

# TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

**December 29, 2015**

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen  
Councilman Robert Weingartner  
Councilman Lewis Grubham  
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk  
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Herbert Kline, Town Attorney  
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk  
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman

## Kirkwood Hometown Christmas.

Supervisor Kniffen stated that through the years, since the 1960's, Kirkwood has been concerned about the youth of the community at holiday time, with a celebration with Santa held at various locations. A Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held for a number of years as well until lack of participation. Because of a concern with that, Supervisor Kniffen said Kirkwood resident, Katie Legg, formed a committee last fall to plan festivities to hold a Kirkwood Hometown Christmas day, which was a huge success. He invited committee members Katie Legg, Sandy Wasson and Pat Griffin to provide information about the formation, the process and the future of the event.

Katie explained the year before she planned on attending the tree lighting ceremony but it wasn't there. In her research she found that Pat Griffin was on the committee in the past so she contacted her. As an event planner Katie had ideas to bring people out to a tree lighting event and make it an all day event. She noted this was truly a team effort to get sponsors, volunteers and make people aware of the festivities that were planned for the day. They were very pleased and overwhelmed with the business participation this year as well as their enthusiasm for next year. Kids were able to write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, make craft projects, have snacks and much more at various businesses in the community. A lot of people attended the activities at the Park. There was something for everyone with a 5K race and a gingerbread house contest, cookie baking contest and a chili cook off. Ten very different gingerbread houses were entered from both kids and adults. Although there were only 3 entries for the chili cook off, they were all different, with many people sampling them. Now that people understand how that works there is a lot of enthusiasm for next year. The parade at night was amazing with over 400 people attending from our community as well as neighboring communities. People watched the parade from their houses along the parade route and enjoyed the many floats and people marching. Awards were given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place floats. They plan on having a much bigger parade next year. Katie added there were a lot of houses decorated along the parade route which was more than she has ever seen in the Five Mile Point area. It was amazing to see the number of people that came out to watch the parade. The wonderful weather made it so much nicer. The Christmas tree lighting went off well. There are a number of things that they will look at next year to make

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things even better. The bonfire was very popular and the concessions were enjoyed. Christina Radicchi had solicited donations for lanterns and that was an amazing sight as well. There were lots of comments on their Facebook page about how pretty that was. They are looking to have more of those next year.

Pat Griffin said the kids' party held at St. Mary's Church turned out really well. Many kids attended and made ornaments and had snacks. It was a spectacular day. She said she has always been very proud to say she lives in Kirkwood but never prouder than she was that day. The whole day it was amazing to see families out. The parade was the best part of the day for her with the streets lined with many appreciative people that said they are looking forward to it again next year with many noting they would like to volunteer.

Jason Griffin said Katie did a great job and he is proud to be a member of the town.

Katie added that the highway department provided amazing help throughout the whole day. The date for the celebration next year has been set for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is the first Saturday of the month. They are hoping that by having it early there will be a better chance for great weather. They will meet and start planning again in June and will be looking for volunteers to be street elves. Street elves will hand out flags out in their neighborhood which will be a good way to get the word out. They will be looking at better ways to promote the event so that more people will know about it. Katie added that she has attended many pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners at Bell School and she has never seen as many people attend. Over \$1200 was raised at the pancake breakfast and it was nice to see the families and older generation there.

In addition to committee members present, Supervisor Kniffen said Ray Coolbaugh, Christina Radicchi and Leslie Bailey were on the committee as well. The annual Christmas party that was held for the kids for many years was merged into this celebration. The money that the Town puts aside for that was put aside for this. However, all other expenses were covered by local businesses and he is sure some of those business will help again because they were in the parade and were very excited about it. He thanked the committee for all they did.

## **1. Discussion – Anticipated Road Work for 2016. (RJC)**

Supervisor Kniffen explained every year the Superintendent of Highways has to put together a list of all the anticipated road work for the following year. This has been submitted for 2016 for review. Any questions will be addressed at the meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

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2. Resolution authorizing Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Roger Studer d/b/a Studer's Body Shop & Garage, in accordance with the attached agreement. (GEK)

12/29/15 Agenda

Supervisor Kniffen explained this is an annual agreement to deal with abandoned vehicles. Resolution.

