STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

The Cicero Town Board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 S. Main Street, Cicero, NY 13039.

Present:
Judy A. Boyke, Supervisor
Jessica Zambrano, Councilor
C. Vernon Conway, Councilor
Lynn Jennings, Councilor
James Corl, Jr. Councilor
Tracy Cosilmon, Town Clerk

Others Present:
Christopher Woznica, Highway Superintendent
Jody Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation
Wayne Dean, Director of Planning & Development
Shirlie Stuart, Comptroller
Brad Brennan, Assessor
Linda Losito, Secretary to Supervisor
Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney
Ronald DeTota, II PE, C & S Engineers
Sarah Moses, Post Standard

Absent:
Sharon Edick, Receiver of Taxes
Joseph Snell, Police Chief

Ms. Boyke explained that the amount of people standing in the back of the room exceeded the amount of people allowed for fire code reasons and that she asked the people to leave. She stated that she would hold another meeting, specifically for all of them which would be set up to include the Assessor. She asked that one of their spokes persons get in touch with her and hoped, if possible to have the meeting next Wednesday at the Town Hall. Ms. Boyke also offered people who had signed in to speak, to come back in a half hour to read their statements explaining, that this would not be an open forum. If there questions can't be answered immediately, there name and question will be taken and they will be answered. The forthcoming meeting will be for only those who are here for the assessment issue. This is a Town Board meeting and has not been set up specifically for input and discussion. Greg, the spokesperson for the group will be responsible to contact the people, to which he agreed.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our men and women serving in the Armed Forces in harms way.

Ms. Boyke indicated where the fire exits were and read the following statement:

The Cicero Town Board acknowledges the importance of full public participation in all public hearings and, therefore, urges all who wish to address those in attendance to utilize the microphones located in the front of the room. At this time please turn off your cell phones and be sure to speak into the microphones to enable all to hear.

S.E.Q.R.
(State Environmental Quality Review Act)

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Conway, that all actions taken tonight are Type Two (2) actions under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act unless otherwise determined.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

APPROVAL OF TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2011 Town Board Meeting as updated and corrected.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

DEPARTMENT HEAD INPUT

Parks & Recreation

Jody Rogers requested staff approval of Philip Gillett as to be hired as a Recreation Attendant, effective April 18, 2011 at the pay rate of $8.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve the staff appointment of Philip Gillett as a Recreation Attendant effective April 18, 2011 at the pay rate of $8.00 per hour.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

Comptroller

Shirlie Stuart stated that Chief Snell has been injured in the line of duty on his way to work and I need a board Resolution to request compensation under 207 C of the NYS General Municipal Law.

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to authorize the Comptroller to request compensation for Chief Snell, who was injured in the line of duty on his way to work, under 207C of the NYS General Municipal Law.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Highway

Chris Woznica asked for authorization to add Cheryl Cooper and Zac Hyde to the Wing Person list.

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Conway, to add Cheryl Cooper and Zac Hyde to the list of Wing Persons

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Chris also requested approval for the following emergency purchases.

Emergency purchase cost overage

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Conway, to authorize an overage expenditure of $66.00 to Eberl Iron Works, to cover an emergency purchase for freight.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Emergency Purchase Pole/Lights/ Bucket Rental from Fortino Electric

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to authorize an expenditure of $1,241.51 to Fortino Electric, for purchase of a pole, lights and bucket rental.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Zoning

Wayne Dean stated that the Drainage Committee would like authorization for C & S to investigate the drainage area north of Torchwood Lane down to Weaver Road to determine if a Wetland Permit is needed. It may not be needed, but, we want to investigate it to see if we want to proceed with this as it would be one of the larger projects we'd like to do this year. C & S Engineers has estimated the cost for this to be approximately $2,000.00 to talk with the Army Corp of Engineers and the DEC.

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to authorize an expenditure of approximately $2,000.00 for C & S Engineers to talk with the Army Corp of Engineers and the DEC to determine if a wetland permit is needed for the area north of Torchwood Lane down to Weaver Road.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Assessor – None

Town Clerk - None

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT #5 OF 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to approve Abstract #5 of 2011 as follows:

General Fund	Voucher #349 to Voucher #446	In the amount of $571,505.58
Highway Fund	Voucher #121H to Voucher # 148H	In the amount of $231,697.43

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to approve the following budget modifications for 2010 as listed:

