

March 10, 2015

Town Board Meeting

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on March 10, 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
GLENN CESTARO	Comptroller
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 REPORTS

Supervisor Puglisi commented that it has been a long winter and the first day of Spring is only 10 days away and asked residents to “think Spring”. There have been over 25 major snow and ice storms since January 1st and that the crews have done a very good job. The Town has spent approximately 1 million dollars on snow and ice removal since January 1st, about \$250,000 over last year’s amount.

The key points for the Town’s goals for 2015 have been posted on the website along with the accomplishments of 2014. **Supervisor Puglisi** stated they are very proud of the employees and citizens and that the Town is always trying to think of new things to improve the quality of life in the Town.

Saving on energy sources is important. Councilmember Seth Freach and his committee along with consultant Dani Glaser are working to educate the community about solar energy. The **Supervisor** reminded residents that there are 2 electric vehicle charge stations at the Town Hall

SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)

The Town is in the process of buying 100 acres of land on the Hudson River in Verplanck currently owned by Con Edison. It will take a few months for the PSC to make its final determination for the Town to purchase this property. The Town has many plans for that property.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that FERC has approved, unfortunately, the expansion of the SPECTRA/ Algonquin Gas line. The **Supervisor** commented that we are all very disappointed with this decision and feel that they did not listen to our issues and concerns stated for the last 2 years. The Town was against the expansion of a 26 inch line to a 42 inch line and the rerouting of this line. FERC supersedes any local government.

The **Supervisor** wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day. There will be a parade in Peekskill and the Village of Buchanan. She applauded all the volunteers who work on these parades for the community.

Supervisor Puglisi announced that the long time Town Comptroller, Glenn Cestaro, will be retiring at the end of March after 27 years of excellence and dedicated service. The **Supervisor** spoke of how when she thinks of Glenn, excellence is a word that comes to mind, in his financial work, as an advisor and to all the departments. She spoke of his work to keeping the Town debt low over the many years and that she couldn’t think of anyone else she would have wanted to be the Town Comptroller. Glenn has agreed to be an advisor to the Town for the remainder of 2015 to help with the transition. **Supervisor Puglisi** wished Glenn and his family the best in the next chapter of their lives and thanked him for all his efforts and dedication to Cortlandt. A proclamation was then presented to Glenn.

Glenn stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the **Supervisor** and the different Town Boards over the years. He commented that it was the staff that works hard to make him look good and thanked them and the Town Board.

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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: Stated that she enjoyed working with Glenn and commented that there wasn’t any municipality that has a Comptroller who actually goes out and measures the salt to make sure that they got what they were supposed to get! She thanked Glenn for a wonderful job and for his time, patience and dedication with her and wished him the best.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

Councilmember Becker: Also thanked Glenn and commented that what makes Glenn so excellent at what he does, not only is he a great number cruncher, but it's also his integrity, his heart which is always in the right place, adding that it has been a pleasure to work with him.

On the agenda is an item regarding unsafe buildings. This has come up a few times and it is a very difficult issue for the Board as it usually means the homeowner is in financial distress. However as Town Board members, they have to consider the needs of the community and cannot allow unsafe structures to remain in place within the Town. Councilmember Becker said that the Town Board will bend over backwards to give time and assistance so there can be a satisfactory resolution. They are hopeful that the owners will come with a plan to remediate these problems, but in the end the Town will do what it has to do to protect the public at large.

Councilmember Freach: The "Solarize Cortlandt" is underway and going very well. Many have come on board for solar installations on their house. There will be 2 more residential presentations, one on March 26th and April 25th.

Councilmember Freach also commented on the hard decisions that the Board has to make regarding dangerous buildings. He hopes that the community will feel relieved that this is moving forward and that the Board is taking action on unsafe buildings. He also hopes that their flexibility in moving it forward for another month will provide just enough breathing space for the homeowner to move forward.

Though they've only worked together for a year, Councilmember Freach said he was so glad and thankful that Glenn was here as he has always been very willing and open to discuss issues and describe and educate him regarding different aspects of the budget. He wished him well and noted how other Town Supervisors and Councilmembers would comment that Cortlandt had the best Town Comptroller in all New York State. As a resident, he thanked Glenn for leaving the Town in a sound financial state.

Councilmember Farrell: Commented how the extreme snow conditions not only put a strain on the budget, but also on the people who do the job working many hours at all hours. They did an outstanding job this year. There will be a lot of drainage problems that will reveal themselves, frozen water lines that break and the men are out fixing this infrastructure. Councilmember Farrell thanked them for all they do and that the officials bask in the accomplishments of those that work for the Town. It's their dedication and attention to detail that make them look good, and the comments are favorable. Glenn Cestaro does a job not readily apparent to the public, but his work has made them all look good. Councilmember Farrell stated that Glenn has a tremendous work ethic. His office staff is thorough and dedicated and enjoys what they are doing and councilmember Farrell attributes that to the leadership that Glenn provides. Glenn has helped to negotiate the Pilot Agreement with Entergy which was one of the biggest accomplishments they've had as a Board. He also

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

does a lot of work for the Joint Waterworks, so this will be a huge loss and tough shoes to fill. Councilmember Farrell commented that he will miss Glenn's jokes and noted that he is a great athlete also.

Tom Wood, Town Attorney: Commented that he remembered 27 years ago when Glenn was appointed. Tom said that the greatest pleasure he has had aside from becoming a friend was that every time they would represent the Town, everyone in the County knew of Glenn and respected him and it was always a privilege of Tom to be there with him and bask in the respect that people had for him. Tom commented that Glenn's compassion and concern for the people were not only reflected in the budget abilities but also in the great respect he has from the Board, co-workers and residents in the Town. Though he is sad about the retirement, he is happy that their friendship will continue.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Costello moved that the minutes of February 10, 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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The following was adjourned to April 14, 2015:

DANGEROUS BUILDING PROCEEDING

To consider Evidence that 2140 Albany Post Road is an unsafe building.

Councilmember Becker moved that the following be adjourned to the April 14, 2015 regular meeting. Councilmember Freach seconded the motion.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that she and the Town Board have agreed to not take the vote this evening but adjourned til the April 14th meeting. Tom Wood explained that based on findings from the Town Engineer, the property in question had received a building permit which has now expired and the state of construction has rendered the site as unsafe. The property owner has proposed a schedule for completion. Because of the weather preventing construction, the adjournment will allow them to give one last chance to try to resolve the timetable with the property owner that will be acceptable to the Board. If the schedule is not met, fines will ensue or there will be a formal order to demolish the building and charge it back to the property owners.

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The **Supervisor** asked if there was anyone who wanted to address this matter at this time. There was no one to speak.

All voted **AYE**

RESOLUTION NO. 80-15 RE: Resolution Declaring 2140 Albany Post Road, Montrose, New York a Dangerous Building.

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HEARING OF CITIZENS, (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Peter Wess
United Way

Spoke regarding their 211 service that many residents in Westchester are not aware of. It is a call center and a website by United Way with the help of many governments to answer questions regarding many community services. Residents can find support and resources to help their needs. There is a crisis hotline and over 25,000 different agencies and they are multi-lingual. Mr. Wess wanted to remind Towns ever so often that this service is available to residents. There is a huge range of questions and answers for the residents. Mr. Wess said that this is a service that is free and confidential which can be done on the website or through operators available.

The **Supervisor** noted that the Town is very involved with substance abuse prevention and have had forums with the school districts on this subject and asked Mr. Wess to participate on the panel. Mr. Wess added that people know they can call and find confidential help. Councilmember Freach commented that it is good to know that residents can reach out and that the younger residents have been hit hard. He asked if there is any text, email or social medial outlets that might be easier to reach out to his services. Mr. Wess said he believed they might be looking at a sort of "chat" service. Councilmember Farrell spoke of a teen crisis text line and asked if Mr. Wess was familiar with it. Mr. Wess said that he hadn't seen that but they are always considering ways and that it depends on funding. The **Supervisor** asked if the hotline was 24/7; Mr. Wess answered that when they are not available, the call is routed. There is always help, even on the off hours.

Supervisor Puglisi thanked Mr. Wess and stated they are looking forward to working with him.

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BID REPORTS

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REPORTS

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

For the month of January from the Purchasing Department.

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

2014 Annual Report from the Purchasing Department and the Recreation and Conservation Department.

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OLD BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

- 1. Letter from New York State DOT responding to a Rt. 9 sound barrier request.

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

- 1. Report from the Town Historian.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi explained that they had gotten a petition from residents about a sound barrier on Rt. 9. This is a State highway so the petition was passed along but they said there was nothing they can do at this time. The residents will be given a copy of the letter.

Councilmember Farrell added that in the letter from DOT they said they would only consider that if special funding is provided by the legislature specifically for this purpose. He suggested that perhaps they could lobby the legislature officials to provide such funding.

Supervisor Puglisi said they could try.

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. 81-15 RE: Authorize a salary adjustment for the Deputy Comptroller for additional duties effective March 30, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO. 82-15 RE: Appoint Glenn Cestaro as a consultant for financial purposes on a per diem basis for 2015 beginning April 1, 2015.

RESOLUTION NO. 83-15 RE: Authorize the use of the fund balance for salary adjustments with respect to Nor-West Programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-15 RE: Appoint one seasonal for DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-15 RE: Appoint O'Connor Davies as the Town's auditors thru 2018.

RESOLUTION NO. 86-15 RE: Authorize a certification to New York State with respect to Youthful Drug Abuse Prevention Program funding for a cola increase.

Discussion: None

All Voted **AYE**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 87-15 RE: Resolution in support of the Westchester/Putnam Association of Town Supervisor's position on dredging in the Hudson River.

RESOLUTION NO. 88-15 RE: Amend the AKRF Contract with respect to the 2015 Master Plan Consulting Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 89-15 RE: Authorize the solicitation for proposals for Supplemental Street Sweeping Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-15 RE: Authorize the repair of the Gutters and Installation of Snow Guards at NYS Troopers Barracks.

RESOLUTION NO. 91-15 RE: Authorize the Solicitation for proposals for Pressure Reduction Valve Maintenance.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-15 RE: Authorize the Solicitation for Proposals for Leak Detection Services.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi stated that all the issues regarding the dredging are laid out and want to make sure that it is done in a very scientific and practical matter to protect the ecology and environment of the Hudson River.

The Trolley services on the Cortlandt Boulevard will help to alleviate traffic issues and gas emissions. We will be applying for a grant and if received, then perhaps within the next few years there will be a Trolley service.

All Voted **AYE**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Becker moved that the following be received and filed and the following resolutions be adopted. Councilmember Feach seconded the motion.

Receive and File:

- 1. Reports from the Fire Advisory Board with respect to duplicate addresses on Westchester Avenue and Springvale Road and Fireworks Permits for residents; and refer the first two letters to the Assessor and the last letter to the legal department for comments.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 93-15 RE: Appoint Michael Preziosi to the Civil Service Title of Senior Civil Engineer in accordance with Civil Service Procedures.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-15 RE: Authorize the Town Supervisor to submit three (3) projects to Westchester County seeking funding from the Community Housing Infrastructure Investment Program (CHIP).

RESOLUTION NO. 95-15 RE: Authorize a Contract with respect to Lawn Service Maintenance.

Discussion: None

All Voted **AYE**

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BUDGET TRANSFERS

NONE

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REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

Jeff Coleman thanked Glenn Cestaro and said he couldn't as for a more knowledgeable, easy to work with person who had such a great knowledge of public works and what they do.

Ed Vergano commented that he will be losing a friend and a great value as a co-worker. He wished Glenn and his family the best in the future.

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REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

Richard Campbell

4 Francis Drive

Stated that the street sign should be "Francis" and the last time the Town changed the sign, the spelling was wrong. This was referred to Jeff Coleman.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. on a motion by Councilmember Farrell, seconded by Councilmember Costello.

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

JO-ANN DYCKMAN
Town Clerk