

Traffic and Safety Committee Public Hearing:

Please take notice that the City of Beacon Traffic Safety Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Court Room of the Municipal Building. One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York, pursuant to proposed amendment to the Traffic Code regarding the following:

- Install two handicap parking spaces in the Church Street municipal lot. One to be located behind the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and the other behind the Back to Health Chiropractic office.
- Install loading zone in Church Street municipal lot where the island is located with limited parking of 15 minutes.
- Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of Churchill Street traveling in both directions.
- Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of East Main Street traveling northbound.
- Install 'Stop' sign on South Avenue at the intersection of Sargent Avenue.
- Repeal Section 211-7 one-way Eliza Street from Verplanck Avenue to Kent Street traveling north.
- The Committee recommends 'No Parking Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet on both sides of South Cedar Street at the intersection of DeWindt Street. The Committee also recommends 'No Standing Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet from each intersection on Eliza Street between Verplanck Avenue and Kent Street.

Submitted by Tony Furco, Chairman of the Traffic and Safety Committee.

Tony Furco closed the Public Hearing for the Traffic and Safety Ratifications.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Beacon City Council held at the Municipal Center, One Municipal Plaza on October 19, 2009 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Council Members Present:

Mayor Steve K. Gold

Casale, Randy – Council Member – Ward Three

Fredericks, Marlene – Council Member – At Large

Kelly, Charles – Council Member - Ward Two

Pasti, Sara – Council Member – Ward Four

Leake, Deanna – Council Member – Ward One

Council Members Excused:

Thompson, Eleanor – Council Member – At Large

Also Present:

City Administrator — Meredith Robson

City Attorney – Richard Wolf

Media Represented by:

Goldie Green – Beacon Free Press

Residents at Beginning of Meeting:

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Pertaining to any, item Maximum time for this section is thirty minutes. Maximum time for individual public comment is three minutes.

Mr. Diaz – Would like to be involved with the Proposed Local Law regarding Taxi Cabs.

Naomi baat Cannan – Regarding the Artist/Live Workspace. These workspaces rents run between 1,500 to 2,000 a month rent. They sold at 250,000 – 350,000 and 850,000 dollars. Can the City of Beacon put restrictions on rental prices for this Artist/Live workspace?

John Gilvey – Presented a petition from the citizens of Beacon as they believe that it is not the time to rezone our waterfront for TOD.

John Gunn – North Wodenethe – The Planning Board will be contacting the Council regarding the TOD. Some concerns are the TOD and the Comprehensive Plan, which I was a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. This is NOT what the committee envisioned with the Comprehensive Plan. I would like the City Council to take their time with your deliberation and really consider what they are reviewing to the Zoning of this area. It could turn out to be a huge disaster to the City of Beacon.

Tom Bregman – Stated that he is a landlord and tenant at the wine shop in the City of Beacon on Main Street. With regards to the TOD, I was on the Master Plan Committee in Cornwall. The committee looked at the entire town of Cornwall for Zoning and planning in the Town of Cornwall. Encourage the City council to take their time with the Zoning of the TOD and NOT move ahead with this project. The experience from Cornwall there was two developers built strip malls off of the original Main Street. If you go to Cornwall today there are 40 – 60% vacancies, which is very run down. Consider the long term impacts to the existing businesses and the infrastructure that already exists on Main Street.

Betty DiPompo – 6 Pearse Place – How much is the tax increase going to be next year? Ms. DiPompo had a suggestion that the City Council begin working on the budget and give the residents a chance to start saving the money and not hit them all at once with a large tax bill.

Hank Dutch – Spring Valley Street - City Council should use a lot of caution about too much commercial development on the Riverfront, regarding residential density for the existing residents here in the City of Beacon. When you have 600 units and the TOD has as many 1000 units. There will be an impact on traffic, how many cars per household are projected at these proposed sites. These units are going to have school aged children, which in turn will raise our school taxes. School taxes are about 130% of the City of Beacon real estate tax.

Lou Amoroso – 40 Vail Avenue – There is a sewer line that goes down Main Street to a pump station and then pumped up pass the bridge and gravity feed towards our sewage treatment plant. When we have bad weather it overflows and goes into the harbor. The Council talks about green and saving our earth, but yet the Council still goes on about the TOD Design and Edgewater which will impact this sewer line.

