Town of PLATTEKILL

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2025

Time – 7:00pm

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The following Town Board Members were present:

 Supervisor DePew

#### Councilman Fazio

Councilman O’Flaherty

Councilman Castillo

 Councilman Hoppenstedt

PUBLIC HEARING: None

MINUTES:

* Supervisor DePew made a motion to NOT read the minutes from the May 7, 2025 Town Board Meeting

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to ACCEPT the minutes from the May 7, 2025 Town Board Meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Supervisor DePew made a motion to NOT read the minutes from the May 21, 2025 Town Board Meeting

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to ACCEPT the minutes from the May 21, 2025 Town Board Meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the Vote: All Ayes

ADDITIONS:

* Workshop/Round Table Meeting with ZB/PB/TB/Building Dept/Building Clerks

Supervisor DePew stated that all the departments had a roundtable discussion on how we can make things better for applications that come in.

* Memorial Day Parade: May 24th

Fantastic parade. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event. Thank you to the Vteran’s Committee

* Building Feasibility Presentation

Supervisor DePew mentioned that the committee started with Town employee’s and slowly transitioned into a community committee.

June 18, we will have an update from Tinkleman with architects and engineers. They will do a presentation and show the public what we have been working on and where we stand, direction of where we are going to go.

* CST Cyber Security Webinar

Monday, Supervisor DePew did a Zoom meeting for Cyber Security. He met them during a conference in Saratoga. They circled back and had an extensive meeting to protect our IT meeting.

They will send out a proposal, and I would like a few board members to be apart of the next Zoom meeting to get updated on this.

* MEETING WITH Modena, Clintondale and Plattekill Fire Departments: BESS

Attendance: Ken Meyer, MFD

 Phil Sabarese, CFD

 Bobby Jackson PFD, Doug Foster PFD, Aaron Kopaskie PFD, Brian Stafford PFD

Supervisor DePew thanked everyone for coming with their busy schedules. As discussed, BESS that go along with the solar farms have really come up front here in the last few years. We have been hit with the possibilities with large facilities in our community. We are seeing a lot of inefficiencies as far as safety. NYS is pushing green energy. Our apprehension is safety, fire containment, environmental issues, smoke and the chemicals, etc. My opinion is that we are not really fully understanding the severity of this. I don’t feel totally comfortable and confident in this. I would like to have an open discussion regarding this. Our fire departments are going to be taking charge with its containment of fire, emergency situations, EMS, etc. I am looking for everyone’s opinions. We are not talking about house size ones; these are 20-30-40 acres.

Bobby Jackson- Is that the size one that was planned in Clintondale?

Supervisor DePew- Yes, Town of Plattekill. By Camp Sun Set and Rabbit Run. That was quite a large system. That was not the only one presented or talked about. It is definitely a concern.

Bobby J- Since that was in Clintondale, I think the Chief of that district should start.

Phil Sabarese- For what they were going to do there, that size, I have read up on this a lot. I am very leery of it. Manpower is a concern; everyone knows there is a shortage. Even though they said they would provide training and train the fire departments, what was good last year is probably not good now. You have to get this past the residents and the residents are not happy about this. This is beneficial if it works but there is always something that is going to happen. I am on the borderline about this.

Councilman Castillo- They had a fireman at the meeting and didn’t they say that the way to extinguish the fire, you retreat? That doesn’t seem safe.

Phil S- The only experience I’ve had with a lithium battery was last summer in a mobile home. The battery was in a portable trailer. Are the batteries dropped, what damage has been done. The house was a total loss. Who is going to watch this? Who is going to maintain this and keep an eye on it?

Councilman Fazio- Lots of towns have passed laws. They don’t ban the residential just the commercial facilities. If people want to have small batteries in their own home, that is on them.

Ken Meyer- In all honesty, that is worse for us than a large storage system is. My outlook is that whatever the hazards that we are faced with in the fire district, we train and learn how to mitigate this. The town is worried about bigger storage systems but yet you say it is fine to put in a house. You guys said you aren’t going to ban residential systems, it’s fine to put whatever in the house, you are looking to ban larger commercial systems.

Supervisor DePew- Regulate the sizes of them

Ken M- What I am saying, I know it is a larger commercial system and I know it is in a certain spot, I can identify that with my mutual aid partners and what actions we have to take to fight that fire. The stuff you are talking about not regulating, and just letting people put in their houses, that to me is more dangerous because there are no signs alerting us.

Councilman Fazio- That is something we can talk about and add in.

Ken M- Solar panels, there is nothing in the town that limits solar panels on the roof. Solar Panels on the roof are a big deal for Fire Departments responding. We can’t vent the roof; we can put guys on the roof. Do you know that solar panels react to the fire truck lights and still Generate Electric but the town is not interested in banning those right? This technology is here and we use it everyday of our lives. We learn how to deal with this, it is the way it always is. We always figure it out.

Councilman Castillo- Batteries explode, they catch on fire. I understand what you are saying about the houses. That is why we are here now. We want to try to prevent things. This is new to us and we are trying to get ahead of this. We are talking about the bigger storage facilities but you are right about the residential.

Councilman O’Flaherty- Do you think there is a benefit to looking at a residential zoning update?

Ken M- I am not speaking on that. I am here to give you, my opinion. My self nor the district is not trying to sway any sort of town law. You asked me for my opinion. I just said that the stuff you said you are going to let it go on is probably more dangerous. The battery storage systems from what I have been exposed to are in a great big metal box, they are put in a big field.

The Town Board signed off on that huge solar field across from Citgo, this is generating power while any light hits it. Is it a risk there, yes. If we ban anything that is a risk, what will we have?

Councilman Fazio- We can regulate this and it is less of a risk.

Supervisor DePew- I appreciate what you said about residential units. Maybe what we should do is consider some sort of signs when we issue permits for residential projects that house batteries or solar so the Fire Departments are aware of that risk. Lithium batteries are here. We need to address this appropriately; we can’t ban it completely. There has to be some regulation to keep it to a size that we can contain.

Ken M- But sometimes you let things burn because it alleviates the hazards rather than adding more hazards to it.

Supervisor DePew- We have to look at this realistically, this is big. Our concern is where would be locate something like this in the town. Do we put it within 1,000 feet of a water source? Do we put it in a residential community with 5 houses versus 105 houses? Where do we put this that it is appropriate? We want to make sure we get this right and understand this. Eventually we will have to come up with a conclusion as a board. What is best for community safety, property and community environment.

Councilman Fazio- We can always modify the law; we can amend it as we go along.

Councilman Castillo- You guys get called to a fire and do not know if there is a lithium battery there. If someone is installing solar and batteries, do we look at the building department to make sure they have signage. This way when you guys drive up, you are notified.

Phil Sabarese- They do that in the Town of Lloyd. The Building Dept called me to approve the emergency shut off for the solar, and make sure they have the plaque. I know where everything is. The biggest thing with residential is educating the people. They should know what to look for when the battery is failing. They plug these batteries in and walk away. We have lithium batteries on our extrication tools.

Doug Foster- If you go back to 2019 and the implementation of lithium batteries, this was brand new. Regulations have been updated specific to battery usage and emergency response to them. FDNY has done a lot of work on this especially with their population. There hasn’t been a lot of research since this is infancy. This is all being developed, based on the knowledge that we have but honestly there isn’t a lot of knowledge out there. Onsite supervision is an option, emergency response, having a subject matter expert to that site specifically, construction of that site, all available. How do you get back to normal after an incident? I think if there is an intent from the Town Board to approve this, they should look at those aspects. The Building Dept, basically saying all of these things are in place. I don’t know if the legislation would be to have or not to have, it should really be in my opinion the safety features. We don’t have municipal water; we aren’t a hydrant district. Access to water is important and access to the facility. Can you get a 32-foot tanker in there, turn around and surround the property? What about 6 of them if that is a need? May 7th, there was a recommendation to not utilize foam to suppress lithium-ion fires. It’s a lot of water or letting it burn out on its own. Either one of those things require access and the ability to quarantine the area. The water is to cool, not extinguish. Expansion, exposure, it’s more of a containment rather than an extinguishment. 5 Years from now, it might change.

To Kenny and Phils point, we have to be prepared to respond to anything. We cover 11 miles of Thruway. We have no idea, even mobile storage units traveling the Thruway all the time. It does prohibit us from being able to respond, we have to be prepared and mitigate the situation. Mutual aid is a thing, teams, support teams are a thing. I think these facilities; it would be a necessity to have someone readily available in an emergency. Either by phone and on site within a certain amount of time to assist us in the mitigation efforts. A true subject matter expert, not just what is being stored but the facility and infrastructure itself.

What I am referring to is not residential based, it is battery storage facilities of different sizes. A lot of the residential stuff, been commercial is not usually because of a battery failure, it is because of mis use or storage or a lithium-ion battery that is being used for something it wasn’t intended for. A lot of times a lack of knowledge and misuse leads to those outcomes.

My other question to the Town Board, there is reservations for us to be able to be the subject matter experts for you and provide that information, we need a better understanding of what those concerns are. Then we can make reference to or lead you in the right direction of being able to get that material or supporting documents on those legitimate concerns or putting to rest some of those fears.

Supervisor DePew- I think the biggest concern is public safety, environmental safety and land values. The effects it could have on those. They are major concerns. Fire suppression, we don’t want this to burn and have someone affected by it. We don’t want our EMS personnel affected by it either. We want to protect you guys too; you are the ones running to the fire. Even though you may not put the fire out, the amount of water would be a logistic nightmare and you would be exposed to the residue and outcome of what is happening. There will be a lot of smoke, chemicals released in the air, water ways, soils. There isn’t a way around that.

Councilman Castillo- Possibly a membrane underneath to help protect. Water will cool it down. Who is inhaling the soot? Is it that you have to have your pack machine on in order to be there? James said possibly in 2 years from now, it might be a different kind of battery. Right now, what is being said there is not a good situation.

Chief Ken Meyer- I am not saying it is not a good situation. What my feelings are is that you are listening to all of this, yes there are risks involved in this. That we are all able to learn to mitigate it and you are taking all of our words here and putting a spin on that. That you and the Town Board want to proceed with this. In my Opinion, we sitting on this side of the table, we are firefighter’s, we out fires out. We are not subject matter experts, you need to go to the manufactures, installers, those kinds of people and get their inputs into this. We are not experts on battery storage systems; we don’t know what safety is built into each of those pods. What I can tell you is that a fire chief is one of those goes in, I will get every piece of information I can to learn how to mitigate the situation. I am not saying at all that this is a bad idea and the District of Modena isn’t either. This is a Town thing. I will give you my opinion as a fire chief. I don’t like the way I am getting this feeling that you are taking what we are saying and spinning this.

Councilman Fazio- We have been researching this for almost a year.

Bobby Jackson- Why is this the first time you are inviting us here to have this discussion and I have sat here for months and months?

Supervisor DePew- Because we put a moratorium on this to slow down the process. The committee starting working on this about a year ago before this became a thing in Plattekill.

Bobby Jackson- Tesla put a big plant in Newburgh, has anyone gone and talked to them?

Supervisor DePew- That is on our list to do. My intent is to visit that and talk to the Town of Newburgh and get there take on what is required with something like that. Planning Board as well. You brought up an important part that we didn’t think of, that there should be, regardless of residential or not. There should be documentation that it is there. We should also do that with solar fields. Even though Central Hudson comes and cuts those taps, those panels are still producing. Even flashing lights put a charge on those systems. It isn’t just the panels; we have shingles that actually look like shingles and they draw and generate electricity. This isn’t the first step and regardless of what path we took, we are looking at everything.

Councilman Fazio- When we have public hearings, a lot of information will come from the public.

Doug Foster- Just to go back to what Mr. Castillo’s point, everything we, firefighting is dangerous. The only difference between career and volunteer is whether you are finally compensated for doing the work. The training, expectations are the same, the standards are the same, the risks are still the same. When you are talking about the increase risk to us, it could be argued, that response to and mitigation of a lithium-ion battery fire is safer for us since we are just containing the area. The carcinogens, if you look at all the plastic in the garbage that things are being constructed with today. We are at a point where we are using SCBA probably more for exterior and overhaul work instead of interior firefighting just because of the risk. There is cancer causing chemicals in the gear we wear that is supposed to protect us. I don’t know if that is a fair argument from our perspective since we recognize that risk is and the dangers of the job are. I think the other points you brought up are fair as far as environmental concerns and the effects on the community of a whole. Our ability shouldn’t be hindered as far as response to and mitigation of these incidents. That would go for anything.

To Kennys point, the Solar Farm on Route 32, is that accessible to us if there was an incident as far as a firematic standpoint. When those types of things are looked at, my concern is the ability there for us to be able to do our job. We can be prepared once we get there but we need to be able to access whatever it is to do our job.

Councilman Castillo- You don’t get to much good in the news. That is why we extended the moratorium to get your outlook on this. We need to educate ourselves on this. This is all valuable to us.

Brian Stafford- I think you should also speak to Winona Lake, Orange Lake, they are familiar with what went into putting that warehouse up.

Doug Foster- As the Town of Plattekill evolves, you go back and look at our history, we are talking about Solar farms and battery storage facility. If you go back 50 years ago, it was apple coolers and the threats that they pose. Stanley Orchards, that was a significant fire and those hazards and risks. The risk has always been there and will always be there but we need to change what the thing is. I think to summarize, us representing the fire service aren’t for or against this, as far as development, it’s just a matter of researching this.

Councilman Fazio- We need to get out ahead of this. I have been researching and collecting data this entire time.

Ken Meyer- Educating ourselves isn’t banning it or putting a moratorium on it, is not educating yourself. Saying No you can’t come in isn’t getting ahead of the problem. It is delaying this.

Supervisor DePew- I would like to reach out to a few other towns that have allowed different systems as well as the Tesla plant and speak to a professional. Possibly invite them here and invite the fire departments back here.

Doug Foster- I appreciate being invited here since we are going to be the ones that respond to these incidents when they are occur, whatever they are. The layout of the facility is going to be just as important as what is being stored there and fire mitigation. EMS response people are still going to have heart attacks and allergic reactions while they are at work. Being a part of the conversation is not the wrong way to go. As far as the legislation goes, putting requirements in place is the route to go as long as they make sense. When it comes to safety of life and property, fire suppression system and their own isolation units, or whatever the town decides to implement. That is the piece I think that I would be in support of, to make our job a little easier when it comes to the protection of life and property. Not to say don’t do it or not to say you can do whatever you want. Whatever the emergency is, we are responding if they call 911. It is just a matter of, if there are things and there are, if you read through the literature, other areas have implemented restrictions when it comes to life and property.

Councilman Castillo- I appreciate everything that everyone here has said.

Bobby Jackson- When you do write your legislation, can you add in there about training. The Town Board, the fire departments, anything they can help us with as afar as what works and doesn’t.

Supervisor DePew- I think every project that comes, with a possibility of life and limb, we should give you all a heads up about. We should be notified as well. We always have projects coming in and not everyone knows what is going on in town. There are a lot of unique businesses in town.

Bobby Jackson- We used to get announcements in a way of what is coming up.

Aaron Kopaskie- Town of Newburgh Building Dept, to touch on Kennys point of not knowing what is in buildings, every time a building goes in, we receive a copy of the prints in the Town of Newburgh. They give us copies of the plans all the way down to the electrical wiring, what is going to be where. They email us, keeps us in the loops. What is approved. We go down there and pick up, everything what the contractor gets, we review it. We can add what is important to our alarm assignments, we know they have solar panels on the roof. We can add specific things in our assignments. We have never gotten anything from the Town of Plattekill Building Dept about anything that goes on here. That is something that would help all of us. The other thing I would add is the news puts a lot of negative spins on things. I would also try to find the positive about this. There is also good that comes out of these battery systems that is outshined by the lack of knowledge. After market batteries are in everything, they aren’t necessarily bad, they just aren’t tested to the same standards that the manufacturer battery is that comes with the product.

Councilman Castillo- We have to reach out to you guys since you go into the fire. We want to talk to you. If you all come once or twice a year to discuss what you guys have questions on. Something that is done better in another town, we want to hear about it. Without your input, we can’t make changes.

Obstacle Wonderland, you couldn’t even get an ambulance in there and that was a big concern.

Bobby Jackson- Clintondale had the same situation at Liberty View Farm.

Phil Sabarese- And for me to get harassed by the guy, he calls me afterwards and rips me apart. When I get in there and it is really limited access and cars parked in the driving lane. He tells me, we aren’t allowed on his property. When there is a 911 call, it isn’t your property anymore.

Aaron Kopaskie- You guys are asking us for our opinion, and it gets turned on us. Obstacle Wonderland, the Building Dept asked me what the issue was, I couldn’t get the ambulance in there. He asked me to write my findings and the next thing I know, is that it was made public and I am getting harassed by him. The owner called me at all hours of the night. We can give our opinion but it always finds a way to turn around back on us, the fire department is against us, etc.

Supervisor DePew- That is a huge, unfortunate thing. We have a job to do. It is our obligation to do the best job we can and make the best educated decision we can. There are rules, liability and a lot of different situations.

Chief Sabarese- At the end of the day, it is life safety of the members and of the residents in the district. That is what I go for. I don’t want to hear that I am not allowed on the property, we are going. We have a job to do. We are all going to go there, mitigate the situation. We can’t please everyone; people will always have an opinion on what we do. The training is required. We are the same thing, just not paid.

Supervisor DePew- If there are other issues, I would like for you guys to call, stop in. Thank you all for coming out.

Kenny Meyer- There is stuff we all need to discuss, maybe we should make it a point between the districts and the Town Board.

Supervisor DePew- We have 2 meetings a month, if you want to take one of those meetings and make it a workshop meeting, meet quarterly and specifically discuss things related to the fire departments, we can. We want to understand.

REPORTS: NONE

PUBLIC INPUT:

* Supervisor Depew made a motion to open Public Input at 8:30PM.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the vote: All Ayes

1. Anthony Covino- I have lost track of how many times I have been here over the same situation with the illegal business behind my residence. This last week, someone took it upon themselves knowing the water issue now for the past 2 months since the road has been raised and pitched so high. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know that water is going to go to the lowest point. Due to the illegal business behind my house, I am dealing with flooding on my property and in the basement of my home in the first time in 30 years. 4 times it has flooded now. I have water damage in my basement. I have to have someone come in and install a sub pump because after this project was put in, the pitch is wrong and there is no drainage. I get all the water on my property. I am thankful for social media; it is an opportunity to hold people accountable. People don’t have a concern and it puts them on the table.

I want to thank Councilman Fazio, he called me after the rain storm and asked if I have an issue. I said absolutely, he can come in and see my make shift pond. He walked the property with me unlike Bill the inspector, he saw the water damage. I have a few questions:

Mr. Fazio, when you came out there and saw what I have gone through and we discussed what the issue is. I come here and give facts, sometimes my facts are over looked. You saw exactly what is going on with my property. Was I correct?

Councilman Fazio- Yes, with the water was running, absolutely.

With this issue, now for the past 2 months, with the water going into my basement. You have put my family in danger; I have to worry about mold. My wife, my son, my granddaughter and a baby on the way. I will take the hit for anything but when it comes to my family, I will not. I will do everything I can from this day forward, to hold those responsible for those destroying my property, the water damage done. I have to get a mold test done because of the water in my basement. My brother-in-law lived there for 30 years plus, my aunt and uncle lived there as I was growing up, the house has never had water in the basement. Since that business has been put behind my house, it has been nothing but a problem. 2020 to recently. This is disgusting. I have to hire and attorney and move forward with civil issues. Now my family could be in danger. If there is mold is my house due to the water coming onto my property, I will hold people responsible. Everyone thinks this is a joke and I am here to cause problems. I am not. I have been dealing with this for 5 years.

Mr. O’Flaherty, you don’t know me that well. We have gotten to talk a few times. In your opinion, do you think every time I come here, am I complaining or concerns and dangers that are happening to my property? I am asking the Town Board, Planning Board and Building Department to do their job.

Councilman O’Flaherty- Every time you have spoken in front of us, you have a viable reason for the passion you have had. I don’t think you have been malicious. You aren’t going out of your way; you are expressing your opinion. I think you are fine.

In 2020, Joe Croce, I was told not to worry about it. Steel containers going behind your property. I called and made complaints. Ed Diller is a top-notch guy, did his job. Scott M is not a good job. Made unprofessional statements. A new Town Supervisor, she did not have time for me. But yet here I am tonight because my family is not in danger because of the water damage. If this was your house and your property, what would you do? Every name that has assigned that project and signed that project, engineers, building inspectors, planning board, members, past supervisors and present, if I can hold you all accountable, I will. This is not my first rodeo with this town. There is no one here that can be trusted. I am moving forward in every possible way to hold everyone accountable. Water goes to the lowest point. I have been crystal clear since I have been coming here that this is an issue. Mr. Fazio, Mr. Diller top notch. I have heard empty words from everyone else. My property shouldn’t be getting destroyed. He is on the Rotary and has a business in this town, treats other residents and neighbors. I have my trespassing signs broken in half after I complained about a tree on my property being cut down. Mold is not a joke. Minard’s house has been vacant for 20 plus ears because of mold.

1. Mark Reynolds- I am following up on something that Anthony brought up last meeting. On the property behind him, as part of the site plan, there was a building to be built. It was not built. Have you had the assessor or the building department check that out? Because the Town Board gave him permission to continue but he did not build the building which is part of the site plan.

Supervisor DePew- I would have to review that site plan and see why it wasn’t built.

Mark R- How would he get a CO to open or run a business. The other thing Anthony brought up, was the person behind him and the former Supervisor, on the tax rolls, their properties are listed as storage or empty lots. Have you alerted the assessor to this issue to check out?

Supervisor DePew- As a storage or empty lot?

Mark R- On the tax rolls, they are listed as storage or empty lots. The gentlemen behind him have another lot, 15 acres.

Anthony Covino- What is he trying to say, I have a sub divided acre on my property. I am paying more for 1 subdivide acre than the man who put the illegal business behind my house for 5 acres. The other one, there is 15 acres on Coy Road that I was told the assessor, has been there since 1990, is listed as a storage building. The other one, is a former Town Supervisor, has an adjacent acre next to his home, is listed as a storage building but it is a 2-car garage with a business out of there. Thumann’s meats. He pays close to the same as I pay for a vacant acre. I would say the assessor never knew or no one looked into this because of who they were. It doesn’t make sense that I am paying more than 2 people that are running business on 2 lots that have either more or the same amount of property. That is what I was talking about last meeting.

Mark R- I was bringing up the issue to see fi you contacted the assessor when it was brought up last meeting?

Anthony Covino- Dean, don’t try to go around the circle with me. It doesn’t work. You can do that with everyone else but not with me.

Mark R- These properties, has the assessor been alerted to these anomalies.

Supervisor DePew- I have not alerted anyone to these. I have not alerted anyone and I do not have details in my hand to alert someone to this. If something was put I my hand and I saw it, and carry it somewhere, that would be fine.

Mark R- I will try to get the documents to you.

Supervisor DePew- I will tell you this, take them right to the assessor. I am not an assessor nor do I pretend to be one.

Councilman Castillo- There is supposed to be a building. That means he has to put a building up, add electric and a well. That is when you raise that part of it as far as the taxes. We don’t have anything in hand. Storage containers can be there; they go to the job site so it is vacant land.

Mark R- My issue us, if he is to operate as a business, according to his site plan, before he operates and get a CO, he has to have that building built.

Councilman Castillo- Right. So, he doesn’t have a CO and the building hasn’t been started. I don’t know if any plans have been submitted. The Building Dept. and the assessor would be the one to talk to. Once you put a house on it, it changes the value. I am not an assessor either.

Mark R- It isn’t value. It is if one can operate legally without a CO. I would think this would be more of Code enforcement issue.

Supervisor DePew- I viewed your property 3 times over this weekend. After the first time, I saw your post on social media by whoever.

Anthony Covino- That was me. I have no problem saying it was me.

Supervisor DePew- I can tell you I went to the gate. I did look at both sides of the road. I looked at whatever I could see from the roadway itself. There was a sign that there were cameras and out of respect to those signs and the law, I did not go any further. I have talked to you a few times over this. I tried to talk to you 2 weeks ago and you walked right by me.

Anthony Covino- Absolutely. We are done talking.

Supervisor DePew- I am aware of what is going on with the property. You are in litigation so I cannot make any comments about any of this.

Anthony Covino- I did go in front of the assessor and a meeting with her. I brought the paperwork to a Town Board so it isn’t like you didn’t have it. You said you didn’t see it and you did.

Supervisor DePew- We are not assessors. You showed it to me. I will check with the assessor on Monday and you can circle back to me and ask me what I found out.

Anthony Covino- The assessor called me and said I was absolutely right. How since 1990, he isn’t listed as a business. I will not circle back to you; those days are over.

* Supervisor Depew made a motion close public input at 8:50PM

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

OLD BUSINESS:

* Local 17 (Newburgh)- Sidewalks at the Town Park, Chris Cerrone

Local 7 partners with local municipalizes and was contacted by Councilman Castillo regarding the sidewalk project at the Town Park. Local 17 will be volunteering their time/labor for this project and the town will be purchasing the supplies needed to complete. Local 17 is going to be taking this project on.

Within the next few weeks, the project should be completed.

Local 17 heads an apprenticeship project within municipalities. It is a career path for people that are not college bound but are looking for a career. This is a 4-year program and it involves both classroom training and on the job training. It is over 1,000 hours in the field every year to graduation to the next tier while also maintaining classroom time. It is an extensive program. They are also working on projects throughout 3 counties. The apprenticeship program is a benefit to municipalities if they decide to take this program on. What would normally happen, if towns decide to take on this program, they would do it via resolution stating that any capital improvement program, over a certain threshold would require the use of apprentices. What does that do for municipalities? – If anyone is familiar with prevailing wage, it saves the town money. Right now, if it is a capital improvement project, you have to pay prevailing wage. If you have apprentices, you would get the same labor at a cheaper rate. You can have a certain amount of journeyman on the job to a certain amount of apprentices to bring the cost down. There is a ratio mandated by NYS. Apprentices are really good; they can do the work that a journeyman do. Each year of apprenticeship is a pay increase. I believe in this and think it is a great program.

Supervisor DePew- What is the obligation to the Town Board to enter into a program like this?

Chris C- It is done by resolution. The apprenticeship program does not object anyone bidding for work in the Towns. Towns should set their threshold. Jobs over $250,000 for example, can have apprentices. This way if you have local contractors, you are using and they are paying the prevailing wage, if under $250,000, you can keep using. We don’t want to know anyone out of the way.

Councilman O’Flaherty- Who does the design/engineering of the slab or contract? Is that on the Town side or the apprentice?

Chris C- There is no engineering or design, we are going in to put a 6-inch slab, pour it and be done with it.

Councilman O’Flaherty- What about materials in the slab, style design? There is nothing that we get to look at before this is done?

Chris C- That is a town thing.

Supervisor DePew- I believe Willie, Highway Superintendent and Chris have been together a few times and there is already a drawing of this?

Councilman Castillo- Yes. It looks like a wish-bone. It is going to be designed to hold a truck with a plow for the snow. There is an incline that is ADA. They are supplying the labor and the Town is supplying the material. We have been in contact with the Highway Superintendent.

Chris C- We are using 4,000 PSI.

Councilman Fazio- What size rebar, wire?

Councilman O’Flaherty- What materials are we using?

Chris C- We are using wire mesh. It is a 6-inch slab. 2 x 6. 4,000 PSI with wire mesh inside. The intent is to support a vehicle.

Councilman O’Flaherty- You mentioned other towns that you work in, do you have any portfolios of your work?

Supervisor DePew- Willie, can you give the board members of the drawing and what is intended to be done.

Councilman Castillo- This doesn’t cost us anything. Using apprentices, if we use them at the sidewalk project in Clintondale, it will also save the town some money. The school that Local 17 has is great and the program is great.

