

August 14, 2012

Town Board Meeting

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on August 14, 2012 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	
ANN LINDAU	Councilmember	ABSENT
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember	
JOHN E. SLOAN	Councilmember	

Also present:

JO-ANN DYCKMAN	Town Clerk
EDWARD VERGANO	DOTS, Director
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
JUDITH HERMESCH	Clerk
ROSEMARY B. LASHER	DOTS/Asst. to Director
JEFFREY COLEMAN	Director, DES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Supervisor Puglisi called the meeting to order at 7:30 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

Leslie Bornstein, Recreation Supervisor, spoke about the 7th Annual Cortlandt Family Fun Day that will be held on September 8th, 2012 which has been a huge success for the community. She stated that last year there had been over 1600 participants and they are expecting a good turnout again. There will be free rides, food and there will be games for a nominal fee. This year the Fire and Police personnel will be there and that the Town is still looking for volunteers. She invited everyone to attend.

Supervisor Puglisi said that in July the Town dedicated the Veteran's Memorial Park which is located along the Hudson River in Verplanck. She said that it was a time for us to reflect about all the men and women who have sacrificed over the many years.

The amount of \$1000 was awarded from Cornell Local Roads for various highway items. **Jeff Coleman**, Director of DES stated that it was a Highway Safety Package that the Town was fortunate enough to win which will supplement the safety equipment the Town already has. The **Supervisor** added that this money will be put to good use in our Town.

The Town is dedicating the newly constructed Aviation Theme Playground and picnic area on Town owned land at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park on the Hudson River on August 23rd. **Supervisor Puglisi** explained that this is land that was transferred in a life estate to the Town of Cortlandt by the late Jim Martin.

Supervisor Puglisi invited the residents to "like" the Town on their new Facebook page to receive Town information quicker.

There will be two family oriented outdoor movies planned for this summer with the co-hosts Cortlandt Engine company in Montrose on their fairgrounds. The **Supervisor** thanked the members of the Engine Company for their cooperation and urged residents to attend this fun family event.

The Town's green team committee is presenting a second Green Fair on September 22nd at the Westbrook Dive Community Center from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. There will also be a community swap event and a furniture drive. More information is on the Town's website.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS, (cont.)

The **Supervisor** reminded the residents that if they own a business or involved in an organization, a Town corner can be adopted and maintained and the business name will be displayed with a plaque.

The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association will be hosting a large county parade of about 30 fire districts. This is held annually and this year will be in the Town of Cortlandt on Saturday, September 15th at 2:00 p.m. This will take place on Rt. 6 and there will be a road closure on Westbrook Drive for two hours.

Supervisor Puglisi discussed the plan of Walmart to build a Super Walmart across Rt. 6, a plan the **Supervisor** felt was too big for the area and would add more traffic to the Rt. 6 corridor and would need to be rezoned. This has been in the discussion phase for 3-5 years. The owners of The Cortlandt Town Center, Arcadia, now bought this property across the street. Walmart will stay where it is and the Town now has a partner in the community who will now work with the Town and not have something too large for the community. It is a mix of commercial and residential zoning. The **Supervisor** would like to have a trolley to transport the residents for less traffic on the road.

The former Circuit City building which has been vacant due to bankruptcy has been sold to Big Lots who will start renovation on the interior. It is planned to open at the end of this year or beginning of next year. The **Supervisor** stated that this will bring 60 to 80 new jobs to the area.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that the Town's goal is to improve the quality of life for our residents. If there are any issues or questions, the **Supervisor** can be always reached via email, come to a board meeting, or call her or the Department Heads and they will do their best to try to help them.

ROLL CALL

On a roll call attendance taken by Town Clerk Dyckman all Town Board members indicated their presence with the absence of Councilmember Lindau.

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TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilmember Farrell: Urged residents to go to the Veteran's Memorial Park to see what a terrific job was accomplished. **Councilmember Farrell** noted that the scenic beauty and the simplicity of the monument really lends itself to quiet contemplation and makes a wonderful addition to the park as a whole stating that the pieces are really starting to come together. He spoke of the possibility of forming a crew or a rowing program and what a wonderful thing it would be if the next Olympians got their start in the Hudson Valley. There are two large former aircraft hangers at the park which **Councilmember Farrell** feels would be ideally suited to the storage of rowing equipment. He urged anyone who is interested in starting a program who has had experience in crew to contact him.

Supervisor Puglisi added that there is a video regarding this and **Councilmember Farrell** stated that he gives credit to the Town videographer, Allan George, who put together the piece to make it more coherent. **Councilmember Farrell** went on to say that this sport requires tremendous strength and conditioning and is a sport for both male and female in addition to handicapped individuals.

Councilmember Becker: Spoke of the resolution opposing fracking and that he is pleased that this is being passed tonight. **Councilmember Becker** explained that fracking is the procedure that releases of natural gas from within the ground and that this is an environmental disaster. It involves drilling deep wells and the drill bit is then turned and through this well there are toxic chemicals. The problem is that it is putting contaminated water in the ground, fracturing the rock, and there is no way to contain this. The waters are at risk and if there is a problem there is no way to mitigate the disaster. **Councilmember**

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

Becker stated that he is concerned with the people upstate which would have more of an impact than here. The Town Board wants to come out in opposition to fracking.

Councilmember Sloan: Commented that there is a lot of good news in the Town of Cortlandt with all that is happening in the Town. He also endorsed the idea of the rowing program by **Councilmember Farrell** and hoped that someone will take over the program to run it.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Sloan moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2012 and the Special Meetings of June 26, 2012 and July 9, 2012 be approved as presented by Town Clerk Dyckman. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

All voted **AYE**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

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HEARING OF CITIZENS, (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

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BID REPORTS

None

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REPORTS

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

For the month of June from the Town Justices.

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

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OLD BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

1. Memo from DES with respect to Ridge Road and Lafayette Avenue; and authorize DOTS to develop design work and cost estimates for site distance improvements.

RESOLUTION NO.162 -12 RE: Authorize DOTS to solicit survey services, prepare design plans and solicit proposals with respect to site distance improvements at Ridge Road and Lafayette Avenue.

2. Quarterly Report from Westchester County with respect to the Sprout Brook Ash Pit.
3. Memos from DOTS and DES with respect to request for wall repairs in the Town right of way.
4. Letter from DES to residents of Tommy Thurber Lane in response to a petition.

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

1. Letter from Cross Creek Homeowners Association requesting certain parking restrictions; and refer to DES.
2. Report from the Traffic Safety Committee with respect to restricting right hand turns to green light only at the south bound Rt. 9 Montrose exit ramp turning northbound onto Rt. 9A; and forward same to NYS DOT.
3. E-mail from Chris Esposito with respect to traffic safety measures along Kings Ferry Road; and refer to DES, DOTS and the Traffic Safety Committee.

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 Sloan:

RESOLUTION NO.163 -12 RE: Authorize a salary adjustment for the Director of the Office for the Aging.

RESOLUTION NO.164 -12 RE: A Resolution in opposition to any and all fracking in New York State.

RESOLUTION NO.165 -12 RE: Authorize various technology improvements funded through an existing NYS grant.

RESOLUTION NO.166 -12 RE: Approve a bid with respect to an In-Rem parcel #26.

All Voted **AYE**

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ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Sloan moved that the following be received and filed and the following resolution be adopted. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Receive and File the Following:

1. Letter from Senator Ball to NYS DOT in support of the Town of Cortlandt's request for a barrier along the Bear Mt. Parkway.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi stated that last month the Town received and filed a letter from Sandy Galaf supporting the endeavor to get a barrier or median for safety purposes and to prevent any further tragedies on the Bear Mt. Parkway. To date, the Supervisor stated she has not received any response back from the NYS DOT. A press conference was held, a 1500 signed petition was sent to many officials, but still no response which is very disappointing.

All Voted **AYE**

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BUDGET TRANSFERS

None

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REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

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REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

Sue McDonald
19 Susan Lane

Thanked the Town Board for responding to the ban on fracking. She showed 16 pages of places that have banned fracking or have written legislation banning fracking. Some have also attempted to ban the transport of fracking waste, the water. Many places have been using the water on the roads to melt the snow and ice, but unfortunately it is still a hazardous product and still gets into the water. The DEC does not consider fracking waste as hazardous, only as industrial waste and the regulations for this is much looser.

Supervisor Puglisi thanked Ms. McDonald and stated that the resolution will be sent to the Governor's office and to the State elected officials. The **Supervisor** stated that this practice of fracking could also cause earthquakes.

Brian Pugh
15 Alexander Lane

Discussed the idea of closing the Town of Cortlandt's account with JP Morgan Chase Bank and transferring the funds to another bank. Several local governments have also done so. Because of the practices of JP Morgan Chase Bank he urged the Town Board not to patronize and support this bank. The JP Morgan Chase Bank has hurt people throughout the country and he hopes the Town will close its account.

Supervisor Puglisi commented that Chase is the largest depository that the Town has, but there is a process that has to be followed and the Board will discuss this issue in depth and make their decision. She has asked the Town Comptroller to evaluate other banks in the area for their consideration and it will be voted on in January.

Councilmember Sloan stated that he is completely in sympathy with the view of the banking system as there always seems to be a scandal being discussed every week regarding the banks. The Town has a 38 million dollar budget and there are multiple accounts. We have to look at what the Town of Cortlandt has to do with regard to an entity dealing in the financial world and understand that the big banks have failed the American public for many years.

Tom Wood commented that while the Town Board is free to move the assets around, New York State requires that the bank has to have a 3rd party hold collateralization to ensure the security of the deposits and that is a prerequisite set by State law.

Bill Chestnut
6 Anton Place

Also spoke on the request that the Board seek a new bank in which to do business and not use JP Morgan Chase any longer. Mr. Chestnut thanked the Board for considering the bank change and stated it was important not to reward a bank that has caused so much damage and led customers into fiscal destitution. He spoke of the necessity of boycotting this bank.

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August 14, 2012

Town Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on motion of Councilmember Becker and Councilmember Farrell.

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

**JO-ANN DYCKMAN,
Town Clerk**