TOWN OF PLATTEKILL

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

December 4, 2024

Time – 7:00pm

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Depew

#### Councilman Castillo Jr.

#### Councilman Fazio

Councilman Hoppenstedt

Councilman O’Flaherty

MINUTES:

* Supervisor Depew made a motion to NOT read the minutes from the November 20, 2024, regular meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo.

On the vote: All Ayes

Supervisor Depew made a motion to ACCEPT the minutes from the November 20, 2024, regular meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the vote: All Ayes

PUBLIC HEARING:

Continuation of the Public Hearing for the Moratorium Prohibiting Review of Applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems (B.E.S.S.) Public Hearing was Opened on November 20, 2024.

Public Hearing was left open for written comments only. The information/paperwork is up with the Ulster County Planning Board waiting for their review at their meeting tonight. We will move forward and continue this public hearing on 12/18/2024.

ADDITIONS:

* Presentation by Ulster County Sherriff URGENT.

Ulster County values the partnership with the Town of Plattekill. In the past 5-6 years, Ulster County has had the largest gun and drug seizures in the history of Ulster County.

The Town of Plattekill was awarded with a $40,000 check for their participation in the URGENT Regional task force.

Drug Seizure Money.

Police Chief Oscar Lopez thanked Sherriff Figueroa and Captain Suto for presenting the check. The team does a lot of work and will extend our partnership with the task force.

* Police Car Re-Lettering

This is for specific re-lettering on Marked Units 356/358.

Supervisor DePew read a letter from SGT. Vasta.

Councilman Fazio stated that him and Councilman Castillo went down to the Police Station today and reviewed the current lettering. They are starting to “bubble”

Councilman Castillo suggested possibly waiting until the springtime when the weather is warmer.

SGT. Vasta spoke to Linx wraps and they have a heated garage to adhere the lettering. The sand and salt will not disturb any of that. It would not make a different cold weather wise. If this is approved, we will only have 1 white vehicle left (357) which will be assigned to DARE at the schools. The rest will be black cars, uniformed.

Councilman Castillo made a motion to approve the Re-Lettering of the two marked units at Linx Wraps.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt.

On the Vote: All Ayes

PUBLIC INPUT:

* Supervisor Depew made a motion to open Public Input at 7:22 pm.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

1. Mark Reynolds- Has there been any follow up regarding Liberty View Farm? Any action taken or any violations placed on the farm?

Supervisor DePew- There were not additional violations added or given. They are on the Zoning Board agenda Thursday 12/12 for continuation of this.

Supervisor Depew made a motion close public input at 7:25pm.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the vote: All Ayes

REPORTS:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

* Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 6:00PM.

Santa will arrive at 6:30PM.

* Award Ice Control Abrasive Screening Bid

Highway Superintendent recommends Grosso Materials.

$11.25 per ton picked up. $19.00 per ton, delivery

Supervisor DePew will make a motion under the Highway Superintendents recommended to award the bid to Grosso Materials.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo.

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Public Hearing Moratorium

Addressed above, the Public Hearing is still currently open for written comments only until the next meeting, December 18, 2024.

Ulster County Planning Board has a meeting once a month. Waiting on their review.

* Burn Ban

This was lifted December 3, 2024.

It is still especially important to follow all local and state guidelines when burning.

NEW BUSINESS

* Date for Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor DePew made a motion to set the date for the Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan to December 18, 2024.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Swearing in Newly Elected Officials

TBD Per Councilman O’Flaherty

* Date for Settlement Meeting

Scheduled for Monday, December 30, 2024, at 3:00PM.

* Date for Reorganization Meeting

This meeting will be on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 7:00PM. This will also be our regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting.

Supervisor Depew made a motion to move our regular board meeting, the first board meeting of 2025 (January 1st) to January 2, 2025.

Seconded by Councilman O’Flaherty.

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Stop DWI Contract

High Light Visibility and Engagement Campaign agreement

This is a contract entered between the Ulster County and the State of New York.

Ulster County and the Town of Plattekill, each a party in this to deter DWI driving on the road. There will be checkpoints and additional funding by the county to support this. There are targeted dates where we up the visibility of patrol to deter DWI’s.

Increase Law Enforcement

Councilman Fazio asked if there was a cost to the town?

Supervisor DePew said no, this is supported by Ulster County.

Councilman Castillo made a motion to have the Town Supervisor sign the DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign Agreement.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All ayes

Resolution #74

Unclaimed Escrow Funds

Between 1999 and 2006, the Town of Plattekill received escrow monies for various driveway permits. Said persons have never redeemed their funds and after many diligent efforts made by the Town of Plattekill, said funds have been deemed abandoned after 18-25 years.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt.

On the Vote: All ayes

TRANSFERS:

1. Resolution #73

Highway Budget Transfer.

The Highway Superintendent requested a transfer in the amount of $8,000.00. This transfer is necessary to cover costs for the 2024 year. The Highway Superintendent requests to amend the 2024 Highway Fund Budget with a decrease of line DA.5110.400 General Repairs in the amount of $8,000.00 and an increase line DA.5130.400 Machinery in the amount of $8,000.00.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt this resolution.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

1. Resolution #75

General Fund Budget Amendment

The Town Supervisor requested a transfer in the amount of $8,000.00 from A.0207 Escrow to A.0200 General Fund.

