

**UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING JUNE 21, 2018  
TOWN HALL 249 DUNCAN ROAD LAGRANGEVILLE NY 7:30 PM**

**PRESENT: Supervisor Maas**

**Councilmen: Steven Frazier, Corrina Kelley, David McMorris, John Welsh**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting an interview for Planning Board Alternate which was seconded by Councilman Frazier and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman McMorris made a motion to exit executive session and resume the regularly scheduled meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Kelley. Supervisor Maas stated that no action was taken and no money was spent. All members were unanimously in favor.

**Special Reports by Steven Schmoke, Chief, Union Vale Fire District & Devon Navarro, Assistant Chief of Rescue**

Chief Schmoke thanked Supervisor Maas for the opportunity to speak about the Fire Company and give an overview of the many functions they serve. He began by giving background information on his role and the history of the Fire Company. Chief Schmoke pointed out that they are a volunteer organization and he is thankful for all the many volunteers that make the Company work. He spoke about the training required to become a qualified volunteer and how there are two stations; one in the Clove and one in Verbank and both are equipped with various equipment to assist in situations from car accidents, to brush fires, and medical emergencies. Chief Schmoke also highlighted some of the trucks that are responsible for importing water to extinguish fires, as well as a side by side vehicle that is specialized for rescues in hard to reach places such as Tymor and other rural areas. There are approximately 60 members that are comprised of fire personnel, rescue squad and fire police. They are always looking for new members and welcome anyone that has questions or would like to join.

Assistant Chief Navarro spoke about the rescue squad and pointed out that each rescue squad member is additionally part of the fire dept and requires about 200 hours of training to become EMS. There are 22 people on the roster for EMS and 12 are EMT's. Union Vale has an impressive 95% response rate, the additional 5% is for calls when both ambulances are out on calls a mutual aid is needed. She further highlighted the many certifications Union Vale has to make them cutting edge with additional areas the EMS is certified in such as AED, Narcan, albuterol and many others to save lives as Union Vale about 30 minutes from a hospital. Assistant Chief Navarro also stated that many other volunteer company or paid services do not necessarily have the ability to provide all of these services if their Company does not obtain the training, which gives the Union Vale members more access to help neighbors and residents. She further discussed the issues that come up due to Opioid overdose and the measures the County is taking to help educate the community and create awareness.

Supervisor Maas asked what the difference in terminology is regarding the district versus company. Chief Schmoke deferred the Councilman Welsh who explained that the Fire District is a legal entity with its own budget approved by the taxpayers and assembled by the Fire Commissioners. Under the District is the fire company which are comprised of the volunteer members of the fire and rescue members. Fire Department is simply a general term used interchangeably.

How to become a volunteer- Every Monday night at 7:00pm both Stations 1 & 2, anyone is welcome to stop by or visit [www.uvfdny.com](http://www.uvfdny.com), send email or attend a monthly meeting. They welcome everyone and all training, gear and education are provided by the Fire District.

Special Report: Scott Curry, P.E., Project Director, Cricket Valley Energy  
Mr. Curry gave an overview of the Cricket Valley project and the current progress update. The project consists of building a 1100 mega watt natural gas power plant. This will supply power to any area on the grid in need of power regardless of supplier ie: Central Hudson or NYSEG to increase reliability. The line will run from Dover to Pleasant Valley and a small portion of Union Vale has construction through it. The additional helicopter traffic will be to build the monopoles and the only areas in the flight path will be in the right of way. If there comes a need to fly over a main road, traffic is closed during transit as safety is their highest priority. He further discussed the scope of the project and left material with the Town Clerk on the presentation he gave this evening.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the May 17th, 2018 Town Board meeting minutes which was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

### **Town Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Maas discussed the monthly cash flow statement and highlighted the Building Department for having higher numbers. She reported that they are about 78% year to date and for the month the Town is at 47% of the budgeted expenses and commended the Department Heads for staying under budget. The income was below 100% due to the mortgage tax check which will be deposited and appear in June's statement although last year, it arrived earlier in May. Overall, for the year, the Town is 102% of income and Supervisor Maas feels things are looking good so far. She also mentioned that the Town is in the middle of implementing Paychex, a professional payroll system, which will help both the staff and administration track time and give more accurate reporting for things such as sick and vacation. There was also a change in the Insurance Broker from the previous firm to a division of Paychex which also has a brokerage firm as withdrawing the money in the payroll process was easier and a representative came in to meet with the insured employees to determine the best health benefit within the exact same plan and better tailored for the Town's employees.

