



Pursuant to NYS Executive Order 202/2020 issued by the Governor, the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt is holding meetings virtually via a platform known as Zoom. The public can observe the meetings in real time and they are recorded as usual and posted on the Town Website.

*A full audio/video recording of this meeting is available at [www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)*

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on December 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The following elected officials and appointed staff were in attendance:

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

Also present:

TOM WOOD	Town Attorney
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM	Deputy Town Attorney
LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN	Town Clerk
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk - ABSENT
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
STEPHEN FERREIRA	Director, DES
TINA TOBACK	Senior Office Assistant

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

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

### **SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS**

Supervisor Linda Puglisi commented that one year ago there was no way to know what was ahead with the pandemic. The country came together and met the challenges, our front line workers deserve our deepest thanks. Happy Holidays to all.

There was a Virtual Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony held jointly with the City of Peekskill, Village of Croton-on-Hudson and Village of Buchanan. It was a beautiful tribute to the twenty-four hundred Americans who perished so many years ago on December 7<sup>th</sup>.



Yesterday Sandra Lindsay, a nurse from Queens received the first COVID-19 vaccine in New York State. The historic moment was televised and vaccines are now being distributed around the country. Nursing Homes and Front-Line workers are first in line. Thank you to the scientists, we are grateful.

Cortlandt Town Hall had it's 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Town had previously shared space for may years at the Municipal Building in Croton. The Lakeland School District had the property and old school building up for sale. Town Attorney Tom Wood, former Town Comptroller Glen Cestaro, and the supervisor negotiated with Lakeland School District, and after a referendum vote, the property was purchased for one million dollars. An additional five-hundred thousand dollar note was taken out for renovations. Vinnie Nyberg was the Director Code Enforcement, Town Architect and Engineer, and managed the renovations of Town Hall.

Last week the Town Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2021 Town Budget. There have been 30 years of an average of only 1% town tax increase, an amazing record to be proud of.

The Town Board donated to our local Food Pantries early in the Pandemic and will be doing so again this month. They will each receive an additional five-hundred dollars.

The holidays are difficult with social distancing. Next year we will be back to more normal festivities.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **TOWN BOARD REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Becker gave his report**

#### **NOTE:**

Councilmember Becker discussed the Pandemic and the various vaccines that are out and becoming available, and encouraged everyone to get the shot. All the available vaccines are safe and do not contain the inactive virus. The vaccine is actually made from an egg protein, and people who have had allergic reactions are generally allergic to eggs. What happens is the body "sees" the egg protein and begins to make antibodies, and those antibodies happen to ward off the Coronavirus. It is an incredible game of tricking the body to think this egg particle is a virus. The public should get the shot for themselves, their families, and the community. Unless 75-80% of individuals get vaccinated, the population will not be able to develop herd immunity, that helps to protect everyone.

Councilmember Becker commented that he participated in two Indian Point meetings – Supervisor Puglisi chairs the local Task Force and co-chairs the Task Force that involves the citizen's groups along with the Mayor of Buchanan. These meetings are difficult to listen to because local officials have little to no input, including in the sale of Indian Point to Holtec. Riverkeeper gave a scathing review of Holtec as far as safety, experience, environmental concerns, and about their financial records and handling of funds. It is very disconcerting. Then participants to these meetings are presented with well-scripted



displays of the process of storing nuclear material in Dry Casks. According to the presentation, huge cylinders with inner cores of steel contain the radioactive isotopes. These cylinders are then dropped into larger canisters containing 27 inches of concrete, and the whole thing is capped. The Dry Casks are supposed to contain the material with no leaks for 100 years. Why are these casks left outside? Are they stabilized against earthquakes? Are there additional steps that can be taken? No answers are forthcoming and Councilmember Becker expressed concern about the stability of these casks in a few decades. Fortunately, State Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef along with local legislators and the Town Board, are all involved in working to make sure these questions get answers.

### **Councilmember Carter gave her report**

#### **OF NOTE:**

Councilmember Carter shared her wishes for a better 2021 and wished everyone a happy healthy and safe Holiday Season and New Year, and stated she would hold off on her report until next month.

### **Councilmember Creighton gave his report**

#### **NOTE:**

Councilmember Creighton shared his appreciation for the Indian Point Decommissioning Conference, and is hopeful that the voices of the smaller municipalities will be magnified through this process to federal and state officials.

Councilmember Creighton remarked how wonderful it was to see “Nurse Lindsey” get the first NY issued vaccine and shared that his mother also worked at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and that it was where he himself was born. The staff at the Westchester Medical Center began receiving their vaccines today and other local area hospitals will follow shortly. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, but our safety measures are still important until we reach herd immunity. Everyone needs to do their part. Town Hall staff is preparing to go to fifty-percent staffing levels due to the current rise in cases.

