

TOWN BOARD MEETING – JULY 14, 2021

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located on the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

Councilwoman Peg Nau
Councilwoman Leeanne Thornton
Councilman Mike Ivino
Councilman John Schoonmaker
Supervisor Fred Costello

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Diaz Ambulance – funding needs with Lisa Benjamin, Steve Thornton and Doug Sturges. Needs to bring up salaries which is now 30% below surrounding agencies. Also, would like to add a third crew for a 12 hour shift. These two requests would add an additional \$600,000.00 to the annual budget. The following residents spoke in favor of Diaz – Susan Weeks, Beth Murphy, Lanny Walter, Ryan Arold and a letter was received from Fire Chief Mullen.

Samantha Dederick – Property Maintenance Law – feels the public hearing was under advertised and disputes this law. It invites people to harass neighbors.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Bill Harrison – this is a town, not a village; the verbiage needs to be changed regarding nuisance, offenses of senses, maintenance of landscape and structures regarding the Property Maintenance law. Who is authorized as subordinate?

Steve Dunning – Fite Road, residents are frustrated; noise started by DJ at midnight and went on until 3:30 a.m. Town needs to enforce zoning laws.

Caroline Crumpacker – Opus 40, read letter from the board of Opus 40; installed temporary fence. Harvey Fite's legacy is in danger.

Beth Murphy – seems to be a problem in congested neighborhoods with the property maintenance. Could the law be written specifically for dense population? Make something that can be enforced.

Mary Wawro – thank you for reconsidering details on this law.

Stephanie Steyer – this law is not intended to be about how high your grass is, it is to protect neighbors against living next to waste and filth.

Kristin Barton – hope for the best outcome of Opus 40. Also, believe that the Property Maintenance Law would be a hardship on the elderly and low income residents. Bees thrive on flowers and weeds and should not be considered a nuisance to have tall grass.

Mike MacIsaac – would like an up-date on fiber (high speed) to homes. Supervisor Costello commented that there is a group trying to bring high speed at a competitive cost.

Steven Gentile – noise ordinance needs to be put in place. There are AirBNB rentals with out owners in the vicinity or care what the renters are doing, how much noise they are making or music all hours of the night. Something has to be done.

Lanny Walter – concerned about the Property Maintenance Law that it is offensive.

Mark Knaust – law is shocking and glad the board is not voting on it tonight.

Bill Barr – appreciated what the board is trying to do.

Ryan Arold – Property Maintenance law is necessary but detail is excessive; even the town roads are in violation.

Susan Weeks – sent comments to the town board; enforcement would be a nightmare and it has subjective wording.

Vicki Dross – this law is painted with a broad brush, do not want to be micro-managed. Wondering if the problems are being solved.

Mike Myer – strongly endorse this law

Alvie Weeks, Building Inspector – town law can not be less restrictive than the state law. Gone are the days of neighbors helping neighbors. There are several circumstances where owners are in violation and it gets tied up in court and property is still not taken care of and cleaned up.

Kevin Brown – the intent was to be able to do what they need to do without getting backed up in court, it is not fair and not right.

Supervisor Costello said the board has decided to not pass the law tonight and keep working on the wording. Residents should stay engaged and communicate with the board. The town gets regular calls on neglect and we have been working on this law for several years.

Councilman Ivino has a list of residents who have sent emails and decided to take this off the agenda tonight.

Councilwoman Thornton said that we need to have a property maintenance law, maybe not this version but CPC has been discussing it for years.

Councilwoman Nau – we never intended to be separate, it should be “we”, it should not be us and you.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

Thanked the Town Clerk for being at the meeting after having eye surgery recently. Received 7 inches of rain, keep a look out for flooding. The Asbury Stone House designation has been approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to approve the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	\$340,470.60
General Outside Village	23,637.11
Highway	101,352.31
Capital Projects	25,692.56
Ambulance District	66,326.58
Lighting District	18,669.99
Sewer O&M	169,989.84
Water O&M	156,086.10
Central Hudson	43,519.72

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: none

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Nau – nothing to report

Councilwoman Thornton – Boys & Girls Club golf tournament and food truck festival is 7/22/21. CPC had a field trip to County food compost.

Councilman Ivino – nothing to report

Councilman Schoonmaker – CAC meetings July 15, 2021

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilwoman Nau, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to accept the resignation of Aaron Caskey from the Highway Department as of July 16, 2021.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello wishes him the best.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the resolution, as on file, pertaining to adopting Local Law #3 of 2021 regarding Changing Message Signs.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello clarified that this is for non-profit organizations.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to dedicate previously received undedicated subdivision fees in the Recreation Trust Fund (#TA2001) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to the two (2) CFA Grants should the need be necessary and to show as match, cash on hand account for grant submission purposes. The two submissions included, one, DEC Climate Smart Grant for Air Cooled Chiller and second, NYSOPRHP for ADA compliant playground equipment and a Dog Park, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello explained that this would replace the current chiller at a savings and expand ADA playground. The dog park would not be near neighborhood, it would be on the west side of Kraut Road.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Schoonmaker, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve a fireworks permit for Legion Fireworks Co., Inc. for a display at Cantine Field on July 20, 2021 to begin after the Stallions baseball game and pending the appropriate signatures needed on the permit.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, second by Councilwoman Nau to hire Donald Tucker at a rate of \$21.50 per hour as a part time Police Officer as needed, effective immediately.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Schoonmaker to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 9:31 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, August 11, 2021	Pre-Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Town Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

The meeting was closed in memory of James O'Reilly and Ed Scully.

Town Clerk