

Town Highland
Regular Town Board Meeting
January 9, 2024
Eldred Town Hall

Present Supervisor John Pizzolato
 Councilman Tom Migliorino
 Councilperson Laura Burrell
 Councilman James Akt
 Councilwoman Kaitlin Haas

Also, present Attorney to the Town, Stive Mogul
 Town Clerk Susan Hoffman

Supervisor calls meeting to order
Flag Salute
Moment of silence for Edward Conklin

Motion by Councilperson Burrell to table a vote on the Minutes as they are not completed, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Burrell to approve the December 2023 Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Migliorino, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received and read Highland Ambulance monthly report.
Received and read Yulan Fire Dept monthly report.
Received and read Highland Fire Dept monthly report.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

I also just wanted to let you know, as we're going through the numbers with the fire departments and ambulance service, Tom and I had a meeting with both with all of the emergency services including the Highland Ambulance Service, they're doing an amazing job. It was really wonderful to hear all the hard work that our volunteer departments put into our community. If you see somebody new that moves into the community, please remind them that our fire departments and our ambulance service are all volunteer. They're always looking for people to work and staff and it doesn't mean that you have to be on the forefront of fighting fires or going on ambulance calls. We need a lot of infrastructure and executive assistant work and in lots of other positions within those boards, from fundraisers to everything that goes into a volunteer department.

HIGHWAY

We had one major breakdown, a couple of minor breakdowns. Saturday and Sunday was 23 hours straight.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mel Carney asks? I don't know if it falls under codes or personnel. But I'm wondering why the code enforcement officer was fired. Supervisor replies: She wasn't fired. We contract with Fusco. In advance of planning our meetings and in just sort of making our plans for the town, we went back and forth with Al Fusco and talked about what we wanted the bigger town to look like and what our goals and objectives are for the new administration. I want to move away from being a violations department and be more of an information department. When I spoke with Al Fusco, he was very much of the mind that he didn't train our previous Code Enforcer. It was an appointment that the town had suggested. I think that we wanted to give a fresh start to all the departments. We've gone through five code enforcers in the past four years. I think cleaning those things up and having a fresh start with something that I felt very confident about, but we also have the backing of Fusco engineering which is, you know, a very regarded code enforcement agency and engineering agency and we look to expand our relationship with them. They're doing a really good job and they have a lot of resources at their disposal. We look to Al to give us guidance and to navigate. I stand by the appointment of Fusco because it alleviates the town of a lot of liability because they're you know personally insured, they provide the code enforcers and building inspectors with insurance and so we feel really confident in that and it was just decided that we should switch up personnel. We've literally had five different code enforcers in the past four years. Paula Campbell states: isn't the new code enforcement officer also a local woman? Supervisor: Yes, she also lives in the town of Yulan, which also feels really good and she's also new to the town of Yulan. It's kind of a double-edged sword where she doesn't know anybody, doesn't have a lot of axes to grind but also lives here and is invested here and wants to support her community. She's also local contractor, but it's a painting business so it doesn't have too much crossover.

Councilwoman Haas: We didn't appoint. Fusco hired BJ. That was the last town appointment. We signed the contract with Fusco and Fusco hired BJ. But you said it was the previous administration appointed her of which isn't correct. I'm just correcting that we didn't hire her she's still an employee of Fusco. She was just told that she'd no longer be able to work in this town.

Supervisor: With that being said, we stand by our relationship with Fusco and what Al said was that the town recommended BJ as a code enforcer.

Councilwoman Haas: Okay, she's a state certified code enforcer and instructor. She works for multiple other municipalities. Supervisor: she longer works here. Councilwoman Haas: I'm just trying to clarify, you're making a statement about work that I performed, I'm going to clarify it to the public. We didn't hire her we hired Fusco, Supervisor: and do we still have Fusco. Councilwoman Haas: but did we sign another contract with them because their contract was expired? Supervisor: Yes, we have. We have another contract I haven't yet executed. I wanted to review once we hired our town attorney. Councilwoman Haas: the board has to review it. It has to be a board resolution to approve the contract. So, we'll have further discussion.

Supervisor: again, we're just commenting on the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

We received a request from our town historian Debra Conway and Sue's going to read that, it seems like a really wonderful project. Councilperson Burrell: We were going to introduce the Deputy Supervisor.

