

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE

June 3, 2020

Time- 7:00PM

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

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

ROLL CALL:

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Croce
Councilman Putnam
Councilman Farrelly
Councilman Matthews
Councilman Depew

Supervisor Croce requested all individuals attending the online meeting to mute their audio at all times unless speaking. He also requested that all individuals announce themselves prior to speaking. This includes the Town Board members.

MINUTES:

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes for May 20, 2020 meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Farrelly

On the vote: All Ayes

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the reading of the minutes for May 20, 2020 meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: All Ayes

ADDITIONS:

- Supervisor Croce noted the Town staff is working at 50%. He asked the board for their input as to when the staff can come back to full time. He suggested the board consider June 28th.

Councilman Depew asked about cleaning the building. Is it time to bring the cleaning company back? Supervisor Croce stated the he is personally cleaning the Town offices however; the cleaning company will be required when the employees return.

Councilman Putnam and Matthews like the idea of bringing back the employees but not opening to the public.

Supervisor Croce stated the Town would continue to follow safe measures and social distancing when bringing staff back.

Councilman Matthews agrees and is in favor of inviting back the employees to allow them to catch up on lost time.

Councilman Farrelly is also in favor of bringing back staff to catch up on work.

Based on all being in favor of bringing back the staff, Supervisor Croce stated he would look into this further and get back to the board with a formal recommendation via email.

- Supervisor Croce noted that Town Judge Annamaria Maciocia submitted a letter to the Town Board stating that she would be forgoing her salary for the month of May.

Judge Annamaria Maciocia also reported Town Court Clerk April Columbo submitted her letter of resignation ending her position as of May 31, 2020. She is willing to discuss work additional time to support the transition to the new individual.

No questions from the board members.

- Supervisor Croce announced changes to the Town Hall prior to opening to the public. Currently there is no barrier in Town Court Clerk's and Building Department/Planning office. The recommendation is for adding a steel door at \$561.00 each, totaling \$1,122. It will require 2-3 weeks to complete this.

Supervisor Croce stated the cost more than expected so is looking for feedback from the board

Councilman Farrelly commented a wood door or Plexiglas panel could be more cost effective.

Councilman Depew commented Plexiglas panel could be more cost effective but before deciding employee safety needs to be considered.

Councilman Putnam commented that it would be worth getting the cost of a Plexiglas panel before deciding.

Councilman Matthews commented his first choice would be Plexiglas panel before going the door.

Highway Department Superintendent Robert Wager commented the Plexiglas paned and half door had been considered and not selected for the following reasons. Half doors sag,

Plexiglas panels are flimsy and we should be looking forward to improve the Town Hall. Safety is also a concern, there is only one exit for this office.

Councilman Depew asked what is the objective? Create a barrier or improve security?

Supervisor Croce commented the Town Clerk's office door is not currently secure. The steel door with a window provides both a barrier and additional security.

Councilman Depew commented based on this, security is very important, but this may be over-kill.

Town Clerk Donna Hedrick stated she was most comfortable with adding the door. She likes the security.

Councilman Depew commented adding the steel door to the Town Clerks office would add space to the Clerk's office which is a very small space.

Supervisor Croce commented there is not much space available.

Councilman Putnam commented based on information now recommends adding the steel door with the sliding window.

Councilman Depew asked Town Clerk Donna Hedrick if adding the door provides the opportunity to create more space in the office. Donna commented yes, that would be helpful.

Discussion followed as to the best organization outside the Clerk's office. This will be finalized over the next couple of weeks. It was also commented that it may be difficult to move wall inside the office. This will have to be evaluated.

Supervisor Croce summarized the discussions and asked the board for a decision.

Councilman Putnam – Order the door

Councilman Farrelly – If there is isn't a better solution don't wait go for the door.

Councilman Matthews – It could be possible that it will lower insurance if door is put in place. If there is not an alternative order the doors. Based on this I'm in favor of purchasing this door.

Councilman Depew – Donna is in favor of the door and research shows this to be the best solution, I recommend the door.

Based on this feedback Supervisor Croce agreed to approve the purchase of the doors not to exceed \$1,122.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Highway Superintendent Wager asked Supervisor Croce how much money is in the Town's general fund savings account? What is ballpark?

Supervisor Croce commented there is \$1.3 million dollars in the fund. The unassigned fund account is not typically used to offset the budget. It has been used in the past to offset a tax increase. The objective is not to use this money.

Highway Superintendent Wager stated the fund is for the tax payers correct?

Supervisor Croce commented the objective is to budget correctly.

Highway Superintendent Wager asked how did Town get \$270,000 behind with a reduction of tax revenue of \$170,000?

Highway Superintendent Wager stated he didn't want to see the Town to get behind on vehicle replacement. If these purchases are put off it will only make things worse going forward, having an even bigger impact on future budgets

- Highway Superintendent Robert Wager questioned Councilman Farrelly about the Police Station construction project that took place in 2016. He didn't know volunteers were getting paid. Wager was surprised to find Councilman Farrelly's son Jay got paid. On March 22, 2016 there was invoice and payment to Jay Farrelly for the amount of \$1,750.00 on the same day. This payment was made prior to the April 6th Board meeting where Supervisor Croce announced the project would begin on April 9th. On April 30th there is a video where Jay Farrelly stated he was volunteering at the Police Station. On May 5, 2016 a second payment was made to Jay Farrelly for the same amount.

Highway Superintendent Wager asked if this was offered to other volunteers working at the project and how did he get paid before the project started?

Councilman Farrelly commented that he will have to look into it. "I don't know what else to say at this time. I've got nothing to go by at this time."

Highway Superintendent Wager asked how does a Councilman's son get paid on a volunteer project? How was he hired, how were taxes taken out, there are a lot of questions?

Councilman Farrelly commented the only possibility he could come up with is that Jay required support. He'll have to look into it.

Highway Superintendent Wager stated this doesn't seem ethical. This appears to be a payment under the table.

Supervisor Croce not all payments are discussed in the Board meetings.

Highway Superintendent Wager commented that this needs to be investigated by the Ethics committee, however the committee would be made up of same board members in question. Where does the public go to get this resolved?

- Mark Reynolds asked at the start of the meeting Supervisor Croce stated there are problems in Town due to Covid 19. What are the issues?

Supervisor Croce stated the Planning board is very busy and have been putting off projects. They are having a difficult time using Zoom meetings. They would like to have public Hearings.

Reduced hours are impacting all departments, Planning Board, Clerk's office, and others. It is reasonable for departments to fall behind when working 1/2 the hours.

- Mark Reynolds asked Supervisor Croce in light of what Highway Superintendent Wager brought up will there be an investigation?

Supervisor Croce Joe stated that he would gather information before making decision. He has no problem asking an Attorney to look into this.

- Mark Reynolds asked if the Red-White-Blue ceremony has been cancelled?

Supervisor Croce stated this had been cancelled at the last meeting along with Town of Plattekill day.

- Highway Secretary Linda Byrnes asked who is on the Board of Ethics?

Supervisor Croce commented a Board of Ethics has not been appointed

Linda asked "Why don't we have one? What will you do?" Most Towns have one.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would look into it.

No comment from the Board

Linda asked if this could be answered at the next meeting?

Highway Superintendent Wager commented the appointment of a Board of Ethics may have been addressed by the board back 2013 -2014.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would do his best to respond by the next meeting.

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to close public input at 8:18 pm

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: all ayes

Public input Closed

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Town Mailboxes

Councilman Depew reported that he is still having difficulty contacting Optimum. He will report at an upcoming meeting.

➤ Host Agreement Broadhead Solar

Supervisor Croce stated the Host Agreement had been reviewed by Town Attorney and the one time payment has been increased by Broad Head Solar from \$10,000 to \$15,000. What are the Board's thoughts?

Councilman Depew asked for clarification on the taxes for the 75 acres the solar panels will reside on.

Ethan Winters stated the panels will reside on 25 acres of the property. Pilot Broad head is responsible for the taxes for this portion of the property based on the terms of the pilot agreement. The taxes on the 50 remaining acres are the responsibility of the landowner.

Councilman DePew asked if the terms of the agreement limit the taxes paid to the town on this property over the 15 year period? Will the land have to be reassessed?

Ethan Winters is in discussions with the Assessor's office to determine if the land is to be reassessed.

Councilman DePew stated if the property is valued at \$100,000 today and \$1,000,000 in 15 years there is a potential for the Town to collect \$340,000 in land taxes over this time. The pilot agreement limits this to the value of the pilot agreement and therefore reduces the Town's revenue.

Ethan Winters stated that he would need to review the math to better understand the concern. He stated there is NYSERTA calculator available if interested. Happy to review it with the Town.

Councilman DePew asked how the pilot program benefits our local community. It doesn't bring jobs.

Ethan Winters stated it benefits the community in other ways. The pilot program generates a discount from Central Hudson and there are the benefits from the Host Agreement. There are a few local jobs for maintaining the equipment.

Councilman DePew asked how much of this is project funded by tax payers.

Ethan Winters commented most of the project is privately funded however they do take advantage of State and Federal programs.

Councilman Matthews reviewed the agreement and was pleased with the increase of the onetime payment. No other questions.

Councilman Putnam had no questions.

Councilman Farrelly had no questions.

Supervisor Croce made a motion for the Supervisor sign the Town of Plattekill Community Host agreement with Broadhead Solar LLC as written.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

Councilman Matthews – Aye

Councilman Farrelly – Aye

Councilman Depew – Nay

Motion passed 4-1

Ethan Winter requested both Pilot and the Host agreement s be approved along with a Resolution

Supervisor Croce rescinded motion and agreed to have a Resolution ready for approval at the June 17th meeting.

All board members agreed.

➤ Open the Town Park

Councilman Depew requested the board discuss opening the Town Park. Councilman Depew stated it's time for a soft opening of the park to the public. He recommended opening all areas excluding the playground, the pavilion, and the bathrooms. He suggested separating the picnic tables under the pavilion.

Councilman Putnam agrees to allow public access to the park. He suggested adding signs for safety. Masks required etc.

Councilman Matthews is in favor of soft opening of the park with snow fence and moving picnic tables apart.

Councilman Farrelly agrees to opening the park with restrictions stated above

Councilman Depew made a motion open the park up to the public with restrictions blocking off the playground areas and separating picnic tables, gaga pit and fitness area.

Highway Superintendent Wager stated this will take to move picnic tables, have the water tested, put up signs and put fencing in place. He also noted the Town will have to purchase orange fencing.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

Councilman Matthews – Aye

Councilman Farrelly – Nay

Supervisor Croce – Aye

Motion passed 4-1

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ 284 agreement

Supervisor Croce reviewed 284 Agreement, Expenditures of Highway Moneys dated 2020 and then made a motion to accept the agreement.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: all ayes

Supervisor Croce requested all board members come to his office to sign the agreement.

➤ Highway Memo - Van

Highway Superintendent Wager brought to the Boards attention the Van on order for the Highway has been delayed until the end of the year. It could possibly slip into January 2021. The dealer offered an alternate van with a reduced delivery time that would cost \$643.50 more than the current van on order. Original van quoted at \$31,810. New Van price \$32,453.50.

Councilman Putnam asked if there was a reason for not waiting for the current van. It is not necessary to spend the additional funds. Is it possible for the contract to be cancelled based on the dealer's inability to meet the promised delivery?

Supervisor Croce requested a copy of the contract for review. It is reasonable to cancel the order based on their inability to deliver. A decision cannot be made until this is determined.

Councilman Matthews stated it is worth waiting for the original van. Requested an update on the current delivery date. We need to know what the options are.

Councilman Depew stated the Town needs the van and therefore should keep it on order but not spend the extra money to improve the delivery.

Supervisor Croce asked why the Town is replacing a van that has 120,000 miles on it.

Highway Superintendent Wager stated the current van is a light duty van that has maintenance issues. It is better to replace it now as opposed to running into trouble next year.

Councilman Farrelly stated because of budget crunch he would cancel the order if possible.

Supervisor Croce asked for a decision from the board.

Councilman Depew – Go with current contract

Councilman Putnam – Go with current contract

Councilman Matthews – Go with current contract. Would be better if this could be cancelled.

Councilman Farrelly – Cancel the contract if possible.

Supervisor Croce requested Highway Superintendent Wager to supply the contract for review to determine if there is an opportunity to have it cancelled.

➤ Highway Transfer Request

Supervisor Croce reviewed memo supplied by Highway Superintendent Wager dated 5/28/2020 requesting a transfer of funds from DA5110.4 to DA5130.2 for the amount of \$8,500.

Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept resolution to amend the highway 2020 budget.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: all ayes

Supervisor Croce made a motion to transfer funds from DA5110.4 to DA5130.2 for the amount of \$8,500.

Seconded by Councilman Farrelly

On the vote: all ayes

➤ Furlough – Recreation Director June 1st

Recreation Director Stephanie Doland requested to be furlough until September. She didn't want to get paid until she was able to continue working.

➤ \$20.00 Coupon Transfer Station

Supervisor Croce asked the board members for their recommendation as to whether or not the Town should be offering the free \$20 coupons for the Town's Transfer Station this year. He stated this cost \$850 in 2019.

Councilman Depew made a motion to continue with this program.

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: all ayes

Councilman Putnam seconded

➤ County Wide July Celebration

Supervisor Croce was contacted by the County asking if the Town is interested in participating in a county wide celebration on July 5th. There is not a lot on information currently available but based on current information Supervisor Croce ask the board if they where interested in pursuing this.

Councilman Depew agreed the at this point it would be best for Supervisor Croce to continue to gather information. The rest of the board agreed.

Supervisor Croce will report as more information become available.

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail report Dated June 2, 2020 which includes:

The General Fund amount of\$19,136.40

The Highway Fund amount of \$25,108.93

For a Grand Total of..... \$44,245.33

Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the vouchers, recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Seconded by Councilman Farrelly

On the vote: all ayes

- Haying of the Town Property

Councilman Matthews presented to the Board the haying of the property across from Town Park by Jody Depew for \$50.

Supervisor Croce asked the board what action is to be taken

Councilman Putnam – Is in favor

Councilman Matthews – Is in favor

Councilman Depew – Recused himself

Councilman Farrelly – Is in favor

Based on this Supervisor Croce will contact Jody Depew to notify him to hay the field.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- No Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT:

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 pm

Seconded by Councilman Putnam

On the vote: all ayes