

Town Board Meeting

2/13/20

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to waive the reading of the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting 1/9/20 and accept the minutes as written. Motion was carried.

Proclamation:

The following Proclamation was offered and read by Supervisor Mettler ns seconded by Councilperson Sullivan:

Whereas, Bernice Bussett was born on January 31, 1920, in the City of Hudson, the daughter of Albert Crane Bristol and Gladys Van Hoesen, and

Whereas, Bernice Bussett, known to most of us as Bee Bussett, has spent almost all of her life in the Town of Copake and raised her family here and lives here today, and

Whereas, Bernice Bussett, who lived as a child in a house her family built on Main street in Copake, and attended the Copake School and then attended class in the Mount Washington House in Hillsdale and was a freshman at the Roeliff Jansen Central School when it opened in 1933, and

Whereas, Bernice Bussett worked for many years at her father’s business, A.C Bristol Lumber and Supply in the Town of Copake, and also worked at the Copake Movie Theater, and

Whereas, Bernice Bussett has been engaged in community activities for her entire life, including over 55 years as a member of the Copake Grange and 87 years as a member of the Copake United Methodist Church, and is also a member of the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society and the Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, and

Whereas, Bernice Bussett has been an active member of our Town and our community for her entire life, and

Whereas, on January 30, 2020 Bernice celebrated her 100th Birthday,

NOW THEREFORE, we the Members of the Copake Town Board do hereby express our gratitude to **Bernice Bussett** on behalf of the Town of Copake, and do express our congratulations to her on the occasion of her 100th Birthday and do proclaim Saturday February 15, 2020 as **BERNICE BUSSETT DAY** in the Town of Copake.

Resolution # 3	Supervisor Mettler	yes
Dated February 14, 2020	Councilperson Wolf	yes
Copake, New York	Councilperson Gansowski	yes

Correspondence:

From Eric M. Kurtz, Cook, Netter, Cloonan, Kurtz & Murphy, P.C. – a copy of a letter to Paul M. Freeman, Esq. regarding the Daprile vs Town of Copake case.

From Senator Daphne Jordan – a letter following up on a wonderful opportunity for the Town of Copake to be recognized as a “Purple Heart Community”

From Kevin Egan, Director, Government Affairs, Charter Communications – a three letters advising the Town of upcoming changes in their programing.

From Park Superintendent Gregory – a letter of expected expense for supplies for the maintenance of the Park in 2020 and requesting the Town Board to reappoint Ryan Gregory, Dan Stang and Alex Chamberland as part-time seasonal Park Employees.

From Bob Haight, Chairman of the Copake Planning Board – a letter requesting authorization to hire an engineer at the applicants expense for an application before the Board for a T-Mobile cell tower. Also the Planning Board is requesting authorization to hire an engineer or Farming Expert for the application of Salvatore Casino also at the applicant’s expense.

From John Hoffman, Ancram Planning Board Clerk – Notice of a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 6th at 7:00pm for a commercial site plan review for an addition to a gas station at 7373 State Route 22.

From Monica Cleveland, Ancram Town Clerk - Notice of a Public Hearing at 6:30pm on February 20, 2020 on a proposed local law amending Article V of the 2014 Zoning Law to incorporate the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone supplement regs from LL #1 of 2003 into the 2014 Zoning Law.

From Tamara Gaskell, Director, R.J.C.L. – an email outlining what the Library will be doing to assist the Public with completion of the Census Forms.

From Jim McGowan, Hecate Energy – an email with the website address where the Sheperd’s Run Project documents that are filed with DPS.

From Dominick Sinisi Jr, Dancer’s Marina - a notice of their intent to renew their Liquor License.

From Ryan Tiano, Columbia County Managed Information Systems – an email explaining the importance for the Town to upgrade their internet service from DLS to Fiber Optic.

From Grant Langdon – a letter regarding his son being falsely accused of arson and requesting the Town Board pass a resolution of censure of Paul Czajka.

From Wes Powell, Dog Control Officer – a letter of resignation effective March 31, 2020 due to health reasons.

