

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

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PUBLIC HEARING- MODIFICATION OF PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS AND UNREMARIED SPOUSES 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Lant opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Lant asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, seconded by Councilman O’Conor, the board closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-April 6, 2023

Supervisor Lant called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Lant 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.

John Lant-Supervisor

John McEachron-Deputy Supervisor

Duane Bogardus-Councilman

Erinn Kolligian- Councilwoman

Ray O’Conor-Councilman

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

Public Comment Session

Paul Kelly, 27 Cobble Hill Drive said in regard to the Quaker Spring project, the proposed solar farm seems to fall into the R-2 district. It calls for a minimum of three hundred feet of road frontage and can’t see

where there is that anywhere on this project. He said he doesn't think it meets the bare minimum criteria and doesn't know how it got to be where it is now.

Ed Kokowski, 7 Knollwood Drive said about the Quaker Spring project, we are opposed to the project. He said he is not opposed to solar power in Wilton. We are looking forward to the meetings about solar power. We definitely do not want it next to our neighborhood.

Steve Bederian, 8 Woodland Drive said he attended the Empty Bowls fundraiser and saw a number of familiar faces and thinks it was a great success. At the January Town Board meeting, there was a group of people here for multi-use paths in the town. There was a committee formed, he said he would request a report on this and what actions have happened.

Sophia Millman of Cedar Crest Drive said she is 12 years old and concerned about the walkability and pedestrian access in the town. She said she believes it's important to add bike paths and sidewalks to busier roads for the benefit of the physical and mental health of residents. She said she finds it quite detrimental to use her bike for fear of being in an accident. She asked the board to advise her on how to install bike paths on Loudon Road, Ingersoll Road, Weible Avenue and surrounding areas to make Wilton a more healthy, attractive place to live.

Toni Sturm 41 Parkhurst Road said she would urge that the bicycle or multi-use path Committee meet on a regular basis and assumed that the minutes are made public. Hearing that the roads are de facto widened, at every renovation, doesn't address the issue of what is widened. The drivability space or the shoulder. Public access to the agenda of the various boards; it's hard to know when those are going to come up. Could the person who's posting post to the town email list?

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #118

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2023 meeting, as typed.

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

WWPP Quarterly Report

Margo Olsen, Director of WWPP said at the last quarterly meeting she gave a presentation on the Larry Gordon Outdoor Education Center. She thanked the Town of Wilton Buildings and Grounds Department who went into the Welcome Cabin and cleared it out and did the demolition of the interior. She said she spoke to Scott Harrington and he has been busy on other projects. We are on his schedule and we are looking forward to the project progressing this spring.

Ms. Olsen said the Dake Family Foundation and Stewart's made a wonderfully generous \$100,000 donation to the project. On Friday, April 28, 2023 at 9:45 a.m., Bill Dake is presenting a check. We would like to thank them properly for helping the project happen. We have been doing a lot of planning, the steering committee has been meeting. We are really moving ahead and it is very exciting. She said she has been speaking to Trish, Larry Gordon's widow, and they will be deciding what items from Larry's collection will be displayed in the Welcome Cabin. Some things are more sensitive to light and humidity so we will find what is appropriate to place in the center.

Ms. Olsen said the winter was very busy. Some of the kids from Dorothy Nolan are in the newsletter. We worked with the teachers and had almost 500 kids, 490, all but one grade, on snowshoes we brought to the school. We worked over multiple days and took them out to the playground on snowshoes. The last class didn't get the opportunity as the snow melted. We are hoping to do more of that next winter. We received a grant from Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner's office and have purchased more kid sized snowshoes. We could only do one class at a time and now we can do at least two. We may be able to do three classes with the older kids so we don't have to continue to go back day after day. We have been busy with Saratoga Plan and a grant we received. We did all of our winter walks, mostly at Bog Meadow and some in the Town of Galway at the Luigi Preserve. This spring we will be walking Ora Phelps in the Town of Wilton as well as Bog Meadow with the Saratoga Plan collaboration. We work with BOCES after school with Project Lift, Saratoga Library and the Academy of Lifelong Learning. We had two collaborations this spring, Too Life, a breast cancer survivor organization, with six weekly walks available to their constituents. We are also working with Wellspring doing some programming with kids while the parents are doing classes and programming with Wellspring. It is nice to work with other non-profits in the county. Our school field trips are already full. We are busy almost every day with school programs. We are doing a week and a half of a residency in May at Dorothy Nolan School working with 5th grade., Our summer programs are scheduled at Gavin Park. We will be going to the kids in the program and their will be visits where they will come to Camp Saratoga during the summer months. Ms. Olsen thanked the town for all of their support.

Modification of Partial Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers and Unremarried Spouses

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #119

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve Local Law #5 of 2023, Modification of Partial Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers and Unremarried Spouses.