Michael Benzer – Owns three commercial properties in Beacon. I have commercial property One on Maple Street and two on Main Street, totaling 20 thousand square feet. I am speaking to the future City Council when the developer of the TOD comes to the City Council and asks for tax relieve is the same package going too offered to the current commercial properties in Beacon? Looking forward to meet and greet the candidates to get their feedback on the current TOD which stands now.

Kevin Byrnes – A member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and I concur with John Gunn that there were many things that the public were involved in the Comprehensive Plan along with every elected official supported the Comprehensive Plan. This was to see what the “people” wanted to see in their City and on the waterfront. When these residents came to the City Council they had something to base their concerns on (the Comprehensive Plan). The City Council needs to cater to the residents needs and accommodate them.

Tim _____ - 180 Main Street – Regarding the TOD I can certainly agree with what has been said this evening. We are rushing and pushing for this TOD Zone in an unnecessary fashion. This could destroy my business and other businesses and would be very costly. The Zoning as it is now is extremely inappropriate, and completely in contrast of the Comprehensive Plan, which many people have worked very hard on. Concerned about our future of our City.

Public Hearings:

Community Segment: - Fairweather Consulting University Settlement Camp – We had a Comprehensive Plan that the City has under gone and had a study done. This study was paid for by a grant, also by the generosity of the Digger Phelps family.

There are presenters this evening from Fairweather Consulting regarding the USC which will be published on the City Web Site. City Administrator stated that this company along with Chzaen Company has put a lot of work into this report more than what was expected and City Administrator thanked them for that and the product they produced.

Peter Fairweather joining with him is Tim Weederman and stated it was a pleasure working with the City of Beacon. To see any further information please refer to the Website.

Hank Dutch – what type of adverting will be done to promote this camp? There will be start up cost to promote this camp.

George Mansfield – The surplus expects a contribution from the City of 36,000. It will be a 10,000 surplus.

Mayor Steve Gold – Regarding the 36,000 contribution from the City wishes the presenters to explain the context of the 36,000. To see additional information please refer to the Web Site.

Proclamation – Certificate of Appreciation - Lyn and John Fischbach for their generous gift for Beacon residents to enjoy DIA every weekend for free. Their generosity was still the imagination, appreciation for modern art as only DIA can. Thank you to both Mr. and Mrs. Fischbach from the City Council and the City of Beacon.

John Fischbach stated that this act of kindness is an honor, we are from New Orleans and came here to get some things out of New Orleans, and tired of evacuating all of the time. Over the internet I discovered this City of Beacon.

Mayor Steve Gold stated that all Beacon Residents as long as you have a license that has 12508 you will be eligible to visit DIA on the weekends. Mayor Gold stated that this was the old Nabisco building that many Beacon Natives have worked for many years. All should enjoy this opportunity.

Minutes: NONE

Communication / All Reports from Mayor and Council Members Located at the end of the Minutes

Public Comments Pertaining to This Agenda Only: Up to Five Minutes per Person:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolutions:

Resolution 151 of 2009 – Certify Base Rate Percentages and Proportions for the 2009 Assessment Roll Pursuant to Article 19 of the Real Property Tax Law. Tabled on October 5th

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby approves and certifies the "Base Percentages, Current Percentages and Current Base Proportions" and "Adjusted Base Proportions" as set forth in the attached for the levy of taxes on the 2009 assessment roll pursuant to Article 19 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Motion by Council Member Kelly regarding **Certify Base Rate Percentages and Proportions for the 2009 Assessment Roll Pursuant to Article 19 of the Real Property Tax Law**, Seconded by Council Member Pasti.

On a Roll Call: Council Member Thompson – Excused, Council Member Leake – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Fredericks – Yes, Council Member Pasti, Yes and Mayor Steve Gold – Yes. Six Ayes and One Nay.

All present voted in favor

Local Laws and Ordinances: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions:

Resolution 52 of 2009 – Approval of the following Traffic and Safety

1. Install two handicap parking spaces in the Church Street municipal lot. One to be located behind the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and the other behind the Back to Health Chiropractic office.
2. Install loading zone in Church Street municipal lot where the island is located with limited parking of 15 minutes.

3. Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of Churchill Street traveling in both directions.
4. Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of East Main Street traveling northbound.
5. Install 'Stop' sign on South Avenue at the intersection of Sargent Avenue.
6. Repeal Section 211-7 one-way Eliza Street from Verplanck Avenue to Kent Street traveling north.
7. The Committee recommends 'No Parking Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet on both sides of South Cedar Street at the intersection of DeWindt Street. The Committee also recommends 'No Standing Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet from each intersection on Eliza Street between Verplanck Avenue and Kent Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the determination of the Traffic Safety Committee to require the following actions be hereby ratified to:

1. Install two handicap parking spaces in the Church Street municipal lot. One to be located behind the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and the other behind the Back to Health Chiropractic office. **Motion** by Council Pasti, **Seconded** by Council Kelly,

Comments:

Mayor Gold asked City Administrator if the businesses around this building have been notified. City Administrator stated that she has discussed this with staff, and she will have to check on it.

All Present Voted in Favor.

2. Install loading zone in Church Street municipal lot where the island is located with limited parking of 15 minutes. **Motion** by Council Fredericks, **Seconded** by Council Pasti,

All Present Voted in Favor.

3. Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of Churchill Street traveling in both directions.

Motion by Council Leake, **Seconded** by Council Pasti, All Present Voted in Favor.

Comments:

Hank Dutch – Lives on Churchill and Union and feels it is important to have stop signs at Churchill Street. **For the Record** by Tony Furco, it is against the City Code to have any one playing basketball on any street in the City of Beacon.

Lou Amoroso – 40 Vail Avenue – Regarding the Fire Department and Safety. From Mr. Amoroso home to the bridge, there are seven types of stops that have to be made. Install 'Stop' sign on Spring Valley Street at the intersection of East Main Street traveling northbound.

Motion by Council Fredericks, **Seconded** by Council Leake, All Present Voted in Favor

Comments Lou Amoroso - 40 Vail Avenue – Is the stop sign on East Main Street be removed? This was confirmed. It will be a double stop.

Install 'Stop' sign on South Avenue at the intersection of Sargent Avenue. **Motion** by Council Kelly, **Seconded** by Council Leake

All Present Voted in Favor.

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4. Repeal Section 211-7 one-way Eliza Street from Verplanck Avenue to Kent Street traveling north.

Motion by Council Kelly, **Seconded** by Council Casale

All Present Voted in Favor.

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5. The Committee recommends 'No Parking Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet on both sides of South Cedar Street at the intersection of DeWindt Street. The Committee also recommends 'No Standing Here to Corner' signage be placed 30 feet from each intersection on Eliza Street between Verplanck Avenue and Kent Street.

Motion by Council Casale, **Seconded** by Council Fredericks, All Present Voted in Favor.

RESOLUTION 53 OF 2009 – Set Public Hearing for Monday, November 2, 2009 to Consider a Special Use Permit Application for Artist Live Workspace at 310 Fishkill Avenue. Applied for by IG4, LLC

Motion by Council Member Pasti to **Set Public Hearing for Monday, November 2, 2009 to Consider a Special Use Permit Application for Artist Live Workspace at 310 Fishkill Avenue. Applied for by IG4, LLC** Seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Comments: Council Casale spoke about the rents. Any development that more than ten units, the affordable housing would take presentence.

All present voted in Favor to adopt this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 54 of 2009 Set Public Hearing for Monday, November 2, 2009 to Consider a Special Use Permit Application for a Bed & Breakfast at 300 South Avenue – Applicant Yuan Lee.

Motion by Council Member Kelly to **Set Public Hearing for Monday, November 2, 2009 to Consider a Special Use Permit Application for a Bed** Applied for by Yuan Lee Seconded by Council Member Casale.

All present voted in favor for this Resolution.

RESOLUTION 155 of 2009 to Designation of Council Member Charles Kelly as Acting Mayor

Pursuant to Section 3.05 of the Beacon City Code,

BE IT RESOLVED, that after due consideration, the City Council hereby approves the Mayor's designation of Council Member Charles P. Kelly, as Acting Mayor.

Comments:

Motion by Council Member Fredericks regarding the **Designation of Council Member Charles Kelly as Acting Mayor**, Seconded by Council Member Pasti.

All present voted in Favor to adopt this Resolution.

