

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
TOWN BOARD MEETING
371 State Route 296, Hensonville, NY
Website: www.townofwindhamny.com**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Present: Supervisor: Thomas F. Hoyt
Councilmen: Wayne Van Valin, Ian Peters, Stephen Walker & Kurt Goettsche
Town Clerk: Bonnie Poehmel

Also Present: Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Raymond Gregorczyk, Drew Shuster, John Garzone, Brian Hammel, Joe Charbonneau, Karen Hansen, William MacGregor, Marianne Brigham, Karen Bromley, Bruce Malachuk, Jon Licurse, Reese Rusin, Brendan Doughlin, Cuyler Brinberry, Jared & Angela Schwartz, Jen Schwartz, Sadhbh Lavery, Loni Holdridge, Evan Schieren, Alan Trinkle, Tyrel Sherman, Lee Rappleyea, Jess Leto, Sue Kowalski, Molly Hurst, Diane Kletz, Morgan Miller, Paul Morales, Matthew Rodrigue, Thomas Poelker, Dusan & Gail Popovic, Karen & Larry Gardner, Mary Finneran, Atossa Kia, Helen Exum, Connor Exum, Michael Troccoli, Pat Madigan & Mike Ryan Mountain Eagle

Absent: Ambulance Administrator Davia Montie, Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington & Delaware Engineering John Brust

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, TOWN BOARD MEETING were approved as typed on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Walker, with 3 in favor, abstained by Councilmen Van Valin & Peters as they were absent.

1.DELAWARE ENGINEERING: John Brust was not present.

2.NOISE COMPLAINT on Mitchell Hollow Rd: Ray Gregorczyk was present. Supervisor Hoyt addressed Mr. Gregorczyk; the Code Enforcement Officer will take care of the matter. Neighbors have sent in letters of complaint as well. The letters will be given to the Code Enforcement Officer, and he will report back to the Town Board with his findings.

3.TOWN CLERK's report for August 2024: \$5,345.93. A motion to accept was made by Councilman Walker, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor.

4.GREENE COUNTY SOIL & WATER requesting permission to use WWTP room for a SWAC Meeting October 28, 2024 @ 4:30 to 8:00pm; meeting is 6:00 pm. A motion to approve use of the facility room was made by Councilman Walker, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

5.GREENE COUNTY SOIL & WATER requesting permission to use Senior Center room for a training day "Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training" November 14, 2024 @ 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A motion to approve use of the facility room was made by Councilman

Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. GCSWCD is to make sure the room is clean upon leaving and replenish any supplies used in the kitchen per the Town Board.

6.CRYSTAL POND HOA requesting use of the Senior Center room for their Annual HOA meeting either for either Saturday, January 11 or 18, 2025 for 4:00 to 6:30 pm. A motion to approve use of the facility room was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. Crystal Pond HOA is to make sure the room is clean upon leaving per the Town Board.

7.JOHN O'CONNOR REQUESTING USE of Basket Ball Court for a Skateboard Event. Tent dates Saturday, October 19 or 20, 2024 will need use of the restrooms. A motion to approve use of the basket ball court was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor. A Certificate of Insurance is on file. Supervisor Hoyt would like John O'Connor to be aware of the weather. Should the weather stay mild the restrooms will remain open; if the weather is gets colder the restrooms will be winterized and not available for that date.

8.PRESERVE THE PATH GROUP, Mountain Top Issues Coalition & WARF requesting permission to use Senior Center room "Information Collaboration Session" October 16, 2024 @ 7:00 pm-9:30 pm. A motion to approve use of the facility room was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. Preserve the Path Group, Mountain Top Issues Coalition & WARF is to make sure the room is clean upon leaving and replenish any supplies used in the kitchen per the Town Board.

9.TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION #116 OF 2024: the following resolution was proposed to transfer funds to balance the Sewer District accounts. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor. TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION #117 OF 2024: the following resolution was proposed to transfer funds to balance the Streetlighting District accounts. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Walker, with all in favor. AMBULANCE FUND RESOLUTION #14 OF 2024: the following resolution was proposed to transfer funds to balance the Ambulance Fund accounts. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. GENERAL FUND RESOLUTION #20 OF 2024: the following resolution was proposed to transfer funds to balance the General Fund accounts. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor.

10.GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION #343-24: Awarding Bid for Abrasives (Dry Screened and Washed) Used in Snow & Ice Control

11.AMBULANCE REPORT: Ambulance Administrator Davia Montie was not present. October 1, 2024 will be the first committee meeting with Ray Ward to discuss the Town vs. the County System. Supervisor Hoyt will update the Board.

12.HIGHWAY REPORT: Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington was not present. The highway dept has done the second mowing around. The properties in town that are done once a year are getting done as well.

13.COMMITTEE REPORT: **Councilman Walker**, the CWT meeting was cancelled on September 16, 2024. Paperwork was not in order per the Attorneys. **Councilman Van Valin** has someone to do the siding at the Centre Property. The mason was reminded again about the ramp at the Library and the insulation guys are to show to see the specs. Tim Hunt Alpine Flooring, the new floor in the police office is complete, just waiting for the carpenter to finish the trim work. **Councilman Goettsche** has nothing to report on. **Councilman Peters** is working on a new phone contract. There are some telephone lines that are not needed and these can be cancelled without any charge. **Supervisor Hoyt** would like to approve the following new employees for hire effective September 26, 2024 unless stated differently. **Samuel Bruck, full-time highway laborer**; a motion to approve was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. **Steven Jacobs, part-time highway laborer/MEO (effective 09/12/204)**; a motion to approve was made by Councilman Walker, 2nd by Councilman Goettesche, with all in favor. **Ezekiel Pease part-time paramedic**; a motion to approve was

made by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. **Jesse Bernstein part-time paramedic** to be removed from the ambulance roster; a motion to approve was made by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. **Attorney Tal Rappleyea** has been working with the applications for the site plans and subdivision. He currently is holding 12 escrow accounts for various active projects currently going on.

Supervisor Hoyt read the following aloud: “Our recently Comprehensive Plan includes a goal to expand recreational opportunities in the Town with an objective to develop new parks and expand recreational programming.

With this in mind, for the past six months, I have been working with the non-profit Windham Foundation to secure property to expand recreational programming in Windham.

I am pleased to announce that with the generous financial support of the Windham Foundation, about 34 acres of vacant land along County Route 65A in the hamlet of Hensonville has been secured for community recreational and civic purposes. Given the size, location and configuration of the property, a land bank shall now exist for the benefit of the Windham Community for years to come.

Given the prime location and features of the property, negotiations have been confidential to protect the interests of the property owners and the Windham Foundation, and by extension, the public.

While planning for use of the property is just beginning, the land is configured to allow easy access to approximately 7 acres of currently cleared land by the public in the heart of our community recreation. The balance of the property will be held by the Windham Foundation for future land uses to improve and enhance the quality of life in Windham.

We want to thank Econopouly Family, parents Sotirios and Georgia, and siblings Demetrios, Kathy and Joanne, and the Windham Foundation for their commitment to our community and providing a space for the development of enhanced recreational facilities and other community amenities.

A press release will be issued by the Windham Foundation.”

Councilman Ian Peters read the following aloud: “First a big thank you to the Windham Foundation. They have been steadfast partners with town government and have done so much to improve this town. This partnership goes back to the relationship Supervisor Meehan had with Mr. Kellog and many of the other original donors to the foundation over the years. I am encouraged that the new faces at the Windham Foundation continue to have a productive and meaningful relationship with the town and Supervisor Hoyt. It is a credit to both of you.

The second thing I would like to say is that this is the moment for us to look forward, turn the corner, and move on from the past 6 months. These meetings have been marked by disrespect, false accusations, and un-neighborly behavior. This board has borne the brunt of this disrespect and despite that has been steadfast in its commitment to keep working towards a solution. While others went out and grandstanded and fundraised and stirred the pot, we did what was best for the town and put our heads down and tried to find a way forward. We have delivered on the commitment we made to the public. We found partners, real partners, who put politics and grandstanding aside, willing to work with us and do something great.

Those who were the fiercest critics of this board and of the initial proposal all made sure to point out that they certainly don't oppose little league and would do anything to support the league outside of the path. Now is the time for that promise to be delivered on. I hope that all those who dedicated their time to telling us they oppose the preliminary plan now spend just as much time and effort helping the town build something great.

In particular, I would call on any person, organization, or non profits who solicited donations to oppose the initial plan, donations to hire a high priced attorney to bully this board, that all the money raised for should be granted in its entirety to the town, to the Little League, or to the

Windham Foundation so that it supports the development of recreation opportunities at this new property.”

GENERAL FUND WARRANT #18-G contained vouchers #585-620, totaling \$40,475.90 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

HIGHWAY FUND WARRANT #18 contained vouchers #179-182, totaling \$3,986.09 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

SEWER DISTRICT FUND WARRANT #18 contained vouchers #240-256, totaling \$46,708.29 was audited and approved on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

NY RISING FUND WARRANT #47 contained voucher #78, totaling \$905.00 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT WARRANT #3 contained voucher #4, totaling \$46.08 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

AMBULANCE FUND WARRANT #18 contained vouchers #178-185, totaling \$10,260.67 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

GENERAL FUND PAYROLL WARRANT #19-P for **General** contained 13 claims, totaling \$12,309.26 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. **Ambulance** payroll contained 16 claims, totaling \$20,522.33 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

HIGHWAY PAYROLL WARRANT #19-P contained 2 claims, totaling \$4,811.26 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

SEWER DISTRICT FUND PAYROLL WARRANT #19-P contained 3 claims, totaling \$667.95 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

The Supervisor asked for a motion to recess the town board meeting at 7:20 pm and go into the Water District meeting, a motion to approve was made by Councilman Peters, 2nd by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

The town board meeting was re-opened to return to Comments from the public at 7:22 pm, a motion to approve was made by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Walker, with all in favor.

14.COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Overall the public was very pleased to hear the Supervisor’s announcement for the proposed new little league ballfield.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2nd by Councilman Peters, with all in favor.

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILMAN

COUNCILMAN

COUNCILMAN

COUNCILMAN

TOWN CLERK

OFFICIAL