The town is looking to the future and considering new patterns that may arise in the next few years. The Croton and Cortlandt train stations are currently seeing about 20% of their former ridership and while many people will return to work eventually, there are many positions that may stay remote. These patterns and others will need to be taken into consideration as the Town Board thinks about Zoning changes, the Transit Oriented District, and what is needed to help local businesses. Luckily, the real estate market is still going strong in Cortlandt. As the liaison to The Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce, Councilman Creighton attended the 2021 New York State Business Council’s Planning Session; the session was completely geared toward promoting economic development and the necessity of weathering upcoming state budget cuts.

County Legislators Colin Smith and Catherine Borgia were successful in adding an additional five million dollars to the County’s Capital Plan, helping Cortlandt to improve our Blue Mountain Reservation County Park. In conjunction with Peekskill and a group of involved residents, ideas were formulated to improve the park for everyone.



**Councilmember Farrell gave his report**  
**OF NOTE:**

Councilmember Farrell remarked that it has been a terrible year of loss for everyone – losing loved ones, the opportunity to mourn, the opportunity to celebrate joyous occasions with loved ones, and the loss of every day connections, in the ongoing effort to keep safe. Although the vaccine rollout is encouraging, the long-term effects will last for a while. Better times are coming and people should be kind to each other and not hesitate to reach out for help.

Councilmember Farrell wished everyone a happy holiday season.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approve the Minutes for the November 2, 2020 Special Meeting, the November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting, and the November 16, 2020 Special Meeting.

Councilmember Carter made a motion to approve the above Minutes, seconded by Councilmember Becker with all voting **AYE**.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**REPORTS**

**Receive and File the following:**

For the month of October from the Purchasing Department.

For the month of November from the Office of the Aging, Purchasing Department, Receiver of Taxes, and the Town Clerk.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Receive and File the following:**

1. Memorandum from Director of DOTS in response to Gallagher Land Donation.
2. Letter sent to the NYS Public Service Commission re: Cessation Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Receive and File the following:**



1. Request from Resident of 90 Putnam Road for License Agreement for their stone mail column, located in the right-of-way.

Councilmember Becker made a motion to receive and file the above, seconded by Councilmember Creighton with all voting **AYE**.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 300-20 RE:** Adopt the Town of Cortlandt Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 301-20 RE:** Adopt the 2021 Salary Resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 302-20 RE:** Adopt a Supplemental Emergency Plan pursuant to New York State Directives.

**RESOLUTION NO. 303-20 RE:** Adopt Standard Workday Reporting Resolution 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 304-20 RE:** Appoint Triad Group LLC as Manager of Town of Cortlandt Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 305-20 RE:** Appoint Midwest Employers Casualty Company as carrier for Excess Worker's Compensation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 306-20 RE:** Reappoint George Kimmerling to the Planning Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 307-20 RE:** Reappoint Frank Franco to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**RESOLUTION NO. 308-20 RE:** Reappoint Jeffrey Boudin and Michael Fleming to the PRC Advisory Board.

Councilmember Creighton made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Farrell with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Puglisi commented how proud everyone is of the Capital Improvement Plan. Any item over fifty-thousand dollars is included. The Capital Improvement Plan is a guide for the next 5 years.

Thank you to those people who have agreed to stay on our various Boards. They attend monthly meetings and are an important part of the Town.

**RESOLUTION NO. 309-20 RE:** Authorize a Tax Certiorari Settlement with MAD Owners, LLC for property located at 465 Yorktown Road. (SBL 56.19-1-3)



**RESOLUTION NO. 310-20 RE:** Authorize a Tax Certiorari Settlement with NY Dealer Stations, LLC for property located at 3190 Albany Post Road. (SBL 43.15-3-3)

**RESOLUTION NO. 311-20 RE:** Contribute \$500. to each established food pantry in the Town of Cortlandt.

Items for DOTS:

**RESOLUTION REMOVED RE:** ~~Award TE Contract 2020.09 – Charles J. Cook Snack Bar~~

**RESOLUTION NO. 312-20 RE:** Authorize the Director of Purchasing to order concrete masonry for Charles J. Cook Snack Bar.

**RESOLUTION REMOVED RE:** ~~Authorize the Director of Purchasing to order kitchen appliances and equipment for the Charles J. Cook Snack Bar.~~

**RESOLUTION NO. 313-20 RE:** Authorize additional funds for CCWD 2020.01 – Sherwood Road Water Main.

**RESOLUTION NO. 314-20 RE:** Authorize implementation and funding for NYS PIN 8390.96 Westbrook Drive Right, Cortlandt Town Center Intersection Improvement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 315-20 RE:** Authorize DOTS to design and estimate a half basketball court to be located at the Charles J. Cook Recreation Complex.