Local Laws and Ordinances: **None**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Board of Assessment – Five Year Term**
One – Unexpired Term – Term to Expire September, 2012
One – Vacancy – Term to Expire September, 2014
- **Board of Ethics – Five Year Term**
Two – Vacancies – Expired
- **Human Relations Commission – Two Year Term**
Five – Vacancies – Expire
- **Recreation Commission – Three Year**
Unexpired Term – Term to Expire December, 2009 - Will continue with an additional three years expiring 12/31/12
Unexpired Term – Term to Expire December, 2010

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

1. Amend the General Fund Contingency expense (Code: A1990.400001) in the amount of \$4,032. This amount is needed to cover the shortage in the unemployment expense (Code: A1990.400001).

Motion by Council Member Pasti **Amend the General Fund Balance**, Seconded by Council Member Fredericks.

On a roll call: Council Member Thompson – Excused, Council Member Leake – yes, Council Member Kelly – yes, Council Member Casale – yes, Council Member Pasti - yes, Council Member Fredericks – yes Mayor Steve K. Gold – yes. Six Ayes, One Nay. Motion passed.

2. Amend the General Fund Contingency expense (Code: A1990.400001) in the amount of \$10,203. This is the amount needed to cover the shortage in the Police Regular Salary expense (Code: A3120.101000) that was caused by the issuance of retroactive checks in relation to a settlement of the PBA contract.

Motion by Council Member Pasti **Amend the General Fund Balance**, Seconded by Council Member Fredericks.

On a roll call: Council Member Thompson – Excused, Council Member Leake – yes, Council Member Kelly – yes, Council Member Casale – yes, Council Member Pasti - yes, Council Member Fredericks – yes Mayor Steve K. Gold – yes. Six Ayes, One Nay. Motion passed.

3. Amend the General Fund Contingency expense (Code: A1990.400001) in the amount of \$30,000. This will cover the expense for the Hiddenbrooke legal expenses owed to Zarin and Steinmetz from the attorney budget (Code: A1420.450422).

Motion by Council Member Kelly **Amend the General Fund Balance**, Seconded by Council Member Pasti.

Comments: Mayor Steve Gold asked City Administrator when we will be receiving this money and any other previous money that was put into escrow. City Attorney is working on this, and has not received a response as of this date. Council Casale asked if the \$30,000 has been spent yet.

On a roll call: Council Member Thompson – Excused, Council Member Leake – yes, Council Member Kelly – yes, Council Member Casale – no, Council Member Pasti - yes, Council Member Fredericks – yes Mayor Steve K. Gold – yes. Five Ayes, Two - Nays. Motion passed.

4. Amend the General Fund Contingency expense (Code: A1990.400001) in the amount of \$55,157. This is the balance needed to pay Frederick P. Clark Associates for the consulting services related to the TOD Traffic Study (Code: TA0000.030006). The total owed for the project is \$64,321.65. The City of Beacon has already received \$9,165.38 on 8/14/09 from Edgewater and will be reimbursed for the balance of \$55,157 as follows:

\$ 7,246.32	Due from Long Dock
<u>\$47,909.95</u>	Due from Metro North Railroad
\$55,156.27	Total due to the City of Beacon

Motion by Council Member Kelly **Amend the General Fund Balance**, Seconded by Council Member Pasti.

Comments: **Mayor Gold** stated that the City has a letter signed by Metro North that they will make this payment. The Council acted very prudently and wisely to have a Traffic Comprehensive Study paid by the developers.

On a roll call: Council Member Thompson – Excused, Council Member Leake – yes, Council Member Kelly – yes, Council Member Casale – yes, Council Member Pasti - yes, Council Member Fredericks – yes Mayor Steve K. Gold – yes. Six Ayes, One - Nay. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: On any item on any issue you would like to discuss. Maximum of five minutes to speak.

Vane Lashua – 95 Liberty Street – Documents go out of date very quickly. The Comprehensive Plan is a living document. Any plan is going to change regardless of what happens. This should be taken into consideration.

Kathy Deuterma – Regarding Transportation - The prison buses, winter is coming and people complaining and being concerned that they are not ADA friendly.

The problems at Beacon Community Center they are real. The police is not notified ahead of time when there is an event that is taken place at BCC, as when a school function takes place our Police Department is informed. There should be rules and obeyed by.

Mayor Steve Gold – Stated that the buses she is concerned with are County Buses and it will be addressed.

