

Special Town Board Meeting

March 30, 2020

Members Present via Zoom: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, and Councilperson Gansowski. Councilperson Sullivan joined the meeting via a cell phone connection and was able to speak and be heard by the other members of the Town Board. Later in the meeting, when the Town Board went into Executive Session, a new Zoom meeting was begun, and Councilperson Sullivan successfully joined the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mettler at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of this Special Town Board Meeting is to go into Executive Session to conduct an interview. Before doing that, Supervisor Mettler stated that wanted to review matters that had arisen in the recent past.

Supervisor Mettler stated that on March 20, 2020, the Town Board received an email from Highway Superintendent Gregory addressing how the Highway Department should deal with CoVid 19. Superintendent Gregory suggested to split the Highway Department in half and have a rotating schedule of workers where there are four members working or on call and four members off or on call.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf that the Highway Department, in the discretion of the Highway Superintendent be split in half so that there are four members working or on call and four members off or on call and further that this arrangement be extended so long as it is necessary in the view of the Highway Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler reviewed the closures ordered by the Town Board to date. Supervisor Mettler stated that the Park Building has been closed since March 16, 2020. Since March 16, 2020 there have been no Town meetings in the Town Hall nor had outside groups been allowed to meet in the Town Hall. The Columbia County lunch program was suspended by the County after the luncheon held on March 17, 2020. Supervisor Mettler also stated that the Town Board closed the Town Hall to the public at noon on March 19, 2020. All of these decisions were made after considering guidance from our Public Health Emergency Task Force. Supervisor Mettler stated that she had conferred with the Chairs of the ZBA and Planning Board, Jon Strom and Bob Haight respectively and both agree that their respective Boards should not meet until further notice. They have considered the possibility of video conferencing and are not going to use that method at this time.

Supervisor Mettler observed that the Town Board is trying Zoom for the first time today, and will consider conducting Town Board meetings via Zoom. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 2020. It is Supervisor Mettler's intention to be able to conduct a full Town Board meeting via videoconference at that time.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan that in the interest of protecting the health of the public and Town staff, and so that our staff can continue to meet the needs

of the public , that the Town Hall, Town Highway Garage and Town Park Building are closed to the public until further notice.

Roll Call Vote. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan that there will be no Town meetings in Town Hall nor shall any groups be allowed to meet in Town Hall until further notice.

Roll Call Vote. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that the Copake Park playgrounds, athletic courts and fields are CLOSED. All other visitors to the Park must maintain 6 feet of social distance and refrain from any group activity and this will remain in effect until further notice.

Roll Call Vote. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 11, 2020.

Roll Call Vote was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to go into Executive Session to conduct an interview for the Animal Control Officer, and to continue discussions of interview already conducted with regard to hiring an attorney for representation in the Article 10 process.

Roll Call Vote. Motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,