



A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on **October 24, 2023** with the following elected officials and appointed staff in attendance:

<b>RICHARD H. BECKER</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
<b>FRANCIS X. FARRELL</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>CRISTIN JACOBY</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>ROBERT MAYES</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>JAMES CREIGHTON</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>

**Also present:**

<b>TOM WOOD</b>	<b>Town Attorney</b>
<b>MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM</b>	<b>Assistant Town Attorney</b>
<b>LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN</b>	<b>Town Clerk</b>
<b>CHRISTINE B. COTHREN</b>	<b>Deputy Town Clerk - ABSENT</b>
<b>PATRICIA ROBCKE</b>	<b>Comptroller</b>
<b>MICHAEL PREZIOSI</b>	<b>Director, DOTS</b>
<b>CLAUDIA VAHEY</b>	<b>Human Resources Coordinator</b>
<b>STEPHEN FERREIRA</b>	<b>Director, DES</b>
<b>JOE BASSELL</b>	<b>Junior Network Specialist</b>
<b>TINA TOBAK</b>	<b>Senior Office Assistant</b>

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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 :

- Cortlandt SWAP held on 9/16/2023
- NWJWW Building dedication and renaming in honor of Raymond Reber
- 5K Race, Halloween Dog Parade, HobGoblin Costume Parade, Cortlandt Family Fun Day All to be held on 10/28/2023
- Aaron Koplring 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held on 10/14/23
- Hudson Valley Antique Motorcycle Show held on 10/15/23

1<sup>st</sup> Responders Golf Outing held on 10/16/23  
Ribbon Cutting Pickleball Courts, Memorial Drive, held on 10/19/23

## **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:

Cortlandt SWAP held on 9/16/23  
Pickleball Court Ribbon Cutting, Memorial Drive, held on 10/19/23  
Veteran's Day Ceremony 11/10/23 at Muriel H. Morabito Center

### **Councilperson Cristin Jacoby gave her report** **OF NOTE:**

Councilperson Jacoby spoke about the following:

Veteran's Day Ceremony and Youth Essay Contest for Veteran's Day

Town Board hosting local school Superintendents at the next Town Board Work Session on 11/6/23 to develop useful ways for the Town and schools to connect and have more interaction.

Croton Arboretum, and its' beautiful grounds. Recently hosted Fall Tree ID walk .

Importance of COVID 19 booster and Flu shots.

Importance to be patient, kind, and caring toward one another especially in light of the unfortunate circumstances in other area of the world.

### **Councilperson James Creighton gave his report** **OF NOTE:**

Councilperson Creighton spoke about the following:

Federally required water line testing and meter upgrade project.

Honoring of Raymond Reber, and his dedication to NWJWW and his leadership in its' formation.

Congratulations to Steve Ferreira, Dir DES on his award of Person of the Year by WACAMPA.

Election day 11/7/23, Early Voting begins 10/28/23, and the importance of voting.

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

Councilperson Farrell spoke about the following:

Pickleball Court grand opening, and the popularity of the sport.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approve the Minutes for the September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Chris Vargo, Town of Cortlandt resident appeared before the Board. Mr. Vargo spoke about the following items:

DOTS Agenda item 5a. Supplemental Agreement for Phase II ESA of Cortlandt Quarry Park, questioned if any of this had to do with water quality in the Quarry.

DOTS Agenda item 5f. Authorize Emergency Service Work for the Dickerson Pond Sewer District, questioned the Town's ownership and maintenance thereof., and whether some of the grant money from the NYS Environmental Bond Act could be used for the project.

DES Agenda item 4a. Authorized Director DES to go out to Bid for Service Line inspections and water meter upgrades, questioned as to whether the grant money from NYS Environmental Bond Act could be used for this project.

**REPORTS**

**Receive and File the following:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Receive and File the following:**

1. Request from Westchester County Police to conduct live fire training at the Quarry on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Receive and File the following:**

1. Mobile Stage Rental Agreement as developed by the Town of Cortlandt Recreation Department.
2. Petition from Residents of Edgewood Road, Crestview Ave, and Cross Lane for Solar Street Lamps to be installed on Telephone Poles in their neighborhood; refer to DOTS, DES and Comptroller.
3. Letter from the Continental Village Park District Joint Advisory Committee requesting the appointment a new member and re-appointment of existing members.  
(See Resolution 2)

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 293-23 RE:** Adopt Town Board Meeting Schedule for 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 294-23 RE:** Appoint all members of the Continental Village Parks District Joint Advisory Committee, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 295-23 RE:** Authorize Road Closure for Laurie Road in Cortlandt Manor on October 28, 2023 (rain date October 29, 2023) for semi-annual Community Block Party.

Agenda items for DES:

**RESOLUTION NO. 296-23 RE:** Authorize the Director of DES to go out to Bid for Service Line Inspections and Meter Upgrades.

**RESOLUTION NO. 297-23 RE:** Authorize the purchase of HVAC Systems for Roa Hook and Paramedic Facilities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 298-23 RE:** Authorize DES to retain Site Design Consultant for Drainage near Croton Avenue.

