

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

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Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

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PUBLIC HEARING-DEMOLITION OF 157 JONES ROAD 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Johnson asked the Town Clerk to read the public hearing notice.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of Wilton, New York County of Saratoga will hold a public health hearing pursuant to Chapter 47, "Buildings, Unsafe", of the Code of the Town of Wilton.

SAID PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING will be in relation to the manufactured home, all accessory structures and property at 157 Jones Road, Tax Map No. 140.-1-31, which have been deemed to be uninhabitable structures and an unsafe site pursuant to inspections and reports from the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Wilton and pursuant to Resolution #63 of 2019, dated January 3, 2019, adopted by the Town Board.

SAID PUBLIC HEARING will be held on Thursday February 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall located on 22 Traver Road, Wilton, New York. At that time all persons will be given the opportunity to be heard.

Supervisor Johnson opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Eric Rosenberg, 16 Craw Lane, said at 402 Northern Pines Road a property was demolished because it was deemed unsafe. The problem is there is a nice, big, dangerous hole was left there. He said he wasn't sure how many years the hole has been there but is hoping when 157 Jones Road is demolished the property will be left in a safe condition without a big hole in the ground. He said he wasn't sure with a mobile home if you need to make a hole in the ground because he said he didn't know what kind of foundation is there. The idea is not to just demolish the property but to leave the property in safe condition.

Mark Mykins, Code Enforcement Officer, said the owner of 402 Northern Pines Road had his house demolished after a fire in the home about a year ago. The crater is where the basement was. The owners had a contract with a company to build new home. The company had some issues and everything stopped. The owners are waiting for another company to start the new home. Rather than re-dig the hole, it will serve as the foundation for the new structure.

Supervisor Johnson closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-February 7, 2019

Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Johnson led the board and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members present except Deputy Supervisor Lant who was excused.

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor
Steve Streicher-Councilman
Duane Bogardus-Councilman
John McEachron-Councilman

Also present was Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper, P. E., Maria Moran, Comptroller and Town Counsel, Mark Schachner.

Supervisor Johnson said he would like to make a presentation to our long time Highway Superintendent, Kirklin Woodcock who has earned a very significant accomplishment in his career.

"This plaque is presented to Kirklin Woodcock by the Town of Wilton Town Board. Congratulations on your completion of 30 years of attendance at the 73rd Annual School of for Highway Superintendents , Town and County Officers Training School of the State of New York. We recognize your accomplishments and dedication to serving the residents of the Town of Wilton."

Supervisor Johnson said he is very proud to present this and with this there is a magazine that goes along with this and it is dedicated to Kirklin Woodcock. It profiles his service, his life and his accomplishments. The magazine will be available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office. It is a very interesting article and portrays Kirk's long time work for the Town of Wilton.

Highway Superintendent Woodcock thanked his colleagues and all of the people throughout the state who he works with for the past 30 years. It was an honor to be on the cover of the magazine. We normally don't get this kind of recognition it upstate New York. He said he is honored to represent Wilton in a professional way. He thanked everyone he has worked with at the town and said he is ready to work another 20 years.

Public Comment Session

Todd Murray, Wilton Fire Department, said on the morning of February 1 at 1 a.m. we responded to a structure fire off Jones Road with Maple Avenue Fire Department and Gansevoort Fire Department. It was -9 degrees and there was structural collapse. A lot of fire gets trapped and the scene remains unsafe for hours. When you are trying to find heavy equipment at 3 a.m. and the people to help you, there is not a big list. He said he called Kirklin Woodcock at 3 a.m. and he answered the phone. Within 30 minutes, Frank Holden was on site with a backhoe to remove debris so the rest of the fire could be put out. We want to acknowledge the highway department for going above and beyond.

Kirklin Woodcock said devoted employees and volunteers for the fire departments, ambulance squad and residents, we are here to help them. We have great staff in the highway department, including Frank Holden, and you can count on them night and day. They do a phenomenal job.

We have had a severe winter this year. People have been calling about water issues and there is nothing that we can do. We have used tons and tons of salt. People have water and the end of their driveways. Bear with us, we are working diligently every day and hopefully we can get something accomplished if Mother Nature works with us.

Steve Bederian, 8 Woodland Drive spoke about his father when he came home from Italy with a Marksman's Badge and Parachute Wings. He was a contractor, raised a family and volunteer with the fire department for 35 years. He was not an expert in school safety. **Mr. Bederian** said he objected to the Safety Resolution passed by the board without agenda and discussion.

Pat Tuz, 2 Amanda Court said the Saratoga Springs School Board voted to disarm the school monitors. She said she couldn't understand why the board would pass a resolution without research and listening to the community. She said she has worked with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence and has done a lot of research.

Nancy Dwyer, 12 New Kent Road said she supported the promotion of Tina Weber to the position of Assessor. **Ms. Dwyer** said the Safety Resolution is an example of lack of communication with the residents of this town. The topic is a political hot button and the method deployed by the interest group of strong arming the Saratoga Springs School Board by going to the various towns to get resolutions enacted is definitely a political tactic of coercion. **Ms. Dwyer** said she comes to most planning board meetings. We have been having multiple issues with development in the town, including communication with residents to interpretation of our Hamlet Design. The town engineer does a great job and over the past couple of years he has been burdened with being the town planner. The roles of an engineer and a planner were defined.

Nancy Gatland, 28 Timbira Drive thanked the Building Department for removing the sign on Timbira Drive. **Ms. Gatland** encouraged hiring a full time professional town planner.

Ms. Gatland said a resident spoke last month about the Safety Resolution and was attacked by the board and the Saratoga Parents for Safe Schools.

Robert Walsh, 36 Worth Road applauded Saratoga Springs School Board for its decision to reduce firearms on the school district properties. He expressed his disappointment in the town board for pushing the resolution without any input from the town. He said he owns firearms, hunts and spent time in Viet Nam. We live in, probably, one of the safest counties in one of the safest states in this nation. The reason is because we have strict gun laws and registration. On an important issue like this, for the town to go ahead and come up with a resolution to have ex police officers work on school grounds with weapons is totally out of hand. It's not anything that will improve the lives of our children. He said he and his wife put two kids through the school system without a bunch of firearms around and they survived. **Councilman McEachron and Councilman Bogardus** both said they have had armed officers in the school for many years. Mr. Walsh said, to his knowledge. **Councilman McEachron** said the school district did not notify the town to let them know they were going to take the guns out of the school. Everyone seems to be upset the board passed a resolution supporting the armed officers. For 19 years, there have been guns at the school by undercover officers. **Mr. Walsh** said he did not know there were guns on the campus. **Councilman McEachron** said he has lived in the town since 1972 and no one sent a letter stating they would be disarming the officers at the school. Everyone is saying they want to be informed of the decision this board made, we were not informed of the decision the school board made. **Mr. Bederian** said the law that only police officers can carry weapons has been on the books for years. It was the knowledge of this law that came forward. Discussion was held. **Mr. Walsh** said if we have important things to deal with like this, it would be appreciated if we had some sort of hearing so the board can hear the residents. You cannot take it upon yourselves to represent me, my family and friends relative to this kind of issue. The school board is responsible for the kids, not the

town board beyond the fact they are residents. They took the steps to do the research, to understand what was going on and come up with a reasonable solution.

Eric Rosenberg, 16 Crow Lane said the issue is not what is right and what is wrong. The issue is people want to participate. **Mr. Rosenberg** spoke about the need for a town planner. There are properties that have been a problem for years. 421 Northern Pines was brought up last month. Fifteen years ago was the first complaint on the property. 402 Northern Pines, he said he didn't care what their problem is. The property is a mess and it's dangerous. 3 Parkhurst Road, three months ago he said he started sending letters. That guy is still repairing a lot of cars on his property and leaving dangerous equipment around. He has never been served with court papers. He has never been fined and he's just been allowed, for five years, to harm that neighborhood in both appearance and safety. Tanks everywhere, equipment everywhere, clean up the property. Last month he said he was called a pain. You may not like me and you may disagree with me but calling me a pain is not appropriate. Why has this become an adversarial situation? There are grumblings at the firehouse, at Gavin Park, Eric is going to meetings and being a trouble maker. He said he wants the employees to do their jobs properly and wants the town officials to follow the law. He said he's sent a lot of letters and made a lot of comments. He said he has provided facts and code provisions. He said not one letter has been sent to him establishing that anything he has said or called for is wrong. He said if you think he is wrong, get the facts, and give a code provision.

Supervisor Johnson noted the town does use a planner who is contracted out. She is not an employee and Ryan has access anytime he wants to consult or put on a project. We have MJ Engineering and Jackie Hakes is a planner.

Dave Gabay, 92 Parkhurst Road expressed his support for Tina Weber for the Assessor's position.

Approve Pending Minutes

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #168

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2019 meeting, as typed.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

157 Jones Road

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #169

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilton held a public hearing on February 7, 2019 regarding property at 157 Jones Road, Tax Map No. 140.-1-31, in accordance with Resolution #68 of 2019.

WHEREAS, the property owner was notified by certified mail, return receipt, the subject property was posted and a notice of pendency was filed at Saratoga County in accordance with Town Law §130.

WHEREAS, no one appeared and no correspondence was received on behalf of the owner of record, Brian Staunches.

WHEREAS, demolition and site cleanup, by the property owner, shall commence on or before February 8, 2019 and shall be completed by March 10, 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Wilton authorizes the demolition of the manufactured home, all accessory structures, site cleanup and removal of debris if not completed by March 10, 2019. The expense shall be relevyed to the 2020 Saratoga County Tax bill of subject parcel.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Resignation Wilton Preservation Board

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #170

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Jack Fleming, with regret, from the Wilton Preservation Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Resignation Park and Rec. Commission

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #171

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Michael Meyers, with regret, from the Park and Recreation Commission.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Cornell Fire Tower Interpreters

Supervisor Johnson said Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park have volunteers who assist people climbing the Cornell Fire Tower. Pieter Litchfield heads the volunteer group and has asked the town to name the volunteers to be covered under the Volunteer General Liability Coverage.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #172

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to name the following to the Cornell Fire Tower Interpreters Group and shall be covered under the Town of Wilton Volunteer General Liability Policy;

Pieter Litchfield
Veronica Litchfield
Robert Fagan
Peg McCanty
Lawrence Dana

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put

to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Committee Reports

Councilman Bogardus said the Building Committee met a week ago and we have some updates for the Court Building, the Highway Department salt screen and the park pavilion. Everything is progressing forward. We should be ready to put the court building bid out in March. The screens are still in discussion. The Highway Department would like more input as to what they are looking for. The pavilion at Gavin Park is at a standstill due to the weather.

Supervisor Johnson said a few years ago a playground was constructed at Gavin Park and named Kaitlin's Korner. It was named after Kaitlin Marie Bowman who sadly passed away on January 30, 2019 at the young age of 13. She was the inspiration behind Kaitlin's Korner, a playground accessible to children of all abilities. Many children enjoyed using the playground which is a tribute to her. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to her parents, Rebecca and Jeffrey Manning, Jason and Aubrey Bowman, her sister, Elizabeth Grace and her extended family.

Comptroller's Report

1.) 2018 Final Budget Transfers and Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #173

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2018 budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 2/7/2018 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

1.) 2019 Budget Transfers and Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #174

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2019 budget transfers and amendments requested for and listed in the

Comptroller's 2/7/2018 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

3.) Personnel

a.

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #175

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, accept the resignation of Patrick Gavin, Maintenance Worker effective January 28, 2019.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, with regret, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

b.

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #176

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, approve the promotion of Steve Vance to the vacant full time position of Maintenance Worker at a rate of \$15.38 per hour with full benefits effective February 8, 2019.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

c.

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #177

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, accept the resignation of Kathy Austin, Assessor, effective February 7, 2019.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, with regret, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

On a motion introduced by **Councilman Streicher**, seconded by **Councilman McEachron**, all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

_____ Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

_____ Deputy Supervisor, John Lant

_____ Councilman, Steve Streicher

_____ Councilman, John McEachron

_____ Councilman, Duane Bogardus