Budget Modifications 2010
Town Board Meeting 3/9/2011

2010 YEAR-END	AMOUNT	FROM CODE		TO CODE	
	$9,171.78	DB514211	PERSONAL SERVICES OT	DB51421	PERSONAL SERVICES
	$1,114.78	DB514241	SNOW/SALT	DB514243	SNOW/FUEL
	$ 125.00	DB90608 LI	EMP BENEFITS	DB90608 EX	EYECARE REIMB
	$ 861.00	DB90608 LI	EMP BENEFITS	DB90608 MA	MEAL ALLOWANCE
	$1,153.70	DB90558	DISABILITY INS	DB90308	SOCIAL SECURITY
	$2,689.99	DB514211	PERSONAL SERVICES	DB90308	SOCIAL SECURITY
	$ 54.03	B702041	OFFICE SUPPLIES	B7020411	POSTAGE
	$2,030.31	B801011	ZBA BOARD	B80101	PERSONAL SERVICES
	$ 245.32	B80104	CONTRACTUAL–ZONING	B801043	CAR MAINT
	$ 95.94	A51324	GARAGE CONTRACTUAL	A33104	TRAFFIC CONTROL
	$ 0.08	A50102	SUP HIGHWAY CONTACTUAL	A50101	HIGHWAY PERSONAL
	$ 38.00	A67721 OT	SENIOR CT OT	A67721	PERSONAL SERVICES
	$ 60.93	A67721 OT	SENIOR CT OT	A677211	REC ATTEND. BUS DR.
	$ 11.42	A6772246	UTILITIES	A6772471	CLEANING
	$ 110.68	A677246	UTILITIES	A677254	FUEL
	$ 293.74	A711041	VEC OPERATION	A7110411	FUEL
	$ 237.48	B731041	TRAINING/TRAVEL CANTEEN	B7310402 NO	PROG. SUPP. CANTEEN
				B73101 FR	PERSONAL SERVICES
	$ 109.15	B731042 FR	UTILITIES	B731041 FR	TRAIN/TRAV/CANTEEN
	$ 765.88	B7310421 NO	FUEL	B731041 FR	TRAIN/TRAV/CANTEEN
	$ 875.03	B731041 FR	TRAINING/TRAVE/ CANTEEN	B73101 FR	PERSONAL SERVICES
	$ 305.99	B90608 C	MED INSURANCE CANTEEN		
	$ 42.44	B90558C	DISABILITY INS CANTEEN	B90308 C	FICA – CANTEEN
	$ 166.47	B73142 LK	UTILITIES	B90608 C	MED INS. CANTEEN
	$ 1,458.38	B731042 LK	UTILITIES LK	B731042 FR	UTILITIES

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway: Yes
Mr. Corl: Yes
Mr. Jennings: Yes
Ms. Zambrano: Yes
Ms. Boyke: Yes

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Mr. Conway, to approve the 2010 amendments as listed:

2010 AMENDMENTS

$ 9,935.00	**A2004**	**PARK USER FEES**
$ 1,425.00	**A2089**	**277 FEES**
$ 880.00	**A2260**	**STOP DWI FINES**
$14,115.00	**A7110459**	**277 EXPENDITURES**
$ 589.99	**A7110459 CF**	**CICERO FALCONS RESERVE EXPENDITURES**
$ 1,577.58	**A7110459 CL**	**CICERO LITTLE LEAGUE RESERVE EXPENDITURES**
$ 780.00	**A7110459 CS**	**CICERO SOCCER RESERVE EXPENDITURES**
$ 764.83	**A7110459 NL**	**NORTH SYRACUSE LITTLE LEAGUE RESERVE EXPENDITURES**
$ 5,000.00	**A13551 STAR**	**ASSESSOR'S STAR RESERVE EXPENDITURES**
$ 2,578.00	**A135521**	**STAR CONTRACTUAL EQUIPMENT- ASSESSORS**

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR RIVERFRONT PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE II LIGHTING

Community Development 2011 Presentation

- Notice was posted February 14, 2011 in the Post Standard.
- The Community Development Block Grants are funded by HUD.
- There are 3 categories that projects can be eligible under:
  - Benefit low income
  - Eliminate slum or blighted conditions
  - Benefit elderly or handicapped

  The County provides a map with the request for applications of the Town outlining what eligible areas exist within our community. Brewerton has been designated as a blighted area.

- Our project was included in the Towns 2010-2014 Consolidated 5-year plan.

- The project is the Riverfront Park Improvement Project Phase II – Lighting

- It includes:
  - the installation of 7 lights using energy efficient lighting technology
  - a kiosk - to acknowledge the history of the hamlet, businesses available in the hamlet and upcoming events throughout the community
  - park benches

- The total project is $104,800 of which we are requesting $76,000 in Community Development funds.

- In developing this grant proposal I spoke with:

  The City of Ogdensburg
  Town of Brighton (near Rochester)
  And Villages of Lyons, St. Johnsville and Pittsford

  Which are all communities along the canal and waterways to get advice on the type of lighting, poles/fixtures and if they encountered any problems regarding lighting.

- The application requires a 25% match by the Town. Our match $28,500 is made up of:
  - $5,000 in community donations which I am working with Helen Carroll and Tom Carroll for these donations
  - $9,000 from the Town for engineering the lighting and expenses already incurred by the Town on the project
  - $14,500 in-kind with Town Highway and Parks Department staff

- The project was reviewed by:
  - Legal – relating to the notice for paper

- Saratoga Associates (our engineer/landscape architect of record currently working on the overall hamlet project) to make sure that we don't create any conflicts with all the previously submitted project documents
- Chris Woznica, Highway Superintendent for accuracy of staffing
- Members from the Brewerton Revitalization Committee and Ft. Brewerton Chamber of Commerce for general comments on the project

Proof of publication and posting was presented to the Town Board by Town Clerk.

The public notice read as follows:

Town of Cicero
Public Hearing

Please take notice, that the Town of Cicero will hold a Public Hearing on the submission of the 2011 Community Development Funding Application. Said hearing will be held at Town Hall, 8236 South Main Street, Cicero, NY on the 9th day of March 2011 commencing at 7:00PM, local time. At this said time and place all persons desiring to be heard will be heard.

The public hearing was opened at 7:19 p.m.

Speaking for:

Helen Carroll, Chairperson for the Brewerton Revitalization spoke on behalf of her self and other members stating they were in favor of moving forward with the application for Community Development Funding and feel glad the project was moving forward.