The SAM grant parking lot fee of \$55,000.00 was paid to Clove Excavators and now the paperwork to be reimbursed from the grant has been sent out for review and the Town should receive the reimbursement in the near future.

Supervisor Maas also discussed the January through June, Saturday morning hours from 9:00am to 12:00pm. As this was well received during the months for tax season, recycling center passes and fishing licenses, the numbers decreased to almost no traffic in June. After analyzing the information, she and Town Clerk Casey determined to remove the 3 hours from Saturday, and implement them during the week by opening Town Hall at 8:30am until 4:00pm, Monday through Thursday. The new employee who is to be hired as the Building and Assessor's Clerk will also be responsible for answering phones and helping residents during the additional morning hour and the Town Clerk hours will be 9:30am to 4:00pm.

Supervisor Maas stated that there is an extensive list of capital projects that need to be prioritized as the Department Heads submitted lists of infrastructure needs. Items such as the Furnace Pond Dam and 7 buildings in Tymor Park need serious repairs, fire suppression system, doors and many other items from each area. The process will begin with determining the cost of each project and then prioritizing each and finally deciding how to put money aside to pay for each item.

Supervisor Maas spoke about the tax warrant and how penalties are collected. At the end of February, penalty fees begin to occur for untimely payments and the Town keeps those penalties as revenue. After May 31<sup>st</sup> the County collects any unpaid taxes with penalty fees. She encouraged all residents to pay within that time frame so the Town benefits from any additional monies. She also pointed out the Town tax rate \$3.09 per \$1,000.00 versus the Arlington School tax rate which is \$24.67 per \$1,000.00 and said aside from the Fire District rate, that is the lowest tax rate paid in 2018 and informed residents to take a look at each rate and offered the Town Assessor's Department to answer any questions from residents.

### **Board Member Comments**

*Councilman Welsh* met with Jay Grasso, Grant Writer, and wants to move forward with the bridge and salt shed grants which will trigger a public hearing in July. These two particular projects will be expensive and the Town will benefit greatly from utilizing grant money. Mr. Grasso will have a meeting the following day to discuss the timeline to obtain grant money for the projects.

*Councilwoman Kelley* spoke about Community Choice Aggregation as she attended a Lagrange Town Board meeting and she hopes to invite Jeff and the group from the Community Choice Aggregation to Union Vale to discuss it further. This allows smaller places such as Union Vale to be part of a larger group as there needs to be a total of 20,000 properties which results in more purchasing power. She attended 'Homeschooler's take over Tymor' and had a wonderful day and was so pleased with the turnout and already has ideas for next year. She also attended Lagrange Community Day and thought it was an interesting perspective to also gather ideas for our Town. *Councilman Frazier* has been under the weather and did not have anything new to report.

*Councilman McMorris* took webinars for Community choice Aggregate and some tie in with his work with solar development ideas especially for the landfill. There was further discussion on perusing ideas to create revenue on that topic.

### **Town Highway Superintendent Report**

Mr. Wisseman was unable to attend however Supervisor Maas spoke about a project at the roundabout in the intersection of County Route 9 and County Route 21 to make it more attractive and less damage for those that cut the turn too tightly. She has contacted the Department of Public Works who are happy to help assess and suggest ideas to beautify this section of Town. She or the Highway Superintendent will keep everyone posted on the progress. Councilman Frazier made a note of the need for two "Do Not Enter" signs to help route the correct traffic pattern at Town hall. The Council agreed that this would be helpful.