The following sealed bids were received for tree work and road building materials for the year 2020. The Haupt Tree Service, Inc. and Moore-Bridger Tree Service & Landscaping LLC bids for tree work. Southern Columbia Sand & Gravel and A. Colarusso & Sons, Inc. for road building materials.

Announcements:

COMMUNITY VISIONING AND DESIGN WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE THE TOWN'S WATERWAYS AND HAMLETS. Workshop on February 22, 2020

CLC lecture regarding Forest Health- Copake Grange March 7 – 9-noon

Concert featuring “The Changelings”, a local musical group that specializes in traditional roots music from the North of Ireland and its Old Time American music interpretations, Sunday, March 15, 2020 at the Hillsdale Methodist Church- Benefit the Food Pantry

Corned Beef cabbage dinner –Grange - Saturday March 14

Library Dine Out- continues: March 11 Taconic Inn, March 17 Clock Tower, March 23 The Greens, April 16 Swiss Hutte

Chicken Barbecue Saturday, April 11th 5:00-7:00pm @ the Copake Fire House. Eat in or Take out, \$12.00 per dinner. Tickets or information: Phone 518-329-4161 or Email: BBQ@copakefire.org

Website and Connection will be published tomorrow

Supervisor Report:

The biggest news since our last Town Board meeting is that Hecate Energy has announced that it is applying for a permit to install a solar project in Craryville. The proposal of Hecate is to build a 60-megawatt Solar Array adjacent to State Route 23 and County Route 7. The array would be comprised of three non-contiguous areas totaling over 900+ acres. The project will go by the name “Shepherd’s Run”.

Since the project would be greater than 25 megawatts, Hecate is proceeding under the New York State Department of Public Service Article 10 approval process. I want to explain the significance of this.

The Town of Copake adopted a Solar Energy Law in 2017. In that law, the maximum acreage allowed for any utility-scale solar energy system was 10 acres. In adopting that law, the Town Board tried to balance two goals of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan which seemed to be in conflict: One goal in the Plan was to “encourage the use of “green energy” including solar energy. On the other hand another goal was to “preserve our rural character”. To quote that Plan; “Copake contains some of the most beautiful countryside in Columbia County... Gently rolling hills provide scenic vistas of productive agricultural fields. Without open space, the Town would have few distant views, little visual range.... We cherish these attributes; they make us want to stay here....”

Since Hecate is proceeding under the State law, they are not coming to the Town for permission. The project will not be submitted to the Town of Copake Planning Board for approval pursuant to our Town Law. Instead it will be reviewed by a seven member "Siting Board" which would include various New York State commissioners as well as two representatives of the local community. The company has filed its "Public Involvement Program Plan" with the State. Information about Hecate and its plans for this project can be viewed at <http://www.shepherdsrunsolar.com/>

The Hecate application poses a huge and complicated challenge to the Town of Copake. Likely this will go on for several years. The Town Board will be looking at all aspects of this proposal. In the short term however, what we want you to know is that we are committed to keeping the residents of Copake informed throughout this process and we need to hear what you think. We look forward to many opportunities for residents to express their views and we will no doubt organize special meetings to allow Copake residents to acquire information and make their views known. To organize these efforts, I have appointed my Deputy Supervisor Richard Wolf to coordinate the Town's response to the Hecate application. You can contact him at CopakeDepSupervisor@fairpoint.net.

This is just the beginning of this process, we have a lot to learn about how it will all work but the best we can say is that this Board is committed to protecting the interests of Copake as we go forward.

Department Head Report:

Roberta Roll, Chairperson of the Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce announced the first public workshop for the Revitalization Plan will be a Visioning & Design Workshop on Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 9:00am – Noon at the Town Hall. River Street Planning will be at the workshop and will be facilitating the Workshop. There will be maps available for review and we will break out into groups to brainstorm different ideas.

Bob Haight, Chairman Copake Planning Board announced the Planning Board will be having a Special Meeting on Saturday, February 12, 2020 at 10:00am GRJH application. The Public Hearing is closed but the Public is welcome to attend. Also the Planning Board would like to hire an engineer for the Cell Tower application and an engineer or a Farm Consultant for the Casino case. Town Attorney Dow explained that the applicant will set up an escrow account for the engineer expenses with the Town and these funds will be used for this purpose. Accordingly, there is no need to obtain permission from the Town Board before hiring these engineers.