Lori Sager stated that she heard Saratoga Associates was in charge of the project.

Jody Rogers – No, they are the firm that is working on the project as a whole up there and because our community development is a portion within that area, I asked them to review it, so that we didn't conflict. There won't be any engineering except for lighting for the specific lights and where they will be cast and the type of lighting, which will be a bid situation, when we get to that part of it.

Lori Sager – Will the lighting include where the waterfront is?

Jody Rogers – It will be along the pier and there will be six of them and one back off of the pier. As you come into the park, we'll have one light near the kiosk and the rest will be right on the pier.

Lori Sager – Is Saratoga Associates out of Saratoga, New York

Jody Rogers – Yes, they are, but they have an office in Syracuse, NY.

Lori Sager stated that she has worked with them before and they are a very good firm and was pleased to see them involved with this project.

Speaking against - None

The hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Board Comments:

Mr. Conway felt that this gives us a start that we've been working on for 5 or 6 years.

Mr. Jennings – Jody and the group have been working many hours on this with Helen Carroll and the others. He also attended the meeting that was held at the Brewerton Fire Department and it was excellent, including a good presentation and is glad to see that it is moving forward.

Mr. Corl stated that this was very exciting now that the project is moving forward as it is a integral part of the whole project, as it continues to move on. Jody has done a good job in putting the Community Development Grant together. There is some new excitement up there and Helen is doing a wonderful job by keeping things going.

Ms. Zambrano asked Jody if she put the grant together herself.

Jody Rogers – Yes I did.

Ms. Zambrano – You had no help from attorneys or anything like that?

Jody Rogers – The only help I had was from the meeting with the resident's that gave me some direction in what they felt was a critical part for going into Phase II.

Ms. Zambrano thanked Jody for her initial presentation, which outlines the process very well. She wanted to be sure that we don't get any legal fees after the fact. I wholeheartedly support this and commend you and the committee.

Judy Boyke agreed with Ms. Zambrano. With something like this, it will allow us to be able to at least get started on it and would be something that would be palatable under these economic times. Thank you for your efforts as well.

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Conway, to adopt the following resolution:

The Town Board hereby supports and authorizes the Youth Bureau, Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with the application for funding from the Community Development Block Grant for the Riverfront Park Improvement Project Phase II Lighting in the amount of $76,000.

The resolution was adopted as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

AWARD BID FOR WILLIAM PARK GAZEBO PROJECT

Jody Rogers explained that 8 bids were received for the Gazebo Project, which is a grant from Senator Valesky's Office as a Legislative initiative in the amount of $60,000.00. Of the 8 bids that we received CNY Sealing & Plowing came in at just under the $60,000.00 including the alternative that were part of this project and I would like to ask the board to accept their bid. The bids ranged anywhere from $56,500.00 up to $123,530.00. I would also note that they are a Cicero business.

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to award the bid to CNY Sealing and Plowing, Inc., in the bid amount of $56,500.00 for the installation of a new gazebo, benches, electric and landscaping at Joseph F. William Memorial Park and Beach, located at 7034 Lakeshore Road, Cicero, NY.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

INTEGRATED JUSTICE PORTAL TRAIN THE TRAINER TRAINING

Mr. Jennings, Liaison for the Police Department, read an e-mail from Chief Snell, who has been out of work with an on the job injury.

This is mandatory training. Officer Mike Serafin has been selected to go and he will be at the State Police Training Facility in Albany on March 24 and 25, 2011. The cost for the hotel room is $75.00 per night and meals are $65.00 per day for a total of $280.00. There is no cost to the town and Mike will be using a town vehicle. Once Mike is trained he will be responsible to come back and train all of the other officers in the department.

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Boyke, to authorize Mike Serafin, to attend the integrated Justice Portal Train-the Trainer, Training to be held March 24th and 25th, 2011 in Albany for a cost totaling $280.00 of which there will be no cost to the town and with Officer Serafin using a department vehicle.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

PARKS & RECREATION AND YOUTH BUREAU PURCHASE APPROVALS
(All items approved in one motion)

Busing for the CanTeen
Topsoil
Sand
Grass seed
Infield Mix

Motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Conway, to authorize the following expenditures as follows:

An expenditure of $5,000.00 to North Syracuse Central School District for busing for the CanTeen from February to June, budget code B7310.41.

An expenditure of $2,925.00 to Jack Brown & Son, per County Contract pricing to purchase 150 cu. yards of topsoil from the following budget codes.

A6772.42	$ 390 (senior center)
A7110.45	$1,170 (parks)
A7110.45CF	$ 390 (Central Park – Cicero Falcons Participant Fee Account)
A7110.45CS	$ 780 (Plank Rd. Park – Cicero Youth Soccer Participant Fee Acct.)
A7150.42	$ 195 (William Park)

An expenditure of $1,064.00 to Jack Brown & Sons to purchase 80 cubic yards of sand for William Park Beach, per County pricing.

An expenditure of $3,200.00 per County Contract Pricing, to Merritt Seed, to purchase grass seed to come from the following budget codes and a portion to be paid by the town and the balance to be paid by the Cicero Falcons.

