

July 21, 2015

Town Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on July 21, 2015 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
DEBRA COSTELLO	Councilmember
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember
SETH FREACH	Councilmember

Also present:

JO-ANN DYCKMAN	Town Clerk
EDWARD VERGANO	DOTS, Director
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Deputy Director of Technical Services
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk
ROSEMARY B. LASHER	DOTS/Asst. to Director
JEFFREY COLEMAN	Director, DES

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Supervisor Puglisi called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 REPORT

Supervisor Puglisi spoke of events in the community over the last month. The Town pool is open and the Town campers are having fun. There are parks along the Hudson River and there is a lot to do in Cortlandt.

The Supervisor stated she was pleased to acknowledge a resident from Buchanan, Jamie Berndt. Jamie is a registered nurse at Phelps Memorial Hospital and is a volunteer at NYC Medics and traveled to assist people in Nepal who were injured in the 7.8 earthquake. While she was working there, the second earthquake of 7.3 struck.

She had previously volunteered in India in 2014 and will be volunteering again in South Asia and will also be pursuing her master degree in Public Health next month. Supervisor Puglisi stated that Jamie is a truly accomplished person in our community stating she is an inspiration to us all. Councilmember Becker commented that this is an extraordinary effort of having lives in your hand in an unfamiliar part of the world deprived of all the creature comforts. The hospital as well as the community appreciates people who go out and do volunteer work. The proclamation was read by Councilmember Becker to Jamie Berndt.

Jamie Berndt then thanked her friends and her family.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)

The **Supervisor** announced that the VA pool finally will be renovated and restored for physical therapy and recreational use for the Veterans. It has been closed for 10 years and now Congress has appropriated 5.5 million dollars for this pool restoration which is to begin in about 6 months to be ready in about 1 ½ years.

For the next outdoor free concert on Thursday July 23rd. there will be the band “The Wanderers” at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park in Verplanck. The next outdoor free movie will be Tangled on July 30th. More information can be found on the Town’s website.

The Town of Cortlandt is pleased to have been selected to work on a feasibility study which will assist on a better grid system. Also, the **Supervisor** announced that the Town has the most homeowners signed up for solar energy due to an impressive effort led by the Town’s solar team chaired by Chairperson Freach. **Supervisor Puglisi** stated that are proud of this effort.

The Town of Cortlandt received a Certificate of Recognition for the Cortlandt Community Coalition promoting healthy and safe communities by increasing the community’s capacity to prevent substance abuse. This is chaired by Colleen Anderson and they have been working for years on preventing substance abuse.

Supervisor Puglisi stated they are applying for a trolley for Cortlandt Boulevard. This is to free up traffic on this corridor, reduce gas emissions, and benefit our local businesses. The trolley will take you to the businesses, movie theaters, food establishments and will be named after Jackie Gleason who lived in Town of Cortlandt. The name will be “And Away We Go”.

The **Supervisor** also stated that she had the honor to be the speaker for the Historic Washington Rochembeau Exhibit and National Historic Players depicting the history of the French soldiers assisting General George Washington in the American Revolution. She explained that General Rochembeau came to the colonies and helped win the pivotal battle of Yorktown in Virginia. He traveled through our area in Verplanck and near Locust Avenue. The **Supervisor** thanked St. Peter’s Church and the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society who worked on the designations which will be put in place at these locations.

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ROLL CALL

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

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TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilmember Costello: Congratulated the Croton Arboretum that had a garden tour as a fundraiser and it was a big success. Various gardens are viewed and it is a great way to see beautiful gardens in the community.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

Councilmember Becker: Stated that he met with Town Attorney, Tom Wood, and a member of the community who is representing some of the neighbors of Maple Ave. and Powder Horn about Abby Rose. Over the years it is now decided that the owner will give the Town 106 acres to relieve him of the tax liability he has incurred and he will develop the other 26 acres of 5 homes. Some neighbors do not want them built but he has informed them that the homeowner does have rights to build and the Town will let the process go on. He assured the neighbors that a water tower will not be put up.

Councilmember Freach: Thanked the Town for the work involved in obtaining the 106 acres and that they are a very important 106 acres.

One of the items on the agenda has to do with mutual aid between the Town and Westchester Dept. of Public Safety. There was a large fire in Peekskill and fought with efforts from many communities and that is all possible because of the mutual aid agreements. Councilmember Freach commented that it is important that the volunteer firefighters are there and he thanked them and to have these mutual aid agreements in effect are very important.

Another item on tonight's agenda is an authorization to participate in a program to replace our streetlights in the Town with LED fixtures. Councilmember Freach stated he was very excited about this as he is involved with energy efficiency efforts and the solar programs. He thanked the DES staff for making this happen as it is at no cost to the Town and will save the Town money.

Councilmember Freach thanked the Mt. Carmel Society for their 93rd annual feast.

Councilmember Farrell: Also congratulated the Mt. Carmel Society and the Capicotti family for the annual feast and spoke of his knowing the Capicotti family for many years.

Councilmember Farrell also spoke of Abby Rose and that it is truly an important piece of the Greenway and how nice the views are in that area.

He commented on the heat and high temperatures endured by the firefighters during the latest fire in Peekskill. It was through mutual aid that the many of the Cortlandt departments were on the scene to lend a hand and the fact they are volunteers, not getting paid for their efforts.

The heat on Sunday might have lessened the turnout for the "Learning to Row Day" at Lake Meahagh although it was pretty well attended with the assistance of the Newburgh Rowing Club and the Kingston Rowing Club. Many had a good time and got to try rowing for the first time or to polish their skills further.

Councilmember Farrell noted that the rowing club will be on the river the night of the concert on Thursday and invited anyone who wanted to stop by and look at the boats or get a tour to please do so.

Councilmember Farrell commented that he was given a tour of Westchester Lake in Cortlandt. There had been concern by residents of the deterioration of that lake and he stated to them that

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

they would keep their eyes open for grants and will assist in any way possible and that this administration has a really good record of preserving lakes. These little lakes are assets to the community and many are unaware of them. The issue is the ownership so the Town can't go in and fix them, but they can look for grants and trying to come up with ideas for them and perhaps form a community lake district to raise funds.

Supervisor Puglisi added that Mike Prezioso, Jeff Coleman and Ed Vergano had been there to evaluate the algae issue and that the Town Board will do studies.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Costello moved that the regular minutes of June 16, 2015 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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DANGEROUS BUILDING PROCEEDING

To consider Evidence that 215 Sprout Brook Road is an unsafe building.

Tom Wood explained that when a building is deemed to be structurally unsound or unsafe, the Town has the right to direct that the building be demolished or secured and if the owner doesn't follow that order, the Town has the right to perform the demolition and charge it back as a lien against the property as part of its real estate taxes. In the case of 215 Sprout Brook Road, this building was substantially destroyed by fire and has been there for some time. Upon review of the report, the Board has ordered the demolition of the building. If not done, at the next Town Board meeting, the Town will award a proposal to a contractor for demolition.

Councilmember Becker moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Freach

All voted **AYE**

RESOLUTION NO.180-15 RE: Adopt an Order to Demolish at 215 Sprout Brook Road

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To consider Evidence that 90 Watch Hill Road is an unsafe building.

Tom Wood again explained the procedure about this building's garage and porch area which has to be completed by August 18th. This property will be put on the market to be sold.

Councilmember Becker moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Freach

All voted **AYE**

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RESOLUTION NO.181-15 RE: Adopt an Order to Demolish the garage and porch area at 90 Watch Hill Road.

HEARING OF CITIZENS, (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

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BID REPORTS

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REPORTS

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

For the month of May 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. Report from the Director of DES with respect to an intersection analysis of Baptist Road and Croton Avenue.
2. Report from the Director of DES with respect to an intersection analysis of Highland Avenue and 6th Street in Verplanck.

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NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following

1. Annual Financial Report.
2. Petition from residents opposing a bus depot in Verplanck; and refer same to the Planning Board.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi showed the hard copy of the financial report that is online.

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 Costello

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO.182-15 RE: Appoint Patricia Robcke to the position of Town Comptroller.

Discussion: The **Supervisor** stated that Patty Robcke has been the Deputy Comptroller for 22 years with Glen Cestaro and has done a stellar job. They are delighted that she will be the next Town Comptroller.

All voted **AYE**

Patty Robcke thanked **Supervisor Puglisi** who hired her 22 years ago and has been an inspiration for her to pursue her career. She introduced her family and thanked her family, her staff and her former employer, Glen Cestaro, and the Town Board. Patty commented that it is an honor and a pleasure to serve the Town of Cortlandt taxpayers and to help to keep finances in order and taxes low for future generations

Councilmember Farrell moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Costello

RESOLUTION NO.183-15 RE: Appoint seasonals for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

RESOLUTION NO.184-15 RE: Authorize a Contract with respect to employee training.

