

July 22, 2014

Town Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on July 22, 2014 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 (ABSENT)

Also present:

JO-ANN DYCKMAN	Town Clerk
EDWARD VERGANO	DOTS, Director
GLENN CESTARO	Comptroller
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk
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 REPORTS

Supervisor Puglisi stated she went to the N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation public hearing regarding the cooling towers they are proposing at Indian Point and the DEC’s proposal to close the plant for 3 months in the summer. On behalf of the Town Board, the **Supervisor** testified that they are against the cooling towers due to the height and size and that the visible impact, noise level and construction would be tremendous. The proposal regarding the closing is to preserve the fish larvae hatching in the Hudson. The Town supports the netting method rather than the shutting down for 3 months as the 3 months would negatively affect the employees of the plant and the surrounding businesses. The **Supervisor** noted that most of the people at the hearing had the same position that the Town had.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS, (cont.)

The Town debt is at its lowest and most likely in most recent years at 7.6 million with the Town having a 38 million dollar budget. Moody says the Town can borrow up to 400 million dollars if needed but the debt will be kept low.

A project that was approved was to extend and enlarge the full court basketball court at the Youth Center. It is now completed so the youth can now go there to play basketball. **Supervisor Puglisi** urged residents to bring their children and commented that they are very proud of the facilities and the programs that are provided.

It is hurricane season and the **Supervisor** commented that she hoped there would not be any serious hurricanes but they do need to be prepared. There is a lot of information on the Town's website and Supervisor asked residents to register their email or cell phone numbers with the Town so the Town can issue their Code Red emergency messages in case of a weather event.

Supervisor Puglisi discussed a brochure by Westchester County Government, the Medication Take Back Program. The Town has its own drop box for resident's medication at the Town Hall for medication no longer needed.

On June 30th, **Supervisor Puglisi** attended a drill staged by the Westchester County Police at the Walter Panas High School with all the emergency services practicing a drill using a real scenario of the danger of what could occur in the school. The **Supervisor** praised how it was coordinated, how realistic it was and what a terrific job they did to apprehend the culprit. She assured the community that the County Police, the State Police and all the other emergency services are practicing.

The Town is continuing to fight another impact on the community. There are signs that say "Stop the Buzz". It is the West Point Partners, a private industry that wants to put a large electric transformer in Verplanck 50 feet high and with a loud buzzing noise. The Town is trying their best to stop it. There will be public hearings and the Town will be going to state why this shouldn't occur as well as the large expansion of the Spectra Gas Line.

The **Supervisor** attended the Youth Soccer Awards at the end of June and handed out trophies to the participants.

There are 2 vehicle charging stations at the Town Hall funded by NIPA and the New York Power Authority.

On the agenda tonight will be a vote to continue the DARE program for the 5th grade classes. This is funded by the Town of Cortlandt and Police Officer Cliff Gabrielson has been doing it for about 10 years and will continue with the Town

SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)

with the new program which will save the Town about 50% of the cost with this new program.

There now is a beautiful, completed 9/11 Memorial which has been worked on and supported for many years with the task force headed by Janet Maneiro. It is located on the banks of the Hudson River.

Supervisor Puglisi urged residents to go to all the Town parks, playgrounds and pool and have a great summer.

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ROLL CALL

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

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TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilmember Farrell: Councilmember Farrell stated that he is happy to be working on is the installation of a horseshoe pitch. It can be done inexpensively and in the future it could be removed if necessary. The location on the river is magnificent and Councilmember Farrell is very glad to be able to offer this old fashioned but a lot of fun pastime.

Councilmember Farrell commented on an item on the agenda, if approved, that will replace the smart machine which is something that is used to tell the speed of cars on a particular road. This quantifies the number of cars and what their speeds are. This is used as a tool to decide how to calm traffic and slow things down. This machine will be a variable message sign to advise the residents of other issues that are happening locally.

This past Sunday at Meahaugh Park, the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association had their first annual Walk on the Moon Regatta called this because the event coincided with the 45th Anniversary of Neil Armstrong’s walk on the moon. The Association was host to the Newburg Rowing Club and members of the Piermont Rowing Club. It was a very good time for all. Councilmember Farrell noted that it looks like Woman’s Four is shaping up and what they want is a sport enjoyed by everyone regardless of age.

The Town Board toured Cook Pool and Councilmember Farrell commented what a nice facility it is and how lucky the residents are to have it. He didn’t realize that there is a lift to enable those who are not as mobile to lower them into the pool.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

Councilmember Becker: stated that on tonight’s agenda is to award cluster authority to the Planning Board with respect to Hanover Farms Development. Councilmember Becker noted that this is a very interesting process over the last few years. The developer, under the SEQUA process, requested the right to do cluster development and some of the property to be used as a sports field. This caused discussion with residents because they felt it was too congested and would be the wrong spot but others felt the Town needed the sports field. Many meetings were held and it was clear that the Town does need the field but also clear it is a problematic site. It was decided that the developer will provide the money to build the field elsewhere.

Councilmember Costello: Congratulated the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel’s Society Italian Feast held last weekend which was a success, one of the few years it didn’t rain! There were no issues and was a wonderful weekend.

On Saturday Councilmember Costello attended the Fireman’s Parade hosted by the Verplanck Fire Department and it was a wonderful parade and she congratulated the Verplanck Fire Department for hosting this successful event and the other departments for their participation.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Costello moved that the minutes for the June 17, 2014 Regular Meeting and the June 23, 2014 Special Meeting 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)

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

BID REPORTS

1. Receive and File Bids opened on July 17, 2014 with respect to the 2014 Paving of Town Roads; and Award a Contract with respect to same.

RESOLUTION NO. 207-14 RE: Award a Contract for the 2014 Paving of Town Roads.

REPORTS

For the month of June, 2014 from the Purchasing Department, the Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

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OLD BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

1. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2013 Fiscal Year.
2. Letter from the Supervisor to petitioners with respect to Hanover Farms.

Discussion: **Supervisor Puglisi** stated that they are doing a lot of resurfacing/paving in the Town, approximately 2 million dollars worth with no borrowing. A committee goes around the Town every April/May to look at the roads and give their recommendations. If the road isn't on the list this time, it will be in the future. Last year 1.5 million dollars was spent on paving and they try to get to everyone within a 5-10 year time frame.

The **Supervisor** thanked Glenn Cestaro and his staff for putting together the comprehensive annual financial report stating they try to keep Town tax increase as close to zero as possible.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 208-14 RE: Appoint seasonal replacements for DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 209-14 RE: Appoint seasonals with respect to the Recreation Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 210-14 RE: Authorize a new plan with respect to the DARE Program and appoint an officer with respect to same.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO. 211-14 RE: Award Cluster Authority to the Planning Board with respect to Hanover Farms development (with conditions).

RESOLUTION NO. 212-14 RE: Authorize Tax Certiorari with respect to Carrols Corp.

RESOLUTION NO. 213-14 RE: Authorize Tax Certiorari with respect to Cortlandt Racquet Club.

RESOLUTION NO. 214-14 RE: Authorize Tax Certiorari with respect to Watergate.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi added that this is the new DARE program that she mentioned would save the Town \$30,000 and she thanked Officer Gabrielson who is retired but who will keep with the program.

Tom Wood discussed the tax certioraris are for assessment reductions on the three properties that, if approved tonight, would not exceed \$30,000 and have been signed off by the respective school districts.

All voted AYE

Supervisor Puglisi indicated that she will be recused from the following resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 215-14 RE: Adopt a Rate Tariff for the Dickerson Pond Sewer District aka Valeria as well as rules and regulations.

Councilmember Farrell moved that the resolution be Polled, seconded by Councilmember Costello

Discussion: Councilmember Farrell asked that Town Attorney, Tom Wood explain the resolution and explained that Supervisor Puglisi resides at Valeria so has therefore recused herself from voting on the resolution. Tom Wood stated that Toll Brothers, the new owners acquired the sewer facility and filed an application with the Town Board to set a sewer rate. Meetings have been held with the various parties and tonight the Town Board will vote on the sewer rate. Toll Brothers have agreed to buy down the rate for the existing property owners. They now pay \$15 per month for sewage so Toll Brothers will absorb the increasing rate for 5 years and then the rate will be \$95 per month for the homeowners. This will remain the cost til Toll Brothers is no longer involved with the project. This is how it will be phased in. The new units will pay \$120 per month.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

Supervisor Puglisi commented that Deputy Supervisor Frank Farrell oversaw the meetings and she did not attend any of the meetings regarding Valeria and is totally recused on this subject.

The Board was **Polled**:

Supervisor Puglisi: Recused

Councilmember Farrell: Yes

Councilmember Becker: Yes

Councilmember Costello: Yes

Councilmember Farrell thanked the Town Attorney, Tom Wood, for bringing the parties together.

The motion **Passed**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 216-14 RE: Authorize installation of an additional speed hump, evaluate need for more stop signs and additional traffic calming measures; and send out a letter of notification to residents with respect to same for Dimond Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 217-14 RE: Declare certain equipment as surplus and authorize disposal of same.

RESOLUTION NO. 218-14 RE: Amend a previous Resolution with respect to fence replacement at the Community Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 219-14 RE: Purchase a replacement SMART machine.

RESOLUTION NO. 220-14 RE: Authorize closure of a portion of Birch Brook Road on September 6, 2014 for a neighborhood event.

RESOLUTION NO. 221-14 RE: Establish a rate for the use of the electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall; and Authorize an Agreement with EV Connect with respect to same.

RESOLUTION NO. 222-14 RE: Authorize revising the Annsville Circle pedestrian plan (NYSDOT grant funds)

RESOLUTION NO. 223-14 RE: Authorize RFP's for a possible Farmer's Market on Town property.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO. 224-14 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for August 12, 2014 to consider a Local Law to establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program in the Town of Cortlandt.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi stated that many residents were at the last meeting in June to ask the Town to evaluate the number of speed humps needed on Dimond Avenue. It is on the agenda tonight. Other measures will be put into place for evaluation, such as the speed machine and monitoring from the police and more stop signs. Letters will also be sent out by Jeff Coleman asking residents to slow down.

Tom Wood explained about the surplus which is miscellaneous equipment that the Town no longer needs which is now surplus and it becomes an online process where bids are made. It then comes back to the Town Board for evaluation of the bids and then sold.

Jeff Coleman spoke to explain establishing the rate for the use of the electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall. He explained that the rate depends on the use of the vehicles who utilizes the station. There are about 5-10 that use the charging station and the rate is \$1.50 per hour. Supervisor Puglisi added that the Town does not make any profit on it, just a user fee.

The **Supervisor** commented that we want and need a Farmer's Market in our Town. They will be sure they do not compete with other markets

The Sustainable Energy Loan Program through Energize New York is an opportunity to help reduce your energy costs. There is a link on the Town website for residents to get more information.

All voted **AYE**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Costello moved that the following correspondence be received and ordered filed and the resolutions be adopted. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

Received and File the following:

1. Letter with respect to a lease for property on 8th Street.

ADDITIONS to the AGENDA, (cont.)

RESOLUTIONS

(All resolutions adopted at this meeting are to be found attached to the end of the original document.)

RESOLUTION NO. 225-14 RE: Authorize a correction to a title for Nicole Kelly to comply with Civil Service procedure.

RESOLUTION NO. 226-14 RE: Appoint Megan Boyle as a Recreation Attendant at the Youth Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 227-14 RE: Authorize a contract with respect to the installation of underdrains and miscellaneous construction on a portion of Cross Road.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi stated that Nicole Kelly is currently an employee with the Town of Cortlandt and Megan Boyle has been an intern and will now be full time at the Youth Center.

All voted **AYE**

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BUDGET TRANSFERS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 228-14 RE: Authorize Budget Amendment

All voted **AYE**

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REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

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REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

none

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July 22, 2014

Town Board Meeting

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a motion by Councilmember Farrell, seconded by Councilmember Costello

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

JO-ANN DYCKMAN
Town Clerk