

Special Town Board Meeting

via-Zoom Video Conference

April 23, 2020

7:30PM

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

In addition to the Town Board members, there were two Copake residents present on the Zoom meeting.

Supervisor Mettler opened the meeting stating that the meeting was being conducted via video conferencing, due to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 220.1. The meeting was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Mettler stated that before going into an Executive Session, there were some items which required the Town Boards attention. She recalled that at the last meeting the Board had approved that Grievance Day would be held via video conference. She stated that she would now ask the Town Board to approve video-conferencing for the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board. Supervisor Mettler said that when she spoke with Jon Strom, Chair of the ZBA and Bob Haight, Chair of the Planning Board a month ago it seemed entirely reasonable to cancel their meetings for the month of April. At that time the Town Board had just closed Town Hall and construction was being prohibited.

Supervisor Mettler said that at this point there is no end in sight for NY Pause, and in the meantime, there is an exemption for construction sites where there is only one worker on the site. Supervisor Mettler said that it seemed inappropriate to close down indefinitely. She stated that she had communicated with the two Chairs and they are both willing to conduct their meetings remotely.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Wolf that the Copake Planning Board and the Copake Zoning Board of Appeals be authorized to conduct their meetings via video conference, provided that they conduct those meetings in compliance with Executive Order 220.1.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler stated that she has researched how to best provide video conferencing. She said that she had opened an account with Zoom at \$14.99 per month. This covers one host, unlimited meetings, and no limit on the length of a meeting. Supervisor Mettler has conducted the Town Board meetings with this account.

Supervisor Mettler said that she can add accounts for \$14.99each. She said that she proposed going on a month to month basis since hopefully we will only need this service for a short time.

Supervisor Mettler stated that the Town Clerk should also have an account so that she can issue marriage licenses and conduct other business via video conferencing.

Supervisor Mettler said the if four hosts are added to the current account the total cost would be \$74.95 a month. Supervisor Mettler is trying to get the taxes waived.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that Supervisor Mettler be authorized to add the following entities as Hosts on her Zoom account: the Town Clerk, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board and the Assessor, and that these accounts remain open for as long as they are needed.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Wolf for the Town Board to go into Executive Session to confer with the attorney retained by Copake to represent the Town regarding the Article 10.

Motion carried.

The two members of the public left the session.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at approximately 7:40p.m. The Executive Session was not recorded.

At approximately 8:20pm as the Town Board was coming out of Executive Session, Supervisor Mettler noted that she was now recording via Zoom but that inadvertently had not pushed record at the beginning of the Meeting. Now on the recording, Supervisor Mettler reviewed the two motions which had been passed in the public part of the meeting. Supervisor mettler stated that she had detailed notes of what took place which would assist in drafting Minutes.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to come out of Executive Session.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that pursuant to its letter of engagement, the Town Board authorizes the Zoghlin Group law firm, specifically our attorney Ben Wisznewski, to review Copake's relevant local law pertaining to solar energy.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler called for a moment of silence to remember the 13 Columbia County residents who had died as a result of Covid-19.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to adjourn this meeting.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,