Public Forum:

Grant Langdon requested the Town Board to pass a resolution censuring Paul Czajka and congratulated Bee Bussett in turning 100 years old.

Lindsay LeBrecht spoke against the purposed 900 acre solar panel farm in Craryville. This would have a negative effect on the whole Community. I hope the Town will fight this to the end.

Paul Parzuchowski, a neighboring property owner of the purposed solar farm and he totally against this purposed solar farm and hopes the Town will fight against this proposal.

New Business:

Bryan VanTassel, Summer Park Program Director talked about how a lot of applicants for the Summer Playground Program wait until the last weeks before the program begins to sign up which causes is a nightmare to process all the applicants information in time for opening day. Bryan is purposing to add a \$25.00 late fee to all non-residents whose applications are not received by the closing date. Also there were questions about using the pictures of children attending the program on Facebook without the parent's consent. Town Attorney Dow suggested that by default the pictures can be used unless the parent signs a statement that they do not want their child's picture used on social media. Supervisor Mettler asked Bryan to provide a copy of the 2020 application for so that she could ask Ken Dow to review it- and to add any language regarding Facebook which Mr. Dow thinks is necessary. Councilperson Sullivan thanked Bryan for the great job they are doing.

Supervisor Mettler suggested the following:

"Applications for children residing in Copake will be accepted any time until the opening day of camp. Applications for children not living in Copake are due by June 1, 2020. Applications for nonresident children received after June 1 but no later than June 29 will incur a late fee of \$25. NO applications for nonresident children will be accepted after June 29."

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the following: Applications for children residing in Copake will be accepted any time until the opening day of camp. Applications for children not living in Copake are due by June 1, 2020. Applications for nonresident children received after June 1 but no later than June 29 will incur a late fee of \$25. NO applications for nonresident children will be accepted after June 29. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Mettler said that she wanted the Board to consider some resolutions regarding policies. The Town Board discussed having a special Town Board workshop to discuss the way of the Town Board handles resolutions in the future. The Board set the special workshop for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 5:00pm.

Supervisor Mettler announced the annual cleanup day will be Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 – Noon.

Councilperson Gansowski explained the problems our Town Hall employees are having with internet running slow or not at all for the last three months. Councilperson Gansowski compared what the Town is paying now for phone, long distance and internet service with what it would cost the Town to switch to fiber optic system that would include the phones, free long distance and a steady 50 MB internet connection and we will actually save roughly \$229.00 per month. The company will waive the installation fees and the fees for any extra equipment needed to run the system.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and was seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to authorize the switch over of the Town Hall phone and internet system to fiber optic. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Mettler Spoke to Daphne Jordan's office: Debra Curto. They are urging Towns to consider being "Purple Heart Communities" as a way to "salute the selfless service and courageous sacrifice of

America's armed forces" . I think that this is something Copake would want to support. At the very least we might adopt a Resolution to this effect. We might also consider installing a sign here at Town Hall stating that we are a Purple Heart Community. But I would also like to identify individuals who have been awarded a Purple Heart and maybe we could do something to honor them. Ms. Curto will look into that and get back to me.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Wolf to authorize Park Superintendent Gregory's request for the expense for supplies for the maintenance of the Park in 2020. Motion was carried. Councilperson Sullivan commented how the Park always looks great.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Wolf to accept the Haupt Tree Service, Inc. and Moore-Bridger Tree Service & Landscaping LLC bids for tree work and Southern Columbia Sand & Gravel and A. Colarusso & Sons, Inc. for road building materials per the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Gregory. Motion was carried

Old Business:

The repairs have been completed on the Church Museum from the storm damage.

Copake Memorial Clock- Update on Repairs- The clock has been repaired. The total was: \$4364.00. We received \$2500 from Mark Gross and the Town will pay the balance. Rus Davis has also suggested that we need to repair the face of the clock. I will get a better idea of what is involved and get back to you.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the following job description for the Town Historian:

A. The town historian will

1. Popularize the history of the town of Copake via articles on social media and/or in local newspapers.
2. Accumulate digital copies of old town photos.
3. Present an annual report to the Town Board at the end of each calendar year.
4. Safeguard town historical files by retaining them in Town Hall.
5. Collaborate when possible with the Roe Jan Historical Society and other historians in the county and state.
6. Solicit donations of paper archival material and/or photographs.
7. Participate when possible in town historical celebrations.

