



A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on **April 18, 2023** 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
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
STEPHEN FERREIRA	Director, DES
CHRIS KEHOE	Director, Planning
JOE BASSELL	Junior Network Specialist

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS

Supervisor Becker spoke about the following activities:

Rally to Save the River on Saturday, 5/6/23, 2:00 P.M.

Opening day of Cortlandt National/American Little Leagues, 4/15/23.

Supervisor Becker spoke about the following agenda items:

Cortlandt Waterfront Park Performance Stage.

Town Wide Paving

IMA Sewer agreement with the Village of Buchanan.

The Walter Panas High School Varsity Girls Basketball team was honored, and given certificates by Supervisor Becker, and the Town Board for their great achievement of winning the Class A. Basketball championship.

David Douglas former chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals was presented a proclamation from Supervisor Becker, and the Town Board for all of his hard work as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Open Space Committee. Supervisor Becker wished him well in his new position on the Planning Board.

ROLL CALL

Laroue Rose Shatzkin, Town Clerk took roll call, and all Town Board members were present.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilperson Robert Mayes gave his report OF NOTE:

Councilperson Mayes spoke about the following activities and agenda items:

- Earth Day hike on 4/15/2023.
- Cortlandt National/American Little League opening day ceremonies.
- Rally for the River on 5/6/23 at 2:00 P.M.
- IMA Village of Buchanan Sewer Services.
- Cortlandt Waterfront Performing Stage/Amphitheatre
- Public Hearing for tax exemptions for veterans, and first responders.

Councilperson Cristin Jacoby gave her report OF NOTE:

Councilperson Jacoby stated that she wanted to make people aware to be careful driving this time of year with more children out, and school buses.

Councilperson James Creighton gave his report OF NOTE:

Councilperson Creighton spoke about the following items:

- Walter Panas High School Varsity Girls' Basketball championship achievement.
- Cortlandt American/National Little League opening day.
- Update on Holtec/Cortlandt Rally for the river on 5/6/23
- IMA Village of Buchanan Sewer Services
- Cortlandt Waterfront Park Performance Stage/Amphitheatre
- Public Hearing for tax exemptions for veterans, and first responders.
- I LOVE my Parks Day, 5/6/2023

Con Edison grid rewards program.

**Councilperson Francis Farrell gave his report
OF NOTE:**

Councilperson Farrell spoke about the following items:

Montrose Matters annual Spring clean up along Rte. 9A 4/22/23

Cortlandt rally for the river 5/6/23

Announced summer job openings in Recreation, i.e. Camp, Lifeguards.

Councilman Farrell wanted to thank the former owner of the Danish Home in Croton that was a non-profit care facility for aging people. Upon the sale of the property, Eric Anderson, President of Danish Home donated \$900,00 to the Town of Cortlandt for Senior programs and services in the Town. He wanted to thank him on behalf of the Town of Cortlandt.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approve the Minutes for the March 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:49 P.M.

Public Hearing to Consider State-updated Tax Exemption Limits.

- a. Close Public Hearing

RESOLUTION NO. 134-23 RE: Adopt Negative Declaration

RESOLUTION NO. 135-23 RE: Adopt Resolution for Cold War Veterans and Volunteer Firematic and Emergency Medical Personnel

- b. Adjourn to May for Senior Exemptions

Councilperson Jacoby made a motion to Close the Public Hearing, adopt a Negative Declaration, and adopt the Resolution, and adjourn to May for the Senior Exemptions, seconded by Councilperson Creighton with all voting **AYE**.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:50 P.M.

HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Theresa Guichardo-Perry appeared before the Board. She spoke her tax increase for a sewer that she does not have.

Tom Wood explained that the County of Westchester approved her request to be added to the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District. She was therefore added to the County Warrant for collection. The Town is a mere collecting agency on behalf of the County of Westchester. The County can refund the money if they so decide. The Resolution on the Town Board agenda is to remove the parcel from the sewer district.

Bernard Vaughey spoke about how he agrees on being educated with the radioactive releases regarding tritium, difficult to find information that is easy to understand regarding this issue.

John DeBenedictis spoke about his personal experience regarding Agent Orange during his military service and the similarities between that and the information that Holtec is trying to say that there is no harm in the amount of tritium that they are proposing to dump in the Hudson River.

Warren Smith spoke about Indian Point releasing radioactive water in the river for the last 60 years, which is something he recently learned from Riverkeeper. He questioned the board as to what the plan is going to be moving forward.

Supervisor Becker announced that there are two very important meetings coming up regarding the decommissioning of the nuclear plant by Holtec, and all are welcome to participate.

REPORTS

Receive and File the following:

For the month of February 2023 from the Recreation Department.

For the month of March 2023 from the Office of the Aging, Purchasing Department, Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the following:

1. Letter from Resident requesting annual closure of Laurie Road for Block Party. (See Resolutions #8)
2. Request from owner of 41 Edgewood Road to be removed from the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District and DOTS memorandum regarding same. (See Resolutions #9b)
3. Letter from Resident expressing interest in purchasing Town owned lot at 49 Ruth Road; Refer to Legal.
4. Letter from Resident expressing interest in purchasing 29 Gabriel Drive; Refer to Legal.
5. Letter from Property and Business owner requesting 2 hour parking at 126 Broadway in Verpanck; Refer to Legal and DES.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 136-23 RE: Authorize Supervisor to execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Village of Buchanan for Sewer Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 137-23 RE: Support NYS Bills S5181/A5338 making it unlawful to discharge radiological agents into the Hudson River and all other waters of the State of New York.