**RESOLUTION NO. 316-20 RE:** Authorize the addition of HDR Inc. to the Town's list of Approved Consultants for Chapter 277 – Communications Towers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 317-20 RE:** Authorize DOTS to work cooperatively with NYSERDA to locate electric vehicle charging stations town wide.

Items for DES:

**RESOLUTION NO. 318-20 RE:** Authorize the Director of DES to coordinate the auction and disposal of surplus vehicles and equipment.

**RESOLUTION NO. 319-20 RE:** Authorize the purchase of two plow trucks from the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.

**RESOLUTION NO. 320-20 RE:** Authorize the Town Attorney's Office and the Human Resource Department to obtain up to two Credit Interns from Cornell University for the Spring 2021 semester.



**RESOLUTION NO. 321-20 RE:** Authorize to ~~advertise and~~ check Civil Service List for a part-time clerical employee in the Town Clerk's office to fill a vacancy, AS AMENDED.

**RESOLUTION NO. 322-20 RE:** Authorize an intermittent leave of absence for a DES employee.

Councilmember Farrell made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Carter with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Puglisi commented that the Snack Bar and associated Equipment purchases are being removed because further discussion is needed to review and consider possible alternatives. Cost effectiveness is important. But the bathhouse will be ready and the pool will be open this coming season. Whether there will be a snack bar or food trucks will be discussed in the coming weeks.

The half basketball course addition to the campus is exciting, and will no longer be combined with the tennis courts. The tennis courts are being renovated as well.

Director of DES Stephen Ferreira noted that the Village of Croton is purchasing two new plow trucks and the older ones being purchased by Cortlandt are in great shape. They have under forty thousand miles on them and will be an asset to supplement our fleet.

Councilmember Creighton commented that Cortlandt is a Certified Climate Smart Community and is working with the CAC Committee, Westchester County and staff to keep moving sustainability forward. The electric charging stations may be fully funded by grants or other mechanisms and many great locations have been proposed, including the Cortlandt Town Center, Cook Pool and others.

Councilmember Becker commented on the appropriate cycle of selling old equipment while new used trucks are being purchased and congratulated the Supervisor and Director of DES on their management.

Councilmember Becker also commented on the Westbrook Drive Funding item, and elaborated how this project has been in the works for a long, long time. An 80/20 grant will reimburse 80 percent of the funding for putting in a right-turn lane near Kohls. It will be an inconvenience for about 4 months but will result in a much improved intersection.

Supervisor Puglisi confirmed that conversations with New York State Department of Transportation regarding the Westbrook Drive Intersection began about fifteen years ago.

## **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 323-20 RE:** Authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Cablevision Lightpath Inc. for phone equipment and services.



**RESOLUTION NO. 324-20 RE:** Authorize a leave of absence for an employee in the Office of the Comptroller under FMLA.

**RESOLUTION NO. 325-20 RE:** Authorize a contract with Partners In Safety to run queries of CDL employees through the Federal Drug and Alcohol Clearing House in order to meet the new federal mandate. The contract is not to exceed \$800.

**RESOLUTION NO. 326-20 RE:** Authorize the purchase of an Open Records Request Tracking Program in the Office of the Town Clerk.

**RESOLUTION NO. 327-20 RE:** Deny Petition of Jonas Bastys Sewer Corp for a Sewer Rate Increase pending receipt and consideration of additional information.

**RESOLUTION NO. 328-20 RE:** Schedule a Public Hearing for January 12, 2021 to consider Agreements with various Fire Departments with respect to Fire Protection Services (Continental Village Fire Department, Montrose Fire Department and the Village of Croton).

Councilmember Carter made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Becker with all voting **AYE**.

Town Clerk Laroue Shatzkin elaborated that the FOIL Management program will improve the user experience for residents submitting FOIL requests and will create huge efficiencies between the Clerk's Office and the Code Department.

### **BUDGET TRANSFERS - NONE**

Comptroller Patty Robcke reminded everyone that a blanket resolution covering budget transfers was passed recently, and shared that while this year has been difficult, the Town's expenses are far below budget this year, largely due to Covid.

### **REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

### **REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Srinivasan Ramaswamy  
5 Lakeview Road

Commented that there is an outstanding FOIL request for a Business Continuity Plan and remarked on the national hack of more than eighteen thousand public and private sector businesses. The state actors





behind these hacks are sophisticated, and whether it is the Russians or the Chinese, the financial implications of a breach are quite onerous.

Town Clerk Shatzkin responded that she believed the FOIL request was fulfilled quite a while ago but that she would reach out to Mr. Ramaswamy the following day to follow up.

Councilmember Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilmember Farrell with all voting **AYE**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**January 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**[www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)**

Respectfully submitted,

Laroue Rose Shatzkin  
Town Clerk