

MINUTES OF JOINT INFORMAL MEETING  
Saturday, March 12, 2016  
AT 8:00 AM

PERSONS PRESENT

TOWN BOARD Supervisor, Merilee Walker  
Councilperson, Bill Mann  
Councilperson, Mike Hillier *ABSENT*  
Councilperson, James Forrester  
Councilperson, Doris Marsh

RECORDING CLERK Cheyenne DeMarco

VILLAGE BOARD Mayor, Bob Cox  
Trustee, Darren Snyder  
Trustee, Fritz Amrhein  
Trustee, Jeff Essler, *ABSENT*  
Trustee, Jack Morgan, *ABSENT*

RECORDING CLERK LeRoy Wood

SCHOOL BOARD President, Todd Galton  
Member, Pat Long *ABSENT*  
Member, Ron Duttwiler  
Member, Monica Morris  
Member, Jeff Bugman *ABSENT*  
Member, Terry Lowell  
Member, Jill Burley

PERSONELL

KESHEQUA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDIANT Thomas Kopp

TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENTANT Rick Moran

At 8:00 AM Todd Galton, president of the school board, addressed all members present, welcoming them to the meeting. Todd stated he has printed out an agenda and given everyone a copy; it is a short agenda regarding the school's needs.

Jim Forrester entered meeting at 8:04 AM

The conversation according to agenda went as follows:

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POSSIBLE SHARED SERVICES POSSIBILITIES

Jim stated that all three boards need a change in mind set, look for opportunities that can overlap for everyone. The more closely the three boards interact, the further we can put our revenues.

BUS GARAGE:

*Bulk Buying*

Todd Galton addressed the school's interest in the possibility of a shared transport building and location site; if in the future they could look into purchase sites with that in mind.

*Map Of Area*

Todd Galton refers to a land map given with the agenda. The land map surveys 25 acres around the Dalton bus garage. Todd states that the wet lands are a concern along with the tall reeds.

East of the Dalton Elementary school there are 4 acres that could be purchased and used. Doris Marsh stated they would need more than 4 acres for a joint garage. Todd stated it would be a start. Rick Moran stated that the town highway garage by itself just make 4 acres.

*Shared Personnel*

Todd Galton stated the Dalton School has a really nice bus garage and they would like to make it available to the Town and Village highway departments. Todd suggested having a walk-through of the bus garage with both highway crews. The school garage can offer the same mechanic, shared wash bay, and salt shed for all three entities.

Town Highway Superintendent Rick Moran stated he liked the idea but is concerned that the Dalton Bus Garages are not built for heavy traffic; also the school buses have certain timelines. The Town Highway crew can build and bulldoze, the trucks can fit inside for winter, and the pole barn can be dismantled and moved along with the salt shed that the highway guys built. The peanut butter factory was built with the plan to grow and expand for the next 35 – 40 years. For now their development is low key, and the Town Highway department works where they are, but that may change down the road when they wish to expand. Rick's

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other concern is the town doesn't have state roads like they used to, they are under confinement now, and trucks are too rough on the village roads.

Monica Morris entered meeting at 8:09 AM

Rick stated they could manage with a smaller piece of property, he just came from Albany, from there he found out that the state will put money into local New York towns.

Jim Forrester stated there were two main points,

1. They need to move (less urgent)
2. Logistics, open dialogue with all three entities
  - Bill and Jim will get together to speak with Bobby Gelser in regards to the Once Again Nut Butter's future development plans.

Supervisor Walker stated that the current village highway department is small fitting for their crew. Todd Galton asked Village Mayor, Bob Cox, if the Dalton Garage was too far out of the village to be suitable to the village highway? Mayor Cox answered he doesn't think so.

Todd Galton stated they should put everything onto a spreadsheet, Rick Moran made a good point on weight on the roads, and they need to look into that factor.

Doris Marsh asked if the school has a certified bus mechanic? The answer was yes. Doris asked if that mechanic was able to get more training to work on the village and town trucks in order to be a shared mechanic?

Mayor Cox stated that his village highway crews are mechanics, the Town and the Village utilizes their own people.

Rick Moran stated the village highway department could move into the town's highway barns on Watercure road if the town were to move into the Dalton Bus garage. The Town Barns are bigger than the village building, they could possibly use it over on the village line.

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Ron Duttwiler, stated the overview is to be covered by everything, how are we saving as three entities together instead of one? We are looking for potential for all three.

### BURT'S BUSY BEES

Todd Galton stated that the Burt's Busy Bee's building was built in 2009, and now it just sits vacant due to being in a flood plain.

Jim Forrester asked if the school would lease it out? Todd answered yes.

Maybe that is a place for Nunda Mustard to use as a location.

