

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 20, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Croce opened the meeting with a salute to the American Flag.

Supervisor Croce then asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Herb Jenkins, who recently passed away and was a former Town Supervisor.

ROLL CALL

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Croce  
Councilman Putnam  
Councilman Farrelly  
Councilwoman Delgado  
Councilman DePew

MINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the July 6, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 6, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had two additions to the evening's agenda; one was discussion on the GASB-34 Inventory Program and the second was discussion on banning the use of plastic and paper bags. He stated that discussion on both items would be under Old Business on the agenda.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had listed a Logging Permit Application on this evening's agenda; however the applicant did not receive some of the paperwork needed to complete the application, so he is removing it for this evening and it will be added to the next meeting agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Rizza asked if the Town Board had done any research on his problem with his neighbor having all the trailers and a camper all over the lawn?

Councilman Farrelly stated that he checked with the Code Enforcement Officer who did go out and view the situation and he has stated that there was nothing in the code that would cause this to be a violation. Right now, your neighbor is not doing anything illegal.

Mr. Rizza stated that he already knew this. What he was asking the Town Board to do was to put something in the Town Code that would make this a violation. He stated that he gave the Town Board a copy of another Town's Code that would make this a violation in a development or housing area with small lots. He feels that these trailers and other items should be kept in the back of the house, where there is already a fenced in area, so that it would be shielded from view. He stated that he had a party at his house last weekend and several people asked him "what's with all the trailers next door?" He stated that he feels his neighbor's property is de-valuing his property and he is in the process of trying to sell his home.

Mr. Rizza stated that he did call the Town Police and left a message about the neighbor driving his golf cart on the road as the Town Board had suggested. It seems to have worked since he has not seen him driving it.

Mr. Rizza stated that he is asking the Town Board to adopt a law to change the Zoning Code.

Councilwoman Delgado explained the process the Town Board has to go through to adopt a local law. She stated that it is not a simple process. She also stated that if the Town Board were to adopt a new law, it may not cover an existing situation. She stated that there was a possibility, because he was doing this action before the law was adopted, that he would be grandfathered in and the law would not pertain to him.

There was discussion that the Building Inspector had gone out and looked at all the stickers on the trailers and that they were all legally registered trailers.

Mr. Rizza stated that something could be put in the law saying that no one is grandfathered in so that it would include people already doing this.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that sometimes it doesn't matter what is in the law. The ADA laws are a good example. You don't have to be in compliance with them until you start to renovate or change your facility; once you start to change things, then you have to be in compliance with the law.

Councilman DePew stated that he also has six trailers on his property and they too are all registered and he uses them all sometime during the year. The difference with his property is that he has a different space where they are not offending any neighbors. He stated that it will take a lot of research to make a law that will cover everyone in Town. He stated that he would continue to educate himself on this situation, but he could not promise anything here this evening.

Supervisor Croce stated that it seems the Town Board has more work to do on this matter and they could not offer him any decision this evening.

Mr. Rizza thanked the Town Board for considering his request.

There were no further comments or questions from the public.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input section of the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – OPTIMUM REPRESENTATIVE – TOWN PHONE LINES

Supervisor Croce introduced Mr. Matthew O’Hare, a representative from the Optimum Company, who was present to answer questions on the possibility of the Town changing the facilities phone lines to cable lines.

Mr. O’Hare explained that he could offer the Town a flat rate of \$599.00 per month for all 17 phone lines listed for the Town facilities. He stated that this would be a savings per month as the current phone lines come in at about \$665.00 per month.

Councilman DePew stated that he was thinking the Town should have at least 3 copper lines for the alarm systems and for emergencies when the electric goes out.

Mr. O’Hare discussed that the Town phone lines would have a battery back-up for 48 hours as long as there is a generator to keep them going in the Town Hall. He stated that another option is to use FIOS; however that service is not currently available here in Modena. He discussed that going with Optimum directly, instead of going through a company like CornerStone who purchases cable and then re-sells it to its customers, would mean that the lines would be fixed quicker in an emergency situation.

Supervisor Croce questioned this logic stating that CornerStone is a customer that purchases a lot of cable lines and he would think that the Optimum Company would want to have its customers up and running sooner than a lone purchaser.

Mr. O’Hare stated that Optimum would rather get its 98% of direct customers up and running before working on CornerStone’s 2% of the Hudson Valley customers.

There was more discussion that there was no contract with Optimum so the Town would not be locked into staying with them if they chose to go elsewhere.

Mr. O’Hare noted that there has not been an increase in prices in over 8 years.

There was discussion on purchasing a new router for the Town Hall control panel or the router could be rented from Optimum. There was also more discussion on what would happen in an emergency situation and how the phone lines to the Highway Dept. would be the responsibility of the Town since the phones all worked off the control panel in the Town Hall.

Mr. O’Hare summed up that each phone line would have a dedicated line, each line would be separate and as long as they were not calling internationally, the flat rate would stay the same for all lines. They would be a direct customer of Optimum and not a re-seller of the lines.

Supervisor Croce thanked Mr. O’Hare for coming in this evening and let him know that the Town Board was looking into what other companies were offering too. He stated that they were going to speak with a representative from Verizon at the next meeting, so a decision was not going to be made this evening.

Mr. O’Hare thanked the Town Board for considering his company for the Town Hall phone system.

SECTION 2 – POLICE MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2016

Supervisor Croce read the Police Dept. Monthly Report for June 2016. He read that there were 272 documented calls for service and 166 Traffic Tickets issued. He read that there were 15 motor vehicle accidents handled by the Plattekill Police with 2 people reporting injuries.

Supervisor Croce did not read the Arrest Blotter section and reminded everyone that a copy of this complete report could be obtained at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Supervisor Croce read that the Detectives worked many cases including 1 Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Grand Larceny 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 Larcenies, 1 unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, 1 Criminal Contempt 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Criminal Impersonation, 1 Petit Larceny, 1 Unattended Death, 1 Menacing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 DWI, 1 Assault, 1 Reckless Endangerment, 1 Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> and one Assist with an URGENT Warrant. The Detectives also closed 9 cases; 4 with investigations and 5 with an arrest.

Under Personnel Matters, Supervisor Croce read that Officer Willard Sutton retired as of June 30<sup>th</sup> after 32 years of exemplary service with the Department. Officer Ryan Benincasa also resigned as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The report stated that the department would be interviewing prospective candidates for these open positions.

Supervisor Croce read that the Plattekill Police Dept. also will be receiving a \$3,000.00 Grant for extra DWI Patrols for 2017.

Under Events, Supervisor Croce read that the Plattekill Police Benevolent Association held a successful 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bruce Loertscher Scholarship Pig Roast and Car Show on June 11, 2016. The event raised over \$4,000.00 for college scholarships. The PBA wanted to thank all the people who worked to make this a great event again this year and to thank the public for attending.

Supervisor Croce finished by reading the section on vehicle conditions and it was noted that some of the vehicles, although they receive extremely good care from the Highway Dept., are starting to show wear and are listed in poor condition.

#### SECTION 2 – BUILDING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2016

Supervisor Croce read the Building Department Monthly Report for June 2016. He read that there were 26 Permits issued, 10 Violations issued, 1 Violation Closed, 87 Inspections were made, 7 Complaints were taken, 12 Municipal Searches were done and 19 CC & C of O's were issued. These numbers do not include returning phone calls and residents coming in for assistance with codes, building permits and Zoning & Subdivision issues.

#### SECTION 3 – DOG CONTROL MONTHLY REPORTS – MAY & JUNE 2016

Supervisor Croce read the May Dog Control Monthly Report and then the June Report.

May: Supervisor Croce read that there were 9 calls received this month including 2 calls from the Plattekill PD, the State Police or the Ulster County Sherriff. The report stated that he had responded to 2 active complaints or cases which were now closed or resolved, 1 open case that has been addressed, but is still ongoing, that there were 0 dogs impounded, 0 appearance tickets issued, 2 Dog Bites were reported and as of June 1 there were no dogs in the kennel.