Supervisor DePew- Can you get us a list of materials so we can understand how much this is going to cost? We have to get the money from somewhere. The intention is to get the funds from the Recreation Fund which is for the park and building of the park. We have to know what our costs are going to be.

Councilman Castillo- When I talked to Bob Wager about a resolution, we have the money to cover this but we need to have a number. Our next meeting, we should have all the paperwork, drawings and a resolution. Bob came up with the design. I will make sure to get Councilman O’Flaherty pictures of the drawings/design.

Councilman O’Flaherty- I just don’t want the apprentice that just came in to be laying concrete. We’ll get the yardage, dimensions.

* + Supervisor DePew made a motion to move ahead with the sidewalks at the Town Park. Move ahead and get numbers to make sure we can afford it. The intent would be at our June 18th Town Board meeting; we will move forward with a resolution and pass it formally.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt.

On the Vote: All Ayes

* + Supervisor DePew made a contingent motion, for the apprenticeship program after research with other towns. June 18th, we will have an answer.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Benches/Volleyball Court Update

Supervisor DePew announced that he did get a text message on Monday morning, our benches were delivered and they were installed yesterday at the park.

Volleyball, last Friday, Councilman Fazio met with our Highway Superintendent at the park to locate an area to put the volleyball court.

Supervisor DePew would like to make a suggestion to the Town Board: We did order the posts and net so we are set up for that. We don’t have a Volleyball court yet, we had discussed a little bit about a Volleyball court earlier, about hogging out the grass to make an area. Sod. Either putting down some sort of membrane to mitigate the growth of weeds but adding sand to it. That again would come at a cost. I can come up with an approximate for next meeting.

What is the thought of the board to level out the grass, excavate and leveling it out, putting sand in there to make it an appropriate court. I did have a discussion with the Highway Superintendent, his biggest concern is if the Board was interested in doing something like that, that we would select a date and he would make a date available to get the work done.

Councilman Hoppenstedt- My fear with the sand is animals. You get a playbox and every neighborhood cat finds it. Lots of geese as well. I would try and paint a court and leave it grass. I would level it off. I think sand is a bad idea.

Councilman Fazio- I never thought about that.

Supervisor DePew- I think the big thing with sand and a volleyball court is to lower the possibility of falling and twisting ankles. I think the sand is a legitimate concern. I think mowing would be part of the maintenance and we do have a line marking machine too.

Councilman Fazio- I agree with Joe.

Councilman Castillo- I agree with both of them.

Councilman O’Flaherty- The membrane thing would be hard with sand. I don’t know that sand is a good idea. I agree with Joe. I think the grass is the path of least resistance.

Supervisor DePew- I agree as well. We should let Highway Sup. Know that we want to move forward and level the ground that already exists.

* + Supervisor DePew made a motion to move forward and notify the Highway Superintendent of our intentions to level the area and keep it grass.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt.

On the Vote: All Ayes

* DMV Bus Update

Next Date is July 17th. We are hoping to add more days per month.

* Red, White & Blue Celebration

July 12th. Rain Date July 13th.

Joint meeting with all involved. July 26th at 7:00PM.

NEW BUSINESS

* $20.00 July Coupon

Councilman Fazio- I think we should continue it.

Councilman Hoppenstedt- I think we should continue it.

Councilman Castillo- How many people come in during the month in July to get a coupon?

Sarah N- Last year we had roughly #150

Councilman Hoppenstedt made a motion to approve the $20 Transfer Station, July Coupon

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

TRANSFERS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor DePew made a motion to ENTER into Executive Session at 8:51PM

Seconded by Councilman Castillo.

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to EXIT Executive Session at 9:45PM with NO Decision Made.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

 VOUCHERS:

* Supervisor Depew reviewed the Voucher Detail report Dated June 4, 2025 which includes:

The A-General Fund amount of $19,939.77

The DA-Highway Fund amount of $24,708.88

The SD- Drainage in the amount of ……………………………..………..$1,991.43

For a grand total in the amount of **$46, 640.08**

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 Hoppenstedt.

On the vote: All Ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48PM

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes