

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 4, 2021

Time –7:00 PM

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 Farrelly
Councilman Depew

The following Town Board Members were absent:

Councilman Putnam
Councilman Matthews

PUBLIC HEARING:

MINUTES:

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes for July 7, 2021 Town Board Meeting.
Seconded by Councilman Depew
On the vote: All Ayes

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes for the July 7, 2021 Town Board meeting.
Seconded by Councilman Farrelly
On the vote: All Ayes

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes for July 21, 2021 Town Board Meeting.
Seconded by Councilman Farrelly
On the vote: All Ayes

- Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes for the July 21, 2021 Town Board meeting.
Seconded by Councilman Farrelly
On the vote: All Ayes

ADDITIONS:

- Nothing presented.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Dwight Dougherty commented the music in the park was a big success. Supervisor Croce agreed stating other than concern about the weather, it was a big success.
- Supervisor Croce made a motion to close Public Input at 7:03pm
Seconded by Councilman Depew
On the vote: All Ayes

REPORTS:

- None

OLD BUSINESS:

- ARPA Funds

Supervisor Croce reported the Town received \$520,948.44 on July 16th from through the State from the "ARPA" American Relief Act. The Town is expecting a second payment of the same amount approximately the same time next year.

Supervisor Croce stated the money is to be used to offset the negative impact on Towns from Covid 19; it can be applied to water, sewer, infrastructure, broadband and other items. It cannot be used to offset a tax increase. He also stated the money must be spent by 2024.

Supervisor Croce stated he would like the money to be moved into a separate checking account that can be tracked and monitored via resolution. He stated this is being reviewed by the Town attorney and accounting firm.

Councilman Depew suggested putting the money in a separate interest-bearing account. He wanted to be sure the money was properly insured. Supervisor Croce agreed to look into this.

- Dr. Acworth Clinic

Dr. Acworth was at the meeting to present the plan for setting up a vaccination clinic at the Town.

The plan is for the clinic to take place on first Thursday of the month for 1 p.m.–3 p.m. in the afternoon. The Town Clerk will handout numbers to individuals for attending the clinic the day of the event.

The clinic is to take place in 2 bays of the Highway garage.

The clinic is for vaccines only, examinations will not be offered.

Dr. Acworth is to supply forms along with a pricelist for the different vaccines being offered.

Dr. Acworth agreed to provide tables for the clinic and to maintain all records.

The Board members agreed this goal is to get the animals vaccinated. This is in everyone's best interest. It was also stated that the Town is not adding any cost for providing this service to the community.

Councilman Depew made a motion for the Town to host a vaccination clinic at the Town for a 3-month trial period starting in September. Clinic will take place the first Thursday of September, October, and November. At the beginning there will be no limit for the number of individuals per day.

All Board members agreed.

The Town agreed to advertise the event on the Town's website and on the sign outside of the Town Hall.

Supervisor Croce agreed to meet with Dr. Acworth and Highway Superintendent Wager to formalize the plan.

➤ Towing Law

Supervisor Croce reported Police Chief Ryan was unable to attend the meeting as the department is in the middle of an attempted murder investigation. Supervisor Croce stated there are still several open issues that need to be addressed before finalizing the law. He suggested pushing this to the next meeting when Chief Ryan is available.

Board members agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Court Officer Training

Supervisor Croce provided the board members with a report supplied by Court Officer Anthony Hopper requesting the Town Board to consider changing the position for Court Officers.

Mr. Hopper reported the current officers do not meet the requirements for Court Officers. He recommended changing the job position to Court Security Officer, provide security training and provide new uniforms.

Mr. Hopper recommend the Town to fund the training for all existing officers and require new hires to have the background or certification.

Supervisor Croce looked into the liability coverage for Court Officers and discovered it had not been considered in the past. He took action adding this to the Town's policy.

Judge Murphy reported he had reviewed this with Chief Ryan and agreed they could not become Law Enforcement Officers. Chief Ryan did supply a police radio for emergency calls. Judge Murphy recommend the Board allow Mr. Hopper to present to the board.

Councilman Depew recommend Town perform further research stating Officers need to be indemnified.

Mr. Hopper described the training required.

This would be Security guard training. Security guards act as a civilian. This training provides another level of protection for the individuals and the Town.

Cost of the initial training is approximately \$150 plus hourly rate for each individual. Certification last 2 years.

There is a requirement for an 8-hour training course per year to maintain certification.

Mr. Hopper is a Certified Armed Security Guard. There is a cost for annual training approximately \$50 per person per year.

If the town was to consider individuals to be Armed Security Guards there is a requirement for an additional 47-hour training course. This training requires each individual to have a personal pistol permit. It was noted this is Security Guard training for the protection of individuals, not for law enforcement.

For future employees, we hiring them with that certification would be preference. Town to pay for certification training armed or unarmed.

Judge Annamaria Maciocia stated the town employees do not meet the requirement Court Officers based on the requirement for individuals to be peace officers. Judge Maciocia recommended changing the position to Court Security Officers agreeing with Mr. Hopper's recommendations.

Supervisor Croce stated that in general, the Town follows Ulster County's job descriptions. The County job description is Court Security Officer.

Councilman Farrelly thought this was a very good idea.

Supervisor Croce stated the Town tries to make a good effort to support Court Officer's and all Town Employees.

Supervisor Croce made a motion for the Town to change the Court Officer's job description to "Court Security Officer" and to go forward with completing and maintain the security training.

Seconded by Councilman Farrelly

On the vote: All ayes

➤ Recreation Director (Not on the agenda)

Supervisor Croce introduced Kimberly Way to all present.

➤ Tent for Plattekill Day

Linda Byrnes requested the Town purchase a large tent for Plattekill Day. They are estimating the tent costing thousands of dollars.

The Board Members were concerned about the maintenance of the tent, protecting it from mice, mildew and other concerns. Also, who would be responsible for putting up and taking down the tent?

After discussion Board members agreed it would be best for the Town to continue to rent the big tent. Supervisor Croce will notify Linda Byrnes.

➤ Huckleberry Ridge "Campground" Proposal

Supervisor Croce read the report provided by Patty Brooks from Brooks & Brooks for a proposed "Year-round Camp ground" on Huckleberry Turnpike. They are requesting Town Board to issue a special use permit for M-3, Campground use.

David Campbell described the campground as a well-managed property for spending time in nature. It is 103 acres, mostly wooded. The plan is to build 20 cabins, 200 -1000 sq. ft. Stays will average 2-3 days with no stay being longer than 30 days. It will be a year-round campground/cabin rental.

Councilman Farrelly asked about water, septic, and electric. Mr. Campbell stated that all building will follow town codes

Councilman Depew was in favor with the idea. He asked if each cabin would have individual or shared water and sewer. He asked what is the term goal? What is maximum number of cabins? Will there be an accessory use such as movie theater, store, etc.?

Patty Brooks stated the plan is only for the cabins. This was specifically addressed this way to stay within the Campground use.

Supervisor Croce discussed issues with short term rentals. Weekend events, loud noise. He stated this needs to be reviewed with the Town's Attorney. Patty Brooks commented that this is not a new use request; it is consistent with current M3 code.

Mr. Campbell is looking for a ruling for the M-3 special use request from the Town Board before going to the Town Planning Board. The Special use permit is required before investing in the testing that will be required by the Planning Board.

The Board Members thought this project is attractive to the Town. All agreed to go forward. Supervisor Croce will try to provide feedback at the next town meeting.

TRANSFERS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

VOUCHERS:

- Councilman Depew reviewed the Voucher Detail report Dated August 4, 2021 which includes:

The A-General Fund amount of\$40,653.45
The DA-Highway Fund amount of\$23,548.33
The H-Capital Projects amount of \$2,250.00

For a Grand Total amount of **\$66,451.78**

Councilman Depew 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

ADJOURNMENT:

Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm.

Seconded by Councilman Farrelly

On the vote: All Ayes