

**Town Board Meeting
Tuesday April 14th, 7:00pm**

7:00 pm – 9:22 pm

Hybrid/ in person & via zoom

Present

Supervisor Brenda Adams

Councilperson Victoria Mills

Councilperson Frank Wood

(late arrival) Councilperson Ginny Nightingale

Councilperson Brian Lifsec

Also in attendance

Town Clerk Sandy Bevens

Highway Supervisor Harry McMann

Audience: 13 plus 29 online

Call to Order

Supervisor Adams called the meeting to order with a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance. Supervisor Adams also took a moment to recognize the passing of Gary Davis and offer condolences to his family as they move forward without Gary.

Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance

Approvals

Minutes

Supervisor Adams asked if everyone had a chance to review the March minutes and if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Councilperson Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilperson Lifsec. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Bills

Supervisor Adams asked if everyone had a chance to review the bills and if there were any questions. There were none. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, Councilperson Mills seconded. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Financials

Supervisor Adams asked if everyone had a chance to review the financials and if there were any questions. Councilperson Mills had a question about sale of transfer station permits, inquiring if they were seasonal or in clusters. Supervisor Adams explained we get clusters, one in December when permits go on sale for the coming year , and then January through March, and then again when seasonal residents return. Supervisor Adams also addressed a question Councilperson Mills had had from last month about a federal aid line that was \$7016.14. Supervisor Adams noted this was a transfer of ARPA funds. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve the financials. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Wood. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolutions & Motions

Resolution 70 to Appropriate Contingency Funds for Court Appraisal

Supervisor Adams read the Resolution and asked if anyone had any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve. Councilperson Mills made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Wood. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 71 Budget Amendments

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 72 to Approve Highway Bids for Goods and Services

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if anyone had any questions for Highway Superintendent McMann to answer. Councilperson Mills asked what 'Rip Raf' was. Highway Superintendent McMann and Supervisor Adams explained it was a type of stone. Supervisor Adams noted we had more than one bidder for each category, which allows us to approve more than one bidder, so we have a backup. Supervisor Adams noted we have typically approved more than one bidder in the past. Councilperson Lifsec asked if we designate back up bidders now, or later. Supervisor Adams stated that the board allows Superintendent McMann to designate backups with the approval of the bid list. Supervisor Adams asked if there were any other questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Adams. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 73 Budget Amendments for Highway Revenues and Expenses

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and explained what the revenue would be used for.

Supervisor Adams asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve. Councilperson Mills made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Wood. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

22 online via Zoom

Resolution 74 to Appoint Donna Mattoon to Vacancy on the Senior Advisory Council

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none.

Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 75 to Appoint Sheri Mulligan to Vacancy on the BAR committee

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve. Councilperson Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 76 to Adopt Updated Procurement Policy

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 77 to Adopt Shade Policy

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve. Councilperson Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Resolution 78 to Declare Town as Lead Agency for Comp Plan SEQRA review

Supervisor Adams read the resolution and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked if there was a motion to approve. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Mills. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Motions

Supervisor Adams stated that there were no motions at this time but maybe after they came out of Executive Session.

Highway Report

Superintendent McMann presented his report and asked if anyone had any questions, there were none. Supervisor Adams asked if he had heard anything about the CHIPS funding yet, he had not. Councilperson Wood asked what CHIPS was. Supervisor Adams explained that CHIPS was federal funding for highway improvement distributed through the State and that this is our largest source of non-tax funding for the Highway Department, and that we were just waiting to hear what the actual amount of funding would be.

7:23 23 online via Zoom

Public Safety Report

Supervisor Adams stated there had been a meeting in March and that Superintendent McMann had submitted a written report. She noted the report had been included in the correspondence and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions. It was noted the next meeting would be in May.

Other Business

Tax Collection Update

Supervisor Adams stated as of April 2nd the Town had collected \$2,9673,888.19 in taxes. She noted this represented 89% of the taxes owed for this year and that 101 second notices had

been mailed out. Supervisor Adams also noted that the tax roll is turned over to the County on May 31st.