REPORTS

Correspondence Report:

Date: October, 2009 – Phillipe Vergne, Director – Dia:Beacon

RE: FREE Admission on weekends for City of Beacon Residents

On behalf of Dia Art Foundation, I am proud to announce an important new initiative at Dia:Beacon,

Free admission on weekends for City of Beacon Residents

As Director, one of my highest priorities is to deepen the relationship between Dia's museum and the city of Beacon. Through the generous support of Beacon residents Lyn and John Fischbach, in honor of Beacon legend Pete Seeger, Dia is able to expand its long-standing series of yearly Community Free Days and offer our closest neighbors complimentary access fifty-two weekends a year

Beacon Free Weekends will launch on Saturday, October 17th with tours and programming for visitors of all ages:

11 30am Refreshments from Fishkill Farms and The Funky Baker

12:00pm Welcome Remarks and Performance by Pete Seeger

1:00pm Adult and Family tours of Dia:Beacon

2:00pm Line, Rhythm, Chance, a guided family activity in Dia:Beacon's Learning Lab (open to children 6 and above accompanied by an adult)

It will not be the same without your presence and support, so please join us for the celebration and feel free to pass this invitation on to others we may not yet know. Please RSVP to 845.440.0100 ext. 10.

Date: October, 2009 - William R. Steinhaus, County Executive

RE; County Faces Unprecedented \$50 Million Budget Gap for 2010 Steinhaus says raising property taxes is not an option

Poughkeepsie... “We are in the midst of the most challenging budget and financial circumstances I have experienced any time in my 30 years of service in Dutchess County Government,” said Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus during an emergency meeting of department heads held last week.

County government faces serious financial challenges of declining revenues, mandated and non-discretionary spending and the continuing damage from the overall economic downturn. “We didn’t look for this financial crisis, but it has found us,” said Steinhaus.

Spending projections from all county departments and elected officials for the 2010 fiscal year total \$425 million. However, revenue projections indicate there will only be an estimated \$375 million available to spend on all programs and services next year, creating an *unprecedented budget gap of an estimated \$50 million*.

“There are only three ways to close this huge, gaping hole in the County’s 2010 budget: increase revenues through higher taxes; get relief from the oppressive burden of state mandates; and/or a reduction in spending for services,” said County Executive Steinhaus. “A county property tax increase is a bad idea, and unfortunately, we continue to receive additional mandates rather than relief from Albany, so cutting spending on services is the only real option remaining.”

Steinhaus discussed the practicality of each option:

- × **Increase revenues from higher property taxes.** “In this economy, where residents and businesses are already struggling with their own shrinking budgets – it is not a viable option to consider a county property tax increase.”
- × **Mandate relief.** “State and federal mandates imposed on county government remain our biggest budgetary burden. Until our state senators and assembly members make real changes to how the state handles its finances, county governments remain shackled with their costly mandated services.”
- √ **Cut spending.** “Just as families have had to make tough choices in their own personal finances, so must county government. There are a lot of probable, painful cuts in services coming, but we are all in this together and know we cannot continue ‘business as usual.’”

To close the \$50 million budget gap, the initial budget submissions from each department and elected official have been returned to them to be completely reworked for resubmission. Each department must cut its overall county spending and property tax impact by restructuring and realigning their 2010 work plan. “The challenge for each and every county agency is to restructure its organization and prioritize its services, knowing services will have to be reduced. As much as Legislators will not want to have to cut programs and services, the money simply does not exist,” said County Executive Steinhaus.

Any private business or government that has to cut back must, by necessity, go to its largest cost centers and areas of increasing expenses. For county government those cost centers are the Sheriff’s Office and Jail, Health and Human Service departments and the Board of Elections.

- **Sheriff’s Office and Jail** Sheriff Anderson’s initial 2010 spending plan totaled \$45.6 million net to county cost, a 15% increase over his 2009 adopted budget. The Sheriff has now been allocated \$36.6 million for his 2010 work plan, which is all direct net cost on the property tax levy.
- **Health and Human Services departments** must cut nearly \$15 million in total spending to achieve \$7.6 million in net to county savings from the property tax levy. (These departments are highly reimbursed by state and federal dollars.)
- **Board of Elections’** Commissioners Knapp and Gamache are seeking \$4.4 million for 2010 spending. BOE expenses under Knapp and Gamache have grown more than 400% from

\$874,000 in 2005 to a startling \$4.4 million just five years later in 2010. The Board of Elections has been allocated \$2.3 million for 2010, all of which is direct net cost on the property tax levy.

County Executive Steinhaus recently sent communications to local municipalities and school districts notifying them of potential budget proposals including the option to purchase discretionary, non-mandated sheriff road patrol services, the option to purchase discretionary, non-mandated school resource officer services and returning to the sharing of election expenses, which municipalities had always done prior to 2006. These restructuring alternatives and resetting of service priorities are available to Sheriff Anderson and the Board of Elections to factor into their work plans as they bring their budgets in line with the revised 2010 funding realities and to match available tax revenue.

While the Sheriff's Office and Board of Elections can implement different policies to distribute costs to those who utilize their services; many other departments, notably the Health and Human Services departments, are mandated by federal and state law to provide costly programs and services, without any ability to change the policies. "Many of our departments continue to struggle under the crushing weight of paying for state mandates," said Steinhaus.

Expenses are rising dramatically for mandated programs. Some of the projected expense increases for mandate programs delivered by the County's Department of Social Services include:

- Children's Services Committee for Special Education (CSE) Placements are projected to rise up to 25%.
- Institutional Care Placements are projected to rise 15%.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) costs are projected to rise by as much as 25% in 2010 as economic conditions will continue to increase demand for these services.

Additionally, the news about New York State finances continues to worsen as each week goes by, with Governor Paterson now reporting that state revenue is down by more than 35 percent and the state is facing a budget gap this year of up to \$3.5 billion. This is an ominous sign for county governments who have historically seen the state increase mandate demands. **The County has no discretion with any of these state mandated programs or the imposed costs.**

"We all have huge challenges in front of us as we try to find a balance between what services county government must provide, what county government wants to provide and what county government can afford to provide," concluded Steinhaus. "There are no easy answers, but I am confident all county elected officials and department heads will join with me to create a budget that limits county taxes for our homeowners and businesses. If that requires making tough choices, that's what our property taxpayers expect from all of us to balance the 2010 budget."

DATE: October, 2009 – Rose Story

RE: Thank You (Spirit of Beacon Day)

Dear Zep:

The Spirit of Beacon Day Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your workers, especially Doug Ostrander and Don Schiller, for the excellent job that was done on Spirit of Beacon Day. As always, everyone was hardworking and very cooperative.

The day would not have gone as smoothly without all your help.

Dear Lt. Sands Frost

The Spirit of Beacon Day Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all the officers who worked that day, for the excellent job that was done on Spirit of Beacon Day. We appreciate all of your help and hard work; the day would not have gone as smoothly without it.

DATE: October 15, 2009 Peter A. Baynes, Executive Director NYCOM Executive Director
RE: PRESS RELEASE - Response to Governor's Deficit Reduction Plan

"The feeling is unanimous among New Yorkers that the number one problem in our state is high property taxes. While NYCOM appreciates the Governor's leadership in proposing a solution to the state's budget deficit, mid-year cuts in aid to many of the state's most fiscally vulnerable cities is a recipe for dramatic increases in property taxes and cuts in essential services. We urge the Governor and state legislators to make and keep a pledge to not shift the state deficit onto property taxpayers."

DATE: October 15 – Roger Connor –Cablevision
RE: Big Ten Network and Entertainment Class Accounts

Based on a contractual obligation, beginning Tuesday, November 17, 2009 Cablevision Business Class accounts, classified as "Entertainment", are no longer eligible to receive the Big Ten Network channels as part of the iO Sports Pak. The Entertainment Business Class customers will need to subscribe to Big Ten Network (SD and HI) as an ala carte service if they wish to continue to receive the Big Ten Channels. A digital cable box or a CableCARD is required to receive these channels.

First class letters will be sent to Entertainment Business Class customers on Tuesday, October 13 notifying them of the change. In addition, customers can always find their most current program offerings on our consumer website www.optimum.com .

If you have any questions, as always please feel free to call me at 845-297-9364.

DATE: October, 2009 – D.C. Legislature
RE: NO. 209333 Amending the 2009 Adopted County Budget as it pertains to the Finance Department (A.5640)

Legislators NASH and KUFFNER offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has advised that New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Chapter 25 of Laws of 2009 added Article 23 to the Tax Law which the metropolitan commuter transportation mobility tax (MCTMI) mandate, and

WHEREAS, this tax represents a New York State mandate imposed on municipalities and businesses, at the same time these entities are being severely impacted by the recession.

WHEREAS, this tax will cost Dutchess County taxpayers approximately \$324,000 in approximately \$415,000 in 2010, with a reoccurring annual payment required each year moving forward.

WHEREAS, this tax will be administered by the New York State Tax Department and the proceeds from this tax will be distributed to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and

WHEREAS, effective March 1, 2009 the MCTMT is imposed at a rate of 0.34% of an employer's payroll for all covered employees for each calendar quarter, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2009 Adopted County Budget to provide funds to meet the County's obligation for the aforesaid state mandate, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is authorized, empowered and directed to amend the 2009 Adopted County Budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

Increase A.5640-4668 MTA Mobility Payroll Tax \$324,000

Decrease A.1990.4007 General Contingency \$ 324,000

CA-1 90-09 **ca/G-0145** 10/15/09 - Fiscal Impact: See attached statement

City Administrator: Meredith Robson

Council Member Leake – This Saturday along with other Council Members were present for the DIA ceremony. I encourage the Citizens of Beacon to take advantage of this wonderful endeavor. Just the idea of transforming a factory into this beautiful Art Museum is wonderful.

Will the City of Beacon Proposed Mayor Budget be available next week at the workshop? City Administrator replied affirmative that the budget will be available to all Council Members.

A week from this Tuesday is Election Day, urging all constituents to go out and vote.

Council Member Thompson: Excused This Afternoon

Council Member Kelly:

Met with a number of constituents on Teller Avenue. Many of them wanted to thank the City Council and the Mayor for paving Teller Avenue. Some expressed concerns, however that the new smooth surface lends itself to car speeding. I too would like to encourage the placing of speed monitor on Teller Avenue as well as Fishkill Avenue to making drivers aware of their speeds. Some home owners on Teller Avenue felt discriminated against regarding access to their driveways. It seems on the East Side access to driveways were blacktopped but not on the West side.

I also attended the first free weekend at DIA. I would like to commend the benefactor as well as all those who attended. I was fortunate to talk to former County Legislator John Ballo at the DIA reception who worked at the Nabisco Plant starting in 1944. My Mother also worked there for a number of years. It is amazing how artists have transformed our City from an industrial community to Art Mecca,

I know much fear that Riverfront Development can again transform. I would like to assure that no discussion will be made without full participation. The Mayor and this Council is committed to a full participating in the decision making and planning process.

Council Member Casale: Also attended the DIA Ceremony this past Saturday and thanked Lynn and John Fischbach for the generosity making it free for the Beacon Residents.

I would like the Mayor and City Administrator to look into the activities at the Beacon Community Center. He has been informed two weekends ago that there was an event that caused some problems when it was over. Does the BCC rent this building out? Our Police Department was quite involved.

Council Member Pasti

Beacon's Youth

In my September 21st report, I mentioned that a major concern that I was hearing from Ward 4 residents related to youth—particularly finding ways to engage the City's youth in productive activities. I suggested that the City might consider holding a youth forum next spring that involved city and county agencies and recreation commissions, youth-oriented non-profits, churches, *and* local youth themselves.

Over the weekend I had the opportunity to speak with a former Director of Youth and Family Services in New York State. I asked him what he would recommend that Beacon do to address what many people here and across the country call “the youth problem.”

He suggested two things to me that I would like to bring up here:

First, he said that whatever we do, we must involve the youth of Beacon. Plans that do not involve young people are not as likely to succeed as those that do.

Second, he suggested that I visit the National League of Cities website for information about how other communities across the country are engaging youth in addressing key concerns that involve youth.

When I did visit the website, I learned that some of the key things that other cities around the county are doing include the following:

1. Using new media—like Facebook and YouTube—to keep young people informed about what is going on in their community.
2. Forming a youth advisory council or commission to identify needs and generate ideas.
3. Conduct a youth “mapping” project that identifies existing resources in the community as well as needs.
4. Host a youth summit in which young people can discuss their concerns with city leaders and the public.
5. Promoting and recognizing youth service.
6. Putting youth in charge of developing activities that benefit themselves and their community.

I know that there are many people who already work with youth in our City and I am hopeful that some of them will come together to take the lead in organizing activities like this that can

bring together young people, the Board of Education, the City Council and Government, and the many non-profit groups and churches that exist in Beacon that are concerned about young people and the “youth problem.”

Council Member Fredericks –

My report tonight will focus on the wonderful DIA reception I attended on Saturday. For those of you who are not aware of this, the DIA is now open to Beacon residents for FREE. This is a wonderful gift and a wonderful opportunity for the residents of Beacon.

The reception was lovely and we enjoyed the songs of Pete Seeger and some school children singing along with Pete and Chris Ruhe.

This is DIA giving back to Beacon and I believe all of us should take advantage of the viewing the world's most distinguished collections of contemporary art.

Another thing I did the past weekend, was I shopped Beacon. There is nothing you can't find here. From toys, gifts, greeting cards, and fine foods. I noticed and picked up this very well done brochure of Beacon and would suggest that all of us pick up a copy and see what our great City has to offer. Hopefully, this brochure will further help to get Main Street, Beacon, known to the surrounding areas.

Thank you.

City Attorney: Richard Wolf: Only the First Meeting of the Month.

Mayor Steve K. Gold: For the new residents of Beacon, DIA Museum opened five or six years ago. Prior to DIA, the Main Street on the West side was all boarded up. There were apartments on the ground level. There were very few galleries at the inception of DIA opening. The City of Beacon has benefit from DIA, on the west end blossomed. There were many challenges getting visitors from DIA up to Main Street.

There are two recent developments one is getting visitors from DIA up to Main Street and the other one is the need for a shuttle. We had a Comprehensive Plan Committee, and Wayfinding Committee. Please to announce that the MTA there is a call for a shuttle for the City of Beacon. This will be a requirement for any developer who wishes to build by the Waterfront to pay for this Shuttle.

Another very important agreement that the MTA had with the City of Beacon, which is significant has to do with design. The MTA has agreed to allow having an Advisory Panel of three people that will be chosen by the City Council that have expertise in the design. Once a developer has been selected, the MTA has agreed to have the developer speak to the public and to listen to what the public has to offer.

There will also be an environmental assessment performed that the City Council will have the ability to have input and to determine that will take place next.

Clarifications for Residents that had concerns:

1. The TOD not having conformity to the Comprehensive Plan, that is the opinion and conclusion that a few people have. This is not necessarily the case.
2. The Comprehensive Plan called for more commercial space than what is being suggested.
3. More commercial space will cause more traffic. The City paid 65,000 to have a traffic study done. Study done by our City Planners and not the developers, but the developers had to pay for this service, but again had no input into this study. The conclusions are on the Website www.cityofbeacon.org.
4. It also calls for more residential than the Comprehensive Plan. This is a big asset to the City of Beacon. I will be more customers for Main Street. With the shuttle it will be easier to get up to Main Street.
5. There is a cost benefit analysis and the City Council will not act on any TOD, Edgewater or Long Dock until this Cost Analysis is completed. There was many interviews with many different people, such as Department Heads, Police, Fire and most important the School District. This study is costing 18,000 which will present to the City a very detailed and very careful produced analysis of what the financial benefits and cost would be. The City of Beacon expect to receive this report will be possibly the 2nd week in November.

The City Council is very interested in continuing Channel 22, which the school will no longer be providing. There was a grant that cablevision had in the contract with Beacon, and concerned that we would be not be able to trigger that contract until the middle of November. There was a three month waiting period but very happy to announce that Cablevision would go ahead as long as the City of Beacon writes a check to the company that will provide the equipment after November 15, 2009 they will honor that as part of the grant. The grant will pay for fifteen percent and the estimated cost to the City of Beacon is nine thousand dollars or a little bit less than that. The only other cost is to load up the Council Meetings and the daily programming. This will be discussed at the next workshop.

There is an interest in returning Cablevision news back to Beacon this is a half hour program that runs at the top of every hour from seven o'clock at night up to midnight.

CHECK LIST:

797,718.94

Comments: Council Casale commented on the Royal Carting – University Settlement Camp 77,576.00 and asked for an explanation. City Administrator stated that she will have to check into that. Could be demolition debris or those types of things to fix up USC.

NEXT WORKSHOP:

October 26, 2009
Disaster Preparedness Discussion
2010 Proposed Mayors Budget

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

November 2, 2009

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Council Member Fredericks, to close this Council Meeting, Seconded by Council Member Kelly. All present voted favorably to close this meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Swift

Executive Assistant to Mayor Steve K. Gold

Date: January 22, 2009 Date Approved: