

TOWN BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 16, 2024

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 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 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

Councilwoman Peg Nau
Councilwoman Leanne Thornton
Councilman Mike Ivino
Councilman Zach Horton
Supervisor Fred Costello

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR: none

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Michelle Numssen – thank you for the copy of the budget, could not find it on-line. Heard that town of Saugerties is one of two towns in fiscal stress. Supervisor Costello clarified that it is Village, not Town. Pro-Housing vote is on the agenda again, original vote should stay.

Judith Spektor – need the town board to support pro-housing, would be interested in balance growth and would be eligible for \$10 million grant money.

Lanny Walter – serves on Smart Housing Committee and we need to improve the housing issue that plague many residents. Appalled that motion may pass now for pro-housing.

Suzanne Bennett – number of young people are not able to stay here because of cost; number one reason people are moving out.

Brittany Barnard – please pass pro-housing, also please opt-in to Good Cause Eviction.

Councilman Ivino questioned if Assembly Sarahana is holding the Governor responsible for making towns pass this resolution (Ms. Barnard works for Sarahana).

Rose Panke – support pro-housing

Karlyn Elia – Governor desperately wants towns signing on; resolution has innocent sounding phrases but what does it really mean. Negative results will likely happen. Saugerties is a responsible community.

John Schoonmaker – non-binding resolution but will give us access to the grant that we've already paid into. Regarding the Good Cause Eviction, all neighboring towns are passing this.

Alexis Reinhold – support Good Cause Eviction, it's not about punishing landlords.

Janet Moss – support Good Cause Eviction; see pro-housing as a two-edged sword, only 330 out of 500 communities have passed; also needs other kinds of housing. Public comment period is not an adequate amount of time for discussion.

Sarah Vogwill – regarding Winston Farm, discussion should include openness and a friendly manner.

Gaetana Ciarlante – will give up rights for the Governor to rule our town; does not guarantee grants will be distributed to us.

Suzanne VanWagenen – object to pro-housing because it will streamline developers and Governor has ties to developers; need clarity on wording.

Bill Barr – housing is a problem in town; reasonable housing is essential.

Edward Vickers – moved here to escape crowds; maximize what you already have.

Tim Scott – needs to show loyalty to town and support the Good Cause Eviction law.

Catherine Rumble – development has gone up with many problems; concerned about how the grant money would be used.

Lucy Carpenter – is there a way to get rid of some Air BnBs and have housing for permanent residents. In favor of moratorium of Short Term Rentals.

John Bassler – speaking on behalf of daughter and she supports Pro-Housing, it’s consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; urge the board to vote yes.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

There is no perfect way to have dialog with the public, we are not going to agree on everything. We try, as a board, to be transparent. We have been working on NY Forward initiative since the summer with the village. We have had a number of public hearings on topics and some people still don’t feel informed. This resolution on Pro-Housing is not binding, it is a pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Ivino to approve the minutes of Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting of October 2, 2024, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Horton to approve the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	\$99,934.73
General Outside Village	6,427.10
Highway	55,787.29
Capital Projects	8,007.00
Ambulance District	111,734.70
Lighting District	6,657.16
Sewer O&M	18.00
Water O&M	18.00
Central Hudson	34,219.43

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ray Mayone – blacktopping on Old Stage Road, job is coming to an end. Other large projects in the works.

Doug Myer – everything is running smoothly

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Nau – nothing to report

Councilwoman Thornton – October 26 – Touch a Truck, organizational meeting for the Library, December 8 – Holiday in the Village

Councilman Ivino – addressing zoning issues; HPC will hold meetings regarding designation

Councilman Horton – October 17 – CAC and Task Force meets; meeting regarding dog park donations

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Councilman Horton to allocate up to \$10,000.00 out of the Recreation Trust Fund for the JayCee Field Restoration Project, only if needed, should any proposals/bids come in higher than current budget appropriations, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Discussion: Councilman Horton's focus was on this area, we have received \$200,000.00 from our Congresswoman and Assemblywoman.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the Consent Order and Judgement, as on file, to settle tax assessment review proceeding for assessment year 2024 brought by Spaulding Lane Associates pending in New York State Supreme Court in accordance with the terms on the proposed Consent Order and Judgement filed with the Town Clerk, upon recommendation of the Assessor and the Attorney for the Town, and authorizing the Attorney for the Town, John J. Greco, to sign the settlement stipulation on behalf of the Town of Saugerties.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilwoman Nau, seconded by Councilman Horton authorizing Douglas F. Myer, Department Head for the Town of Saugerties Transfer Station to increase the fees on all bags, regardless of size, by \$1.00/bag and all user permits by \$2.00/permit beginning on January 1, 2025.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve Johna Valk as a Permanent full time Clerk in the Building Department at a pay rate of \$24.34 per hour as she has passed the civil service test to fulfill the requirements for permanent status, effective immediately and per the recommendation of the Department Head Alvah Weeks, Jr.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Ivino to accept the retirement of Senior Water/Wastewater Maintenance worker Mark Resso from the Town of Saugerties Water & Sewer Department, effective October 19, 2024.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that his leadership will be missed, congratulations to Mark!

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Councilman Horton to hire Mark Resso as a part time Water/Wastewater Consultant on an “as needed basis” for the Town of Saugerties Water & Sewer Department with an annual salary of \$35,000.00, effective October 21, 2024.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello said he is glad Mark is willing to come back and help out.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to hire John D. Barylski as a part time Water & Sewer Operator on an “as needed basis” for the Town of Saugerties Water & Sewer Department at a pay rate of \$25.00 per hour, effective immediately.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to approve the resolution, as on file, in regards to the Pro-Housing Communities Pledge.

Vote: Adopted – 3 Yes (Councilwoman Nau & Councilman Horton voting No)

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Horton to approve the resolution, available upon request, saying that the Town Board is resolving that the DGEIS is incomplete per the recommendation of the town planner and pending town attorney approval.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello said that given the scale of this project, this is not unexpected; this portion did not need to go public.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Horton to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:19 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

**Public Hearing
Exceed 2% Tax Cap**

6:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing
2025 Budget**

6:30 p.m.

**Pre-Board Meeting
Town Board Meeting**

6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

The meeting closed in memory of Nina Postupack and Tom McCarthy

Town Clerk