B The town historian may do one or more of the following:

1. Give presentations in appropriate town venues.
2. Organize guided walks focused on the town's history.
3. Attempt to interest the town's students in local history.
4. Make copies of historical town photos available to interested persons.
5. Bring to the attention of historical societies and libraries physical artifacts that may belong in those institutions.
6. When requested by the Town Board, participate in the decorating of town buildings with historical materials.

C The town historian will generally not:

1. Act as a genealogist.
2. Accumulate physical artifacts other than documents and photos.

Relationship with Town Board

Any expenditure by the Historian must be pre-approved by the Town Board. The Historian will be given space in town hall to work and store files.

Adopted February 13, 2020
Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve the following Mission Statement for the Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee

Mission Statement

The Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)'s mission is to promote sustainable economic development in the Town of Copake by encouraging and supporting existing businesses and attracting new business opportunities to the Town. Within this framework, the CEDAC advocates for and balances the needs of residents, business owners, environmental sustainability, quality of life, and public works.

The CEDAC shall address the needs of the entire Town, including the Hamlets of Copake, Copake Falls, Craryville, West Copake, and Copake Lake as well as the many communities within the Town. The CEDAC will be guided by the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Town of Copake in 2011, and shall collaborate with existing Boards and Committees, including the Road Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Conservation Advisory Committee, the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force and the Project Advisory Committee. The CEDAC shall also interface with local groups such as the Copake Falls Day Committee and the Copake Grange and the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour Committee in assessing the needs of Copake residents and developing plans for economic development.

Suggested Strategies and Tasks

The agenda to be pursued by CEDAC may include:

1. Dialogue with existing businesses in Copake to learn what specific measures the Town can take to help them thrive, and where appropriate, act as an intermediary between businesses and Town Government.
2. Inventory and assess market trends, housing and transportation needs, cultural, recreational and tourism opportunities and local assets including existing businesses, buildings, infrastructure, public amenities and the local workforce and use this information to identify and promote new economic opportunities for the Town of Copake.

3. Recruit new businesses through research and outreach.
4. Effectively market Copake in order to recruit businesses and support existing businesses.
5. Work with new businesses to help entrepreneurs move through necessary approval and permit processes.
6. Obtain grants from government and private funding sources where appropriate.

7. Support the efforts of local businesses to create and maintain a Copake Business Association.

6. Continue the work of the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force in revitalizing the Hamlet of Copake. In this regard, the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force shall be considered a Task Force within the purview of the CEADC.

Role of the CEADC

The CEADC shall serve as an advisory committee to the Town Board and shall make recommendations for strategies which would contribute to the economic vitality of the Town. The Committee will make monthly reports to the Town Board. Upon notice to the Town Board, the Committee shall also be authorized to embark on studies, projects and strategies which will benefit Copake. Commencing in 2021 the Committee will have a budget, but all expenditures must be approved in advance by the Town Board.

Membership of the CEDAC

The Committee shall consist of five to seven members. With the approval of the Town Board, the Committee may form Task Forces and or Sub Committees, which may include members of the CEDAC in addition to other individuals.

All members of CEADC shall either be residents of the Town of Copake, or stakeholders in the Town with strong ties to the community (e.g. business owners, property owners, or individuals with some demonstrated stake in the Town).

Adopted by the Copake Town Board

February 13, 2020

Motion was carried.

Lindsay LeBrecht gave the Town Board the meeting minutes from the previous Economic Committee and a list of items that the Committee worked on and/or completed.

Supervisor Mettler reviewed the status Motor Vehicle Storage Permit- Performance Auto, 78 Route 7A. At the January meeting we declined to approve a permit for Performance Auto. Lee Heim a letter to Michael Lindig dated February 3. No response and no improvement. The Board requested Town Attorney Dow to write a letter advising Performance Auto that the permit is still not renewed and that unless the violations are corrected we shall commence a legal action against him.

Supervisor Mettler appointed Councilperson Gansowski as the Town Board Liaison to the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Department.

Supervisor Mettler advised the Board that she has been in contact with the County regarding the annual training and they have advised the only paid employees and employees that receive a stipend are required to attend. The County would prefer not to offer training on Saturday although they would consider offering training at 401 State Street which could be attended by other Towns. The dates which I am suggesting for our in house training: Tuesday March 10 at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday March 26, at 5:15 pm. The County may offer Saturday training at 401 State Street at a later date.

Councilperson Wolf advised that he is working on the internal audits of all of the departments and has two completed.

The following resolution was offered by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Sullivan:

Annual Accounting of Receipt and Disbursement of Funds

WHEREAS, the New York State Town Law requires the Town Board to conduct an annual accounting of funds received or disbursed by town officers and employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the Copake Town Board that, annually, and as soon as is reasonably feasible following the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Town Board will review and audit, or have reviewed and audited by a qualified outside auditor, the books and records, and supporting documentation, of the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Town Tax Collector and the books and records, and supporting documentation, of the Building Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Town Court, and make comments regarding the quality of the Town's financial management process and underlying books and records, and suggest ways to improve the financial management process of the Town.

Resolution # 4	Supervisor Mettler	yes
Dated February 14, 2020	Councilperson Wolf	yes
Copake, New York	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Appointments:

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to appoint Ryan Gregory, Dan Stang and Alex Chamberlain as Seasonal Park Maintenance Employees for 2020 per the recommendation of Park Superintendent Gregory. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Mettler advised the Board that Wes Powell will be resign as Dog Control Officer at the end of March. The Board agreed to advertise for a new Dog Control Officer.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan that the Board acknowledges that the annual examination and audit of the Town Justices records and dockets for the year ending December 31, 2018 was completed on behalf of the Town and submitted to the Town Board by Sickler, Torchia, Allen and Churchill, CPAs, PC and that the Town Board has reviewed and accepted such audit. Motion was carried.

Budget:

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and was seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that the follow budget transfer be made:

Transfer from:

DA 5110.1	(Personnel Services)	\$9497.24
DA 5140.1	(Longevity Personnel Services)	\$1700.00
DA 5110.4	(General Repairs)	\$2358.27

Transfer to:

DA 5142.1	(Personnel Services)	\$13,555.51
-----------	----------------------	-------------

Motion was carried.

Councilperson's Report:

Councilperson Wolf reported that County 7A Road Advisory Committee postponed their meeting this month due to a consultant has not been appointed yet. Also the Taskforce will be holding their Vision & Design Workshop on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at the Town Hall. Councilperson Wolf advised that he will be representing the Town of Copake at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Town's next week in NYC.

Councilperson Sullivan reported that the Park is getting ready for their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11th at 11:00 and they are requesting permission to spend up to \$500.00 for supplies and candy. Councilperson Sullivan gave a check to the Town for the Zumba class for \$240.00 for the second half 2019. New Park Officers were nominated and elected and all of the entertainment for this year's Entertainment in the Park has been booked. The Copake Planning Board did not meet this month due to in climate weather.

Councilperson Gansowski reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals is working on the cell tower application for the installation of a Mono Pole. Trout Unlimited has applied and received a grant for a culvert project on High Valley Road and still working on the Yonderview Road grant.

Public Forum:

Linda Senk questioned if the proposed Solar Farm for Craryville will have any impact on GRJH proposed Gas Station project. It appears that the intersection will be very congested. Councilperson Wolf stated they have not shown where the facility will be within the nine hundred acre area.

Marcia Peteroy asked for a light be placed on the Copake Hamlet sign and requested the Town Board look into this matter. The old Head's Service Station has become an eye soar and a dump. Councilperson Gansowski will meet with our Code Enforcement Officer regarding this matter.

Lisa Pelkey expressed her concerns on how this proposed solar farm will negatively impact Craryville if it goes through. Mrs. Pelkey stated that she witnessed a similar situation in Wingdale, New York.

Bill Newcomb went on record to opposing the proposed Solar Farm and hopes that the Town will fight them to the end.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Wolf that the bills from Highway Abstract # 2 and the bills from the General Abstract # 2 be paid. Motion was carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,