

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session on Wednesday, September 28th, 2016, at 6:00 PM at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	David Hamlin, Supervisor Gary Holcomb, Deputy Supervisor (arrived at 7:07 PM) Michael Husar, Councilman Thomas Moss, Councilman Richard Pray, Councilman
	Highway Superintendent	Frank Root, Jr.
	Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
	Administrative Asst./Bookkeeper	Susan Crosier
ABSENT:	Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randy Ritter, Deputy Highway Superintendent; 3 representatives from MEGA

CAC/André LaClair – André LaClair attended the last CAC Meeting and shared with the CAC Members his responsibilities as the Chairman. He approached newest CAC Member Karen Goodman about taking over as the Chairman but she does not want to take on that responsibility at this time. André is willing to assist the CAC as time allows. He mentioned that his son is interested in the Lock project that the CAC has been discussing over the past two years. Mr. Hamlin said that the NYS Parks controls that area and permission to do any work in there would need to come from the NYS Parks.

MEGA Presentation – Doug Barton, Business Relations Manager for Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) introduced himself and explained that MEGA is an aggregator that pools the energy supply needs of municipalities and then goes out to bid for them. Because MEGA is representing a large power supply rather than each individual municipality going out on its own, MEGA is able to secure good pricing through the bid process and once the bid is accepted, MEGA accepts it through a County government by Resolution and the municipality can piggyback on that bid. MEGA started servicing the power needs of municipalities in the 1990's and since 2000, it has been determined that MEGA has saved municipalities over 12 million dollars in power and soft costs of over 3 million dollars. The Town of Fenton currently purchases electric supply through the MEGA program. Louise Gava, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Project Leader, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the State's new CCA program for residents of municipalities. Some of Louise's PowerPoint presentation included:

- What is CCA? CCA authorizes the municipality to aggregate the electricity and/or natural gas usage of the municipality's residents and small commercial businesses. Basically it is a bulk purchase of energy.
- Why participate in CCA?
 - Better rates for consumers
 - Consumer protection
 - May lead to future opportunities for the municipality
- There are seven steps to CCA:
 - Choose MEGA as CCA administrator
 - The contract with CCA is typically for three years
 - Educate the public – the Implementation Plan and Data Protection Plan must be approved by the State
 - 60 day education timeline
 - The public must be educated in multiple ways
 - Adopt Local Law to authorize CCA
 - Competitive bid for energy supply
 - Select low-bid supplier
 - Citizens can opt-out
 - If citizens are currently with NYSEG for their energy supply, then everyone is automatically together in the bulk purchase and must opt-out if they do not want to be in the bulk purchase; they will have 30 days to opt-out from the time they receive a letter explaining the benefits, rates, etc. (note: only citizens who are purchasing energy supply from NYSEG will receive a letter)
 - If a citizen gets switched and wants to go back to NYSEG, that citizen will have the opportunity to return to the utility without a penalty
 - A citizen can choose to join the program **if/when** his/her contract has ended
 - New citizens/residents to the municipality may join the program
 - Savings begin

Questions asked by those present:

Mr. Moss – If residents do nothing with the opt-out program, they are automatically in the program? Correct; the CCA program should drive benefit so if residents do not do anything, they should benefit. Opt-out programs return more value than opt-in programs.

Sue Crosier – How much savings will there be? We are expecting single digit savings per resident per year but an exact number cannot be given at this point in time. Louise cannot obtain data from NYSEG until after the Local Law is passed. There is concern that the Fenton residents are going to want to know what type of savings this will have for them if they decide not to opt-out of the program.

Frank Root – What happens when the three year contract with MEGA runs out? The municipality has the option to have MEGA go out to bid again. What makes this program any

different than opting to go with another supplier? What is different is that it is in mass and there are better benefits by everyone doing it together. It also prevents the bad contracts. Will NYSEG take you back at any time? Yes.

Mr. Moss – Is there a fee at step one when the municipality chooses MEGA as its CCA administrator? No. The only cost for MEGA is at step seven, when the savings begin, there will be a .001/kwh added to the consumer's bill.

Mr. Hamlin would like an agreement drawn up for Atty. Millus to review before the Town Board makes a decision on the matter.

Review Abstract #9, 2016

- General Fund – Voucher # 493 – Griffiths Engineering, LLC – \$3,750.00 – The new Engineering firm sent an invoice for three months. The bill is broken down and distributed between the departments by Bookkeeper Sue Crosier. Mr. Hamlin asked the firm to keep track of the fixed fee versus the hourly fee activity.
- After a review of the Abstract, **Mr. Pray moved to approve payment of the bills for Abstract #9, 2016**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 4 Hamlin, Husar, Moss, Pray

Nays 0

Absent 1 Holcomb

Public Hearing for the Budget – The General Election is on November 8th, 2016. The Public Hearing for the Budget must be on or before the Thursday immediately following the General Election. A Special Meeting of the Town Board could be held after the Election for the Public Hearing because the regular Town Board Meeting is scheduled for November 2nd, 2016. Instead of having a Special Meeting, the Town Board made the decision to **change the regular Town Board Meeting from November 2nd, 2016 to November 9th, 2016 at 7 PM.**

1001 Chenango Street – There is an auction tomorrow that Atty. Millus will be attending and he will stress the condition of the Unsafe Structure.

County Addresses Blighted Properties – Mr. Moss asked about the latest information in the news regarding the County addressing blighted properties and the waiving of tipping fees. Mr. Hamlin replied that if municipalities purchase foreclosed properties from the County and the building(s) on the properties are demolished, then the tipping fees would be cut by 50% up to \$75,000 under the proposed plan.

Review of 2017 Budget – The Town Board transitioned into a Review of the 2017 Budget for the Town of Fenton and an Executive Session, with the **Work Session adjourning at 7:14 PM.**

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk