

TOWN BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2024

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 14, 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 was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

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

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR: none

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mark Hoffstatter – Blue Stone Park looks like a dump at the entrance; water is also not drinkable because the primary back-up collapsed. Needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Supervisor Costello said we will use AARPA funds to repair collapsed tank.

Brandon Schiller – questioned The Birches and why is the amendment. The buyers should have been aware that upgrades would be needed. Supervisor Costello explained that assessed value will be low since rent is held low. It is based off of audited rents.

Michelle Numssen – regarding FOILS – NYS has wordage on how a town board should publish information to the public for an open government. Also, Intermunicipal Agreement is for five years, would a three year agreement be better?

Donald Brown – concerned about water issues especially with Blue Stone Park.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

There are a couple agenda changes – will be amended FOIL motion; omit Parks & Rec purchase and add motion to authorize Supervisor to sign waiver.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilwoman Nau to approve the minutes of Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting of January 17, 2024, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

General Fund	\$148,427.26
General Outside Village	5,251.78
Highway	151,251.65
Sewer O&M	3,077.89
Malden Sewer	3,073.61
Central Hudson	8,254.00

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ray Mayone, Highway – now getting salt delivered and at a lower price; sweeper truck is getting ready for spring.

Doug Myer, Transfer Station – gave 2023 final tallies; year end report is on file.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Nau – nothing to report

Councilwoman Thornton – Boys & Girls Bowling fundraiser was successful; auction will be May 17. Lifespring will meet, STAC met 2/13/24 with a goal of public safety; CPC meets in March.

Councilman Ivino – Water & Sewer has broken service tonight. Diaz has some problems at 451 Washington Avenue. Thank you to Highway in assisting with the water breaks recently.

Councilman Horton – attended Empire State Games at the Ice Rink. Three teams and individuals medaled, congratulations!

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to rescind the motion from the January 3, 2024 town board meeting setting January 1, 2024 as the New Year’s Day holiday on the 2024 holiday list.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve setting January 1, 2025 as the New Year’s Day holiday to the list of 2024 holidays done at the organizational meeting on January 3, 2024.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to deny the following FOIL received January 29, 2024 and answered on February 6, 2024 and appealed on February 12, 2024.

Discussion: Councilman Ivino feels this is a political witch hunt and someone is leaking information.

Motion made by Councilwoman Nau, seconded by Councilman Horton to table the above motion.

Vote on tabling the motion: Adopted – 4 Yes (Supervisor Costello voting No)

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the following order, as on file, approving the extension of the Malden Water District in the Town of Saugerties as per the request of the NYS Comptroller's Office.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Horton authorizing Transfer Station Department Head, Douglas F. Myer, the right to enter into a purchase agreement with Wastequip Corp. 1079 State Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125 utilizing Sourcewell Contract #040621 WQI...Quote #WQ-10300884 for the purchase of one (1) 40 cubic yard heavy duty rectangle roll off container for the purchase price of \$8,043.00.

Discussion: Doug Myer explained that this roll off caught on fire and is okay for a backup but not sturdy enough for everyday use.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the resolution, as on file, regarding the Support for the New York State Assembly and Senate to Pass a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A.5322-A/S.4246-A and Expand the State's Bottle Bill (A.6353/S.237-B).

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Councilman Ivino to rescind the following motion from the November 1, 2023 minutes: motion to approve the resolution authorizing the intention to enter into an amendment of an agreement for a payment in lieu of tax ("Pilot") agreement by and among the Town of Saugerties, The Birches at Saugerties Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. and The Birches at Saugerties Limited Partnership pending town attorney and town assessor approvals.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilwoman Nau, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to approve the resolution, as on file, authorizing the intention to enter into an amendment of an agreement

for a payment in lieu of tax (“Pilot”) agreement by and among the Town of Saugerties, The Birches at Saugerties Housing Development Fund Company, Inc and BC Ulster Portfolio LLC.
Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that this will give more revenue than the PILOT.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Horton to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Saugerties and the Town of Saugerties Policeman’s Benevolent Association pertaining to Police Officer Jeremy Rushkoski.
Discussion: Supervisor Costello explained that Jeremy is currently serving as police officer in the Marshall Islands and will retire from the Town of Saugerties.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Saugerties and the Parks & Recreation Building and Grounds Department employees.
Discussion: Councilman Horton thanked the negotiating team and also learned quite a bit.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to approve the Intermunicipal Water Supply Agreement, as on file, between the Town of Saugerties and the Village of Saugerties.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to hire Johna Valk, effective immediately, as a Provisional full time Clerk in the Building Department pending the passing of a civil service test when provided and at a pay rate of \$22.51 per the Department Head Alvah Weeks, Jr.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Ivino, seconded by Councilman Horton to approve the Town Supervisor, Fred Costello to sign the NYS Retirement 211 Waiver regarding Robert Nuzzo employment with the Town of Saugerties.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Horton to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:20 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Thursday, February 29, 2024

**Public Hearing
Lodging & Events Zoning**

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

**Pre-Board Meeting
Town Board Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting closed in memory of Sharon Fallon, Rich Redder, Skip Westergard, Dan Brady, Leanne Hunlock, Mark Nezich, Starllie Swonyoung and Joseph Gottschalk.

Town Clerk