Broadband Grant Update

Supervisor Adams noted that we continued to be experiencing frustration with NYS licensing bureau over their acceptance of the engineer for the broadband build-out. Supervisor Adams stated that Senator Michelle Hinchey's office was now working with the Governor's office to see if we can move this forward.

Columbia County Kitchen (formerly Recovery Kitchen)

Supervisor Adams stated there was some transition going on with the CC Kitchen and noted the issue of the refrigerator should be tabled until things settle.

Website Update

Councilperson Lifsec stated that developer is working on the draft of the homepage and expects to be reaching out to department heads to work on full sets of pages and refining everything. Supervisor Adams asked if they should have Shari come next month to do a presentation. Councilperson Lifsec stated he thought that would be great, the rest of the Board agreed. Councilperson Mills asked if there was a target date to go live. Councilperson Lifsec stated there was no hard date currently.

Vacancies: Ethics Committee, Planning & Zoning Clerk, Housing Committee, Climate Smart Task Force

Supervisor Adams noted 2 vacancies had been filled tonight and that there were still vacancies on the Ethics Committee, the Housing Committee, the Climate Smart Task Force, and a paid position for the Planning and Zoning Clerk.

*7:30 26 Online via Zoom *

Stoddard Park Master Plan

Supervisor Adams stated the contract had been signed with the vendor, Barton & Loguidice. Supervisor Adams asked Suzanne Michael to provide more information. Suzanne noted she and Supervisor Adams had had a kickoff meeting to identify and go over project goals.

Update on Beach Donation

Supervisor Adams stated there was no new news on the beach donation and that it was continuing to move through phases.

Zoning Revision Committee Appointments/pending Comp Plan approval

Supervisor Adams noted the appointments are pending and dependent on Comp Plan approval.

Annual Health Insurance Renewal Update

Supervisor Adams stated the renewal for the health insurance was due this month. She noted because the figures are contractual, it would be discussed in Executive Session. Supervisor Adams also noted that due to the timing of the renewal a special meeting might be needed to approve the insurance.

STR Report

Supervisor Adams stated that we had received a new report from the county and that it was being reviewed against the Code Officer's reports to make sure they are aligned. Supervisor Adams also noted that the town still has not received any funds from the county Occupancy Tax.

Cemetery mowing and gas prices

Supervisor Adams explained that due to the increase in fuel costs, in the past the town has offered a gas allowance when prices go over \$3.50. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve an allowance when gas prices are above \$3.50. The town will pay the difference between \$3.50 and current market price with receipts presented by the vendor. Councilperson Lifsec made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Wood. 4 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Absent

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

7:38 Councilperson Nightingale arrived

Summer Youth Program Application deadline

Supervisor Adams reminded everyone the deadline to apply is April 25th, and applicants need to be between the ages of 18-22 years. Supervisor Adams noted that she had not received any applications for this yet and that anyone interested would please contact the Supervisor.

7:40 28 online via Zoom

Letter requesting town visit speed issues/engine sizes on Queechy Lake

Supervisor Adams stated that the Town had received a letter asking for speed on the lake to be addressed. Supervisor Adams noted that this was an issue that had been brought up in the past. Supervisor Adams said that she would like to designate a Board member to oversee a review of this question. Councilperson Mills volunteered. Councilperson Wood asked if limits were put in place, who would enforce this. Supervisor Adams stated that is always the issue with lake regulations as the Sheriff's department is only on the lake a few times per year.

7:44 29 Online via Zoom

Supervisor Adams took a moment to remind everyone that Canaan Day is on June 20th, and noted the event is free to vendors and community members.

Board Discussion/ Committee Reports

Planning Board/ ZBA Report

Councilperson Nightingale noted there had been no meeting.