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

Supervisor Lant noted this exemption was first introduced around 2006. They made some modifications. Right now any emergency service person can take a \$200 state tax exemption instead of this exemption. If your house isn't worth over \$1,000,000, you are better off taking the state exemption. They are trying to raise the exemption to \$500.

Intent to Accept Land

Mr. Riper said this is a subdivision adjacent to the Grand Highlands subdivision, which the town has already accepted open space land from Grand Highland for trails. The Biss subdivision is on Route 50 and is the back 70 acres of the farm. There may be some minor modifications but they are offering quite a bit of land. Mr. Riper said he would like some of the subdivision lines cleaned up. There can be issues with having trails adjacent to the rear property lines. If the town board would like to pass a resolution for the intent to accept the land with minor modifications. Councilman Bogardus said he would want to see the final plan before voting. Mr. Riper said this is only an intent to accept the lands. He said he walked the property and it is a nice piece of land with good trail connections. All of these parcels have created trails and they will join with AIM Services property. The potential is to have trails from Edie Road to Ingersoll Road. If the board accepts this with modifications, the developer can move forward.

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #120

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to declare the intent to accept lands in the Biss residential subdivision.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Draft MS-4

Mr. Riper said he is working on the draft MS-4 annual report for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It will be available for review and public comment by late May before being submitted to the state.

Assurances of Compliance with Title VI

Ms. Moran said part of the conditions of accepting federal award money, the town is required to ensure that we will comply with Title VI of 1964. The document before the board was presented when the board accepted the ARPA money. This is a formal resolution to accept the Title VI compliance.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #121

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the Assurances of Compliance with Title VI for ARPA.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Proposed Local Law #6 of 2023 Mountain Ledge PUDD Amendment

Councilwoman Kolligian recused herself and left the dais.

Doug Heller of the LA Group appeared before the board representing the applicant, Mountain Ledge Limited Partnership. Mr. Heller said he was before the board about a year ago regarding the SUNY Adirondack site. The main reason we are back in front of the board is the subdivision of the PUDD was not discussed. Another change, which doesn’t affect the PUDD as much is originally they were looking to have indoor recreation, D-Bats, in this building (indicating) was going to be Phase 1. They are now requesting to put D-Bats in the rear due to a lot of upfront costs. In the previous PUDD sketch a future phase was shown in the rear. D-Bats will be in the back, subdividing off the lot within the PUDD. To add clarification to the legislation, there were some questions regarding setbacks that we wanted to clarify in the code. One was pavement setbacks. The intent was anything internal to the PUDD there would be no setbacks to internal property lines. The external property lines would still follow the town code requirements.

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

RESOLUTION #122

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing for proposed Local Law #6 of 2023, Mountain Ledge PUDD on May 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor except Councilwoman Kolligian who abstained. The motion passed 4-0.

Proposed LL #7 of 2023-Code Amendments-CR-2 Zone

Mark Mykins, Senior Building Inspector said he is proposing to do away with the CR-2 zone. It encompasses a few parcels in total. We did away with the other CR-2 zone on Route 50 many years ago. The RB-1 zone would be extended to the Hamlet zone.

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #123

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing for proposed Local Law #7 of 2023, Code Amendments, CR-2 Zone on May 4, 2023 at 7:01 p.m.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Gavin Park AED Emergency Medical Response Action Plan

Councilman Bogardus said the Town of Wilton has AEDs throughout all buildings in the town. Specifically to Gavin Park, due to the recreational activities and the number of residents who visit the park, we have come up with a response action plan for a guideline for staff and public response to a medical emergency.

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

RESOLUTION #124

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Gavin Park AED Emergency Medical Response Action Plan.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Dark Signal Program

In 2012, the New York State Department of Transportation wired all of our traffic lights. We bought generators and any time we had a power failure in the town, the traffic lights were powered. When it first started we had the Sheriff’s get on the main lights until we arrived. We had some glitches and changes and were able to solve all of the problems. We now have to buy new generators but he said he believes the program saved a lot of injuries and lives. Councilman O’Conor asked if this is uniform throughout most municipalities in the county? Supervisor Lant said the only other town he is aware of is Clifton Park.

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

RESOLUTION #125

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Dark Signal Program for traffic signals in the Town of Wilton.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Mandatory Ethics Training

Discussion was held on the annual mandatory ethics training. Mark Schachner, Town Counsel indicated he was available on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Resignation-WWSA

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

RESOLUTION #126

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Kirk Moline from the Wilton Water and Sewer Authority Board, with regret.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Appointment-WWSA

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #127

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Joe Stadelmeyer to Wilton Water and Sewer Authority Board with a term of 4/6/2023-12/31/2025.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Road Acceptance-Portion of Mountain Ledge Drive

Highway Superintendent Mike Monroe said there are no issues with the road. The town is updating the state inventory.

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

RESOLUTION #128

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept a portion of Mountain Ledge Drive:

Stations: 0+00 to 7+59.52

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

Committee Reports

Supervisor Lant appointed the following people to the Zoning Revision Committee:

Deputy Supervisor McEachron-Chairman
Richard Spackmann
Scott Dussault
Wayne Luce
Councilman Bogardus
Brett Hebner
David Gabay
Tom Murphy
Ryan Riper
Mark Mykins
Chris Ramsdill

Supervisor Lant said the meetings will be set up and residents will be notified.

Supervisor Lant appointed the following people to the Solar Update Committee:

Councilman O'Conor-Chairman
Councilwoman Kolligian
Ryan Riper
Mark Mykins
David Gabay

Supervisor Lant said the meetings will be open to the public.

Councilman O’Conor noted he, Ryan Riper, Tom Murphy, Mike Monroe and Monica Howe are on the Jones Road Trails Committee. He said the residents who were here a couple of months ago were speaking specifically about Jones Road, from Gavin Park to their neighborhood. He said he, Ryan and Mike were first looking at any physical impediments to get something done. Engineering wise, we were looking at the width of the pavement, the safety and speed on the road, adequate separation distance typically used for pedestrian and bike paths, telephone poles, property lines, the immovable railroad overpass and a host of other things. He said he sent an email out to the members of the committee to let them know we are looking at the items. The railroad trestle is one of the immovable objects. There is a hydroelectric project out of Canada that will be following that rail line. It is going across Jones Road. Mr. Riper has been in touch with the company who will be building that project. We are going to try to work something into that plan that would allow us to have more space along Jones Road. That is just Jones Road, there are obviously lots of other town roads. Mr. Bederian said the hydro project needs to pass underneath the I-87. The I-87 bridges were built for two lines of track and there is only a single track under there, currently. There is an opportunity to connect Gavin Park with the eastern side of town, alongside underneath those two bridges. If you are dealing with this power company, he said he is sure they would like to buy some goodwill in the towns they pass through. Councilwoman Kolligian said she sits on the Saratoga County IDA and the concern came up for the municipalities who don’t have a tax to be able to make money on this project. The county is going to collect the monies and come up with a formula to distribute it to all of the towns affected by it. The Town of Wilton has seven miles of the hydroelectric line. Supervisor Lant said, at one time, the Town of Wilton was going to receive the largest award from this project. Councilman O’Conor said he would like to set the meeting on May 8, 2023 for the Jones Road Trails Committee.

Supervisor Lant said he would like to appoint Councilwoman Kolligian to be the liaison to the Champlain Hudson Hydroelectric project.

Supervisor Lant said he, Ms. Moran and our IT company met with a vendor to improve the sound and video for the meeting room. We should have a proposal in a few weeks and hopefully complete the project in six weeks.

Comptroller’s Report

1.) 2023 Budget Amendments

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

RESOLUTION #129

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2023 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller’s 4/6/2023 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

2.) Personnel

a.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #130

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to ratify the hiring of Sandra Holcomb as a part-time clerk in the Town Clerk's Office at \$19.00 per hour, effective April 6, 2023.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

b.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #131

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for overnight travel for Town Clerk Susan Baldwin, April 22-26, 2023 to attend the NYS Town Clerk's Annual Conference in Syracuse, New York.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O'Connor duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

c.

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

RESOLUTION #132

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request for overnight travel for Highway Superintendent Michael Monroe, June 4-7, 2023 to attend the Association of Towns/Cornell Local Roads Program training in Ithaca, New York.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

d.

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

RESOLUTION #133

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a floating holiday for employees who worked when buildings were closed due to extreme weather on 3/14/2023.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, unused floating holiday will expire on December 31, 2023.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

e.

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

RESOLUTION #134

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Joseph Welden, Recreation Maintenance Worker, effective April 10, 2023.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

3.) Asset Disposition

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #135

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from the Senior

Building Inspector, Mark Mykins, to sell a Ford 150 Super Cab through Auctions International.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O’Conor duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

4.) Wilton Emergency Squad-Penflex Service Award

Ms. Moran stated The Wilton Emergency Squad posted the list of points earned by Squad volunteers for the Service Award Program (SAP). The list was posted for 30 days, during which time the volunteers had an opportunity to review their points and service information. There were no changes. The list, along with the data package was sent to Penflex, the SAP, third-party program administrator and actuary. Penflex will now compute the required contribution to the SAP and bill the Town for the 2023 contribution. This is informational and no resolution is required.

Executive Session

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, Councilman O’Conor seconded, with all board members in favor, the board adjourned to executive session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, the board reconvened the monthly meeting at 8:06 p.m. seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, all in favor, motion carried.

No action taken.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron and seconded by Councilman O’Conor, with all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, John J. Lant

Councilman, Raymond O’Conor

Deputy Supervisor, John McEachron

_____ Councilwoman Erinn Kolligian

_____ Councilman Duane Bogardus