



A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on **March 15, 2022** with the following elected officials and appointed staff in attendance:

RICHARD H. BECKER	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
CRISTIN JACOBY	Councilmember
ROBERT MAYES	Councilmember
JAMES CREIGHTON	Councilmember

Also present:

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

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS

Supervisor Becker commented on the war in Ukraine, and what a pleasure it is to hold an open meeting and speak freely without fear of retribution.

The Town will be scheduling a public hearing on the Medical Oriented District (MOD). The Town has received the Final Environmental Impact Statement which are comments relating to the proposal. That meeting will be devoted exclusively to MOD, and it is taking place on May 2, 2022. The public is invited to hear presentations from developers and take the opportunity to comment their support or opposition.

Tonight the Board will be authorizing the Department of Technical Services to obtain bids for sewers along Lafayette/202. Those are the two big business issues for tonight.

Those who come to Town Hall will notice a big change in appearance. Supervisor Becker shared that it is his desire to modernize Town Hall to reflect our more modern Town. Many of the artifacts in the hallways represented the past. They have been photographed and either returned to their owners or placed into storage. It has been 20 years since Town Hall was painted or carpeted. Town Hall will become a rotating art gallery for local artists, both in the meeting room as well as the hallways. The art of local children will also be displayed on a rotating basis, from elementary through high school.

Increasing communication with residents can be challenging in a Town with 50 square miles and 20 diverse communities. Supervisor Becker and the Town Board have employed a company to assist in getting the word out about Town events, and hired a spokesperson, Casey Morabito, also known as the Voice of the Hudson Valley. She will be on our website and various social media pages informing residents of what is going on in the Town. Please go on the website and sign up for Voyent Alert. It is an emergency notification system available to Town residents. In addition, the Town has been sending out a Supervisor's newsletter – feedback is overwhelmingly positive. All social media as well as the website is being updated.

The military banners honoring veterans along Rt. 9 has a new batch of banners going up soon. The program has been expanded into Verplanck. Anyone wanting to honor a veteran can call the Supervisor's office, or it can be done directly on the website.

ROLL CALL

Christine B. Cothren, Deputy Town Clerk took roll call, and all Town Board members were present.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilperson Cristin Jacoby gave her report

OF NOTE:

Councilperson Jacoby shared that it has been a busy month, catching up on items like MOD, there have been many conversations with residents, staff, and a tour of the Town from the perspective of George Oros, the Economic Development Consultant. As liaison to the Tax Office, Councilperson Jacoby has been meeting with Receiver Debra Carter on the intricacies of the office. Finally, there was a presentation this month by Sustainable Westchester, they will be back later this month to answer the many questions asked by the Board.

Supervisor Becker added that the huge Con Ed bills rate of increase has been dramatic, and that Sustainable Westchester has a program for residents that has the advantage of level billing over a long period of time. It is available in both general energy and clean energy formats. Cortlandt has always been reluctant to join because it is an "all in" program. If the Town Board approves this, it will affect every resident. Times are changing, and the unpredictability of Con Ed's current billing practices makes

this kind of a predictable program more appealing. No decisions have been made, and information is still being gathered. Sometime in May or June, representatives from Sustainable Westchester will come back to speak to us.

Councilperson James Creighton gave his report

OF NOTE:

Councilperson Creighton discussed that a delegation of Town Officials is often sent around this time of year to the Association of Towns meetings, to speak to subject experts on a range of issues that Towns deal with. Unfortunately, the last two years have been all through Zoom, but the program has remained robust. The event provides a sense of where the State is on various issues, and the event is an excellent opportunity to learn about a number of subjects including grants, accessory dwellings, civil service, and others. Towns get together to lobby the state on issues that are important to us. This year, a lot of the funding sources were fully funded in the initial state budget, which was promising. There are 932 Towns in the state.

Home Rule is the ability of local officials to make decisions, and it is very important for Towns to talk to members of their community and craft policies that work for our neighborhoods. Councilperson Creighton is working to become a Certified Town Official – a designation that has a comprehensive set of education requirements. The Association of Towns event allows officials to bring back new, fresh, innovative ideas to the Town of Cortlandt.

Councilperson Frank Farrell gave his report

OF NOTE:

Councilperson Farrell remarked on Councilperson Creighton's report, and shared his awe at the lumbering bureaucracy in New York State, when one considers not only 932 towns, but villages, cities and school districts as well. The Association of Towns can be described as a trade show for local officials, and going in person has always been the highlight. The most useful part is meeting officials from other Towns – we are all working on similar problems, and sharing ideas is helpful.

Daylight savings is very nice – people are out and about more. As with every Spring, the Town is beginning preparations to fix the roads. The parks department is working to get the fields and parks ready; there are already invitations for Little League opening days going out – something we all look forward to. Supervisor Becker has been working with the Little Leagues for the last year to improve their facilities. Staff is getting the pool ready for another season – we are all looking forward to the Spring and Summer.

Councilperson Farrell closed with thoughts for the suffering people of Ukraine.

Supervisor Becker commented that the field behind Town Hall is receiving several truckloads of clay and will be graded and seeded. At Letteri Field, new dugouts are being installed to protect kids from foul balls. Lots of nice things happening in the fields.

Supervisor Becker further commented that he agreed with Councilperson Farrell on how nice it is to collaborate with other towns and that there has been a developing relationship with East Fishkill, and there is an ongoing sharing of ideas.

Councilperson Robert Mayes gave his report
OF NOTE:

Councilperson Robert Mayes shared that it has been a whirlwind month of learning and getting his feed wet as he comes up to speed. Councilperson Mayes thanked the Supervisor, his administration, and the Town Board Members for their welcome and willingness to help. The Town Administration has been very welcoming, and the style of leadership says a lot. It has been great to have a partner in learning the ropes with Councilperson Jacoby.

It has been a joy to engage in liaison duties with the departments, and the highlight of the past month was the economic development tour. George Oros is a long time community member and it is eye opening to see the many different opportunities -the art center in Verplanck, the Verplanck Quarry were two highlights.

The Association of Towns was wonderful. No one has a monopoly on good ideas.

Councilman Mayes plans to attend as many Little League games as possible, but will be trading his suit and tie for a coach's uniform.

Supervisor Becker commented how much he prefers to have a Councilperson with him when he meets with residents or other agencies, so that it is not only him reporting back. At the Department Head Meeting this month, Councilperson Farrell attended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Michelle Croft – 80 Gallows Hill

Ms. Croft asked about the purchase of outdoor umbrellas at Charles Cook Pool for a price not to exceed \$30,000.

Supervisor Becker shared that the requests of many residents for shade necessitates the purchase. These are large, industrial umbrellas that shade several families and they will be semi-permanently installed for safety, and meets all the requirements for municipalities.

Chris Vargo – Hardy Street

Mr. Vargo asked about lighting at the Sea Plane Hangar.

Supervisor Becker shared that lighting will be improved, but that it was actually larger electrical box being installed.

Mr. Vargo asked about Letteri field and the dugouts being installed and the effects of an upcoming rehab.

Supervisor Becker explained that the dugouts are semi-permanent and use aluminum framing and some sheet metal. They can be moved as the field is redesigned. The funding for that was actually allocated last year.

Warren Smith – 203 9th Street

Mr. Smith asked about the summer camp bussing.

Supervisor Becker explained that 2 or 3 years ago we used to provide bussing from home to the pool and back again. Due to COVID, the Town stopped bussing for two seasons. We discovered that parents were able to manage the drop off and pick up. Since then, the cost of bussing has risen astronomically. We do provide bussing for students who go directly from camp to the Youth Center, and for the 5th and 6th graders who take trips from the camp. People from our recreation department actually felt that this was a safer way to manage children's pick up and drop off.

REPORTS

Receive and File the following:

For the month of February 2022 from the Recreation Department.

For the month of February 2022 from the Office of the Aging, Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

2021 DOTS Year End Report (Code/Zoning/Planning)

OLD BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 106-22 RE: DOTS response to referral regarding sewer rate increase, Jonas Bastys. Inc. and authorize Dir. DOTS to obtain an engineering consultant to perform a full independent review of sewer facility.

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the following:

1. Letter from Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct requesting parking restrictions to be lifted on May 7, 2022 (rain date May 8, 2022.)
2. Letter from Bruce Bumstead regarding wetlands, and refer to Legal, DOTS, CAC, Open Space, and Planning.

Councilperson Jacoby made a motion to receive and file the above, seconded by Councilperson Mayes with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Becker commented on the sewer district around the Amberlands, which has not had a sewer rate increase since the 1990s. The owner wants to raise the rates and the treatment plant needs repair. Our concern is that the residents will have such a huge rate increase. We are analyzing the requirements and costs so residents are not overwhelmed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 107-22 RE: Renew Town Insurance Liability Policies.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-22 RE: Authorize Bond Release (Performance Bond No. 39BSBGG1370) with respect to the property known as Valeria.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-22 RE: Authorize busing for Town Summer Travel Camp only.

RESOLUTION NO. 110-22 RE: Authorize the purchase of 4 outdoor umbrellas for the Charles J. Cook Pool.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-22 RE: Authorize consultant services for structural evaluation of BIN 2262420, Highland Dr.

RESOLUTION NO. 112-22 RE: Authorize DOTS to obtain bids for TE Contract 2022.01 Furnace Woods Sewer Dist. infrastructure construction.

RESOLUTION NO. 113-22 RE: Approve electrical upgrades and field orders for Contract TE 2020.04 Cortlandt Waterfront Sea Plane Hanger.

RESOLUTION NO. 114-22 RE: Approve Construction Inspector for Contract CCWD 2017.01 Croton Ave. Water Main Replacement.

RESOLUTION NO. 115-22 RE: Authorize transfer of scrap and surplus material.

RESOLUTION NO. 116-22 RE: Appoint two (2) seasonal employees in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 117-22 RE: Authorize the temporary closure of Laurie Road on June 25, 2022 (rain date June 2, 2022) for a community block party.

RESOLUTION NO. 118-22 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing on the FEIS for the proposed MOD. (AS AMENDED)

Councilperson Mayes made a motion to adopt the above, seconded by Councilperson Creighton with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Becker commented on the miraculously small increase in the Town's liability policy.

Croton Avenue Water Main Replacement is one sentence that has taken up years of the Supervisor's life. There is a big water tower at the top of the road, and there is a two phase project to update the infrastructure and repave the road.

The proposed MOD Public Hearing will be May 2nd at 7 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 119-22 RE: Authorize the payment for dugouts to be located at Letteri Field

RESOLUTION NO. 120-22 RE: Authorize Director of DOTS to obtain bids for the installation of a synthetic ice rink.

RESOLUTION NO. 121-22 RE: Authorize permit parking along the west side of Quaker Bridge Road on May 7, 2022 (Rain Date May 8, 2022)

RESOLUTION NO. 122-22 RE: Reschedule Town Board Voting Meeting from April 12, 2022 7:00 PM to April 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM

RESOLUTION NO. 123-22 RE: Appoint LaBella PC as Planning Board Engineering Consultant.

Councilperson Jacoby made a motion to adopt the above, seconded by Councilperson Mayes with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Becker commented that the team went out to see an in-use synthetic ice rink, and grant money has been obtained to help pay for the cost. An outside independent engineer is being hired to consult with the planning board, which will free up our own Engineering Department for more in-house work.

Councilperson Farrell expressed concern that the scheduling of the Public Hearing for MOD had been missed and the motion was redone.

Councilperson Farrell made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing for MOD (RESOLUTION 118-22), seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting **AYE**.

Several Councilpersons expressed concern that the last two additions had not been voted on.

Councilperson Jacoby made a motion to adopt the final resolutions (RESOLUTIONS 122-22 and 123-22), seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting **AYE**.

Councilperson Mayes remarked that the Dugouts at Letteri Field had been commented on several times and that they were really needed to protect from foul and other fly balls. The little leagues have specifically asked for these dugouts and they are very grateful for the funding. There is a lot of inter-league play, and will benefit the greater community at large.

BUDGET TRANSFERS – NONE

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

Michelle Croft – 80 Gallows Hill

Ms. Croft took photographs of trees overhanging Gallows Hill Road and wants to know if they can be trimmed.

The Supervisor had Ms. Croft provide the photographs to the Director of DES. Councilman Farrell and Director of DES Stephen Ferreira clarified that the Town cannot trim those trees and is not responsible for their trimming, but that a request to Con Edison would be facilitated.

Warren Smith – 203 9th Street

Mr. Smith, on behalf of the Verplanck Resident's Association shared that there is a problem of people doing donuts in their car at the Boat Landing Parking Lot.

Councilperson Farrell shared his frustration. Supervisor Becker stated that the new Community Resource Officer would be notified

Peter Mooney – 19 3rd Street.

Mr. Mooney is the President of the Cortlandt Panthers Youth Football Program and an assistant coach at Panas; he is looking to build a shed at Panas Highschool and is seeking guidance and financial assistance for a permanent shed as he is currently paying \$184/month for storage.

Supervisor Becker advised that Mr. Mooney should share his information with the Clerk and that he would be happy to meet with him.

ADJOURNMENT 7:56 PM

The meeting was adjourned in memory of all those who lost lives in Ukraine.

Councilperson Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Creighton with all voting AYE.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Town Hall Web Site address: www.townofcortlandt.com

Respectfully submitted,

Laroue Rose Shatzkin
Town Clerk