

RESOLUTION NO. 46 – 3/17/14

RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION TO
EXPANDING NATIVE AMERICAN
CASINO GAMING IN WESTERN NEW
YORK

Offered by Councilman David Stalker, who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilwoman Woodruff.

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgeway, New York is a picturesque and diverse town in Orleans County with a population of approximately 6534, and

WHEREAS, Town of Ridgeway is a vibrant community with an outstanding quality of life, beautiful scenery, rich history and strong sense of community, and

WHEREAS, Town of Ridgeway also enjoys a reputation for excellent services, including a first rate educational system, and

WHEREAS, maintaining of the high quality of life expected by the residents of the Town of Ridgeway is of the utmost importance to this board, and

WHEREAS, Batavia Downs Gaming and Western Region Off Track Betting Corporation are located in the City of Batavia in Genesee County, and

WHEREAS, Orleans County is one of 15 counties in Western New York that own Western Region Off Track Betting Corporation, and

WHEREAS, as one of the municipal “stockholders” in WROTB, Orleans County has a pro-rata financial interest in the \$69 million of net equity re-invested in WROTB’s 30-plus corporately-owned branch facilities and the track and casino at Batavia Downs, and

WHEREAS, since its inception, WROTB has generated over \$215 million in operating and surcharge revenues to the taxpayers of those participating municipalities, including Orleans County, and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation has initiated a process to locate a full Las Vegas style gaming casino in the region, and

WHEREAS, an additional casino in Western New York will place in great jeopardy the sustainability of Batavia Downs Gaming, thus negatively impacting Orleans county’s financial interest and investment in WROTB, and

WHEREAS, the Orleans County Legislature recently passed legislation opposed to the expansion of casino gaming as such and expansion would have likely lead to the

WHEREAS, county government has been a strong proponent of increasing cooperation, sharing services and consolidating major governmental functions across multiple jurisdictions as highlighted in the 2013 Cornell University study, “Shared Services in New York: A Reform That Works”; and

WHEREAS, recent law changes enacted by the Governor and State Legislature to cap the growth in county Medicaid costs and the creation of another pension tier will help reduce pressure on future county property tax levy growth, especially in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, county elected leaders strongly support meaningful state and county efforts to lower the property tax burden for homeowners and businesses across the state; and

WHEREAS, the levying of county property taxes is directly linked to state mandated spending as county governments act as the state’s administrative arm through the delivery and financing of state programs; and

WHEREAS, county officials believe the best way to improve new York’s economic climate and competitiveness is to reduce property taxes through fundamental reform of state mandates that directly impacts the causes of high property taxes and not simply the symptoms (not just slow the rate of growth); and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for property tax relief and consistent with the call for realignment of responsibilities between governments, aligning the cost of the state’s human services programs with the government obligated to provide them will result in a historic and sustainable reduction in county property taxes and a more appropriate and equitable distribution of the cost of the state’s human services programs; and

WHEREAS, the cost of paying for the state Medicaid program in a typical county (outside of New York City) equals about one half of the county property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the benefits, scope and ultimate cost of Medicaid has been set and controlled by the State for nearly 50 years, but not fully financed with state resources, therefore transferring a significant cost burden to local property tax payers that contributes greatly to the disparity between property taxes in New York State and those in other states; and

WHEREAS, New York City tax payers also dedicate a large amount of locally raised non-property taxes to support the State Medicaid program; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that counties find no quantifiable evidence that the property tax freeze would result in significant property tax relief, while a phased state takeover of the costs of its own mandated human services, starting with Medicaid, would provide immediate, permanent and measurable property tax reduction; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Orleans County Legislature calls upon our elected officials to help address our growing concern of limited access of canal bridges in Orleans County, even neighboring Counties across New York State by the New York State Canal Corporation and the New York State Department of Transportation hindering vital transportation through and about our county; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward this resolution to Governor Cuomo, Senator George Maziarz, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Canal Corporation, New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, New York State Farm Bureau, Orleans County Fire Departments, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

RESOLUTION NO. 49 – 3/17/14 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN FORM E – WD#12 INITIAL BUDGET/COST CERTIFICATION

Offered by Councilman Blajszczak, who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilwoman Woodruff.

Resolved to approve and authorize Supervisor to sign Form E – for Water District #12 initial budget/cost certification.

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

RESOLUTION NO. 50 – 3/17/14 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURES OF HIGHWAY MONEYS

Offered by Councilwoman Toussaint, who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilwoman Woodruff.

Resolved to approve agreement for expenditures of Highway moneys as designated.

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

RESOLUTION NO. 51 - 3/17/14 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE JUNK YARD LICENSE RENEWALS (APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015) PER RECOMMENDATION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Offered by Councilman Blajszczak, who moved its adoption.

Seconded by Councilman Toussaint.

Resolved to approve junk yard license renewals for Ridgeway Salvage, Paul Nayman owner; Dunn Auto Parts, Danny Dunn owner; Cherry Auto Wrecking, Roger Cherry owner.

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

RESOLUTION NO. 52 – 3/17/14

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE
LOCAL LAW#1 OF 2014 TO OVERRIDE
TAX CAP OF 2015 TOWN OF
RIDGEWAY BUDGET

Offered by Councilwoman Woodruff, who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Blajszczak.

Resolved to accept file Local Law #1 of 2014 to override tax cap of 2015 Town of Ridgeway budget if necessary.

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

OTHER BUSINESS

A.FIRE COMPANY REPORT

B. DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Attorney, Kathy Bogan, will file papers with the Department of State on Local Law#1, 2014- Override Tax Cap. Also, Attorney Bogan stated that she will review zoning violations and examine fine structures of other towns in Orleans County.

Assessor, Trisha Laszewski, has processed exemptions received by March 1, 2014. She also reported that she is assessing values on closed building permits. Tentative roll will be available May 1, 2014.

Highway Superintendent, Mark Goheen, stated that overtime has somewhat subsided for his crew and they are looking forward to Spring and road repair. His workers have managed to stay healthy while trying to keep up with the snowplowing. A pile of salt still remains in the Highway barn.

C. COUNCILMAN REPORT

Councilwoman Woodruff reassured the Town Board and residents that the Town of Ridgeway website is almost completed. A total revision has been made to the site by C&H.

D. BOARD REPORTS: PLANNING, ZONING

E. RESIDENT CONCERN

Ridge Road resident, John A. Gebera, stated that there is a desperate need for speed reduction on Ridge Rd. in the location of the Amish store. Speeds exceed the 55mph that is posted.

Councilman Blajszczak told Mr. Gebera that a traffic study has been done and was told that there was no need to change the speed limit at this time. Supervisor Napoli also said that the Department of Transportation indicated that this matter will not be reviewed for two years.

All agreed something must be done to change the speed limit before a life is lost.

RESOLUTION NO. 53 – 3/17/14

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

Offered by Councilman Stalker, who moved its adoption.
Seconded by Councilman Blajszczak.

Resolved to pay bills as presented:

PREPAID ABSTRACT	\$ 16378.46
ABSTRACT	\$ 159489.89
TOTAL ABSTRACT	\$ 175868.35

Adopted: 5 ayes 0 nays

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. by Councilwoman Woodruff and seconded by Councilman Stalker.

Town of Ridgeway,

Barbara J. Klatt
Town Clerk

