

**STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY COUNTY**

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Town Supervisor Palow led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:01PM with the following roll call attendance: Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane were present. Also, present Highway Superintendent Bashwinger and Town Clerk Kristin De Oliveira.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING FOR LL#2 ATV

Supervisor Palow made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Local Law # 2 ATV seconded by Councilmember Doolin, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

Councilmember Thiem addressed the room concerning the Proposed Local Law #2 for ATVs and the many concerns that had been heard by the board. Councilmember Thiem made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to table to Proposed Law, the motion passed with a roll call vote:

Supervisor Palow.....Aye	Councilmember Thiem.....Aye
Councilmember VaneAye	Councilmember Doolin.....Aye

DISCUSS/APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Supervisor Palow asked if there was any discussion on the meetings minutes and made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2023 and February 8, 2023, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Palow shared a thank you letter from Joel and Patty Willsie about Shawn and Dave at the Transfer Station commending them on their hard work, keeping the space clean, as well as being super helpful to residents.

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Supervisor Palow announced a Rabies Clinic had been scheduled for October 7, 2023 at the Berne Highway Garage and told that more information would become available as it gets closer.

Town Clerk shared a letter received from National Grid LED install project manager Joe Pallone in response to an email (which will be attached at the end of these minutes) sent speaking of resident's concerns with the new lighting that was being installed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Panza lives on Koko Lane and came to express her concern with the new LED streetlight that has been installed. She displayed a photo taken at her home and called the light pollution a violation of Town Bylaws and stated that her and her neighbor would prefer the light to be removed.

Another resident, Carol Hogan also spoke of her issues with the new LED lighting and how these will affect animal habitats as well as people who enjoy looking at the stars.

Mike Vincent wanted to revisit the topic of the new Albany County option to offer a tax exemption for Firefighters and EMS who volunteer. Vincent wanted to remind everyone if the volunteer positions become obsolete, they would become paid positions.

Ron Jordan wanted to remind the board of a complaint about a residence in Reedsville with multiple vehicles on the property violating code and asked if any action had been taken yet.

Dawn Jordan reiterated the concerns with the new LED streetlights and not being able to look up at the stars.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway- Superintendent Bashwinger discussed upcoming improvements for the Town Park weather permitting- the materials to put the walls on pavilion were delivered and the ceiling will be getting enclosed. The road by the concession stand will also be removed allowing for safety with little league and ease of parking as well. As far as trucks and repairs there are still major delays on getting parts and there are 2 trucks are currently out of commission.

Transfer Station- Superintendent Bashwinger thanked the residents for the compliments and agreed that things are running very smoothly. The annual DEC report filing tonnage for materials disposed of has been filed and the numbers were pretty similar to 2022.

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Planning Board- Chairman Martin stated there would be a public hearing March 23,2023 for the Sission Subdivision. He also gave a handout to the board and spoke of updating the Agricultural District Data Sheet to include expecting smells and noises associated with agricultural activity if you buy/build in this type of zoning.

ZBA- Chairman Spargo said no news to report with no February Meeting.

Parks & Recreation- Chair Mary Claire Ansboro talk about her vision for improving the town park and mentioned ideas including batting cages, a walking trail, and more playground equipment.

Library- Director Kathy Stempel sent a report with Town Clerk and urged residents to send a letter to Governor Hochel who is proposing to cut library funding across the state.

Assessor's- The Department mailed a report of activity to the Town Board. Councilmember Vane addressed the board and the idea that had been discussed at the last minute to lease the local business of Daisey Doggie Kennels. After some research and discussions with NYS Ags and Market, unfortunately the findings were that the town cannot lease from a privately owned business. The plan is to investigate grant monies available and possibly purchase a kennel for the town.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS DOG KENNELS FOR TOWN

Councilmember Vane addressed the board and the idea that had been discussed at the last meeting to lease a local business called Daisey Doggie Kennels. After some research and discussions with NYS Ags and Market unfortunately the findings were that the town cannot lease from a privately owned business and are back to square one. The plan is to look into grant monies available and possibly purchase a kennel for the town.

DISCUSS LOCAL LAW # 1 ASSESSOR' S LAW

Supervisor Palow stated that Proposed Local Law # 1 2023 had been sent to surrounding towns and will wait 30 days to see if there is any response that will need discussion and that the law the will discussed at the April Board meeting.

