

March 11, 2014

Town Board Meeting

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on March 11, 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:

<b>LINDA D. PUGLISI</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
<b>FRANCIS X. FARRELL</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>DEBRA COSTELLO</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>RICHARD BECKER</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>
<b>SETH FREACH</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>

Also present:

<b>JO-ANN DYCKMAN</b>	<b>Town Clerk</b>
<b>EDWARD VERGANO</b>	<b>DOTS, Director</b>
<b>GLENN CESTARO</b>	<b>Comptroller</b>
<b>CLAUDIA VAHEY</b>	<b>Human Resources Coordinator</b>
<b>CHRISTINE B. COTHREN</b>	<b>Deputy Town Clerk</b>
<b>ROSEMARY B. LASHER</b>	<b>DOTS/Asst. to Director</b>
<b>JEFFREY COLEMAN</b>	<b>Director, DES</b>

#### **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.

#### **SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Supervisor Puglisi** reminded everyone that there will be 2 St. Patrick's Day parades this weekend, one in Peekskill and one in the Village of Buchanan. She thanked them for hosting the parades every year.

The Town of Cortlandt will be holding its Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and urged the residents to bring the kids!

There will be Earth Day activities planned by the Town of Cortlandt Green Team. More information will be coming on the website.

**Supervisor Puglisi** spoke of all the winter snow and commended all the Town employees for their hard work doing their best to clear the roads in a difficult winter season. There has been double the amount of expenditures, approximately 1.3 million dollars but no money needed to be borrowed for payment.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS, (cont.)**

Jeff Coleman discussed the situation with potholes and that it won't be til about April 15<sup>th</sup> that they will be filled. In the time being, they will be filled with cold patch and will continue to do so. He urged residents to report the potholes and they will get to them as quickly as they can. Supervisor Puglisi thanked the community for their patience and promised to respond and get a crew out to help.

The **Supervisor** and the Town Comptroller, Glenn Cestaro have been discussing about the Town finances and the **Supervisor** stated that she is pleased to say that at the end of the fiscal year 2013 there is a surplus in every account. That surplus is added to the fund balance and the money is utilized for projects and to carry over to the next fiscal year to offset the Town taxes. There will be a more in-depth report with Glenn to the Town Board and the community in the upcoming weeks.

**Supervisor Puglisi** and the Town Board members attended a forum co-hosted with the Hendrick Hudson School District on a panel about drug and substance abuse prevention, particularly the heroin issue in society. It was a very positive and informative panel and the community was told that this education would continue on and they will do what they could do to eradicate these abuses with the help of many others. Another forum will be co-hosted with the Lakeland School District on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Walter Panas High School.

There will be 2 student resource officers called SROs in the HenHud district in the next few weeks thanks to the Westchester County Police. There will be no charge to the school district and will be at the high school and middle school. The Town of Cortlandt has funded the DARE program since 1992 and now with Detective Cliff Gabrilson from the Croton Police Department who teaches the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They've been talking about what happens with the students after leaving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and that there needs to be another course to remind them. This has been discussed and will be addressed in the coming weeks or months to come.

**Supervisor Puglisi** stated that they want to expand the Town of Cortlandt's Drug and Substance Abuse Coalition. It's tied into the Youth Center and its purpose is for education. There will be a work session to discuss how the expansion can be done. There is a grant for \$175,000 a year for the next few years for this purpose.

On the agenda is the resolution to expand on the half basketball court to a full court at the Youth Center with the purpose to attract more kids to the center. They are also working hard to bring an indoor ice skating ring to the community. The **Supervisor** commented that they need more youths to come to our Youth Center. It is well supervised and she urged residents to have their children use the facility, along with the CUE for high school students on Friday and Saturday nights. **Supervisor Puglisi** listed all the activities available at the CUE.

The **Supervisor** commented on a Channel 12 News series called "Hooked on Heroin" and will be getting a copy of it for the Town website if they feel it would be helpful.

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)**

**Supervisor Puglisi** stated the Town’s opposition to two energy projects coming into the community. One is Spectra Algonquin, a gas line project and the other is West Point Partners. LLC which is an electric plant proposal. This would be in Verplanck if it goes through. The Town is holding an important informational meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

All the events and meetings are on the Town’s website and Facebook pages.

Supervisor Puglisi will be closing the meeting tonight in the memory of Frank Cernese, a former Town Assessor and Councilmember.

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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 Freach:** Thanked the Supervisor and the Superintendent of Hendrick Hudson for working together on the forum. It was very informative and everyone agreed it was a great first step that the epidemic is being confronted and will continue to do so. One question asked at the Forum was about left over prescription drugs and how they are leading to addiction. They asked what should be done with them. Councilmember Freach stated he was very glad they were able to work with the County Police to bring two prescription drug drop off boxes here to the Town which will be installed in the next few weeks and can be done anonymously.

The Solar Task Force met last week and had a good first meeting and discussion about what sort of data they will be taking a hard look at. They are in the process of gathering all that data and Councilmember Freach thanked Glenn Cestaro and his staff for pulling those numbers together and helping them work with the energy companies.

**Councilmember Farrell:** Stated he’s been spending a great deal of his time working with a group formed to promote the use of the river for rowing called the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association formed to bring the sport of rowing to the Town and surrounding area. He commented how fortunate we are to live on the Hudson River and how it has been used for hundreds of years for competitive rowing. There will be an Earth Day cleanup on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park where they have their boathouse and at Lake Meahagh Park where they also will be rowing. On May 10<sup>th</sup> there will be the Opening Day at Lake Meahagh to which everyone is invited and there will be a “learn to row” program. This will not only develop athletic skills, but also to appreciate the beauty that is all around us which will add a whole new dimension with living in the Town. Councilmember Farrell commented that the Club has been formed to provide access to the sport to all ages and abilities. There are now 35 people signed up ranging in ages from

**TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)**

7-70 with the long-term focus of developing a vibrant youth program. It offers an opportunity to compete as a team in a unique way different than other team sports and it also has a lot of scholarship opportunities. He urged residents to join them at Lake Meahagh on May 10<sup>th</sup> opening day and asked for volunteers for the cleanup on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Supervisor Puglisi** and Councilmember Farrell both commented that he has a great group of people working with him. Councilmember Farrell also commented that it seems that the Croton women have really taken the lead on this, four from Croton High School and the Coxens from Croton and others scattered from the Town.

**Councilmember Becker:** Commented that the word “epidemic” is very appropriate, referring to the heroin epidemic, because it is a disease and it is spreading. This is a national problem and the Attorney General, Eric Holder commented about this and happening at the federal level. Councilmember Becker stated it is a very different drug epidemic than we’ve seen previously. Before it was confined to the inner city, the poor and indigent, but this is now more rampant in middle class communities and suburbs. This starts innocently with a few painkillers and then heroin is much cheaper and readily available. Heroin is instantly addicting and could be instantly fatal making it a difficult problem and requiring a complex solution and thanked the Board and Supervisor Puglisi for taking a lead on this.

Councilmember Becker stated that the Cortlandt National and Cortlandt American have opening days in the next month will get the season off to another winning year.

Regarding the Youth Center, Councilmember Becker stated that they will make a “full court press” to bring the Youth Center into the current year and involve our kids. The activities they enjoy are different than in the past and experts will be brought in to be sure this is a relevant place, not just recreation but opening it up to other relevant programs for today’s youth.

**Councilmember Costello:** Added that even with young children, babysitters come into the house or with open houses, there is the opportunity for the drugs to be taken out of the house. It is important to get the drugs out of the house, even if you think there is no problem in your home, the people who come into your home might.

Councilmember Costello, along with Councilmember Farrell, both went to the Buchanan Explorers Pasta Dinner. They are a youth arm of the Buchanan Fire Department and able to raise over \$1000.00 of which half went to the Fireman’s Field Home. Councilmember Costello commented that volunteering is so important and urged residents along with their children to volunteer for the many various groups. It also does good for your own soul and she encouraged everyone to volunteer.

Councilmember Costello shared a story regarding a Hendrick Hudson graduate who lost his daughter to cancer and how a friend shaved her head for donations with the money going to the Ronald McDonald house. Councilmember Costello asked residents to “pay it forward” and do a good deed for others.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councilmember Costello moved that the minutes of February 11, 2014 be approved as presented by Town Clerk Dyckman. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

All voted **AYE**

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

(A complete transcript of this Public Hearing is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.)

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Hearing and presented its Affidavit of Publication from the official Town newspaper.

**1. Public Hearing to consider a Local Law amending the Zoning Ordinance.**

**Supervisor Puglisi** called the hearing to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Discussion:**

**Tom Wood** stated that this local law, if enacted would amend the Town Zoning ordinance. Some of these recommendations have come from the Zoning Board of Appeals and also from the planning Department Staff. First it would make a definition for schools for profit to define them. The regular schools, private schools and public schools are already defined. And it would also allow them in commercial districts throughout the town and not in residential districts. It would also add a provision making public notification for applications for special permits as broad and as extensive as the publication notification for any other revisions or permits. It would add a civil penalty proceeding for punishment with respect to any violations in the zoning law. It allows for a non criminal alternative and finally it grants to the Planning Board authority to modify the parking requirements with respect to development proposals in the Town. He stated that they have found that many times the numeric standards, one space for x number of sq. feet, cause the build out of much larger parking facilities than are actually needed. This would give the Planning Board greater flexibility to base a reduction or a land banking of parking spaces based on actual comparison of the similar use in other communities.

A motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m., adopt a Negative Declaration and Adopt a Local Law was made by Councilmember Becker and seconded by Councilmember Farrell.

**RESOLUTION NO.96-14 RE: Adopt a Negative Declaration with respect to amending the Zoning Ordinance.**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 2-14: A Local Law amending the Zoning Ordinance.**

All voted **AYE**

**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 February, 2014 from the Purchasing Department, the Office for the Aging,  
the Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

The 2013 Annual Reports from the Department of Recreation and Conservation, and the  
Purchasing and Technology Department.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Receive and File the Following:**

- 1. Updated Town Technology Policy.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. 2013 Service Award Program points list from the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
- 2. Petition and Plan with respect to drainage issues in the area of Lent Avenue in Montrose.
- 3. Letters from Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Assemblywoman Sandra Galef in opposition of the demolition of several buildings on the VA Campus.

**Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi** stated that the Town Technology Policy is evolving everyday and so the IT employee and Department Head, Peter McMillan, are constantly updating the policy for approval. She thanked them both. The **Supervisor** also thanked Congresswoman Lowey and Assemblywoman Galef for supporting our position that we want to keep the VA here now and in the future.

All voted **AYE**

**RESOLUTIONS**

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 97-14 RE: Appoint Simon Wake to the title Assistant Assessment Clerk in the Assessor's Office.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 98-14 RE: Appoint Jane Fitzgerald to the title Assessment Clerk on a provisional basis.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-14 RE: Appoint seasonals for the Recreation and Conservation Department.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 100-14 RE: Appoint Richard Zumbach as a member of the PRC Advisory Board to fill a vacancy.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 101-14 RE: Appoint Eric Yun as an Intern for DOTS under the WISE Program.**

**Discussion:** The **Supervisor** stated that Mr. Wade will be filling a vacancy in the Assessor's Office and is an upgrade for Ms. Fitzgerald already in the assessor's office. Mr. Zumbach is also the President of the rowing organization and will make a great addition filling the vacancy in the PRC Advisory Board

All voted **AYE**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 102-14 RE: Authorize lifting parking restrictions on Quaker Bridge Road with respect to an event to be held on May 3, 2014 by Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 103-14 RE: Authorize DOTS and the Recreation Department to develop plans including a budget with respect to a full basketball court and additional lighting at the Youth and Recreation Center.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 104-14 RE: Authorize a License Agreement with the Cortlandt National Little League with respect to electrical work for a scoreboard at the ball field on Highland Avenue in Verplanck.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 105-14 RE: Authorize a Lease Agreement with Con Edison for 2014 with respect to the ball field on Broadway in Verplanck for use by the Cortlandt National Little League.**

**RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 106-14 RE: Authorize an Agreement with Partners in Safety with respect to drug testing for Town employees.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 107-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to solicit bids with respect to a water main replacement on Jerome and Rita Drive.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 108-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to develop concept plan and cost estimates from Studer Design with respect to a water spray park at Cook Pool.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 109-14 RE: Appoint Mazur Engineers and VHB to the Town's Environmental Consultants Lists.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 110-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to retain drafting services with respect to a sidewalk for Rt. 9A from Kings Ferry Road to Roundtree Lane.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 111-14 RE: Authorize the purchase of a new sanitation/garbage truck for DES.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-14 RE: Authorize the purchase of a field machine for use in the Parks Division of DES.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 113-14 RE: Authorize the purchase of a pick-up/ utility truck for DES.**

**Discussion:** The **Supervisor** stated that the parking restrictions that will be lifted will only be for one day. Also, there is the resolution for the full basketball court as discussed earlier. She also stated that the sidewalk resolution from Kings Ferry to Roundtree Lane is part of a grant from New York State and the **Supervisor** is pleased to say that all the 8 miles of sidewalks in Cortlandt have been built during this administration in the last 22-23 years.

All Voted **AYE**

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**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**Receive and File:**

1. Correspondence and DVDs with respect to Spectra Energy and West Point Partners, LLC and proposed energy projects in Verplanck.



**ADDITIONS to the AGENDA, (cont.)**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 114-14 RE: Appoint a substitute kitchen worker for the Community Center.**

All voted AYE

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**REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**None**

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**SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 7:45 p.m. in memory of former Town Councilman and Town Assessor Frank Cernese on a motion by Councilmember Farrell and seconded by Councilmember Costello.

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

**JO-ANN DYCKMAN,  
Town Clerk**

**March 11, 2014**

**Town Board Meeting**