A6772.42	$ 200 (senior center)
A7110.40	$ 900 (Plank Road and Town Hall)
A7110.45	$ 300 (parks)
A7110.45CF	$ 500 (Central Park – Cicero Falcons Participant Fee Account)
A7110.45CL	$ 300 (Central Park – Cicero Little League – Participant Fee Acct.)
A7110.45CS	$ 500 (Plank Rd. Park – Cicero Youth Soccer Participant Fee Acct.)
A7110.45NL	$ 300 (Skyway park –N. Syracuse Little League –Partic. Fee Acct.)
A7150.42	$ 200 (William Park)

An expenditure of $1,170.00 to Jack Brown & Sons to purchase infield mix per County Contract pricing to be paid through budget code A7110.45CL, Central Park, Cicero Little League Participant Fee Account.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

HIGHWAY PURCHASES

Steering Gear Box for truck #16 Emergency

Motion was made by Mr. Corl, seconded by Ms. Boyke, to authorize an emergency expenditure of approximately $1,400.00 to Tracey Road Equipment to purchase a steering gear box for truck #16, account code DB513055 and approved by the Comptroller.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

RFP FOR AUDIT

Tony Rivizzigno stated that at the last meeting the board adopted a resolution to conduct an audit. I have prepared an RFP and I would ask the board to adopt a resolution that we receive responses to the RFP on March 21, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. These will be put out to various accounting firms in the area.

Ms. Zambrano – I had a question. Is there an amount?

Ms. Boyke – Approximately $10,000.00, is what we're looking at because we've already done the preliminary accumulation of the documents and vouchers.

Tony Rivizzigno – Once we select a vendor or applicant, we will negotiate with them or the person and the fees will be determined, based upon what he sees he needs to do and what he can provide. Obviously, we will keep down to as minimal an amount as we can.

Ms. Zambrano – This is just for the process to solicit bids.

Mr. Rivizzigno – We would be asking for an hourly rate.

Mr. Corl asked Tony Rivizzigno, if he had a list of everyone that this will be sent to.

Tony Rivizzigno- No, I don't. I will pick it up and send out 8 or 10 of them.

Mr. Corl – Will you provide that to the board.

Mr. Rivizzigno – Sure

Ms. Zambrano – Do you expect to have it out by this week.

Mr. Rivizzigno – They'll be out by Friday at the latest.

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to submit the RFP for qualified Public Accountant, to conduct an audit of legal disbursements and expenses for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 with particular emphasis on those fees and expenses related to the project known as Brewerton Revitalization Project and it is the town's intention to enter into an agreed upon procedure engagement requiring this successful individual or firm to issue a report of the findings based on the specific procedures performed on the above referenced subject matter.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

PUBLIC INPUT

Mike Boyle, 5984 Hebrides Trail stated that he and his family have lived in Cicero 14 years and that his family has a long history in this town dating back to his great-great grandfather who worked in the salt industry in the late 1860's. Three centuries of his family have gone to CBA and his children attend there. We moved here as we found the real estate market back then affordable and it was a buyer's market. I bought my four bedroom house with 2 ½ baths with a pretty fortunate salary. I am currently Vice President of a software company and I travel all over the world. I could live anywhere in the US and my owner would love it if I moved to NY City or to Miami because the airfare is so high out of Syracuse. I live here so, that my children can graduate 5th generation from CBA. Recently, I got my notice in the mail on my assessment and it went up about $350.00 and doesn't include what is going to happen with the school district. I can afford that but, I went through the process the other day and I pay my taxes on time. I went out to the Ice Rink and spoke with Nancy from GAR and I was expecting to do an informal review of my assessment and that's not what happened. I specifically took a day off to go in and sit down with this lady and go over my review and it was literally 8 minutes long. I was asked what information I had and then I asked for my file and was told there was no file. I asked how they were supposed to do a review of my assessment, or how I was supposed to understand how they came to it. I thought that this was what this process was all about. I was told that I was to give them the information as to why I thought my assessment should be lowered. So, I guess, the burden of proof is on me and not the Assessment Office. Over the last two weeks I've been foiling the office and have been looking for information. When I sent the first FOIL in, I received a comparable report of four houses. Tracy has been very helpful in assisting with all my FOIL requests. I had asked what they used to assess my home, which was the response to my first one FOIL that I got back. Secondly, I did another one and I got a property dimension piece that was printed from the computer, plus the data that's in the computer. I explained that I was looking for the actual field documentation that was used to collect data on my property and had a total refusal. I'm just looking for that documentation and was denied it. When I called the gentleman from GAR I was told that they were his work papers and that he wasn't releasing it. I guess, the question is, will the board authorize the Assessor's Office and GAR to give me the information because I can't defend my assessment without it?

Brad Brennan stated that he spoke with Mr. Boyle and am not still sure what he's looking for. He did receive the field review document as he just mentioned. The comparable sales sheet that was an important piece of the information he was looking for. I think the analysis that GAR Associate's has done, is what they are referring to as a working document. I did tell him that as soon as that is released to me, which hopefully, will be April, that I'll go over everything I have and supply him with anything that I have. At this point, I simply don't have what he's looking for.

Mr. Boyle asked how we set the Tentative Roll. If you didn't have the working documents to review my assessment, then how could you submit the Tentative Roll?

Brad Brennan – GAR has all the working documents at this point because they are still doing the review. Other than the field review sheet, which I believe they did give you, there's nothing else they can supply you with.

Mr. Boyle – I asked them for the field sheet, and never received it. I want the field sheet because I want to be able to defend myself in front of the Board of Assessment Review. I need that document.

Brad Brennan- As soon as I get it, I will be glad to go over it, with you. I simple don't have it, and if GAR is not willing to release that, it's their right at this point.

