



# TOWN OF SOUTHPORT

1139 Pennsylvania Avenue • Elmira New York 14904

## PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, March 7, 2016  
Regular Meeting**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town of Southport Planning Board held at the Town Hall, 1139 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elmira, New York on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Larry Berman  
Jacquelyn French  
John Hastings, Alternate Board Member  
Linda Olthof  
Chris Parsons  
Tim Steed, Vice Chairman  
Linda Taft

Board Members Absent: Michael Stephens, Chairman Stephens

Others Present: Steven Barnstead, Town Attorney  
Peter Rocchi, Code Enforcement Officer  
Catherine Edwards, Town Assessor  
Michelle Murray, Secretary

Vice Chairman Steed called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked if the Board Members had any comments, questions, concerns or corrections about the January 4, 2016 minutes. Vice Chairman Steed asked if Board Member Olthof should be marked as present at the January meeting since she arrived at 7:40 p.m. The Board agreed that since she did not participate in the motions, it would remain as absent. Hearing no other comments, the Board accepted the minutes as presented.

Next on the agenda was re-appointment of Board Member Linda Taft whose term expires April 1, 2016. Vice Chairman Steed made a motion to recommend to the Town Board to re-appoint Linda Taft to the Planning Board for another term to expire April 1, 2023; Board Member French seconded the motion. No discussion on the motion. All in favor.

**AYES: Berman, French, Hastings, Olthof, Parsons, Steed**  
**ABSTAINED: Taft**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Stephens**  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was referral from the Town Board to review the recommendation from the Town Assessor to update the exemption for people over 65 years old with income of \$25,000.00 and under. Cathy Edwards, Town Assessor, explained that the exemption had not been updated since 1999. The modification is to the sliding scale partial tax exemption on real property for persons 65 years of age or over.

Vice Chairman Steed asked the members of the community that were in attendance if they had any comments. Hearing no comments, he made a recommendation that the Planning Board table the referral until the April 4, 2016 planning board meeting; Board Member Olthof seconded the recommendation. All in favor.

**AYES: Berman, French, Hastings, Olthof, Parsons, Steed, Taft**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Stephens**

Next was referral from the Town Board to again review the amendment to Chapter 483 Timber Harvesting. The language to Chapter 483 section 3B-1 to set a fee was discussed. Attorney Barnstead explained that the Town Board would set the fee, Code Officer would enforce the fee set.

Vice Chairman Steed asked the members of the community that were in attendance if they had any comments. Charles Collins of Kinner Hill, Pine City wants the Town to eliminate all permit fees. He felt a permit fee was a punishment to property owners when they do improvements to their home and are then taxed more. He felt government should not apply a fee when you want to harvest a crop. He did not want the Planning Board to send the referral to the Town Board in favor of the fee.

Board Member Berman explained that if you are operating a business selling wood then a permit fee should be collected. Vice Chairman Steed explained the impact of logging on the Town roads has an impact on a larger number of people.

Vice Chairman Steed made a recommendation to the Town Board to accept the amended changes to Chapter 483 section 3B-1 to read “a permit fee may be set from time to time by resolution of the Town Board” and that the Town Board should heavily consider doing a more comprehensive overhaul of the logging ordinance. Board Member Parsons seconded the recommendation. All in favor.

**AYES: Berman, French, Hastings, Olthof, Parsons, Steed, Taft**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: Stephens**  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

Other business to come before the board was discussion regarding the Annual Regional Leadership Conference to be held at Corning Community College on March 31. Board Members should let the secretary know by March 21, 2016 if they would like to attend.

No other business to come before the Board. Board Member Olthof made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Board Member French seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Murray  
Planning Board Secretary

Original on file with Town Clerk

cc: Planning Board  
Town Board  
Town Clerk  
Town Attorney