### LONG TERM PLANS

Keshequa Superintendent, Tom Kopp, stated the school is in the position where they have to decide what to do with the Dalton building. This last year was a transition year where 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade were brought to the high school building while Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade stayed in Dalton. Now it is a decision on how to treat it in the future. The Dalton School could be sold or leased as every grade is moved into the main campus to be a Pre-K – 12 building, or use the main campus as a Pre-K – 8 and then outsource the grades 9-12 somewhere else. The latter is an outcome if they can't work this out. Tom Kopp stated he wants Keshequa to stay free and independent as do a lot of residents. He feels the set back to the Dalton School is that Dalton has no sewer or water; he feels this prohibits us as a district and community.

Doris Marsh stated that in 2007, Dalton was given the opportunity for water and sewer and it was strongly voted down. Terry Lowell asked if that door was now closed? Doris answered that in 2007 they had a grant to fund the project, but the residents of Dalton didn't want to be forced to hook up to water and sewer. Darren Snyder stated that it just happened in Nunda with the new vet clinic for a fraction of the price it was predicted at. Terry Lowell stated that he has never seen a shortage of water in Dalton, but best to get it looked at. Jim Forrester stated that there is concern with Dalton's water due to methane levels, and there needs to be a search for alternative water sources and key infrastructure.

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Todd Galton stated they need sewer and water for the Dalton campus. If it turns out we need to sell or lease it, it will be seen as more profitable to a buyer if it has water and sewer.

Rick Moran stated that during the vet clinic project, the census changed and people started asking when the water was going up to Dalton. Fritz Amrhein stated that they need to ask now for a grant while they have kids in the Dalton building.

Tom Kopp stated that the school board is in the position to make a decision relatively soon, a time between July – August they will be talking with an architect about how they will meet capacity for the new campus numbers.

Tom Kopp states that their main goal is to get Pre-K – 12 into one building without a raise in taxes and no burden to their education or the tax payers.

Terry Lowell stated that without the school, our town is at risk of being a ghost town.

Merilee Walker stated that she just attended a county meeting this week, and at that meeting it was mentioned that applying for grants jointly are more feasible.

Darren Snyder stated that Phil Brooks is a person to talk to about Dalton Water.

Terry Lowell stated the Town and Village made effort to join as partners. Mayor Cox affirmed the cooperation is there.

Doris Marsh asked if there were any efforts to use Dalton School for something else, like a Special Ed program? Tom Kopp stated that unfortunately Dalton is located at the very edge of Livingston County and programs like BOCES have restrictions to crossing county lines; it is difficult for any program taking place in Dalton for that reason.

Ron Duttwiler stated that they can't get frustrated with each other, all three need to work together to add more influence to get the grants and improvements we need. In reality, rural areas especially elementary schools are emptying out.

Jim Forrester stated there were now three point of importance,

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1. Bill Mann, Rick Moran and Jim getting together with Bobby Gelser
2. Mike Hillier and Jim speaking to Nunda Mustard about leasing land opportunities in Nunda.
3. And most urgently, the water and sewer opportunity in Dalton

Speaking to Senator Cathy Young and Assemblyman Bill Nojay was discussed.

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Mayor Cox stated that the village has a responsibility to protect kids but our needs are not being granted from the state. We've asked for sidewalk grants and were denied. We've asked for more safety signs, crossing guards and flashing lights at Mill Street and South Church Street, the state said if the Village were to put up these signs the state would take them down.

Todd Galton asked Mayor Cox how much it would cost to have flashing lights installed? Mayor Cox answered \$8- 12,000.00 to install and \$1,250.00 as an annual fee.

Todd Galton suggested putting reflective strips on cross walks and on signs.

Mayor Cox also stated they have done other sidewalks grants in the past to expand the sidewalks to the new fields/Rymer Athletic Fields, Shop-N-Save and to Kiwanis Park.

Jim Forrester suggested putting up the signs, and if the state takes them down so be it. It still draws on the critical attention needed to the situation.

Bill Mann stated we should push for volunteers to assist the kids. Terry Lowell stated they do that in Warsaw but they are paid.

Mayor Cox stated that towns around us get grants but not us.

Todd Galton stated that if grants for sidewalks come from joint entities applying maybe they could get some favoritism.

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Jim Forrester stated the town has a highway committee, the mayor stated he has a Public Works Committee, Todd Galton stated the School has a ground committee. Jim stated they should get their three committees together on a regular basis to review immediate concerns.

Todd Galton asked if there were any other thoughts? Jim asked if anyone was taking minutes for this meeting? The answer was yes, same as board meetings, LeRoy Wood the Village clerk and Cheyenne DeMarco the Town clerk.

Todd Galton asked if they should set another meeting? All agreed they should. The next joint informal meeting between the Village Board, Town Board and Keshequa School Board was set for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00am, where the school will host again in their board room.

Doris Marsh stated they should get copies of past grants that have been rewarded for reference.

Jim Forrester asked Bill Mann to reach out to Mike Hillier to meet with Dana Russel for Nunda Mustard to get some good dialogue in before April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Cox stated Darren Snyder would be a perfect village trustee for that meeting as well.

The informal meeting ended at 9:23 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHEYENNE DEMARCO  
NUNDA TOWN CLERK

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