RESOLUTION NO.185-15 RE: Authorize a Tax Certiorari with respect to Luposello's Garage, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO.186-15 RE: Authorize DOTS to apply for a grant for funding for the Cortlandt Boulevard Trolley.

RESOLUTION NO.187-15 RE: Authorize DOTS to apply for a grant for funding through NYSERDA with respect to Park Planners and the Master Plan

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

Councilmember Costello moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Becker

RESOLUTION NO.188-15 RE: Authorize a lease renewal with respect to property on 8th Street in Verplanck.

RESOLUTION NO.189-15 RE: Award a bid with respect to the purchase of fire hydrants.

RESOLUTION NO.190-15 RE: Authorize a License Agreement with respect to a paper road and property at 171 Westchester Avenue in Verplanck.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO.191-15 RE: Award a Contract with respect to drainage on Dickerson Road.

RESOLUTION NO.192-15 RE: Award a Contract with respect to drainage on Cardozza Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO.193-15 RE: Award a Contract for the demolition of two (2) small deteriorated buildings at Sprout Brook Park.

RESOLUTION NO.194-15 RE: Authorize the preparation of preliminary plans for the formation of a sewer district for the business district in Montrose.

RESOLUTION NO.195-15 RE: Authorize survey services for the proposed Montrose Business Sewer District.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi stated that they are pleased that there is a newly formed Montrose Business Association and they have come to meet to work on the development of a sewer district for the businesses on Old Albany Post Road and new banners to give identification to the hamlet.

All voted **AYE**

Councilmember Becker moved that the following resolution be adopted. Councilmember Freach seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION NO.196-15 RE: Authorize DES to seek proposals with respect to a chain link fence.

RESOLUTION NO.197-15 RE: Amend the V&T Code and Authorize the installation of signage at the intersection of Croton Avenue and Baptist Church Road

RESOLUTION NO.198-15 RE: Authorize DES to participate in the New York Power Authority Program to replace town street lights with energy efficient LED fixtures.

RESOLUTION NO.199-15 RE: Authorize the receipt of Bids for the purchase and/or lease a refuse collection truck and brush chipper.

RESOLUTION NO.200-15 RE: Authorize a New York State DOT Undertaking Agreement with respect to town work in the NYS right-of-way.

RESOLUTION NO.201-15 RE: Authorize an Intermunicipal Agreement with Westchester County with respect to mutual aide.

RESOLUTION NO.202-15 RE: Support of Westchester County's reduction of plastic bag usage and send to county officials.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

Discussion: None

All voted AYE

Councilmember Becker moved that the following resolution be adopted. Councilmember Freach seconded the motion

RESOLUTION NO.203-15 RE: Authorize the purchase of banners for the hamlet of Montrose.

RESOLUTION NO.204-15 RE: Authorize amending an Agreement with respect to the Hudson Highlands Gateway Park to extend the date of deeding property.

RESOLUTION NO.205-15 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for August 18, 2015 to consider a Local Law establishing a Community Choice Aggregation Program in the Town.

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

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ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Farrell moved that the following be received and filed and resolutions be adopted. Councilmember Costello seconded the motion.

Receive and File:

- 1. Reject bids opened on July 13, 2015 with respect to an all purpose field at Sprout Brook Park; and authorize DOTS to re-bid same.

RESOLUTION NO.206-15 RE: Authorize DOTS to re-bid with respect to an all purpose field at Sprout Brook Park.

- 2. Letter from David Steinmetz representing Pondview Commons requesting Westchester County include parcels into the County sewer district; and forward same to Westchester County for their consideration.

RESOLUTION NO.207-15 RE: Forward letter to Westchester County requesting inclusion of parcels into the County sewer district.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO.208-15 RE: Appoint Simon Wake to the title Assistant Assessment Clerk on a part time basis for a period of 30 days.

RESOLUTION NO.209-15 RE: Resolution declaring the Town Board as Lead Agency under SEQRA for the construction of the Rt. 9A sidewalk project.

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

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BUDGET TRANSFERS

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REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

Jeff Coleman: Congratulated Patty Robcke and commented that he was looking forward to continuing their great relationship in the future.

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REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Councilmember Costello, seconded by Councilmember Becker

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

JO-ANN DYCKMAN
Town Clerk