RESOLUTION NO. 138-23 RE: Adopt Negative Declaration for the Cortlandt Waterfront Park Performance Stage and Playground.

RESOLUTION NO. 139-23 RE: Authorize Bond Resolution for improvement to the Cortlandt Waterfront Park in Verplanck in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000., subject to Permissive Referendum.

RESOLUTION NO. 140-23 RE: Authorize the Conveyance of 0 Furnace Dock Road (SBL 67.6-2-10) to adjoining property owner, subject to Permissive Referendum.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 141-23 RE: Reappoint George Oros as an Economic Development Consultant for the term of one year.

RESOLUTION NO. 142-23 RE: Reappoint current members to the Quarry Park Planning Committee and Appoint Linda Imperato as a member.

RESOLUTION NO. 143-23 RE: Purchase a new transport vehicle from grant proceeds for Senior Programming.

RESOLUTION NO. 144-23 RE: Authorize the use of the Town Stage by the Mount Carmel Society for the Feast from July 12-16.

RESOLUTION NO. 145-23 RE: Authorize Second Annual Road Knights Car Show and Drive-in Movie Night during the weekend of September 16, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 146-23 RE: Authorize Closure of Laurie Road on June 24, 2023 with a rain date of June 25, 2023 for Annual Block Party.

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

Agenda Items for DOTS:

RESOLUTION NO. 147-23 RE: Adopt 2023 Paving List and authorize DOTS to Bid TE Contract 2023.02 – Town Wide Paving.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-23 RE: Adopt Resolution to remove 41 Edgewood Road from the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District and authorize Town Clerk to refer to Westchester County.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-23 RE: Authorize Purchase of Performance Stage for Cortlandt Waterfront Park from Poligon, Porter Corp.

Agenda Items for DES:

RESOLUTION NO. 150-23 RE: Authorize the Town of Cortlandt to Share in the Westchester County Purchasing Contract as it relates to updating electric charging stations in Cortlandt.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-23 RE: Authorize purchase of new Filter Media for the Cook Pool Facility.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-23 RE: Authorize installation of new chain link fence and make necessary fence repairs at Town Facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 153-23 RE: Authorize Water Meter Reading Software and Commercial Hardware Upgrades.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 154-23 RE: Authorize a Leave of Absence in the Department of the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 155-23 RE: Authorize a Temporary Employee in the Department of the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 156-23 RE: Authorize a Salary Correction for Maria Pereira in the Justice Court.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-23 RE: Authorize a Salary Correction for Fred Pardee in Parks.

RESOLUTION NO. 158-23 RE: Authorize a Salary Increase for Dan Bizzoco in the Office of the Assessor.

RESOLUTION NO. 159-23 RE: Authorize a change in hours for Marykim Cessarini in Code Enforcement – DOTS.

RESOLUTION NO. 160-23 RE: Appoint a Superintendent of Recreation.

RESOLUTION NO. 161-23 RE: Appoint Stephen Hunt to the Title of Animal Warden/Parking Enforcement Officer from the Civil Service List.

RESOLUTION NO. 162-23 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for May 16, 2023 regarding Assessment Grievance Procedure.

RESOLUTION NO. 163-23 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for June 13, 2023 for Proposed Zoning Text Amendments Related to the Existing R-80 Moratorium.

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

Supervisor Becker congratulated Ken Sherman on his promotion to the Superintendent of Recreation. Ken will be replacing John Palmiotto who retired from the position this month after 36 years of service. Supervisor Becker also congratulated Lesley Popkin on her promotion Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, and Stephen Hunt on his appointment to Animal Warden/Parking Enforcement Officer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 164-23 RE: Authorize contracts with respect to Towing and Flatbed Services for the 2022-2023 Season.

RESOLUTION NO. 165-23 RE: Appoint Leslie Popkin as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation

RESOLUTION NO. 166-23 RE: Appoint a Seasonal Employee in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 167-23 RE: Appoint a Recreation Attendant at the Youth Center.

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

BUDGET TRANSFERS – NONE

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

Warren Smith appeared before the Board. He requested that the Board release updated information in an upcoming newsletter regarding Holtec and the NRC report in the weekly newsletter. He also questioned cost of the Rally on the river event.

Ryan Mulcahy appeared before the Board. He spoke about the situation at Indian Point . and questioned – How much longer will the water be on site? Is this the final dump from Indian Point? If this has been going on for 60 years and the river is the cleanest it's ever been, what is the harm in doing it one last time?

He stated that ignorance is no excuse. It is the government's job to protect its' citizens.

Bernie Vaughey appeared before the Board. He wanted an update on the dusting issue coming from the Lafarge plant in Verplanck.

John DeBenedictis appeared before the board. He questioned what is the life of these known agents that Holtec is proposing to dump in the Hudson River. He thought it was about 12.5 years for tritium.

ADJOURNMENT

The April meeting closed in memory of John Vargo a long time resident of Verplanck, who was well know for his love of the Hudson River. John was an avid boater, fisherman, write/author, and inventor with several patents.

The meeting was also closed in memory of former Town Supervisor Jack Gaffney. Jack served in the air force, had a BA in economics, and served as a Town Board member for 12 years beginning in 1976, and then became Town Supervisor for 2 years. After retiring from the Town, Jack served on several high level positions for Governor George Pataki's administration. He was also known for his love of physical fitness.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Town Hall Web Site address: www.townofcortlandt.com

Respectfully submitted,

Laroue Rose Shatzkin
Town Clerk

Christine B. Cothren
Deputy Town Clerk