Mr. Boyle – Who put the information from the field documents into the computer to create the printout?

Brad Brennan - GAR Associates took care of all that.

Mr. Boyle – Who authorized the Tentative Assessment when the assessment was submitted and we got our letters? Who did that?

Brad Brennan – GAR Associates.

Mr. Boyle – Yes, but, you signed off on it.

Brad Brennan stated that he hasn't yet and will file the Tentative Assessment Roll on May 1st.

Mr. Boyle stated that the lady from GAR told him that you went through every single 13,000 properties, and approved every single one. Is that true or not?

Brad Brennan - No, that's not true as that's impossible to do. I reviewed the trending, the analysis and in general what the neighborhoods were doing, but, not every single parcel.

Mr. Boyle - As a resident, it just seems like FOIL requests are there to find out what you want and are a political decision as to whether or not you're going to get it. The guys from GAR say I'm not getting it. I would like the town board to at least make a motion, a second and a vote, to tell GAR to give me the document. They legally have five days to produce the document as its public record according to the Assessment Board in Albany. I don't know what Robert Freeman would say.

Ms. Boyke asked Tony Rivizzigno if he had that answer.

Mr. Rivizzigo explained that he had spoken with Robert Freeman and the answer is, whatever is prepared for the town is eligible for FOIL. The question is where the document physically lies. If the document is prepared for the town, it is foilable.

Mr. Boyle – Then I should get it.

Brad Brennan stated that he and Mr. Boyle reviewed that together and it specifically said that working documents are not foilable and that is where this one falls at this point. As soon as I have it I'm willing to share it with him and will share everything I have, but, I do not have it now.

Ms. Zambrano asked Brad when he will have it.

Brad Brennan – Probably in mid April when they are done with their reviews, they'll turn it all over to me.

Mr. Boyle stated that he will only have 6 weeks to prepare for the Board of Assessment Review, yet, he has already been given his tentative assessment. They had the document to produce that, so it should be released to the town. The records should all be here in my opinion.

Brad Brennan explained that they can't be here as they are using them for reviews and they will be reviewing through all of March and most of April.

Ms. Boyke stated that she will contact GAR and Tony regarding Mr. Boyle's question and try to get those document to him as soon as possible. Obviously, we can't answer your question at this time, but, I will get that information for you by the end of the week.

Mr. Boyle – I've lived here all my life and live in Cicero so that I can afford to send my kids to CBA. It just seems to me like this is just a run around. I don't think this assessment project was done right. They should have taken inventory, first and then looked at the inventory and got it right. There are a lot of very upset people, especially, outside, right now. Maybe the prudent thing to do would be to take a step back. Give me one reason, why I should stay in Cicero.

Brad Brennan stated he would like to comment on the statement Mr. Boyle made, about collecting the data first. That's exactly, what they did. They did data collection first and sent out a data mailer to you at the beginning of that project and then they sent you out the information that they had collected. All of that was done and it is the proper way to do it.

Mr. Boyle stated he was adamant on the phone, that I couldn't get the field documents and that they weren't foilable and he knows I need that document and I want the documentation to defend my house. That's all I'm asking and I would appreciate if you would get it for me. Thank you.

Tom Reichert, 5585 Oneida Drive stated his house went up 65% and since he lives in what is consider a blighted area from what he read in the paper, how did this happen?

Brad Brennan explained that the percentage increase is just a reflection that the prior assessment was inaccurate. If the current assessment is correct, that is what we're saying is the current market value but, the other assessment was grossly under assessed. If that's incorrect, you're going to need a review of it. That's the step we're in now. Have you made an appointment to have a review?

Tom - Yes

Ralph Smith, Totman Road, North Syracuse, has lived there for his entire life and wanted to know how many people on the board still lived at the same property. He has lived on his property for 75 years.

Ms. Boyke has lived here her whole life.

Ralph Smith stated that his family has lived here since 1898. His father fell on hard times from 1930 to 1944 and then things went back on the right track for awhile. In 1952 and 1953 his father became ill and couldn't help himself and it was up to us boys to help him out, which we did. When my mother became ill, she said she hoped I'd keep the homestead going. I thought I was doing great. With this new assessment you are cheating the poor senior citizens. I have been helping senior citizens for years and you need to wake up and realize that many of them don't have the money to pay the tax increase that they want. If the town can afford to pay $925,000.00 for GAR to come in and reassess us, why can't the Assessor do the job himself? When I was able to go to work, a man said to me, if you take a job, make sure, you're going to be able to handle it and if you can't handle it, don't do it. When we took a job, it was something we could do ourselves and we didn't hire someone from downtown Syracuse, to do it. It's a shame that the Town of Cicero has let of lot of homes go down the drain, like the City of Syracuse, and I feel Brad should have been able to do this job on his own. A lot of people moved to the lake in the 30's and 40's and stayed as they couldn't afford two residences. I also feel the Town Board needs to do something to help the seniors. If they keep going with this assessment, I don't think, I can keep going with just my social security. This property has been in my family for over 100 years. I've spoken with Brad about my concerns and it's his way or no way.

Ms. Boyke – You've had a meeting with Brad?

Ralph Smith stated that he met with him a couple of weeks ago. Another issue I have is with the garbage. Years back when I worked for Merrium Sanitation, we picked up the senior's garbage for $.75 a week or $1.50 for a family. That made a lot of seniors happy. Sometimes, he would do it for nothing to help someone get back on their feet. They don't do that today. I also wanted to find out if there were two contracts, one for brush and one for garbage. During my life there was only one contract.