**RESOLUTION NO. 299-23 RE:** Authorize Extension of Bid 22-23 for Snow and Ice Removal.

**RESOLUTION NO. 300-23 RE:** Authorize Extension of Bid 22-24 for Uniforms.

**RESOLUTION NO. 301-23 RE:** Authorize Extension of RFP 22-06 for Generators and Fire Pumps.

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

Agenda items for DOTS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 302-23 RE:** Authorize Supplemental Agreement for Phase II ESA of Cortlandt Quarry Park

**RESOLUTION NO. 303-23 RE:** Authorize DOTS to Design and Bid Improvements to Various Recreational Amenities (skating, pickle ball, basketball) at the Muriel H. Morabito Community Center.

**RESOLUTION NO. 304-23 RE:** Authorize Video and Clean-out of Baker Street Drainage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 305-23 RE:** Authorize Exploratory Test Pits for Root Street Water Main Replacement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 306-23 RE:** Approve Emergency Service Work for the Dickerson Pond Sewer District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 307-23 RE:** Authorize Recovery Plant Upgrades for the Dickerson Pond Sewer District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 308-23 RE:** Authorize DOTS to Prepare Proposals to Evaluate and Treat “Spy Pond”.

**RESOLUTION NO. 309-23 RE:** Appoint Fred Bleakley to the title of Water and Sewer Foreman in DES Water Division.

**RESOLUTION NO. 310-23 RE:** Appoint Kenneth Celli to the title of Assistant Water and Sewer Foreman in DES Water Division.

**RESOLUTION NO. 311-23 RE:** Authorize Seasonal Employees in DES.

**RESOLUTION NO. 312-23 RE:** Authorize to extend a Leave of Absence for an employee in the Office of the Town Clerk.

**RESOLUTION NO. 313-23 RE:** Schedule a Public Hearing for November 14, 2023 to consider an Increase and Improvement of the Facilities of the Cortlandt Consolidated Water District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 314-23 RE:** Schedule a Public Hearing for November 14, 2023 to consider an Increase and Improvement of the Facilities of the Dickerson Pond Sewer District.

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

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Receive and File the following:**

1. Letter from Resident of Meadow Sweet Road requesting Deaf Child Area signage; Direct DES to install such signage.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 315-23 RE:** Authorize DOTS to prepare specifications and obtain proposals to demolish 78 Locust Ave.

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

### **BUDGET TRANSFERS- NONE**

## **REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS**

John DeBenedictis, Town of Cortlandt resident appeared before the Board. He spoke about the following:

Watch Hill Rd. and Old Albany Post Rd. in disrepair since Con Ed dug up the road for Gas line.

Mr. Christopher Vargo, Town of Cortlandt resident appeared before the Board again. He spoke about the following:

Government transparency in reference to the Quarry Committee meetings that are usually filmed for the public to view, and questioned as to why they have not been filmed the last 2 meetings.

Cortlandt Waterfront Park cost renovation update, specific drawings/plans and the lack thereof being accessible to Town residents.

Supervisor Becker, and Michael Preziosi, Dir. DOTS made comment that the information is available on the Town website and can also be requested through FOIL on Open Gov.com. Mr. Preziosi, Dir. DOTS assured Mr. Vargo that he was available to show him drawings etc. in the Engineering office during regular business hours.

Thomas Wood, Town Attorney further explained the complications of posting all of this information online, and copyright protection.

Laroue Shatzkin, Town Clerk, explained to Mr. Vargo about easier access to Town Board Resolutions through a new “clickable agenda” that she recently developed.

Mr. Bernard Vaughey, Town of Cortlandt resident appeared before the Board. He spoke about the following:

Quarry Meeting video.  
Cortlandt Waterfront Park plans etc. made available by the Engineering Dept.

Donna Richardson, Town of Cortlandt resident appeared before the Board. Ms. Richardson spoke about the following:

Water damage on her property, and her neighbor's property due to a neighbor performing work without a proper Permit from the Town.

Mr. Thomas Wood, Town Attorney explained to Ms. Richardson the process to rectify a situation when the homeowner decides to make changes to their property without the necessary permits. He further explained the issuance of Stop Work Order, Justice Court Summons, and Fines to be deemed upon them. The situation is going through due process, and the Town will do whatever they can to address this situation.

Mr. Charles White, Town of Cortlandt resident echoed his neighbor Donna's Richardson's concerns.

Mr. Warren Smith appeared before the Board. He spoke about the following items :

Stop work order being issued for the work on Madalyn Ave.

Sewer line proposed for Broadway, Verplanck, and questioned if the residents along that Corridor will have access to tap into the sewer line.

Mr. Thomas Wood, Town Attorney explained that it depended on whether the sewer line was going to be a pressure, pump, or gravity sewer line, which has yet to be determined.

The next item Mr. Smith spoke about was his dismay with the answer, or lack thereof that he received from his FOIL request relating to the Rally on the Hudson, and its' cost to the Town of Cortlandt. He believes the rally was for nothing more than political reasons.

Supervisor Becker and Thomas Wood, Town Attorney further explained the facts in regard to this request. Supervisor Becker denied that the Rally on the Hudson was anything to do with political reasons, and remained confident that it was to prevent radioactive dumping into the Hudson River by Holtec.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

### **NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**November 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm**  
**Town Hall Web Site address: [www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)**



**Respectfully submitted,**

**Laroue Rose Shatzkin**  
Town Clerk

**Christine B. Cothren**  
Deputy Town Clerk