Climate Smart Task Force

Councilperson Mills reminded everyone of 2 upcoming events for Earth Day. The first event is on Saturday April 18th at the Spencertown Academy from 11-3 and is a multi-town event; the second event is Saturday April 25th at Town Hall from 1-3 and involves a tree planting and garden clean-up. Councilperson Mills also noted that there will be a discussion of the Heat Emergency Plan before the next board meeting and she will give an update next month.

Recreation

Councilperson Nightingale stated that they are still looking for lifeguards. They currently have 4 and are looking for 2 more. Plan is in place for swimming lessons to move forward even if they only have 4 lifeguards.

Transfer Station

Supervisor Adams stated that there was 3.8 tons of C&D waste, and 31.35 tons of municipal solid waste. She noted this was a 12% decrease year over year, and a 20% decrease for the quarter year over year.

Comp Plan

Supervisor Adams stated that they had received a letter from the Comp Plan Committee noting the Comp Plan had been referred to the Town Board and the County Planning Board. Supervisor Adams formally acknowledged receipt of the plan. Supervisor Adams asked for 2 things- that

the board members come with any questions about the draft plan for the next meeting and that the plan be in circulation for the public until the next board meeting, at which point the next steps will be discussed.

Assessors Report

Supervisor Adams stated the town was working on a Reval agreement with the county and expected to have a copy of the contract for the May meeting. She also noted that the Assessor had requested to use an outside source for data collection. Supervisor Adams stated the board had agreed to this and that it had been budgeted for this year and will need to be budgeted for it for the next 2 years as well.

Public Discussion

Supervisor Adams opened the floor to public discussion. Supervisor Adams read a comment regarding the Comp Plan process and Queechy Lake.

Lisa Robinson Schoeller thanked the Comp Plan committee and commented on how she thought the Comp Plan had been handicapped. She also stated she couldn't find the plan on the website. Supervisor Adams noted where the materials could be found. Lisa Robinson Schoeller expressed concerns regarding the current zoning laws.

Cheryl Slosek commented that she had read letters from an attorney stating they would oppose the Comp Plan if the environmental impact study wasn't done now. She asked if the board would be discussing this tonight. Supervisor Adams stated they would not be discussing it at this time. Supervisor Adams briefly explained the environmental study needs to have the scope of work defined before a potential study should be done.

Hank Poillucci asked about the Environmental Impact Study process.

Richard Schoeller stated he was still concerned with description of the EIS process and the timeline for it.

Lisa Robinson Schoeller commented on some rumors she had heard in regard to the sale of the Together For Youth property and that they concerned her.

Wendy Crellin asked if the process of possible home development on the eastern lake frontage could be explained.

Bridget Vasquez expressed concern that taxpayers aren't being heard regarding the Environmental Impact Study.

Carrie Whiteman declared she rejected the Save Queechy Lake letter and supported the Comp Plan Committee's work in creating the plan and engaging the community for input.

Suzanne Michaels stated she thought there was a common vision for the lake, and it was being distorted due to the timing of the sale of Together for Youth property ~~events~~.

Cheryl Slosek asked how many acres were involved in the TFY property. Supervisor Adams noted it was just under 1000 acres.

Supervisor Adams asked if there were any other comments or questions, there were none.

Supervisor Adams asked to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual negotiations.

Councilperson Nightingale made a motion to move to Executive Session, seconded by Councilperson Lifsec. 5 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Aye

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Executive Session (8:33pm-9:16pm)

The Board returned. Supervisor Adams declared no decisions were made in Executive Session.

Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to move out of Executive Session. Councilperson Mills made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Nightingale. 5 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Aye

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye

Supervisor Adams stated the need to set a special meeting to discuss insurance contracts and asked when the board was available. The board agreed to schedule a workshop meeting for the insurance contracts ~~on~~ for April 21st at 6pm.

Supervisor Adams asked if there were any other items for discussion, there were none.

Motion to Adjourn

Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Mills made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Lifsec. 5 AYES- motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams- Aye

Councilperson Brian Lifsec- Aye

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- Aye

Councilperson Victoria Mills- Aye

Councilperson Frank Wood- Aye.