Supervisor Croce read that the Dog Control Officer has been receiving many calls regarding wild animals and wanted to remind residents that the natural life cycles of wild animals that are indigenous to our area should not be interfered with. The slogan, "If you care, Leave it there" should be followed unless the animal is in an immediate threat to the public safety. He gave his phone number if anyone had questions or a problem that required intervention.

June: Supervisor Croce read that there were 17 calls received this month with 5 calls from the Plattekill PD, the State Police or the Ulster County Sherriff. The report stated that he had responded to 4 active complaints or cases which were now closed or resolved, 2 open cases that have been addressed but are

still ongoing, 1 stray dog was impounded 1 dog was seized from a police arrest, 0 appearance tickets issued, 2 dog bites were reported and there were 2 dogs in the kennel.

Supervisor Croce read that the Dog Control Officer has received several calls about Black Bear sightings. He stated that with the dry weather, the bears have been entering populated areas in search of roots and vegetation that they normally find in more remote areas. According to the DEC, these bears may not leave our neighborhoods even if the weather changes. He stated that he wanted to caution residents to not leave their pets or children outside unattended. He again gave his phone number if anyone has any questions.

#### SECTION 5 – MONTHLY RECREATION REPORT

Councilwoman Delgado read the Monthly Report from the Assistant Recreation Director. She read that Summer Camp was a little more than half over and each day they have been averaging approximately 75 campers. She read that there have been some issues with late payments for the field trips and she would like to make the suggestion to change the way the trips are paid for in the future. Late payments are coming in the night before the trips and she has to keep track of all of the children and the payments. She would like to suggest that they be paid for at the start of camp.

Councilwoman Delgado read that there will be a Camp Talent Show on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM and there will be a Camp Picnic on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM. She read that the Town Board and the families of all the campers were invited to attend these events at the Park.

Councilwoman Delgado finished by reading that the Fall Senior Event and Rocking Horse Ranch Day were being planned and as soon as she has the dates finalized, she will let the Town Board know.

The Town Board had a discussion on how to make the collection of money for the Camp Trips better. There was a suggestion to have the money paid separately from the Camp Registration Fee, but in a lump sum, at the start of Camp or maybe to add it into the Camp Registration Fee.

Supervisor Croce stated that this would be something the Town Board could discuss with Ms. Doland when setting up for next year's Camp. He stated that she had some ideas to discuss also.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has received a lot of good comments from parents about the Camp and its programs. It seems that she is doing a really good job.

#### SECTION 6 – ASSESSOR MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2016

Supervisor Croce read the Assessor Monthly Report for June 2016. He read that there were 57 transfers, 4 foreclosures, 17 arm's length transactions, 4 vacant transactions, 12 residential transactions, 2 commercial transactions and 1 manufactured home transaction. He read that the sale price of residential homes only was \$220,371.00.

#### SECTION 7 – GASB-34

Supervisor Croce stated that at the last Town Board Meeting, there was a discussion on the GASB-34 Program. He explained that the State Comptroller's Office and our Town Accountant were suggesting that the Town do an inventory so that we will have a financial accounting of all the assets for the Town. This will help us during budget season as well as give us an actual "Fixed Asset Management Program" that we can continue into the future.

Supervisor Croce stated that there were several questions that came up and he did e-mail our Accountant to get responses to those questions. He stated that he had forwarded the e-mail to the Town Board.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had researched several companies and there is one company named RCI that will do a complete inventory for \$8,500.00. They will come in and inventory all the fixed assets of the Town. Any items costing \$500.00 or more will be given a barcode and those items valued under \$500.00 will be listed for each department. We will then receive a computer program, with the inventoried items, so we can keep track of new items purchased and old items disposed of. We can purchase new barcodes at fifteen cents each to allow us to stay up-to-date in the future.

Councilman Farrelly asked if we would also receive a barcode reader?

Supervisor Croce stated that he was not sure if we get a barcode reader, but his suggestion is that the Supervisor's secretary, who does all the purchase orders for the Town, should have the program on her computer and when there is a purchase to be documented, she can give that department a barcode to put on the new item. She can also delete items that are being replaced.

Councilman DePew stated that he thought this inventory was a good idea and the right thing to do; however he would like to see a policy adopted to have someone in charge to make sure this program is kept up. He suggested having one or more people be responsible to check the inventories once a year or once every six months, to make sure that items are being added and deleted. He stated that he felt the department heads should be given the barcode sticker and this should not be put on the Municipal Worker III as another part of his job. He stated that he felt there should be three or four people to check the inventories to make sure the departments are keeping them up-to-date. There have to be people designated in charge of this, or responsible for this, to get it done.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt that the inventory could be checked on a yearly basis. The Supervisor's secretary can probably print off a page for each department and the department heads can review it to make sure everything is accounted for.

Councilman Putnam stated that he also felt this was a good thing to do and after we have the inventory done, we can then come up with a policy to keep it going. He stated that if we do find that we need someone to make sure this is accounted for, we could give that person a stipend.

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not feel the Town Board should have to pay anyone extra. Once the inventory is done, his secretary will see what is being purchased and she will be able to give the department head a barcode sticker to put on the new item. She will know if something is being replaced or whether it is an additional new item. Then the department heads can get a printout of the inventory for their department and check to make sure it is true.

Councilman DePew stated that it was not that he did not want to do this and in fact he felt it was something we need to do, but he felt that there needs to be a system in place where there are designated people that will go and look and verify the inventory items and ask those questions as to where things have gone that are no longer there. He stated that he does not want to see us pay for this to be done and then in a few years we have to do it all over again. He stated that they have already discussed that this was done back in 1997 and where is it today? What he is saying is that there needs to be a policy in place.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to contract with RCI Technologies, Inc. to provide the Town with a fixed asset management program/inventory of all the Town assets at a flat fee of \$8,500.00 plus \$15.00 for an additional 100 barcode stickers.

Councilwoman Delgado and Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	No
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes
Councilman DePew	No

#### SECTION 8 – MRS. APUZZO’S REQUEST TO BAN PLASTIC & PAPER BAGS

Mrs. Apuzzo and her family were present and asked the Town Board if they had considered her idea to adopt a local law to ban the use of plastic and paper bags? She stated that there is too much waste going into our landfills and she felt that people should use re-usable bags when they are shopping at local stores.

Mrs. Apuzzo read a letter she had written stating that other Towns have adopted this law and many other Towns are considering the adoption of this law. She stated that she was excited that the Town of Plattekill Town Board is considering it too. She stated that it is up to us all to work together for a sustainable future.

There was also another parent present with her son Tim Kortan. Tim read a statement that he had written, also urging the Town Board to consider adopting this local law.

Mrs. Apuzzo stated that the Town could even make some money on this because if someone doesn't have a bag the Town could impose a fine or charge for using a plastic or paper bag from the store. This money would go to the Town. She stated that sometimes she would forget to take a bag with her when shopping in the Village of New Paltz, but now since it would cost her money, she remembers the bag. She stated that if the Town Board is considering this, then the next step is to hold a Public Hearing.

Supervisor Croce stated that he was not looking to make money off of our residents and the next step would not be to go to Public Hearing. He stated that the Town Board, if they wanted to continue with this local law, would have to draft a local law to be adopted. The draft law would then have to be presented to the Town Board and then we could go to Public Hearing. He stated that he appreciates her saying “that change is not easy” but there are always other sides and other opinions that have to be taken into consideration. He stated that he wondered what the retail businesses would think about this.

There was discussion that it was the Village of New Paltz that adopted this local law and not the Town of New Paltz. The Town of New Paltz is where Shoprite, Cherry Hill Plaza and Stop & Shop are located.

Supervisor Croce stated that it would be nice if we could accomplish this through education, not a fine for someone forgetting a bag. And we all know; progress is slow. He stated that he just heard on the radio that they want restaurants to stop giving out plastic straws unless customers ask for them. All the straws end up in the landfills too.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that a lot of restaurants in the area have changed to bio-degradable take-out containers, so the message is starting to get out there.

There was a gentleman in the audience who stated that he was a Trustee for the Village of New Paltz and he stated that the Trustees had already adopted this local law in the Village area about a year ago.

He stated that in Europe and elsewhere, they are already doing this. It is just us here; that we don't. He stated that the Building Inspector or Code Enforcement Officer would be the one to enforce it as part of the Town Code. He stated that the law Mrs. Apuzzo had given the Town Board was the law that the Village and other Towns have adopted.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she did not feel she would want to put this on the Code Enforcement Officer nor would she want to put it on the residents to "turn in" a business for simply giving out a plastic bag to a customer.

The Trustee stated that in over a year, there have only been maybe two phone calls on this to the Building Dept.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would think that this would not be a major problem. He would think most situations could be covered by making a phone call to the store manager.

Councilman Farrelly stated that having this local law apply town wide would be a little more difficult to do. It would encompass a lot more stores and businesses.

Mrs. Apuzzo stated that she did give the Town Board a template of a local law to use to draft a law for the Town.

Supervisor Croce stated that it appears, from the conversation, that the Town Board is still doing research on this. He thanked Mrs. Apuzzo for coming in this evening and stated that the Town Board will continue to consider her suggestion.

SECTION 9 – U.R.G.E.N.T. – RELEASE OF FUNDS - RESOLUTION #13

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town of Plattekill was eligible for money that was seized by the URGENT Task Force. The Town has been a member of this Narcotics Team Cooperative in Ulster County for many years and this year we are going to receive \$7,500.00. He stated that the Town Board had to adopt a resolution to authorize the release of these funds.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following Resolution #13:

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL

RESOLUTION #13

FOR THE RELEASE OF U.R.G.E.N.T. FUNDS

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Ulster County Regional Enforcement Narcotics Team Cooperative Agreement (URGENT) and the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the year 2016 between the Town of Plattekill and the County of Ulster, the Town of Plattekill is eligible for a distribution of monies that were seized by URGENT in the amount of \$7,500.00;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill has authorized the general release related to this distribution and has authorized the Town Supervisor of the Town of Plattekill to sign the general release required in order for the funds to be released by the County of Ulster on behalf of URGENT.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Croce	X			
Councilman Putnam	X			

Councilman Farrelly	X
Councilwoman Delgado	X
Councilman DePew	X

Supervisor Croce stated that he would sign his portion of the paperwork and have the Chief sign the other portion of the paperwork to get this request sent in for payment from the County.

**SECTION 10 – MVP HRA PLAN RESOLUTION #14**

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town Board had approved a health plan, through MVP, that the Town employees have been using since April of 2016. He stated that the MVP Company has now asked the Town Board to adopt a resolution, finalizing the plan and stating that all the employees receiving the coverage should receive a copy of the Summary Plan Description.

Supervisor Croce stated that it would seem that since we have been using the plan for almost four months, that this would not be necessary; however the company is insisting that we adopt this resolution.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following Resolution #14:

**TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
MVP HRA PLAN - RESOLUTION #14**

The Town Board of the Town of Plattekill hereby resolves:

**RESOLVED**, that the form of amended and restated Welfare Benefit Plan, effective April 1, 2016, presented to this meeting (and a copy of which is attached hereto) is hereby approved and adopted, and that the proper agents of the Employer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator of said Plan one or more counterparts of the Plan.

**RESOLVED**, that the Administrator shall be instructed to take such actions that the Administrator deems necessary and proper in order to implement the Plan, and to set up adequate accounting and administrative procedures for the provision of benefits under the Plan.

**RESOLVED**, that the proper agents of the Employer shall act as soon as possible to notify the employees of the Employer of the adoption of the Plan and to deliver to each employee a copy of the Summary Plan Description of the Plan, which Summary Plan description is attached hereto and is hereby approved.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Croce	X			
Councilman Putnam	X			
Councilman Farrelly	X			
Councilwoman Delgado	X			
Councilman DePew	X			

Supervisor Croce stated that he would make copies of the Summary Plan Description and distribute them to the employees.

SECTION 11 – VOUCHERS

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 7/20/2016, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$26,428.01, the Highway Fund amount of \$30,410.03, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$640.02, the Modena Light District amount of \$1,138.60 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$3,942.00 for a total amount of \$62,558.66 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 12 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.