

Regular Town Board Meeting

1/09/20

Members Present: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, and Councilperson Sullivan

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve the minutes for the December 2109 meeting as written. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve the January 2, 2020 Organizational Meeting and accept the minutes as written. Motion was carried.

Announcements:

Benefit for the Roe Jan Food Pantry on January 11, 2020, check the Town Website for coupon to print or scan. The Planning Board Workshop scheduled for Saturday, 01/18/20, has been canceled due to lack of quorum.

Correspondence:

From Charter Communications – a notice that on or around December 21, 2019 Disney VOD will no longer be available.

From The Unified Court System advising that section 2019A of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that Town and Village justices annually provide their court records and dockets for auditing.

From Marc Gross, Copake resident, \$2,500.00 donation for clock repairs.

From Lee Heim, Motor Vehicle and Junkyard Permit & Annual Inspections with regard to Performance Auto.

From The Association of Towns with regards to their annual meeting in NYC Feb 16-19, 2020, asking us to assign a delegate and an alternate to attend the annual business meeting.

From County of Columbia Board of Supervisors with Resolution No. 531-2019 with regard to special district taxes apportionment.

Town of Copake Medical Insurance Buyout for Highway Supervisor Gregory

Supervisors Remarks:

Welcome to all of you in the audience. And of course to my Board.

It is my hope and expectation that we will have a congenial, collegial, and productive year and accomplish good things for the Town of Copake. I know that I can speak for everyone on this Board in saying that is our hope.

Going forward I can promise you that everyone who comes before this Board will be treated with respect. We may disagree with each other or with members of the audience, but we will try to do so with courtesy.

As we begin this first Monthly meeting, I am quoting a former Supervisor – Angelo Valentino, “People will tolerate politics from Labor Day to Election Day but from there on it is the responsibility of the Government to do the work of the people.” Our goal will be to set politics aside to work as hard as we can, to accomplish as much as we can, for the Town and the people of Copake.

Department/Committee Reports:

None

Public Forum:

Chris Quinby-On behalf of the Copake Parks and Rec Committee stated that last month they asked for permission to apply for the Bank of Greene County Grant to help pay for “Music in the Park”. They were turned down and are asking the new Board to reconsider this decision and let them apply for the Bank of Greene County Grant as this would take some of the financial burden off the local merchants.

Lindsey Le Brecht stated that the local merchants are frequently asked to donate to several charities and if the Town can get grant money for “Music in the Park” to please do so.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to assign Councilperson Wolf as delegate to the Association of Towns annual business meeting. Motion was carried.

Town Historian – At the Organizational meeting Supervisor Mettler first thanked Gloria Lyons for her many years of service. She was our Historian for at least 15 years. Supervisor Mettler appointed Howard Blue as the Copake Historian at that meeting. Howard Blue has been studying and reporting Copake History for many years. Not only has he maintained a very popular Copake History Facebook Page. Since 2013 he has also lectured on Copake and Roe Jan history at Roeliff Jansen Library and the Copake Grange. Howard is also the Copake Grange Historian.

It is Supervisor Mettler’s hope that going forward the Town Historian will play a more active role. Supervisor Mettler states that the Historian should publish articles in the Copake Connection on a regular basis. It is also Supervisor Mettler’s hope that we incorporate a page on our Town Website, dedicated to our Town history.

Supervisor Mettler proposes to table this for a month, and in that month Howard drafts a Job Description so that we have clear parameters and expectations for the role of Historian.

Supervisor Mettler and the Board welcomes and congratulates Howard Blue and expresses gratitude to him for taking on this new role.

Broadband Committee-we have received an email from Deb Cohen, Chair of the Broadband Committee, discussing the accomplishments of the Committee and suggesting that the Committee be disbanded as there work was largely completed by the middle of 2019.

Councilperson Gansowski wanted to thank the Broadband Committee for all of their hard work and they covered a lot of area.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to disband the Broadband Committee. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Mettler in the future would like to modify the language in Policy Manual regarding motions and policies but will put on the back burner for now.

Economic Development-Supervisor Mettler states that some of the biggest issues in Copake today concern the need for economic development. Specifically the need for good paying jobs so people do not have to relocate or travel and moderate priced housing especially for seniors. Also is the need for volunteers, specifically in the Fire Department.

Supervisor Mettler states that neighboring towns have Economic Development Advisory Committees and would like Copake to have one as well. The role of the Committee would be to support existing businesses, attract new small businesses that are compatible with our Town, to explore issues of housing, and to promote economic development in the Town.

Supervisor Mettler shared a bit of history in that there was an Economic Advisory Board in Copake created in 2000. In 2012 in response to the Comprehensive Plan which reported that one of the most urgent needs in the Town was to address the revitalization of the Hamlet of Copake, the Town Board created the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force. That Task Force has met since that time and has had considerable success. In the same time, the Copake Economic Advisory Board was meeting less often, and did not have a current membership and just a couple of years ago this Board terminated that Board.

In the meanwhile, the mission of the Task Force was limited to the Copake Hamlet and so repeatedly they would come up against issues which they thought should be pursued but were outside of their province.

Supervisor Mettler would like to propose the creation of an Economic Development Advisory Committee and if the Board will support the consideration of such a Committee and will draft a Mission Statement and circulate it prior to the February Town Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan for Supervisor Mettler to create a Mission Statement for February Town Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Visioning and Design Workshop for our Waterways-Robert Roll reported to the Board that the January 22, 2020 Public Workshop has been postponed, due to the holidays and bad weather until February 22, 2020 with a snow date of February 28, 2020.

Roberta Roll is asking the Town Board for the Riverside Project for \$1,580.00 for postcards, printing, and postage for one of two mailings.

Councilperson Gansowski expressed his concern that there would be no additional costs to the Town for such and that everything would come out of the Waterways Grand fund.

Councilperson Sullivan questioned whether to have the two workshop dates on one mailing and questioned a time restriction.

Councilperson Gansowski also suggested posting on Facebook

Roberta Rolls reported that there is a time restriction as the Riverfront Project plan for more funding is to be submitted between May 1, 2020 and the end of July 2020.

Councilperson Wolf advises the Board that originally the Grant is for the town to develop a plan and will then seek additional funding to implement the project. In order to satisfy the requirements for continued funding there needs to be a process that includes input from the community. The process of getting the input of the community constitutes two workshops and substantial community involvement.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve \$1,580.00 for one mailing only. Councilperson Sullivan abstained. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler would like clarification on how the money is to be allocated for the above mentioned grant.

Website-Status Report-Lynn Connolly reported to the Board that the Town website is once again up and running thanks to Larry Proper. Supervisor Mettler also expresses gratitude for all of Larry Proper's hard work.

Motor Vehicle Storage Permit-Performance Auto, 78 County Route 7A-

After a brief discussion the Board tabled this idea until conferring with Lee Heim, the Building Inspector on this matter.

Workplace Violence/Sexual Harassment Training

Supervisor Mettler attended the Supervisor's Orientation at 401 State Street. There is State and Federal mandated workplace training. The state requires annual Workplace Violence training and the Federal Government requires Anti-Harassment and Discrimination training which includes Sexual Harassment training. This is required for both paid employees and volunteers. Training in the past was done by Terry Traver, who no longer works for the Town. The Town will have to retain someone new to do the training.

Holly Hedgepeth is in Human Resources in the County and is trained to do this training. She charges \$50 per hour and the training lasts for just an hour. She also does PESH training-that is Public Employees

Safety and Health. It is more extensive for Highway employees but fairly brief for office employees. Training for PESH is also \$50.00 an hour with availability on Weekdays and Saturday mornings.

Supervisor Mettler will look into further and bring back to the table at February 2020 meeting. Regarding Workplace Violence/Sexual Harassment Training, Supervisor Mettler will also confer with Ken Dow, the Town attorney, regarding possible changes in the law that would make changes to the Town's Policy.

Court Audit

Supervisor Mettler reported that the Town accountant has already completed the Audit. There needs to be a Resolution passed at our February meeting in order to forward to the NYS Unified Court System by March 1.

Donation to Town- For the purpose of fixing the Clock-

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that the Town of Copake accepts the donation of Marc Gross to be used solely for the repair of the Copake Memorial Clock, and that Supervisor Mettler will write to Mr. Gross to thank him for his generosity. Motion carried.

Management Information Services (MIS)

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded to enter into an agreement with MIS for work on our internet subject to the review of Town Attorney Ken Dow. Motion carried.

Laptop for Assessor-

Lynn Hotaling, the Town Assessor came to Supervisor Mettler to say that the laptop which was purchased for her from Columbia County MIS was inadequate. It had a small screen, and the keyboard did not include a number pad. She has secured a quote for a DELL laptop but it is more expensive. She will return the laptop for a credit but the transaction will still end up costing \$466.14 more. She works for Stuyvesant, Ghent, and Copake so our share would be \$155.38.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve the expenditure of \$155.38 to pay for the upgraded laptop for the Assessor. Motion carried.

Grant for Greene County for Park and Recs

Supervisor Mettler reported that Chris Quinby from the Park and Recs Committee asked the Board to apply for a grant from the Bank of Greene County for 'Music in the Park'. A discussion followed with Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, and Councilperson Sullivan regarding tax questions and legalities that will be referred to the Town accountant but as per Ken Dow they can still apply for the grant.

Supervisor Mettler spoke with Hollie and Bryan Van Tassel from the Summer Park Program regarding these grants, as they would like to apply as the program is in need of a new water slide as the present one is very poor condition.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to write a letter to seek a grant for \$1,000.00 for a water slide for the Summer Park Program. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to seek a grant for money for the Summer Music Program. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Supervisor Mettler spoke with Russ Davis and he stated that the work has not been done and that the repair company is waiting for a break in the weather.

Supervisor Mettler had the Cell Tower Application on the Agenda, however, Chairperson Haight of the Planning Board is not in attendance.

Supervisor Mettler spoke with Highway Supervisor Gregory regarding the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Museum and was informed that the chimney has been repaired however, there is more to be done and will revisit next month.

Budget:

\$250 Spending Limit

After a brief discussion with the Board, Supervisor Mettler would like to speak with each Department Head and revisit this next month.

Regarding the Town of Copake Medical Insurance buyout, signed by Highway Supervisor Gregory, Supervisor Mettler asked for approval of a transfer of \$6,000 from:

A9060.8 which is Medical Insurance to A5010.1 which is Highway Salary

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf for approval of transfer of funds from A9060.8 which is medical insurance to A5010.1 which is Highway Salary. All approved. Motion carried.

Appointments: None

Councilperson Report:

Councilperson Wolf attended the Project Advisory Committee meeting on 1/8/20 with respect to the Waterway project and reports of the fortitude and dedication of everyone in attendance as the power went out and as it got progressively colder, they continued until 9:00pm under cell phone flashlights.

Councilperson Sullivan attended the Planning Board meeting regarding The Cell Tower Application and Balloon Test, GRGH, and Casino were reviewed adequately yet still pending and will continue at their February meeting. The Planning Board Workshop for January 11, 2020 was cancelled. Park Commission meets Monday, January 13, 2020.

Councilperson Gansowski sent an e-mail back to Mr. Barber of the AG department for the Planning Meeting with facts regarding the Casino case and the farm and has not heard from Mr. Barber since.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that there is no word yet on the Yonderview Bridge regarding funding.

Supervisor Mettler asked the Board to write a synopsis of their reports for Lynn Connolly, Town Clerk to help her with the minutes.

Public Forum:

Carol Gansowski is very happy to hear of the Waterways Project but would like everybody to know that we have a C & D dump on our waterway down behind Weedmine Road. Councilperson Gansowski stated that the waterway is Bash Bish. Mrs. Gansowski continues that someone has thrown cement blocks and junk all down the bank towards the water and thinks this should be addresses by the Town. Supervisor Mettler stated that she will get back to Mrs. Gansowski regarding this matter.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,