Ms. Boyke explained that there is a contract for garbage and another for brush and they show up under special districts on your taxes, but, there are two separate contracts.

Ralph Smith reminded everyone, that when you get to his age and you can no longer afford necessary prescription medicines, it tells him, that you can not pay a lot of money for taxes as well.

David Bersani stated that GAR Associates have us running around trying to do like comparisons. I actually drifted away from that and took a broader view and looked at all of the lakefront properties and noticed a certain trend, especially, regarding commercial properties. I noticed that several went down in value and looking at many of my neighbors, their assessments doubled in value. I was wondering, how on the same road within a mile, others could go down. My real question is, in this time of need, that we recognize that there are a lot of different tax rates, commercial rates, residential rates, which we pay 4.9%. Why did the State Tax rate go from 4.24% to 1.7%?

Brad Brennan stated he wasn't sure what Mr. Bersani was referring to. There is no different tax rate for commercial and residential.

David Bersani – There is nothing called the State Tax rate in the Town of Cicero?

Brad Brennan – No, not through normal taxing.

David Bersani explained that the normal rate is 4.9% and is what the average citizen pays. If you have a very large house that is deemed as an estate and I understand that the rate is 1.7%. Are you aware of that?

Brad Brennan – No, the tax rates are not broken up in that manner.

David Bersani asked how many categories there are.

Brad Brennan - There is a town rate, a county rate and a school rate.

David Bersani - Is there was a residential, commercial, agricultural, or an estate tax rate?

Brad Brennan – No, there is not, but, there are land categorizations where you have different categories for commercial or residential properties.

David Bersani – Do we have one for estates?

Brad Brennan – There is an estate category.

Dave Bersani asked what the rate is.

Brad Brennan explained that it is not a rate, it's just a category.

Dave Bersani – What percent do those people in that category pay?

Brad Brennan explained that they all pay the same as we all pay.

Dave Bersani stated that in his understanding, they pay about a third.

Brad Brennan explained that the breakdown for an estate is only so we can compare similar properties.

Dave Bersani – So, in other words they pay 4.9% like I do?

Brad Brennan – The 4.9% is the old equalization rate.

Dave Bersani stated that they pay 1.7% and it went from 4.24% and it just happened this past year.

Brad Brennan stated that he didn't understand what Mr. Bersani was saying.

Dave Bersani said it went from 4.24% to 1.7%.

Ms. Boyke asked Dave if he had an example of that.

Dave Bersani – You should have it in your books as this is public record and have admitted there is a category for estates.

Brad Brennan – Yes, it's a building style.

Dave Bersani stated again that those properties pay a rate of 1.7%.

Brad Brennan explained that they pay the same rate as everyone else and wasn't sure, what Mr. Bersani was trying to get at.

Ms. Boyke - We'll have to look into this and if you can get the information to me I'll look it up for you.

Dave Bersani stated that this isn't going to be a FOIL request and you're going to promise me that you will get me the information.

Ms. Boyke – Come and see me and I will try and find your answer.

Deborah Gardner stated that she has lived in Cicero since 1983 because they found a house that they liked, which happened to be in Cicero. My husband is retired from the Air Force and we have planned to make this our home. I would like to make a disclaimer that my assessment went down when I received the notification. I was a little annoyed to see that it went down as it meant to me that I have been overpaying my taxes since 1983. The other thing that really annoyed me is that a lot of people in this town send their children to Cicero Schools. I have no children and not only do I feel that I've been overtaxed, but, I'm paying for your children to be educated. I've never understood how my tax bill was calculated until the assessment problem came about three years ago. I've started going to all of the meetings and do a lot of reading and have learned an awful lot and I plan to keep that up. I know that Brad Brennan was very busy, but, I've sent him an e-mail or two asking him my questions and will continue to do that. Even though my assessment went down, I want to know how that was derived and I will keep trying to find out, so that when it goes up, I will know why it went up. I understand that people are distressed when their tax bills go up. Some people can afford the increase in their taxes, but a lot of people are on fixed incomes and are having trouble paying for their medicines, buying food and paying their taxes. The tax rate and the taxes we pay on property are not set based on income levels or our needs. It is simply set on property values. People have to remember that and if they truly feel that

their assessment is wrong they need to pursue it by starting with the process that was outlined in the contract that was signed by the former administration. I have had no problem in following that procedure all the way up to the Board of Assessment Review.

John Winters, Bridgeport stated that all of the unrest that you are hearing about assessments could be avoided, if we were able to go to an income based taxation system, but, I don't know if that is possible.

Tony Rivizzigno explained that wouldn't be possible unless you got the State of NY to change it.

John Winters – The only way to control taxes to some degree, is through exemptions and I think the Assessor's Office should be more pro active in publicizing and assisting people in getting exemptions.

Don Snyder, Mud Mill Road, stated he went to the ongov.net called up his particular property and saw the comparables and inventories where permits were obtained for improvements to the house and believed that was what they would find on the work sheets from GAR. There was an article in the paper where an individual on the lake paid no school taxes and paid $300.00 to the town and county in tax. I can't believe we have any house in this town, that should pay this amount for all the services we get and then not pay for education. We do have an Enhanced STAR program, for those 65 and older who make less than $79,500.00 this year. I agree with John that we need a better program in informing our residents and that is the only way I feel, I should be paying less school tax. Don recommended that people go to the county site for information.