SWITZKILL FARM HAYING BIDS 2023

The second bid opening for 2023 Switzkill Farm haying was done at Town Hall March 8, 2023 at 10 AM. Only one bid was received was Roger Chrysler for \$2010.00 for a 5-year contract. Supervisor Palow stated that the Town was back in contact with the county of Albany about the sale or partnership of Switzkill Farm and due to this would be putting haying of the fields on hold.

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NEW BUSINESS

SCHEDULE/CONDUCT YEARLY AUDITS FOR DEPARTMENTS

Per Town Law and NYS Comptroller's Office there are appendixes to complete yearly audits for the following departments- Town Justices, Town Supervisor, Senior Account Clerk, and Town Clerk. The following would be completed by Town Board members as follows- Supervisor Palow: Justice Office, Councilmember Thiem: Town Supervisor, Councilmember Vane: Town Clerk and Councilmember Clayton: Senior Accountant Clerk.

ANNOUNCE/DISCUSS FIREWORKS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Supervisor Palow announced the Independence Day Fireworks show would be at Town Park on July 2, 2023, there will be free ice cream and the fireworks will be displayed for about 12-15 minutes at 9PM. Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to enter into a contract with Santore Fireworks and to remit payment of \$6000 Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

ADVERTISE FOR HIGHWAY ROAD MATERIALS FOR 2023

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to authorize Town Clerk De Oliveira to advertise for Highway Road Materials for 2023 and the bid opening to take place at Town Hall 1656 Helderberg Trail on April 11, 2023, at 10AM. Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

DISCUSS/APPROVE FEES FOR USE OF TOWN PARK

In fall of 2022 there were improvements made to the kitchen at Town Park including a new stove, microwave, refrigerator, deep freezer, functioning window to access pavilion space as well as stainless steel top tables. Currently and in the past the park was free for residents despite costs of maintenance. After discussion Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to instill a fee for the Town Pavilion private event use for \$75 for residents, \$50 for senior residents and \$125 for non-residents. Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

DISCUSS KIWANIS MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

A letter was received from the Kiwanis Association with the information for the Memorial Day Parade requesting a \$150 monetary donation as the Town has done very year in the past. The Association also reached out to confirm a porta potty would be put at Pocket Park behind the Foxcreek Market. Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the \$150 donation as well as the cost of two porta potty units, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

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DISCUSS/APPROVE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK BUDGET MODIFICATION

Supervisor Palow made a motion to make the following budget transfer:

	From: Decrease	To:
Increase		
A1990E44999 Contingency/ Misc. Contractual Expenses	\$5760.00	
A1410E10110 Deputy Town Clerk		\$ 5760.00

Motion carried with the following members voting aye: Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Reports from February 2023 including Packet A – Abstracts Packet B- Budget to Actual Reports Supervisors' reports for revenue per fund, Supervisors reports for expenditures per fund and budget transfers report if required, Packet C – Bank Reconciliations and bank statements for February, Packet D - Cash balance report and Balance sheet Report seconded by Councilmember Vane, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's Financial Report from February 2023 seconded by Councilmember Thiem, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Building and Zoning's Financial Report from February 2023 seconded by Councilmember Vane, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

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AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR FEBRUARY

After discussion, Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem that the budget transfers for February to be authorized. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

APPROVING ABSTRACTS AND PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

After discussion, Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the following abstracts and payment bills:

- Abstract #9 2023 \$3,469.86 (Voucher 134-143) Utilities
- Abstract #10 2023 \$3,001.01 (Voucher 144-146) Utilities
- Abstract #11 2023 \$4,602.59 (Voucher 147-148) Board Approved
- Abstract #12 2023 \$49,515.71 (Voucher 149-241, 247) Regular
- Abstract #13 2023 \$1,307.37 (Voucher 242-246) Utilities
- Abstract #14 2023 \$40,673.38 (Voucher 248-264) Utilities
- Abstract #15 2023 \$455,285.23 (Voucher 265-267) Tax Warrant
- **Total Abstracts : \$557,855.15**

GENERAL FUND, HIGHWAY FUND, SEWER, UTILITIES WITHHOLDINGS FOR 2023

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to authorize payment of bills -motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow, and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, Supervisor Palow made the motion seconded by Councilmember Clayton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow, and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye. Meeting adjourned **8:07 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk