

Town Board of Oriental
Special Meeting
September 19, 2013

A Town Board of Commissioners Special Meeting was held at Town Hall, Town of Oriental on Thursday, September 19, 2013, beginning at 5:30 PM. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the proposed Walmart Express on the outskirts of Oriental and to consider any resolutions that any board member(s) may propose.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Bessette, Johnson, Styron, Venturi and Summers, Mr. Bill Wertz and Ms. Lee Gates, Walmart, Captain Dwaine Moore and public

Mayor Sage opened the meeting and determined that a quorum was present. He stated that the ultimate purpose of this Special Meeting was to consider Resolutions concerning Walmart's arrival from the Town Board.

12 members of the public were given the floor for Public Comment. 11 were opposed to Walmart's coming to the area, and one was for their presence. A book was given to the Board with approximately 450 signatures of citizens who were against Walmart being on the outskirts of town.

Mayor Sage then closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting, and introduced Mr. Bill Wertz, Public Relations Representative for Walmart. Mr. Wertz outlined the many positives Walmart could offer the community and county, to include charitable donations. He also indicated that Walmart was willing to be a good neighbor by not using the easement on Gilgo Road, and also abiding by the Town's GMO for landscaping and parking lot construction.

Commissioner Summers commented that it was important to support local businesses, and that the zoning in place is not meant to stop businesses from coming to the area' rather, the only concerns that must be recognized is public health, public safety and morals.

Commissioner Styron stated that Walmart has just as much right to be here, that competition in business is a positive thing. He also encouraged everyone to shop locally and support the businesses in Town. He went on to say that the lower income residents of the County would benefit from the Walmart in the area.

Commissioner Venturi commented that there is very little the Town Board can do as the location of the store is outside of the Town limits. She reminded the audience that the police offer a mutual aid assistance program, in that Town Police are obligated to a one mile radius outside of town to assist. She then presented a Resolution to the Town Board that speaks to the Walmart issue.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Prior to the vote, discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to table the adoption of this Resolution to the October 1, 2013 meeting. Motion did not carry.

With no objection from the Board, Mayor Sage recommended recessing the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the Board to thoroughly read the Resolution presented by Commissioner Venturi. The Board recessed at 6:30 PM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:45 PM and Mayor Sage opened the floor for Commissioner comments concerning the Resolution.

MOTION: Commissioner Bessette made a Motion to adopt the Resolution with the following amendment: It is recommended that text from page 2, paragraph 7 through page 3, paragraph 5 be deleted. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business to discuss, a Motion was made to adjourn the Special Meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bessette seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Mayor Bill Sage

Town Manager Wyatt Cutler