Nancy O'Connor, Brewerton, NY suggested that people with computers can go to the Onondaga County records and go to the Town of Cicero and put in your address, you can pull up the sheets on it and you can go into your comparable fields which are towards the left of the column. You would go into the comparables and go over to where the picture is and drag your mouse down to the bottom and you'll see a little button that says, query. In there you can pull up what they used. When you pull them up, there will be a box next to each one. You will need to put a check mark in the box in order to pull them up. It should show you pictures of what they used and how they've used them and all of their square footage comparing you're property.

Brad Brennan stated that the comparables that you are going to see are not necessarily the comparables that GAR Associates used. It will just give you an array of information.

Ms. Zambrano – I thought that I had seen at one time a list of some of the exemptions that people could apply for in your office. Do you have such a list?

Brad Brennan – There's a partial list of the ones that we deal with the most. It's so comprehensive, as to what is available. It gets into the different kinds of non profit, charitable organizations that we don't have a list for, but, we are trying to think of something that we can do to help people. We do mail out renewals to those who are already on it, but, we need some more outreach.

Ms. Zambrano thought Don's suggestion about being pro active and letting people know about the exemption was very good.

Joe Ruscitto, Muskrat Bay Road stated that he understood that lakefront property is valued at $1,000.00 a foot and recently, through GAR, they gave different prices for different areas. I own several properties, one on the water. If you live on Beach Road, it's $1,200.00 a foot. There's a point, where the next door neighbor lives on Long Point Road and his is $1,800.00 per foot. From the other side of Long Point Road to Muskrat Bay Road, it drops down to $1,400.00 per foot. How can there be such a discrepancy and who set those prices?

Brad Brennan – GAR Associates just did an analysis of about 13 or 14, lakefront vacant lot sales. That's where they arrived at the values that they placed on those properties. Without the rest of the data, I can't tell you why properties that close differ in the front foot value. I do want to caution you that the front foot value is only a starting point, because, we then have to look at the land and the building that's on that lot. I can't really give you an answer until I have all the data in my office. GAR Associates, through their analysis arrived at those values for front foot values.

Joe Ruscitto – I want you to look at that. I can understand it, if you compare values in our area as opposed to Lakeport or down further away from the metropolitan area, where they may not have sewers or public water. I don't know what the numbers should be, but, I think they should all be the same or very close, and I don't think they are close enough. I own a vacant lot, that they just doubled in value and I didn't think it was worth half of what it was assessed at. There is nothing over there. It's not on the water, is swamp land and is outrageous.

Brad Brennen – There are reasons for the differences and that is something, I would be glad to review with you, after you get your notice from GAR and I have that data in my office. We will be able to go through it and figure it out.

Lori Sager, Cicero, NY stated that she has been hearing a lot about the reassessment and that we are the ones who have to pay the consequences for it and what is more important, is the tax that everyone pays. She has been out of state for the past few months and has spoken with a lot of different people and every single state in this Country is broke. The Federal Government, Congress, Senate are trying to find more ways to get more money. The State Legislatures in other States and NY State are looking for ways to get more money and Cicero, is also trying to do their bit in order to keep things going. The Highway is well funded, yet at every meeting there is an emergency purchase. Why isn't their budget funded for emergency costs?

Ms. Boyke – They are, they just need approval if it's over $1,000.00.

Lori Sager – We need to find ways to keep our spending down as it is getting so out of hand. You want to base our taxes on our income, well that's wrong, that's called redistribution of wealth and I'm against that.

John Ranz, Long Point Road lived in Cicero 43 years. If you've been on the lake for 43 years, you know that floods have passed the 100 year mark three times now. Most of the springs we have at the end of March and April have a lot of flooding in various degrees. It shouldn't matter if you live on Muskrat Bay Road, Long Point Road, or Beach Road, when the water is up, it's up and if your property is under water, it's under water. Would these lots, be worth the same amount as lots, next to Borio's that is 35 feet above the lake level. Is it worth $1,800.00 per linear foot? Two months, out of every 12 months, that value is not true. Everyone says, it's based on Market Value and real dollar value. If you bring a buyer out there to Muskrat Bay, Long Point or Beach Road, the end of this month or next month, when you are under water and ask if it's worth the same amount of money as land that would be up in the high bluffs of Brewerton, or the higher bluffs on Lakeshore Road, and I don't think it's the same. In 1993 Bragman, put some proposals into the town to reduce people's property tax in that flood zone area, up to 50% for the years of the floods. When you have floods, you lose your seawalls, your land, grass, fill around your sea front, you have damage to your house, you have foundation cracking and settling, and all these problems and inconveniences are never felt by people who are 35 feet above the lake level that are taxed at the same rate. There are a lot of problems and inconveniences for the people who live in the low zones and they should be treated at a different rate than those people who are in the higher zones. With all the problems you've had with this reassessment, you're going to need more than a grievance day. You're going to need a grievance month. To answer all the questions and get the rates right and everybody being treated fairly, you're going to need more time. I think it should be looked at and possibly postponed until this is done right and put forth in the right manner and time, whenever everyone is in agreement. I also think you should consider where people have had increases of 150%, 180%, 200% and up to 600%, which is very unreasonable, that those kinds of increases should be done in increments. If the numbers have to stay, they should be reasonable and they should be done in increments, where you are going to allow people to keep their houses and live in this area and continue to pay their taxes at a reasonable rate, done with a cap every year. We need some kind of a reasonable ladder, that we can agree to and once it's set, it won't be changed. That way, you would bring the people up gradually and not all at once and force them to move.

Ms. Zambrano asked Tony Rivizzigno if it was legal to do incremental increases.

Tony Rivizzigno – No, the law requires if it's 100%, it's 100% for everybody. You can't take an area or part of the town or the whole town and do this gradually. It's either 100% or it isn't and you can't do it incrementally and that is State Law and is not Town Law.

Ms. Boyke closed the public input portion of the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Engineer Comments

Ron DeTota stated that a couple of meetings ago, there was a resolution passed to allow C & S to prepare a document that would bid drainage committee services. We thought the approach would be to move forward as last year, but, there has been a change in that approach. Therefore that document will not be put out to bid. This is to make the board aware and to fulfill the Town Clerk's request. Ron also stated that as of March 1st, 2011, the DEC changed their Stormwater Laws. Now there's more of an emphasis on what they call green infrastructure. We are going to

be seeing more of that within the community with new projects and development projects. My thought in the next couple of months is to brief the board on these new procedures and rules and possibly make a presentation for everyone's benefit.

Ms. Boyke told Ron to tell us when he is ready and it will be placed on the agenda.

Attorney Comments – None

Board Comments

Mr. Conway stated that he was glad to see everyone come down to the meeting this evening and feels that when this reassessment is finished, it will be straightened out and be within reason for everyone. There are no figures yet, so I'm not sure what we're basing what our taxes are going to be. We are going to need to wait and see what that will come out to and how it will be figured.

Mr. Jennings – I have a couple of comments. A few years ago the firefighters were offered a 10% reduction in property taxes. Is that correct?

Someone responded that there was a reduction.

Mr. Jennings stated that he felt that it is a slap in the face is for the firefighters and for that they do and what they go through for 10%. I also know that veterans out there need to know that there is a Combat Veterans Exemption and a regular exemption for Veterans. It is another item that needs to get out to the people as there are Veterans out there that are not availing themselves of this as well as the STAR and Enhanced STAR. Maybe with the help from Brad, we can come up with an idea. Perhaps we could put a notice out in the lobby and out on the doors to let people know that there are exemptions out there. That is something we need to really look at. Again I appreciate everyone coming this evening. As Vern said, we have a ways to go, before we get this resolved. This started a few years ago and so it's going to take awhile to resolve.

Mr. Corl – There have been some good points about the different exemptions. Recently, within the last couple of years, we've enacted the Cold War Veterans Exemption, which is fairly new and people may not know about it. If you are eligible, stop by the Assessors Office and Brad will explain the requirements to you as it may be something that they may be able to take advantage of.

Mr. Corl also stated that he would encourage everyone to work through the reassessment process with Brad and GAR by getting their information together. Brad has been handling the situation and the inquiries as best he can and he has been inundated.

Lastly, Mr. Corl, stated that he had an opportunity to meet with County Legislator Bill Meyer and Travis Glasier from the Onondaga County Executives Office relative to a new exemption and Local Law that was passed by the County last week known as 45A Exemptions for Real Property Law. This exemption is for places like Brewerton, North Syracuse and Bridgeport and will encourage mixed use projects. What they are encouraging is that in any commercial areas where you turn them into a commercial mix use property. As an example: You have a business with some type of living accommodations such as an apartment complex with commercial businesses, there is a different exemption being offered. If you make capital improvements, those improvements will be tax exempt. It is a proposal that was passed by the County Legislature and I think this could be a great tool for our hamlets and for encouraging these types of businesses that go in. I received a copy today and will provide it to Tony and the board for review and hopefully, it will be something that this board can move forward on. It is exciting and may encourage some property owners to improve their businesses and also be an asset to the town.

Ms. Zambrano stated that she wanted to add her encouragement about the exemptions. She asked if anything was on the website and she knew Brad wanted to develop something that was comprehensive. It might be helpful to get this category regarding exemptions, on the website, so that people can come in and ask questions.

Brad Brennan – I'll look into that.

Ms. Zambrano – We had a full house today and there has been a lot of un-civility in government that we see on the internet, the media and TV and I think everyone acted very civilly today and I wish to thank all of you. I think everyone has shown a lot of respect for each others opinions and I particularly appreciate that. Thank you.

Ms. Boyke also appreciated everyone's being very attentive to others in the room. With the process of this assessment, we all realize that it's stressful and in some cases very difficult. The procedure that is in place after these reviews is a review with Brad, personally. If you get no where with that, then you have the opportunity to file a grievance and we have made provisions and are making provisions to make sure that it's not a grievance day. We're going to have three different areas to accommodate folks as they come in. We will make sure that everyone is heard and it is not all going to be shoved into one day. After that procedure, obviously there is one more procedure and that is to go to Small Claims Court to file, if you don't get anywhere with the Board of Assessment Review. There is a process in place and we are hoping everyone will exercise their opportunity. I would also like to get together with Greg after the meeting for a few minutes, so that we can set something up to accommodate everyone that has their questions in regards to this assessment.

Motion was made by Ms. Boyke, seconded by Ms. Zambrano, to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

The motion was approved as follows:

Mr. Conway:	Yes
Mr. Corl:	Yes
Mr. Jennings:	Yes
Ms. Zambrano:	Yes
Ms. Boyke:	Yes

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

_____
Tracy M. Cosilmon
Town Clerk