

March 13, 2018

Town Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on March 13, 2018 in the Vincent F. Nyberg Meeting Room of the Cortlandt Town Hall located at One Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY (10567) with the following elected official and appointed staff in attendance:

LINDA D. PUGLISI	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
DEBRA COSTELLO	Councilmember
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember
JAMES CREIGHTON	Councilmember

Also present:

LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN	Town Clerk
TINA TOBACK	Office Assistant
TOM WOOD	Town Attorney
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
JEFFREY COLEMAN	Director, DES
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Supervisor Puglisi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Supervisor Puglisi led all in attendance in a Pledge to the Flag.

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**SUPERVISOR’S PROCLAMATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Supervisor Puglisi** commented what a difficult time for the community it has been with the 2 winter storms as 25% of the Town was without power. She expressed thanks to Jeff Coleman and all the DES staff and workers who worked around the clock to handle the storm and give continuous updates to the residents. The **Supervisor** added that the Community center had been open as a shelter and a charging station for those without power.

The **Supervisor** stated that though there were back to back severe nor’easters, Con Edison had made no significant improvements since Hurricane Sandy; that even with their tremendous budget and billions of dollars in annual profit, they still did not have enough manpower for these storms. She stated that John McAvoy, the CEO of Con Edison had a press statement out that said that the storms were severe and that they did the best they could and acted appropriately. **Supervisor Puglisi** stated that they did not do the best they could, that after Hurricane Sandy she testified and she met with municipal leaders and said the same things she is saying today. They have made no improvements and there are three key items; they don’t hire enough workers to assist with a storm of this magnitude even with their tremendous profit and budget, they never call in out-of state aid to be on alert and when finally called, that’s when results were finally seen, The **Supervisor** emphasized that the Town crews are not allowed to touch

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)**

the wires and address the power that is off. She has asked for a meeting with all the officials to address what the residents have gone through and discuss a plan. They do give Con Edison liaisons during the storm for updates; however the information that was given was wrong. The Supervisor stated she will continue to do all she can to tell them that they have to improve.

Jeff Coleman discussed the other entities that assisted during the storm including the Red Cross, Westchester County and the National Guard and others. He discussed the removal of debris and wires.

**Supervisor Puglisi** commented that she and Jeff Coleman had conference calls with Con Edison and the typical response to issues was that they would get back to them. The **Supervisor** thanked her staff for listening to the issues from the residents. She stated that if Con Edison makes improvements, she would be the first to congratulate and thank them, but they have to step up.

The **Supervisor** commented that there will be a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Peekskill and there was one in Buchanan. March also is Woman’s History Month and noted that she is the 2<sup>nd</sup> woman Town Supervisor in the Town of Cortlandt, the first being Muriel Morabito in the 70’s. The **Supervisor** commented on all the various women who have served in the Town of Cortlandt government. She spoke of her mother and daughter and their contributions and influences.

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**ROLL CALL**

On a roll call attendance taken by Town Clerk Shatzkin all Town Board members indicated their presence.

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**TOWN BOARD REPORTS**

**Councilmember Costello:** Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s day and congratulated the Village of Buchanan for a great parade. Councilmember Costello thanked the highway workers and those who worked during the storm for their outstanding job. She stated that everyone shares the anger they have with Con Edison. Councilmember Costello spoke of the resolution tonight regarding Indian Point and they realize there will be a financial impact to the Town and they are trying to be proactive. Tonight they will be passing the resolution to authorize the Comptroller to add \$100,000 to the closing of Indian Point fund.

**Councilmember Becker:** Commented about the frustration with the Indian Point closing and they’ve learned that 25% of their emergency repair crew were in Puerto Rico and we support that, but it comes down to a question of priority and logistics. This was a logistical issue and they should have been planned on it. Councilmember Becker

**TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)**

stated that it was a tremendous error on their part and it comes from the leadership down.

Councilmember Becker also commented that even with the closure of Indian Point, they are still going to continue and attack all the programs they have started. One he is excited about is the problem of signage in the Town which is visual sign pollution. These signs are also safety concerns as a distraction and not a question of freedom of speech because now there are other alternatives. Councilmember Becker also spoke of positive projects such as the trailer park in Verplanck with the occupants being relocated leaving the Town with a park with river access, the renovation of the pool.

**Councilmember Creighton:** Spoke of the frustrations of the storm issues and he is proud of the work by the Town’s crews and staff. Councilmember Creighton stated he is thankful for the other out of town work crews that came to help. Almost every village and town was united in their views of the failure of Con Edison to properly plan and respond for a storm of this magnitude.

Councilmember Creighton spoke of some good projects going on in the Town; the Historic Advisory Council being formed, the Solorized program started in Croton and will be partnering with the Town, amendment of the Code to keep pace with the NY State changes that were made regarding energy efficiency.

**Councilmember Farrell:** Also commented on the appreciation by the Board and the community letting them know what was happening during the storm. Councilmember Farrell stated that they intend to have a small event to thank the crews that were out day and night in harsh conditions. The Con Ed crews worked with the Town’s crews and a lot of cooperation had to take place but they worked together effectively. Many residents took advantage of the Morabito Community Center during the storm.

Councilmember Farrell congratulated the Buchanan St. Patrick’s Day Parade committee for hosting with former mayor Dan O’Neil and Bruce Fulgum as Grand Marshalls . He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councilmember Costello moved that the regular minutes of February 13, 2018 be approved as presented by Town Clerk Shatzkin. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

All voted **AYE**

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. Public Hearing to consider continuing the Veteran’s Cold War Exemption.**

(A complete transcript of this Public Hearing is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.)

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Hearing and presented its Affidavit of Publication from the official Town newspaper.

**Supervisor Puglisi** called the hearing to order at 7:18 p.m.

**Tom Wood** explained that about 8 years ago the State Legislature allowed Towns to offer an exemption to Veterans who served during the Cold War. That exemption was only granted for a 10 year period and he noted that the Town is in the 8<sup>th</sup> year. This year the State Legislature has now indicated that Town Boards can make this a permanent exemption. He stated that this local law this evening makes this exemption a permanent exemption for Veterans of the Cold War.

There were no further comments.

A motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m., Adopt a Negative Declaration and Adopt a Resolution for a Local Law was made by Councilmember Becker and seconded by Councilmember Creighton.

**RESOLUTION NO.93-18 RE: Adopt a Negative Resolution regarding continuing the Veteran’s Cold War Exemption**

**RESOLUTION NO.94:18 RE: Adopt a Local Law regarding adopting a Local Law to continue the Veteran’s Cold War Exemption.**

**LOCAL LAW #1-18: Continue the Veteran’s Cold War Exemption.**

All voted **AYE**

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**HEARING OF CITIZENS, (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

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**BID REPORTS**

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Councilmember Creighton moved that the following reports be received and ordered filed. Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion.

**REPORTS**

For the month of February, 2018 from the Office for the Aging, Receiver of Taxes, and the Town Clerk

For the month of October 2017 and November 2017 from the Purchasing Department.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Receive and File the Following:**

- 1. Memorandum from Director of DOTS regarding an existing shed and deck on a Town right of way; authorize same

**RESOLUTION NO.95-18 RE: Authorize terms of memorandum regarding an existing shed and deck on a Town right of way.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Receive and File the Following:**

- 1. Letter from Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct requesting parking restriction be lifted for an event on May 5, 2018 with a rain date of May 6, 2018. Authorize same.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-18 RE: Authorize parking restriction be lifted for an event on May 5, 2018.**

- 2. Preliminary Development Proposal and Conceptual Site Plan from Dan Roach Architecture regarding 119 Oregon Road. Refer to Legal & DOTS.
- 3. State of Emergency Paperwork.

All voted **AYE**

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**RESOLUTIONS**

**(All resolutions adopted at this meeting are to be found attached to the end of the original document.)**

Councilmember Farrell moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Costello

**RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)**

**RESOLUTION NO.97-18 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to sign an IMA with Westchester County extending the Enhanced 911 Service for an additional 5 year period.**

**RESOLUTION NO.98-18 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to enter in to an agreement with Solar Liberty/NYSERDA.**

**RESOLUTION NO.99-18 RE: Resolution to Westchester County to consider a buy back program of Guns.**

**RESOLUTION NO.100-18 RE: Renew contract with Westchester Jewish Community Services to provide case management/social work services at the Community Center and Youth Center (as needed).**

**Discussion:** Supervisor Puglisi stated that prior to her administration, they didn't have 911 or paramedics and she is proud to have them now. Councilmember Becker spoke of the buy back of guns and noted that the City of Peekskill is going to have a gun buy back program and Cortlandt will join them but thought better if it could be done countywide rather than individual towns. If the County doesn't, Town of Cortlandt will join Peekskill.

All Voted **AYE**

Councilmember Costello moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Becker

**RESOLUTION NO.101-18 RE: Authorize the Living History Education Foundation to use our Cortlandt Waterfront Park for staging two events on March 19 and March 21.**

**RESOLUTION NO.102-18 RE: Renew the Resolution to authorize the Comptroller to add to the Closure of Indian Point Fund by \$100,000 (total \$200,000 YTD)**

From the Director of **DOTS:**

**RESOLUTION NO.103-18 RE: Adopt recommended changes to Department of Technical Services master fee schedule.**

**RESOLUTION NO.104-18 RE: Authorize Broadway Drainage Improvement.**

**RESOLUTION NO.105-18 RE: Authorize the Town Clerk to attend the New York State Town Clerk's Annual Conference and Training in April.**

**RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)**

**RESOLUTION NO.106-18 RE: Resolution to Con Edison, Inc. stating many concerns with their response to the March 2, 2018 Nor'easter in our Town.**

**RESOLUTION NO.107-18 RE: Schedule a public hearing for April 17, 2018 to consider the Dumpster Enclosure Law.**

**Discussion:** Town Comptroller Patty Robcke stated that they are planning ahead for the closure of Indian Point. The Town stands to lose about \$800,000 annual revenue from Entergy. The Town will designate a portion of their annual fund balance to be used to offset those revenues. The **Supervisor** added that they are planning ahead and being proactive for when this does occur.

Michael Preziosi explained the DES resolutions. Councilmember Farrell explained that they are going to review their accessory apartment ordinances over the next months.

All Voted **AYE**

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**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Becker moved that the following correspondence be received and ordered filed and the resolutions be adopted. Councilmember Creighton seconded the motion.

**Received and File the following:**

1. Letter from Gary Cerrone regarding stop sign on Furnace Dock Road. Refer to DES

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO.108-18 RE: Authorize a leave of absence for two DES employees under FMLA.**

**RESOLUTION NO.109-18 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regarding amending the Sustainable Energy Loan Programs.**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Creighton commented that this resolution is simply a change to the code to track the changes that were made by New York State.

All Voted **AYE**

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**BUDGET TRANSFERS**  
**NONE**

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**REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Jeff Coleman thanked his staff for all their efforts during the storms and that there will be a lot of good ideas that will come from this experience.

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**REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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**SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Buchanan resident and a 33 year member of the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Core, Katherine Stewart at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Councilmember Farrell, seconded by Councilmember Costello.

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

**LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN**  
Town Clerk