Supervisor: He is not here tonight I can now that we mentioned we can bring up his name. Glenn Pontier is the deputy supervisor that was appointed. He will come and give his qualifications and meet the public. We are going to encourage office hours for town employees. Glenn has volunteered to do some of those office hours. We will start posting office hours to the public and you will all get a chance to know him if you don't already. He's a very qualified and has worked within the county. He's worked within the upper Delaware Scenic Byway, the Boy Scout camp, the Fly-Fishing Museum, and lots of other wonderful qualifications, but I'll let him speak on his own behalf and we'll meet him at a later meeting. He is also not a voting member of the board. If anybody has any questions about that, the deputy supervisor acts when the supervisor cannot run meetings and would take over if something happened or if there was an emergency and I was not available. He's in place for emergencies. It's an appointment.

Deborah Conway is asking for permission for the town historian to use Town Hall on February 10 for a two o'clock pm presentation by Town of Deer Park, historian Michael J. Warden for his new book Lynched by the Mob an award-winning account of the 1892 murder/lynching of Robert Lewis in Port Jervis, one of only two known lynchings in New York State.

BUILDINGS

Councilperson Burrell//Councilman Migliorino: We would like to thank Fred for giving us a tour throughout the buildings in the town. We compiled a list of things that need to be taken care of at each building. There are immediate repairs. We broke it out into immediate repairs and future repairs. I'll go through each one of these. And it's going to take a little while because the buildings do need some work. Barryville firehouse on route 97 needs immediate repair with doorstops needed for overhead doors and door jams for main door. Main entrance door rotted and needs to be replaced, gutters need to be repaired, locate septic and pump the tank. Future repairs: water drainage and mold issues and possibly exterior paint. We have the courthouse in Barryville. We had a heating problem over there and it was repaired. Charlie Kaese came out and took a look at it. And it was no charge to the town. As we go into the crawlspace into the basement there were stairs that needed repair and they were taken care of as well. The immediate repairs are from building number of posts at the entrance of the driveway needs to be reinstalled. Smoke detectors in the closet needs to be reinstalled, cable wires on the outside of the building need to be removed. We need to locate the septic tank and have that pumped and termite protection. Contracts need to be reinstated. Patty's office there is a heat issue there, check or replace small hot water tank we'll have to take a look at the future repairs possible mold issue and staff restroom. Closet trim and flooring in the closet. access panel needs to be lowered by six inches for the phone company, floor joists on the left side of the building may need to be replaced. We'll have to do some investigation to see if they're rotted or not, that may be a major expense, building exterior in desperate need of masonry reappointing and stucco repair, exterior building painting and interior building touch-up paint. Town Hall immediate repair carpet cleaning in the main meeting room, restroom plumbing leaks, locate the septic tank and pump, clean leaves from behind the building. Future repairs, interior and exterior painting.

General organization with regards to ambulance storage area: tires need to be relocated to a different space, possibly in fire department or Barryville building. Build or purchase shelving for shared space needs. Basic reorganization and cleanup for the building next door. Senior Center: Needs a carpet cleaning, their UV filter, lamp and maintenance to water filtration system. Locate septic and pump that tank as well. The grease trap in the kitchen needs to be cleaned. Ladies room handicapped toilet needs to be removed, drain line needs to be snaked with a camera to look for clogs and obstructions. They're having problems with that toilet in that bathroom. The entrance doors facing 55 needs new locks the locks are broken. In the kitchen area, there are immediate repairs as well. Kitchen stove and appliances need major cleaning, parking signs for handicap need to be reinstalled the came out of the ground and fell over, air vent and furnace room needs to be replaced or repaired. Kitchen cabinets need doors and drawer repairs. Printed instructions for lighting pilot light for stove and oven needed. Broken tables need repair or replacement. Future repairs: new concrete slab at the entrance is a tripping hazard, possible interior painting and exterior painting as well. Town Highway Shop, building is in generally good condition and is mostly maintained by the highway department. Two requests are a generator is needed and possibly a two-yard garbage dumpster. The observation areas on route 97. We're trying to figure out who's actually responsible for maintaining the properties The one area closest to the Roebling bridge. The one with the gazebo should be shut down immediately. The ramp is rotted and it could be a liability for us. In the future the ramp is going to have to be replaced. And there's going to be some repairs needed for the actual gazebo.

Supervisor: I just want to tell you for the ease of this meeting tonight, that myself, Laura and Tom are going to be going to the Association of Towns training in Albany next week. At night we already have meetings scheduled with our representatives on the state level. We are going to get the training to know what we're doing up here to run meetings to work through Robert's Rules, but I thank the public in advance for your patience with us as we fumbled through our first agenda. Our reorganization meeting was really positive and wonderful and we subsequently hired our Attorney for the Town in an emergency meeting because we didn't have representation with so many issues going on. Those meetings went really well. We've got the business of the town executed. Hopefully February will be better and then March will be splendid. In terms of the highway department, we found out that we have some extra funds available to us, I think the \$160 in our original grant funds that we worked with Laberge on so we're going to look into that. I have a call into Laberge to figure out what we can do with those funds. The first priority would be a generator for the highway department because right now when the guys go in the middle of the night for calls, they have to use the chains because there's no power source, so not only are they getting out of their beds in the middle of the night to come and plow but they have to manually put up the chains to get the trucks out. Which isn't ideal obviously, if these guys need to seek refuge or take a nap or get some warming and charging done, they should be able to do it in a warm safe space and comfortable space. We're also looking at things like lifts so they can work on the cars and save money in repairs. But again, we're going to look into the those grant funds and see how we can purchase those? Councilwoman Haas: I didn't think there was any remainder of funds from the Swipp plan was what we had to submit to get those funds to pay for the salt shed so they were already allocated for the salt shed.

Supervisor: we received a notice from Laberge this week that they basically said that some of the original allocation that we had requested wasn't things that we could use and so the highway guys were doing

some of the work at the end of last year to make up for that labor. We are looking into it with Laberge, and how we can use those funds that are left the balance is approximately \$162,000. Okay, moving on.

WEBSITE

Dorene Warner: I am currently the webmaster for the town's website and have been for the town for many years. This is a very lengthy presentation. The Town Clerk has a transcribed draft version if you would like to read it. You can come into the Clerk's Office during business hours for a copy.

UDC

Christine Martin is our new UDC rep. She replaced the Andy Boyer who fought hard at the UDC and represented our town for years and did such a wonderful job. Christine went to law school, she's an advocate, and a passionate environmentalist.

Town Clerk reads: Last week was the first UDC meeting of the year and my first as the representative for the town. I am looking forward to working closely with the 13 towns and townships represented on the board, as well as with our dedicated partner, the National Park Service to protect, intent and purpose of the River Management Plan and to see that the land and water use guidelines are followed by all projects and activities on the upper Delaware. I am grateful to Andy Boyer, for his devotion to the river and our town. A few notes from the first meeting January 4, there was a discussion of maintenance at the refurbished Highland River Access area. discussion was moved to January 6. Water Use River Management Committee agenda. Photos of the debris found at the Highland access were provided. Lindsay Kernoff from the Park Service and Ryan Colter from the NYS Department of environmental conservation. Both said they would look into the question of maintenance. Ryan Colter will also check into the status of signage pending at the access. Thursday, February 1 UDC meeting will host the swearing in reception for new officers as well as taking the annual UDC board photo. for very truly yours Christine Martin, Town of Highland UDC.

Supervisor: I had a meeting with the planning commissioner of Sullivan County, Mr. Brown, and we spoke about cleanup. I think they're going to wait until March, April whenever they can to put in the signs at the new Highland access and apply for one permit from the D O T. Do one sort of sweeping cleanup on the county level. Because the water is going to keep going up and down.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This is one of 200 meetings we've had in the past week, which is really exciting and informative. Tom and I have met with the Sheriff, the Under-Sheriff and our deputy patrol person, Marcus Pratti. We talked about a lot of issues with their approaches, what their schedule is. It was a wonderful meeting. It was nice to know that they do have a plan and that we're being taken care of. Marcus has a deep understanding of our town. Something that I thought was very interesting is that the sheriff expressed without prompting that he was very much in support of us, looking to either rebuild a shared service, Constabulary or a shared service River Corridor police district. He said that this relationship was intended to be temporary but that we extended the relationship to come in for our constables. He's very much in support of us forming an exploratory committee and looking at those options and we'll weigh those options as they come along. We have different levels of law enforcement that we want to put together on a committee. One of the sheriff's, retired deputies, somebody from the State Patrol, and then another retired police officer from NYPD that's lived in town for 30 years. We have a really nice group that we're starting to assemble and as that materializes, we'll bring it to the forefront and share all that information with you. I know the public outcry to bring back our constables has been very strong. We also know the great expense that it comes with, those will be some of the meetings that we have when we're in Albany and

talking to our leaders on the state and federal level to try and reinstate something like that. And then today also, Tom and I met with Anthony LaRuffa from the Highland Ambulance. We've also met with Phil Deyermond from the Yulan Fire Department, and Warren Wagner from the Highland Lake Fire Department. We assessed their needs in the sort of current status of everything and I'll let Tom elaborate on that.

Councilman Migliorino: As far as the fire department we have to get an updated emergency checklist. We have to get the residents together for who may be in need in case of a crisis where we could take them to the warming center. Warming centers could be New Hope this could be a warming center here and St. Anthony's parish in Yulan. None of these warming centers have a shower except for the American Legion and I believe that it's not on the list for an emergency warming center.

Supervisor: The town did give a generator that was intended for the highway department to St. Anthony's parish center. But there are other things that need to be done in order to make that a true emergency center. We don't have all the insurances in place, the town's liability insurance is not assigned to the Parish Center at this time. They have a bleach system and they needed to bleed through the entire system before the water was potable.

Town Hall will work because we do have isolated offices if we need to get a command center without public interference. We can isolate the clerk's office or isolate the supervisor office or the code office to make calls and have bigger conversations. We appointed Tom to be that person who communicates with the highway department and the law enforcement and the ambulance service and the fire department. Tom will be at the control center in the event of an extreme emergency. It's been a very positive experience getting to know everybody we spoke to NYSEG today our rep with NYSEG gave us his cell phone number and has emergency crews in place should something go wrong, and nicely. We are working with Linda Anderson and Margie Granese who are going to update we our list of senior citizens that may need to be checked in on in the event of a storm.

Councilwoman Haas: Just to clarify, the removal of the ambulance from the American Legion building was separate and apart from the transition of the ambulance service. We actually maintained that as an emergency shelter because it had a shower after the ambulance had already divested from the American Legion. The American Legion independently of its board determined that they no longer are going to permit the town to use the building as an emergency access. The Yulan Fire Department did put a shower in so there is a shower in that building. The generator that's at the parish hall was not intended for the highway department, it was from the old Highway Department. It's not big enough for the new building. Instead of accessing and throwing it away, it was placed where we thought that side of town would benefit from having power generation in the event of an emergency. It was always the three as I mentioned in my emails to everybody it was always the three locations the town hall being primary, Senior Center secondary and the third would be the parish hall which we never had to activate and any location that we open we do have to have staff there and then the staff that we bring in we have to pay unless it's a town board member because we're not paid hourly. Were you formerly exploring Koinonia as a potential warming center?

We were looking at Koinonia, we actually did a walkthrough of their facility. Again, that was separate and apart from our relationship with them as a community partner for the youth program, because they do

have to motel spaces. The challenge is their power generation. All their utilities they have gas stoves and all of those items would work. They have a full commercial kitchen but their power generation is limited to some of their refrigeration and some of the I think they can do one half of the motel units. We did have preliminary discussions with them. They had some infrastructure issues that they had to manage and they were working with a couple of different agencies to bring in some other facilities to appropriate code so that it would be able to be utilized for other uses. The challenge with Koinonia is location. Well, even once you get to Koinonia is getting into the camp it's gravel roads. Supervisor: very similar to the parish center it is an off location for the center of town. So, between Town Hall and the senior center those seem to be the best equipped, but we do have to deal with the shower issue if it is an extended emergency. We're going to be we're continue to work on this and vet it but for the time being this is our emergency center.

Councilwoman Haas: also, the clerk's office has a hard-wired phone. In the event of a prolonged power outage or what we learned in the storms of 2017 is that although we would have Wi Fi or cell service if there's a significant power outage, there's not an extended battery life on any of the Wi Fi boosters throughout the town. There were a few times where we had to notify Verizon to reset some of the cell battery packs or whatever it is that they do and that would be another concern with the parish center is that they don't have natural cell phone service, you rely solely on Wi Fi and so that can be problematic because there are sometimes breaks in line because of those power outages.

Councilman Migliorino: The sheriff's hours of patrol are Friday 4 to 12, Saturday, 8 to 4 and then 4 to 12 on Sunday from April 15 to October 15, on Sundays is 10 to six and those are the hours.

UDSB

Gerald Finn is our new representative. Lacey Madden was our representative on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, she has to be moved to alternate status because she has a new growing family. Gerald is has definitely stepped in and is excited about it, but he's going to be out of town for the first one so I will definitely be there as well. Lacey.

GRANTS

Supervisor: Laura and I had a meeting with Sullivan 180 today. Back in 2021 we proposed of an inner community organization grant program in which we were awarded the Silver Feather Award in 2021. We were awarded \$100,000 with a town contribution of \$25,000 plus shared services and those shared services can go towards our contribution of \$25,000. We've spent down roughly \$45,000 of that grant. We're going to do some research after our meeting today, but we have roughly \$55,000 to execute the rest of the program. Dorene Warner has jumped for a long time about eliminating excessive blacktop in the rural area and got that wonderful mural put into place, that was the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce portion of the project. The other portions of the project are the Green Space at the end of River Road where a lot of people walk their dogs it's not a beach, it's not a park it's a green space. It comes with a lot of legalities. That project we have to use the existing materials and hopefully utilize the services of our highway department to build a dike from the road to get people down safely to the green space, which was donated by Aaron Robinson. The adjacent property owner is his brother, Jules Robinson. We plan on putting a wild grown wall between so that it gives the property owner adjacent, a nice natural wall and barrier so that his family is protected from visitors. The third site is the Eagle Observation One, we're going to just lay some new impervious materials so that the drainage can be effectively dealt with and encourages a healthy lifestyle so you can park at Eagle Observation One and walk down to the Green Space. So that just is going to get interpretive signage. Also, there's two Eagle's Nests like from that zone,

which is pretty great. Eagles love to make a nest I don't know if you guys noticed this trend and dead trees and there's two very tall dead trees at that site, it's a really wonderful space, but it's also a great spot where you can park and go down there. The third location is the Highland access point. Initially they needed funds to get their plan stamped they needed different things, there needs to change. We had initially allotted \$10,000 for that. In my meeting with the planning commissioner, she asked if we could put a kayak rack there because that's sort of the focus of that site now. We'll discuss the use of the funds as we move through the project. Councilwoman Haas: There was no allocation for the Highland Access in the grant and the silver feather. It's the Col de sac, the river road green space, Eagle observation one parking area, Eagle observation two which is the Barbary gaming and area and then the Kate Project. Supervisor: we went over the project again today it's been wavering. I initiated the project and passed it on to the town. The town approved it and Kaitlin was the representative of the town. The funds haven't been actioned fully and the funds expired as of December 31. Today in our resolutions we're going to hopefully will pass an extension of the program we're going to look to extend the funds through October and just to finish the breadth of the project, the planning commissioner asked if we could potentially give funds to there, we've allocated different amounts of money it's changed as their needs change. We'll look into the kayak rack. The next site is Eagle Observation Two, that's one of the buildings that Tom had mentioned where the ramp is actually pretty dangerous. It's a great eagle observation site, but the ramp is dangerous, the building is definitely in need of repair. So that will be a focus of our funds to get that compliant and up to speed and we're also talking about putting in handicap parking. Heather did the Kate project which is not a Town of Highland project, that is a Delaware company project. They came to us with this idea and again, I just put all these ideas from all the wonderful community members together. Heather was working on the Highland Access and Dorene really wanted this mural to happen which was wonderful. The Kate Project is to take the Eagle Observation to use the natural towpath that is there from the D&H canal. 2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the D&H canal, we'd like to get it ready for its celebration. We'll connect with a with a gravel path to the towpath that goes along the Delaware River and then the long-term plan with the Delaware. The Delaware company is to put a statue along the river side in a bench creating almost like a little park between the Roebling bridge and Eagle Observation Two that would tell the story of how this area was developed. Its history with logging and its use of child labor, which is something they wanted to highlight. Heather Jacksy's daughter's name is Kate and the project was born between the planning department who is also a Town of Highland resident and the Conway's. The idea is to erect a statue of a child leading a mule to the river and have some historical markers there. We look forward to actioning the rest of our funds and working through these projects. I think they're all very doable. For the most part I think we'll dedicate a lot of the funds towards Eagle Observation Two so that we can ensure the safety of our residents and the Kate project because we feel like it's very meaningful and it's just a small stone in a bigger and a bigger pile that is to accomplish the goals of their mission with telling those historical stories. Sullivan 180 was really excited about reenacting this grant and getting it active again and working. And then we also discussed tethering our beautification efforts together with the greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce in the Town of Highland. We've been competitive in the past for funding. We're going to streamline those efforts so that we're looking for larger grants, municipal grants, and we're going to streamline the amount of the baskets. Laura also happens to be the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce president.

Councilperson Burrell: I look forward to talking to all people within town who had been working on grants since before my time. It's really important to assess what's been asked and from where which resource so

that we're not double dipping and then we're expanding our reach. There are some grants out there for Justice Court, I'm looking into what different kinds of state and federal funding we can get to help with some of the upgrades to our municipal buildings, right off the bat and talking to our legislators as well as our senators about how can we really do some of the things that they see in this town with sidewalks and crosswalks.

YOUTH & PARK DEVELOPMENT

Supervisor/Councilwoman Haas: Kaitlin and I haven't had a chance to connect on any of these things.

There was a request put in from Koinonia and it was voted on and there was a resolution passed last year for \$6,700. Councilwoman Haas: the way the Koinonia program works is we have applied previously for a TC Energy grant which carried over, we didn't expend the totality of the funds, so that should have carried over. We also applied for a youth grant from Sullivan County Youth Bureau which we were awarded \$7,500, and we paid that out. We did request from the bookkeeper, the remainder funds. Koinonia had asked for another \$10,000, so we did meet and authorize that expenditure. They made a final request for this last \$6,000 which I thought we had in in the budget line, but the bookkeeper reported that we haven't so if we want to move forward with giving them the additional funds, we are not obligated to give them additional funds. Our resolution with them, indicates they will act as a community partner and we will pay them based on the Youth Funds, anything above and beyond would be at the board's discretion. If we want to allocate that funding and do a budgetary transfer into that account to fund it, we can do that if we don't want to, we don't have to. We've already provided them with a substantial amount of funding, it would be at the board's discretion. Supervisor: I'm going to schedule a meeting with the director to talk about what the needs are, what the expansion of services and what we can offer residents before we go dipping into our savings or other budgeted funds. I just want to get a handle on what the program is and what their expanding needs are. Because maybe we could again, look for extended grants or other programs that could aid Koinonia or a partnership between the town and Koinonia. I don't think the need is eminent but it is it is a little precarious that we don't have those funds available. We're going to do some research and try to locate where those funds were spent. Councilwoman Haas: we expended all the funds. This was an additional allocation request. We need to understand what we spent was \$17,500, \$7,500 was the Youth Bureau allocation and the remainder was funds leftover from TC energy.

But what was the total cost of the TC Energy Grant? \$10,000. So, \$17,500 is what you've expended. This additional \$6000 was an additional request from Koinonia, they had an actual expansion or a more expansive number of students because they in their program, but they also residents but they also so they apply for Youth funding as well, which decreased the amount the town was allocated because it was funding the same program. Supervisor: So why was there a question then if the funds are available, because I think that you'd put in the request from the because the information that we got from the bookkeeper when we had the initial meeting to do the additional expansion was that we had those funds available. So now she's reported that we don't have those funds available. I don't know if there was an error on the information that was given to us when we had the emergency meeting or what so that's why we had to do a budget reallocation if we want to expend those funds. If we don't, we've already spent the amount that we committed to spend with them above the amount that we committed

COMMUNITY PLANNING/SENIORS

No report

CODES

Councilperson Burrell/Councilman Migliorino: We're going to be entering into a comprehensive plan planning period and codes are kind come hand in hand with that process. We'll be seeking information

from zoning and planning and all the wonderful people that serve on those boards and the town and the people who live here and everyone in the room about our codes and what we want it to look like.

SOCIAL SERVICES/RSVP (Retirement Seniors Volunteer Program)

Supervisor: I've spoken extensively with Linda Anderson and June Alvarez. Linda can't get into visit a lot of the seniors and so I think it's a really wonderful relationship that June Alvarez, who's done a lot of a lot of care for seniors in our town is going to do the actual house visit.

Margie Granese: I spoke with the director of the RSVP, his name is Kevin. He said there's not too much going on right now. In the winter, they don't do too much. Come June. July, they start. They are going to try a new program and he doesn't really want to discuss it yet until it gets off the ground which is fine. They need drivers to take residents to doctor's appointments and shopping. We'll have a shopping bus that goes every Thursday from out of town and it does go to shop rite, Walmart and it's only \$3 and the senior wants to go you make a phone call two days before and \$3 and you can go shopping.

INSURANCE

Councilwoman Haas/Councilman Akt: Supervisor: We definitely have to close the gap on the parish center if we do want to use that as an emergency warming center. We need to get them added properly to our insurance policies.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee has yet to meet.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Paula Campbell: I spoke to Brandy and Carolyn today and we're going to meet with you on the 23rd at six o'clock

MARIAN O'NEIL BEAUTIFICATION/CULTURE

Supervisor: The committee has yet to get together.

911 HEROES PARK

No report.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Supervisor: They're going to meet on January 22nd at 6pm. Carol Roig and Heather Jacksy from the Sullivan County Planning Department also Town of Highland residents are going to help us with that. At the suggestion of Carol Roig that Scott Hallock was very pivotal in the comprehensive plan last time and was very effective in working through our compliance with the River Corridor Management Plan. The idea is that they set up for six months discussing what the vision is for the town, looking at some of the codes that we may want to change to achieve those goals and visions for the town. There'll be six months of planning and scoping sessions, conversations with planning, coding, zoning, and building permits. We'll take a thorough assessment of what we have on the books and what changes we need to make to have the town represent for the next 10 years. The second half of those six months will be writing new codes and making those changes to our codes in our town plans. Al Fusco has worked on a lot of comprehensive plans and has offered his services so we're reading some of those contracts to for how to make permanent changes to our codes and our zoning.

Motion by Councilman Akt to approve Supervisor Pizzolato and Deputy Supervisor Glenn Pontier as the new signatories on the Jeff bank accounts, seconded by Councilperson Burrell, motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Burrell to approve a formal extension of the silver feather grant river access until October 31 2024 as they transition from Sullivan Renaissance to Sullivan 180 and extend our funding, seconded by Councilman Migliorino, motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Burrell to approve the digital capture recordings of all Town of Highland town board meetings, zoning board and planning board meetings, Councilwoman Haas: discussion, don't we have to also review the storage? Isn't that part of Dorene's proposal that if we record them, we don't have a process for recording them and we don't have a server to record them on.

Supervisor: Dorene is going to meet with the with the web committee, but the idea was that we would start to explore purchasing the equipment start recording the meetings now so that it makes it easier for the for the secretaries of those boards. And then we'll vet the actual storage and web plan as they can meet and make those selections.

Councilwoman Haas: but based on during presentation, we're going to run out of room pretty quickly.

Supervisor: No, we're not going to store them. We're going to capture them. We're going to digitally record the meetings and then as soon as we come up with a plan for storage then we're going to upload them with said plan.

Dorene: I am recommending that whatever source that you are recording them from that they are downloaded and saved to a hard drive. You will have to purchase that equipment because they can have it for posterity and other organizations recording can have those.

Supervisor: The town also works with secure cloud we'll talk to them about storage. This motion is just to approve the capture of them and then we'll decide what we're going to do with them once we get our web plan together. We would need to have it in place for our next meeting.

Councilwoman Haas: My question is? If Sue records it on her laptop. Supervisor: Sue's not going to be recording on her laptop? Councilwoman Haas: you're making a motion to do an action that you don't have a way to do it. If Sue's recording it? How are you recording it? Are you purchasing items which to record it? You're putting the cart before the horse you have to have the equipment. If Sue has adequate storage on her laptop and you can record it until we get the ??? that's vetted by the committee, but otherwise you're going to make a motion to record, how are you going to record it, where are you going to store it that those are my questions?

Supervisor: Our Attorney for the Town also represents Mamakating, we're calling out to their supervisor to figure out what equipment they use and what they're doing. The web committee is going to meet with Dorene to talk about the equipment that would be the most advantageous and then we'll bring it to our IT person which is Lorry King, and we'll talk about purchasing options. Lorry and I are also meeting this week to discuss my computer in my office. They also have equipment needs in the tax enforcement office. As we vet some of those other technology needs. We will vet that again with the IT director unless you feel like it needs extended Board approval. Councilperson Burrell: to Caitlin's point it's too early to make this motion. Supervisor: I think we want to get this motion in place so that we can make the space within our website and make decisions to accommodate what will be the digital capture. We can we can hold off on this motion and purchase the equipment start recording and then make a motion to put it up online.

Attorney for the Town: I don't think it's of any real legal significance, whether we, you know, this is really more a policy issue. I don't think there's anything wrong with saying hold off on making the motion. I also don't think there's anything wrong with passing the motion in advance. The fact is, nobody would be barred from recording it right now. Nobody would be barred from putting it on their phone and posting it to YouTube. It's really at the discretion of the board as to how to choose to proceed.

The numbers are correctly detailed and accurate description. Just adding a little additional color to it the issue was that members of the public are supposed to have physical access to where the individual board members are so technically the law said previously if somebody was zooming from their house, they would have to allow access to the public to their house. That is what the state revisited and they allow for provisions as long as members of the public have access to where the quorum is, where the one location is, then that would be adequate. This motion was not carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Akt to approve budgetary transfer to be made to the 2023 General Budget in the amount of \$14,589.47, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Akt to pay Highway Abstract # 13-2023 claims #s 130 to # 143 in the amount of \$41,849.97, seconded by Councilman Migliorino, discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Akt to pay General Abstract # 13-2023 Claims #s 362 to # 385 in the amount of \$23,572.87, seconded by Councilperson Burrell, discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Akt to pay Eldred Street Lights # 12-2023 claim # 12 in the amount of \$156.26, seconded by Councilperson Burrell, discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Burrell to pay General Abstract #1-2024 claims #s 1 to # 3 in the amount of \$806.63, seconded by Councilman Migliorino, discussion, motion carried.

Public Comment

Gerry Finn: Just couple of questions clarification, short budgetary transfers? It says 2023. So those were last year's budget bringing? Town Clerk: Yes, that is a resolution that I've gotten from the bookkeeper. So that those are transfers from the 2023 budget to what she's appropriating for now.

Supervisor: So, most of them are December bills and quarterly bills and things that are already approved in 2023. Gerry Finn: That way now, we have the budgetary authority. Yes.

The Zoom law that Caitlyn mentioned does that apply to the other the ZBA and the planning board as well?

Supervisor: It was applied for all Town of Highland board meetings. What I proposed tonight was that we would digitize and record all town board meetings, especially in the planning department meetings, there's been questions, things have been submitted, or haven't been submitted same thing within the within the zoning board, any conversation can be referred back too.

Gerry Finn: My question is more with the people, the attendees the board. Supervisor: it was actually specifically addressed. We enacted it after speaking to the zoning board chair, he was really excited about it. He spends half the year someplace else. As long as there's a quorum, he would be able to zoom in and have that meeting.

Councilwoman Haas: You can't travel. He doesn't meet the criteria is that it wasn't a Town Law that mimics a state law, so he's just vacationing in Florida or Arizona for six months, doesn't meet the criteria for his participation in zoom meetings. An open board meeting that requires a quorum, as long as a quorum is physically present, other board members who meet the criteria and it's outlined and I can send you the information. It's outlined what criteria you have meet to be able to participate? I mean, vote, receive and participate in meeting via zoom if you're a board member.

Attorney for the Town: these are somewhat different issues because what you're addressing the law that was passed, pertain to quorum. This is more about transparency and public information.

Motion by Councilman Akt to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Burrell, motion carried.