

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 18, 2021

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Maas

Town Council: Kevin Durland, Kevin McGivney, Steven Frazier, John Welsh

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Park Manager: Jake Gosnell

Highway Superintendent: Ed Kading

Town Attorney: Jeff Battistoni

Call to Order and Salute to the Flag at 7:30PM

Supervisor Maas called a moment of reflection & silence for resident John Farmer who passed away last night. Mr. Farmer was a special, highly respected, longstanding member of our community and leaves a lovely family including a son, who works for the Town of Union Vale. We would like to send the Farmers and all their extended family our condolences.

Special Presentation - Resident Volunteer Library Committee Members: Peter Krulewitch, Perry Gusikoff & Mike McPartland introduce Paul K. Mays, Principal, Butler Rowland Mays Architects, to review Conceptual Drawings of the Union Vale Reading Room

Town Board Minutes

The February 18, 2021 minutes will be tabled until the April meeting.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Maas noted the Parks and Recreation Department will host a condensed version of the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will be on Saturday, April 3rd kids ages 3-5 and a second hunt for ages 6-8. Registration is required and can be done through the website or by calling the Park Office. Supervisor Maas noted the Town Board members have received the list of warrants/abstracts; cash receipts, escrow reports, Building Dept. report, performance vs budget report and lists of all deposits made in both the General Fund and Highway Fund.

She has been working on the Annexation Petition and would like to thank Councilman Welsh and former Town Councilman, Thomas Farmer, for their help in historical input on the topic. Although the Town Hall had some positive COVID cases, it was never closed and Supervisor Maas also wanted to thank Stephanie Dougherty, Park Secretary, and Michele Fredericks for assisting residents during that time.

Supervisor Maas also spoke about the Shared Services Program that Union Vale has participated in over the years and reported the Town just received a check for \$7,619 from NYS as a result of being part of this program.

The annual landfill report has been submitted to the DEC on March 16, 2021. We have also completed the quarterly dam inspection report prepared by Park Manager, Jake Gosnell which was done earlier in March 2021. She noted that DEC is keeping a close eye on our solar development project which a portion is being covered over the former landfill. George Kolb, Building Inspector & Town Engineer, Tom Harvey are frequently checking the site's progress. For the month of February, from a financial standpoint for the, cashflow is at about 91% of our income budgeted for February and expenses are at 70% so we are spending less.

Supervisor Maas explained she was on a conference call with Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Delgado regarding the COVID-19 relief bill or American Rescue Plan and there is a big portion going to local governments. They are sending \$12.5 or \$12.6 billion dollars to New York State and the good news for Union Vale is, based on estimates and population, Union Vale should be receiving approximately \$510,000. This will compensate the revenue lost last year due to COVID and for infrastructure projects. According to what she was told, the Town should be getting 50% within 60 days and then, the second half next year. She will keep everyone informed if anything changes. She reported at the end of 2020, we did lose \$311,746.00 but we did not "go into the red" because each manager cut expenses and only spent 80% of what was budgeted.

Spring is coming, and with this comes garbage clean up. Supervisor Maas read a letter from a resident regarding the trash on Tompkins Road. The Highway Superintendent will be speaking about this as well as a Town wide initiative for Earth Day. She thanked the resident for their time in writing the letter and for the reminder it's that time of year again.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Welsh – reported that the Town lost one of its most significant residents overnight, John (Jack) Farmer, a wonderful man, family man dedicated to the community loved this town

and spent his life improving it and fire service. He was a chief commissioner and much was done under his guidance and direction for many years. He was admired by all and all will miss him. He was a volunteer Park Chair before the Town had a Park Manager and was instrumental in developing a wonderful park and the swimming pool. His final big project was creating a 911 memorial in Verbank and every year since, we gather to remember those lost. Councilman Welsh has also been working on the library and the annexation project. He is glad it is moving forward and believes we will do well with it.

Councilman Durland – will speak later in the meeting about the agenda item he is reporting on.

Councilman McGivney – would like to spotlight some of our team members. He heard a great story from one of his elderly neighbors about Michele in the Assessors office, she helped her out with her paperwork and couldn't say enough good things about how helpful she was. He also wanted to recognize Tax Collector, Kathi Wellman. When his wife came to pay the taxes, he noted how pleasant, polite and professional she was. He is always happy to get feedback like that for the Town.

Councilman Frazier – wanted to echo Councilman Welsh's comments about Jack Farmer and send his condolences to the Farmer family and wants the Farmer Family to know how appreciative the Town of Union Vale is for all that Jack has done over the years.

Highway Report

Superintendent Kading reported on the tough winter in 2021 and noted the salt consumption was up from the prior year. He explained how he started to cut the salt with grit thereby using 25% less salt which is not only environmentally friendly but, a lot less costly. The last week of March the subdivision roads will be swept and the excess salt and residue cleaned from the roads.

Tomorrow they will begin with the town sweeper on the outskirts roads such as Brush Hill, Flint Road etc. outside of subdivisions. Two goals Mr. Kading has for the Highway Department are: change out and replace all the steel culvert pipes with a polyethylene pipe which flows 120% more than the old steel pipes and he is hopeful they will finish this task this year. Another project for 2021 is to take down as many of the dead trees along town roads as they can.

Anything marked with an orange X has been tagged for removal. They will need to hire a contractor for the larger and more dangerous trees over wires and other obstacles.

Superintendent Kading has completed the Highway 284 for the 2021 year and asked Supervisor Maas to cover the details. Supervisor Maas pointed out that the General Repairs for the whole year total \$15,000. The following roads will be included: Bloomer Road, Jordan Court, Oswego Road and Flint Road will be oiled, chipped and sealed. Robinwood, Shaughnessy, Old Camby Roads and Verbank Club will get dense binder. This will preserve and protect the investment of the work done last year and prior years.

Superintendent Kading explained the process of the dense binder which will smooth out any divots, then, a paving machine will apply a top coat. This will repair and protect the roads which are not as widely traveled on until they are ready for a total reclamation. He chose these roads and this process as they are in bad shape but have less traffic and this proves to be an economical way to preserve them.

Supervisor Maas stated in the budget this year there is \$281,600.00 for permanent improvements. The numbers in the 284 are \$565,939.50. They also have remaining balances from last year in the Highway Fund balance of \$289,809.00 plus the budget for this year, the total available funds would be \$571,409.00 therefore, leaving a balance of \$5,469.00 after the Highway projects for the year. Based on this they can move forward with the plan Superintendent Kading has laid out. Councilman Frazier inquired if Mr. Kading felt comfortable with the amount that he has to replenish the salt supply for the upcoming season. Superintendent Kading replied that right now the salt shed is full and does feel comfortable with the balance he has left on his salt budget going into 2022. Councilman Frazier stated if Superintendent Kading is comfortable then he is as well.

MOTION TO APPROVE HIGHWAY 284 FOR 2021

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the 284 as outlined by Superintendent Kading laid out in the 5-page report, this was seconded by Councilman Frazier all were unanimously in favor.

MOTION TO USE HIGHWAY FUND BALANCE

Councilman Welsh made a motion to reallocate \$289,809.00 from the Highway Fund, fund balance left over from last year into the budget this year to complete the Highway 284, which was seconded by Councilman McGivney all were unanimously in favor.

Superintendent Kading noted that his numbers are pretty conservative so there may be money left over and he is hopeful to be under budget for this project. Supervisor Maas also pointed out that this was not 100% of the Highway Fund balance.

Town Clerk Report

Clerk Casey reported 333 resident recycling permits have sold to date and typically we sell around 456 for the year and 291 non-resident recycling permits and counting, these are still be sold weekly. She has been working with the Climate Community Task force and is looking forward to helping with projects to benefit the Town. Clerk Casey also thanked Dave McMorris for his help with driving residents to their COVID vaccine appointments.

Public Comments: None

Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)

Jen Rubbo, Climate Smart Community Coordinator, began by offering to assist CAC with NRI mapping and this evolved into becoming our Climate Smart Community Coordinator. She summarized the program and why it is important for funding and maintaining the Towns rural character while mitigating Climate Change. The Climate Smart Task force consists of Rachel von Wettberg, Rhonda Sundloff, Supervisor Betsy Maas, Park Manger Jake Gosnell and Town Clerk, Andrea Casey. If anyone else is interested in learning more information, please email Jen at ClimateSmartUnionVale@gmail.com.

Parks & Recreation Report

Park Manager Jake Gosnell began by thanking his staff for the amazing job especially, Maggie Collins and Alison Croke with the ASP/TGTT program. Alison will also be the Aquatics Director and with her background the Town is able to offer more including lifeguard certification classes. Now, instead of paying the American Red Cross Alison is able to offer these to classes to our own lifeguards and invite others in as well.

Mr. Gosnell also spoke about the repair quote for the 2015 Ford F-350. The issue is the diesel particulate filter needs to be repaired. This truck has low miles and is otherwise routinely maintained and this is one of the few repairs that cannot be done in-house. Mr. Gosnell recommends bringing it to a shop for repair. Supervisor Maas stated the total is \$4,992.25 which includes labor.

MOTION TO APPROVE FORD F-350 REPAIR

Councilman Frazier made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$4,992.25 for the 2015 Ford F-350 by Friendly Ford which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Mr. Gosnell stated the will be stocking the stream with trout this year, just browns as per DEC rather than brown and brooks, they will stock before opening day and later in the season.

Furnace Pond Dam

Supervisor Maas explained we have a Geotechnical investigation test that the Town Board received a proposal on and they will discuss again at the work session however the test will not be able to happen for a few more months, she suggested voting on it next month so the Board has a chance to read the report and ask questions. Supervisor Maas reported that the dam survey results were a 36.5 % response rate and 74.7% that want to restore the dam, 12.65% to eliminate the dam and 12.65% wanted more info. More information coming with the upcoming test.

Dutchess County's Workers Comp Plan - Union Vale's Prolonged Goodbye

Supervisor Maas stated that we have been out of the plan for 2 years and feels that the County has concerns about the entire program since 5 towns left at once. Although we will end up settling with them, she feels they are holding us out as an example. One of the Town Attorneys who specializes in Worker's Compensation will be speaking with the Dutchess County District Attorney and they will work it out.

Master Fee Schedule 2021

Councilman McGivney wanted to reviewing Building Dept. Fees in other Towns. He found 1 town that is lower than us, 3 towns that were about the same within a few dollars, 3 towns that were above and a few that did not publicly publish the rates. He feels comfortable based on that

and Building Inspector, George Kolb's recommendations. Councilman Frazier stated he also did a review of the pricing and comfortable with the adjustments as well.

MOTION TO APPROVE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE 2021

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the master fee schedule for 2021 as distributed to the Town Board which was seconded by Councilman Durland, all were unanimously in favor.

Financial Controls for Town Clerk and Tax Collector - updates made

It was previously recommended to add language for both departments showing we accept payments e-check and credit card. Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the financial control policy for Town Clerk & Tax Collector which was seconded by Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Improving Approach into Union Vale on Rt. 55 - New USA Flag (s) & Pole (s) - Mr. Bob Ritter

Councilman Durland began by stating that resident Bob Ritter had contacted the Town with a suggestion of improving appearance as you enter the Town by adding a flag pole. Councilman Durland went to the site, took pictures and researched different options. BeWise, which is across the street, has a 35-foot pole and matching that, is one option. There is also a flag at the Recycling Center and the idea was to improve the way that flag is hung and also add one across the street at the solar farm. Pricing to put in a flag pole is between \$2,500 to \$3,200 for a 30ft to 35ft pole plus expense for a concrete pad and the expense for the flag itself. Mr. Ritter explained that it would be a simple way to make a statement that our veterans will appreciate and will show the towns patriotism. He also thought in time, it would be a nice gesture to add a sign to recognize the facility as well as 'Welcome to Union Vale' sign that is more visually appealing than the small highway sign. Supervisor Maas agreed that there should be sign to recognize the solar facility which may also bolster our work and points for the Climate Smart Community Program. Councilman McGivney said it would be nice to fly a Union Vale flag below the American Flag and add a sign in front of the solar development. There was further discussion on the topic and it was agreed to review all the information for next meeting.

Proposed New Local Law Discussion - Authorizing the Use of Best Value Award Methodology

Supervisor Maas requested the board read the document they were given. This is something the Town must pass in order to award anything based on best value.

Assessor's Office - Local Government "opt-in" to extend Senior (and others') Exemptions

Supervisor Maas reminded the Board that Robert Taft needs this passed which gives local governments the ability to opt in for an automatic extension for seniors, individuals with disabilities and low income. There will be a resolution put forth before the Board to pass this.

Resolution#21-25 to Establish Climate Smart Community Task Force (See Resolutions)

Councilman Frazier voted to abstain. Supervisor Maas noted that she was reading Roberts Rules last night and stated you are not supposed to abstain. She asked Councilman Frazier if he had a reason for abstaining, if he had a financial conflict, board members don't abstain from voting because that is what we are here for. Councilman Frazier stated yes, he did have a personal conflict with this. Supervisor Maas stated not a financial, so you would vote it down. Would you like to vote it down because you are not supposed to abstain? Councilman Frazier said again he abstains. Supervisor Maas stated let the record reflect that Councilman Frazier refused to vote on a resolution put forth before the Board.

Resolution #21-26 for Senior and Individual with Disabilities and Limited Income Exemption Extension (See Resolutions)

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve budget adjustments, warrants, & pay bills which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Public Comments on Town Issues: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 10:43PM Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



TOWN OF UNION VALE

RESOLUTION # 25 OF 2021
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Town of Union Vale passed the Climate Smart Communities Pledge Resolution in May of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Union Vale seeks to take actions that will reduce its energy consumption, transition to renewable energy, and improve its resilience to the impacts of climate change especially in the areas where infrastructure will be greatly affected by flooding; and

WHEREAS, the NY State Climate Smart Communities program lists the creation of a Climate Smart Communities Task Force as a mandatory step in the program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Union Vale hereby creates the Climate Smart Communities Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Community Task Force shall consist of at least 5 members of the community, including the Climate Smart Communities Task Force Coordinator and at least one government liaison, either elected official or staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Community Task Force Coordinator is responsible for appointing task force members with the approval of the government liaison and ultimate approval of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Community Task Force shall provide the Town Board with information about establishing and implementing climate smart initiatives, to propose new ideas to the Town Board, to identify funding sources for projects and paybacks from investments, and to manage climate-related projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Community Task Force shall meet at least twice a year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the Town of Union Vale Town Board.

The preceding resolution was offered by Councilman Welsh, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Durland.

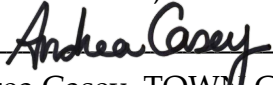
The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Councilman Frazier	Abstain
Councilman Durland	Aye
Councilman McGivney	Aye
Councilman Welsh	Aye
Supervisor Maas	Aye

Dated: March 18, 2021
Moved: Councilman Welsh
Seconded: Councilman Durland
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1

DATED: Union Vale, New York

March 18, 2021



Andrea Casey, TOWN CLERK

I, Andrea Casey, Town Clerk of the Town of Union Vale DO, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution offered and adopted at the meeting of the Town Board, held on March 18, 2021.



Town Clerk, Union Vale – Andrea Casey

TOWN OF UNION VALE

RESOLUTION # 26 of 2021

EXTENSION OF SENIOR AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME
EXPEMPTION

WHEREAS, the state disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices and rendered seniors and individuals with disabilities homebound; and

WHEREAS, many seniors and individuals with disabilities do not have the ability to file their real property tax exemption applications in person due to safety precautions and lack the ability to file such applications online; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo has issued Executive Oder 202.83, which grants local governments the ability to adopt a resolution extending the exemption status for those seniors and individuals with disabilities entitled to certain real property tax exemptions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the assessor shall extend the 2020 exemptions status for those individuals receiving the senior exemption and the persons with disabilities and limited income exemption through 2021 without a renewal application except in the circumstances elucidated below; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the assessor may require a renewal application if he or she believes that an owner that qualified for the 2020 exemption has since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

The preceding resolution was offered by Councilman Durland, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Welsh.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

- Councilman Frazier Aye
- Councilman Durland Aye
- Councilman McGivney Aye
- Councilman Welsh Aye
- Supervisor Maas Aye

Union Vale, New York
DATED: March 18, 2021



Andrea Casey, TOWN CLERK

I, Andrea Casey, Town Clerk of the Town of Union Vale DO, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution offered and adopted at the meeting of the Town Board, held on March 18, 2021.



Town Clerk, Union Vale – Andrea Casey