students may have of their performance and what they need compared to what the employers are really looking for. Speaking as someone on the other side of the fence, he agreed grades are wonderful, but how you present yourself and how mature you are and what goals you have are far more important when it comes down to the final decision of an employer.

Councilperson Villanova asked the students engaged in this program to stand and asked for a show of hands of who are employed. He suggested that the students look at the peers who are working and try to get some of the answers from them.

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A representative for Places for Public Spaces (PPS) presented a power point of projects the company had created to promote a sense of comfort, accessibility and entertainment. The presentation offered state-of-the-art ideas to enhance the activities and atmosphere of the parks.

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The following Departmental Reports were received and ordered filed:

TOWN CLERK HOPE B. VESPIA, for the month of March, 2016	
Total submitted to the Supervisor.....	\$1,828.50
RECEIVER OF TAXES NICHOLAS C. MECCA, for the month of March, 2016	
Deposited to Supervisor, Town of Rye.....	\$580,534.25
Deposited to Treasurer, Village of Port Chester.....	\$43,322.55
Deposited to Treasurer, Village of Rye Brook.....	\$484,237.06
Total.....	\$1,108,093.86

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On motion of Councilperson Baxter, seconded by Councilperson Jackson, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, *Assessment Advisors, LLC*, will provide *IncomeWorks* as a standalone commercial valuation program in web based format. Since the commercial data is surveyed each year and updated according to market conditions, the contract is renewed each year.

WHEREAS, the cost is not to exceed **eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000)**, for the 2016 annual update per the attached contract renewal.

RESOLVED, that *Assessment Advisors, LLC*, 736 N. Western Avenue, #383, Lake Forest, IL 60045 is hereby designated to provide *IncomeWorks*, as a standalone commercial valuation program in web based format, to the Town of Rye for the calendar year 2016,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost for such program in an amount not to exceed **\$18,000** is hereby approved.

ROLL CALL:

- AYES:** Councilpersons Jackson, Nardi, Baxter, Villanova and Supervisor Zuckerman
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** None

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On motion of Councilperson Baxter, seconded by Councilperson Jackson, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Petitions and Notices of Petitions to review the assessment for taxation of the real estate owned by **Nestor and Patricia Cacsire, 18-20 Olivia Street, Port Chester** were duly served upon the Board of Assessment Review and Assessor in the Town of Rye, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rye and said property owner are prepared to enter into an Agreement and Stipulation of Compromise and Settlement of their differences in summary as follows:

Roll Year	Assessment	Petitioner Value (On Petition)	Petitioner Indicated Reduction (\$)	Petitioner Indicated Reduction (%)	Consent Judgment [CJ] (Reduced AVs)	CJ \$ Reduct.	CJ % Reduct.
2012	\$631,000	\$370,000	\$261,000	41%	390,000	241,000	38%
2013	\$520,000	\$370,000	\$150,000	29%	400,000	120,000	23%
2014	\$511,700	\$370,000	\$141,700	28%	410,000	101,700	20%

WHEREAS, it appears to be in the best interest of the Town to settle said matters recommended by the Town Attorney and Special Counsel for the Town of Rye and the Town Assessor without further attendant legal and appraisal costs relating to said matters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Rye in regular session duly convened as follows:

1. The Supervisor of the Town of Rye be and hereby is authorized to enter into a Stipulation of Settlement of said pending proceedings on the terms set forth herein.
2. Paul J. Noto, Town Attorney for the Town of Rye be and hereby is authorized to consent to entry of appropriate court orders to accomplish said settlement and upon entry of the court orders execute Stipulations of Discontinuance of said proceedings.
3. The Supervisor of the Town of Rye be and he hereby is authorized to make and pay refunds on the terms set forth herein.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Councilpersons Jackson, Nardi, Baxter and Supervisor Zuckerman

NOES: Councilperson Villanova

ABSENT: None

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There being no further business, on motion of Councilperson Villanova, seconded by Councilperson Nardi, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope B. Vespia

Hope B. Vespia
Town Clerk