This transfer is for the unclaimed funds that have remained in escrow for 18 to 25 years. The Town Board requests to amend the 2024 General Fund Budget with a decrease of Asset Line A.0207 Escrow Account in the amount of $8,000.00 and in increase in Asset Line A.0200 General Fund in the amount of $8,000.00.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

Councilman O’Flaherty questioned who found these unclaimed funds?

VOUCHERS:

* Supervisor Depew reviewed the Voucher Detail report Dated December 4, 2024, which includes:

The A-General Fund amount of $24,309.45

The DA-Highway Fund amount of $1.311.94

The H1- Ban Bridge NY Fund in the amount of ……………………………$1,998.96

**For a Grand Total amount of $27,620.35**

Supervisor 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 Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor DePew made a motion to enter Executive Session regarding personnel matters at 7:45PM.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the Vote: All ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:15PM.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All ayes

There was no motions or decisions made.

Councilman Fazio- Concerning the Golf Cart bid, whoever buys that, are they responsible for sales tax? On the AAR, they always have the percentage plus sales tax.

Supervisor DePew- I believe so, but we will have to check on that.

Councilman Castillo- I met with the Highway Superintendent today, Grounds person. I thought that if we own the property, he would be part of the grounds and the separate line for the park is so buy equipment. I am confused, if we own the property, doesn’t building and grounds maintain it?

Supervisor DePew- I believe buildings and grounds oversee it, yes.

Councilman Castillo- Overseeing it. And I understand separate line for buying equipment for park only but as far as maintaining it, I would like clarification on this.

Councilman Castillo- This has been on the agenda for a long time, Maple Avenue Sidewalks. I would like to get this done or solved.

Supervisor DePew- We did apply for the TAP grant, and we were unsuccessful for 2024. I was told by the engineering company, who submitted for us, that we did not make the list. The anticipation is, that when the grant becomes available again, we will re file for it with an engineering company. That grant comes available every other year. It won’t be available until 2026. I did have a meeting with the head of DPW Ulster County roughly 2 weeks ago. The sidewalk exists on a county road and maintain by the County Highway Department. My desire was to have the County fix the County sidewalk. I was told that the sidewalk is a Town issue. Ulster County DPW did give me some insight and there have been many questions about it over the past few years. He was very familiar with the project. He gave me a few directions to go research. I am talking to a few different engineers in hopes of doing a feasibility study. 6 months ago, I pulled all the deeds for the properties along that route. I was looking to see if any of those people own the center of the road. I was trying to find out of the sidewalk was on Town property, County property or personal property. That is not a simple fix up there. It is my opinion that there are a lot of moving parts to that project and I’m sure a lot of people, threw their hands up and walked away. It is going to take a lot of time and a lot of money. That sidewalk is in such disrepair, to the fact that where the concrete has disintegrated, and rebar has been removed up there to avoid tripping hazards. I could not find out who did it, if it was our Highway Department, the County or someone private has blacktopped over top of that concrete. The blacktop is now in disrepair and very rough. If you go up there and walk that which I have with 3 different engineers and companies. There is a lot of things that are intricate. There is a retaining wall that is holding back about 4 feet of material. That material has a large yard. I will guess that there a septic system or leech field. There are large trees that have 3-4 feet bases on them. The grades are a lot. There is a lot of stuff going on up there. I am in the process of researching and talking to several different engineering companies about it to come up with the best possible plan for that. The anticipation for that is to come up with a plan and get grant money and get it fixed. The cheapest way for the Town would be for Ulster County to fix it. There is a lot of configurations to it.

Councilman Fazio- It should be the landowner’s responsibility. In a lot of towns, sidewalks are the landowner’s responsibility.

Councilman O’Flaherty- The liability for the Town is insane to try and fix this. All the drainage remediation. This is almost on the road.

Supervisor DePew- There are a few other grant opportunities that I looked at and they would not fund projects like this. At the Northerly end of the sidewalk is a church and that is where you would have crossed the road. At the Southerly end, is it a dentist office. I have been up there close to 12 times over the past year as well as previous years. I think the only answer is to replace the sidewalk in some degree. There are probably 5-6 driveways that go through the sidewalks. ADA compliance, the width. There are areas in the current sidewalk that don’t exceed 3 feet, very narrow.

The gentleman from the Ulster County DPW, one of the suggestions was to go to the Transportation Council. The day that I made contact with UC Planning, Dennis Doyle, the transportation met the day before and I was never notified that they were having a meeting. The transportation Council has an opportunity to fill out a form for a grant for a feasibility study. The feasibility study is done to gain us points to obtain a grant. I talked to an engineer and in conversation with him, I will approach the board with this, with what Councilman Hoppenstedt said, possibly doing an engineering study for this by using ARPA funds. That may gain us a foot in the door for funding opportunities down the road. We need to know how much this project will cost us and what we need before we ask for it.

Councilman Castillo- For the next meeting, can we have paperwork to secure the funds for the walkway?

Supervisor DePew- How are we going to secure the funds, what is your suggestion?

Councilman Castillo- I am talking about the park and the walkway up there.

Supervisor DePew- We will be working on that. When you give me an idea on how much money we need, we can put something together. I want it in writing. When you give me the paperwork, we can decide what we are going to do and move forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Hoppenstedt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Seconded by Councilman O’Flaherty

On the vote: All Ayes