

At 6:00pm, January 12, 2010, the Farmington Town Board met in a Workshop Session with members from the Agricultural Advisory Committee to discuss the application for obtaining funds to develop Agricultural Plan for part of the Comprehensive Plan.

PRESENT: Theodore Fafinski – Supervisor
Peter Ingalsbe – Councilman
Timothy P. Mickelsen – Councilman
Michael Casale – Councilman
Steven M. Holtz - Councilman
Michelle Finley – Town Clerk

Also present were: **Ron Brand** – Director of Planning & Development – **John Marvin**-Agricultural Advisory Committee- **Pete Maslyn**-Agricultural Advisory Committee – **Jim Ochterski**-Agricultural Advisory Committee – **Dean Lichterman**- Victor Herald.

Pete Maslyn started the workshop by thanking the Town Board for the opportunity to discuss things they were working on. He stated that Jim Ochterski did the leg work on completing the application for funds to develop Agricultural Plan for part of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Ochterski stated that he has been working on an application for funds requesting to have New York State Ag and Markets provide a \$24,500.00 grant to be used to develop the Agricultural Plan for the Town of Farmington to be part of the Comprehensive Plan revision process. He added that normally in a comprehensive plan revision you either take a look at the entire community and agriculture is part of it. He said that these funds would allow them to go much more deeper and comprehensive with their ability to really analyze where agricultural is at currently, how many farms, how is the farmland being used, what extent it is being owned or rented, and the economic liability of agriculture in the town. He added that it would provide a snapshot of where the town is at and then it would provide recommendations, and incentives that the town could take on in order to make sure that Agriculture remains economically viable with the presumption that is what the town wants.

Jim Ochterski said that the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets made funds available to municipalities starting about five years ago and historically they provide funding to counties for agriculture planning and Ontario County wrote its Agriculture Plan in 1999. He added that once all the counties in the State that were going to apply for the funds did, then it gave the State the opportunity to provide funds to individual towns and so far in Ontario County the Town of Victor as well as the Town of Gorham were granted funds about a 1 ½ years ago, and the Town of Geneva about 2 years ago. Jim Ochterski said that typically what Ag & Markets does is to have on going applications that municipalities submit applications for the funds and that they allow requests up to \$25,000.00 and they end up batching then and then they check with Office of Budget to see how many they can fund at a given time and then they make an announcements.

Jim Ochterski stated that the Committee would like to get into the cue for next time. It is his understanding that just about every application gets funding but added that there is some expectation that the Town would match funds. He said that once the contract is established between Ag & Markets and the Town to engage in the planning process. He said that the Agricultural Advisory Committee discussed that they would essentially take the lead to make sure the work got done. They would like to hire a consultant who has worked on Agricultural Plans before and that consultant would be supported by the Towns resources and the Agricultural Advisory Committee would collect the data necessary and hold the public meetings to get to know the farmers in order to effectively gauge where farming is at and what is necessary.

Councilman Casale asked if the Town would have to bid for a consulting firm, Jim Ochterski replied that there are eight to twelve firms capable of doing the job. Supervisor Fafinski stated that it is professional services therefore no bid is needed.

Jim Ochterski stated that the Farmington Planning Board unanimously voted to support this application at their October 21, 2009, meeting. He said that now the Town Board would need to act on a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to submit the application for funds and that the Town has designated funds for this application which has to be 20% cash. Supervisor Fafinski stated that the cash would come out of contingency due to not being a budgeted expense. He added that the Director of Planning and Development prepare resolution for next Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Fafinski asked if the application could be changed should Town of Canandaigua want to join them. Jim Ochterski replied that it would be possible and that instead of \$25,000 you could get \$50,000. Jim Ochterski suggested that the Town of Manchester might be worth talking with.

Councilman Ingalsbe thanked the Committee for the information for the internet and to let him know if there is anything else they would like to post on it.

With no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Michelle Finley, Town Clerk _____