3. Resolution authorizing Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Southern Tier Zoological Society, Inc., in accordance with the attached agreement. (GEK)

12/29/15 Agenda

Supervisor Kniffen explained this is an annual agreement for which the Town gets a number of free passes for Kirkwood residents, which can be obtained from the Town Clerk. Resolution.

4. Resolution authorizing the continuation of petty cash for 2016, subject to audit by the Budget Director, for the following departments at specified amounts, pursuant to Town Law Section 64, Paragraph 1(2):

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Bookkeeper	\$100
Building & Code Inspector	\$100
DPW Commissioner	\$200 and \$35 for Water Department
Supervisor	\$200
Town Clerk	\$200
Town Justice	\$200
Town Justice	\$200

Resolution.

5. Resolution reappointing Walter (Gordi) Woolbaugh to the Planning Board for a term to expire December 31, 2020. (GEK)

12/29/15 Agenda

Resolution.

6. Resolution reappointing Cyndi French to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2020. (GEK)

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Resolution.

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7. Resolution Approving the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointment Officials for various appointed officials, in accordance with the attached resolution. (GEK) 01/05/16 Agenda

Mr. Kline explained this is an annual requirement from the NYS Retirement System to report the standard work day for employees that use the time clock.  
Resolution.

8. Discussion – Crown Castle Tower Bond Update. (GMD)

Mr. Kline reported that Crown International finally sent a bond but it was only for \$25,000 instead of \$150,000. They apologized and said they will send a bond for the correct amount. We are still waiting for that.

9. Discussion – O’Dea Property. (GEK/HAK)

Hold.

10. Transfer of Funds.

12/29/15 Agenda

Supervisor Kniffen explained this is a report of some of the line items that fell short and some of them were over so transfers were made from one line item to another. He said the Kirkwood Hometown Christmas amount of \$2,360, less \$1,514 was going to be taken from contingency but he told the bookkeeper there is still money that will be coming in to cover all the expenses so a transfer is not needed.

Councilman Diffendorf questioned why the \$107,270 transfer was in different areas. Councilman Grubham also questioned if \$40,000 was budgeted for the Susquehanna Lane project. That amount seems too high. Supervisor Kniffen will contact Jim Smith for clarification.

11. Rogers Mountain Way.

Supervisor Kniffen explained Rogers Mountain Way is a dead end road that is located in both Kirkwood and Dickinson off the Brandywine Highway towards Port Dick, up Phelps Road. Although some of the homes are in Kirkwood, most of them are in Dickinson. Two railroad crossings must be crossed to get to the road. The upper crossing was owned by Canadian Pacific and many times the crossing would be blocked so people could not get out which would be a real problem in the event of an emergency. The Town of Dickinson decided to build a road above the crossing which would go over to State Rd. They asked Kirkwood to participate but at the time Kirkwood took the position that they should try to negotiate with the railroad to get them to do something about stopping on the crossing. Prior to this Kirkwood did get a similar issue resolved with the railroad near Frito Lay. Kirkwood held on any participation in the cost of the new road. Northern Suffolk purchased the

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railroad and Supervisor Kniffen met with them and took them to the site. They were not familiar with this issue. They are looking into this and related to Supervisor Kniffen they are trying to transfer the yard more towards Binghamton. They have noted they have only owned this since September and have a lot going on with repairs so this is not a top priority, especially since the new road has been constructed. Although they are not going to do anything right now it does not mean they won't eventually do something.

Supervisor Kniffen said it was a concern of Kirkwood that Dickinson did not approach the railroad. Dickinson said they did but could not get anyone to talk to them about the issue. He added that it was a concern that Dickinson did not come to Kirkwood before they decided to build the road.

Councilman Diffendorf said the road is in Dickinson, they built it, and they will get all the tax revenue.