### **Town Clerk/Tax Collector Report**

The Tax Collector reported to Supervisor Maas that she collected approximately \$11,000.00 in penalties and closed out the books May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 which was discussed during the cash flow report.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

*Lisette Hitsman*- Spoke about the distinction in terminology from district to company and highlighted that the rescue squad is one of the best and most advanced in equipment.

*Bill McCabe*- spoke about proposed changes to Sign Regulations and Local Law and questioned the topic of discussion for tonight. Supervisor Maas replied that this is a continuation of the sign law as the material is very dense and needs to go before the Planning Board and then back to Town Board before Public Hearing so that it is properly scrutinized.

### **Board, Committee, Commission & Council Reports:**

#### **Community Day Report (June 4), Ed Kasche, Committee Chair**

Spoke about the success of Community Day and the variety of vendors and the highlights of the day. Mr. Kasche reported on the vendor and participation survey for thoughts and ideas for the future. He hopes that the generosity of the local businesses and residents who volunteered their time continues for next year. He also noted that the Town made a small profit of \$78.00 and touched on the results of the participant and vendor survey results.

#### **Board of Assessment Review (BAR), Tom Murphy, BAR Chair**

Mr. Murphy spoke about the Assessors responsibility for re-assessment of homes. Assessor Robert Taft determines the assessment of the homes and if homeowners disagree with the figure, they may come and grieve their tax assessment to the group of citizens ie: Board of Assessment review. Mr. Murphy spoke about the process applicants encounter when their taxes are grieved.

He also noted that if the State removes the Enhanced Star Exemptions the BAR has no jurisdiction in this area. The committee is comprised of 5 individuals and the Assessor feels that the Board can operate again at 3, as there are not an excess of applications that go before the BAR. Councilman McMorris stated that it may be plausible to have 3 and, an alternate. This item was decided to be voted on after speaking with Robert Taft.

#### Departmental Reports:

#### **Recreation**

June 2018

Recreation Director, Jessica Dickinson, reported on the following:

Homeschool Day - 36 registered, 46 adult s, 9 under 3yrs , \$405. 00 total revenue

Thank you to:

Zoe's Ice Cream for supporting our ice cream social by providing beautiful ice cream cakes!

Councilwoman Corrina Kelley for volunteering at the event!

Other Updates:

- Attendance is growing faster than ever, spaces have filled early in certain programs & camps

Traditional Camp:

SESSION 1 - 128 children registered SESSION 2 - 140 children registered SESSION 3 - 140 children registered SESSION 4 - 130 children registered. There are still spaces left in Specialty Camp and Survival Camp but spaces filling fast.

TBALL: Largest group in years, we closed registration. Thank you to Ed Kasche for coaching ft organizing this group of 4-6 yr old's.

ALL REGISTRATION ONGOING SEASON POOL PASSES SOLD AT UNIONVALEREC.COM Daily Pool Passes sold on-site at the pool gate.

UNION VALE COMMUNITY NIGHT IS Friday, June 22

We have food trucks, lawn games, music, and...FIREWORKS! Festivities begin at 6pm, stay and tailgate with us at Town Hall to enjoy the evening. Bring your lawn chairs, other games, snacks, and drinks! Cash is highly recommended to participate in the raffle and for food trucks/treats. Support Tymor Scholarship Fund for dessert along with other options.

#### **Park**

Mr. Gosnell could not attend but thanked everyone for the mower and reported that they are continuing maintaining the parks.

#### **Animal Control Officer Report**

Supervisor Mass noted that there has been a 3<sup>rd</sup> negative report from our housing facility at Dutchess County SPCA, inspected by NY Ag & Markets which has created the need for a discussion on an alternate solution. One idea of a dog run on Town property may be plausible as many dogs are retrieved the following morning which would save both the owner and Mary Jean, ACO, from making the trip to Hyde Park. There will be more discussion on this topic to determine a plan.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

PERIOD OF: MAY 2018

1. All MS4 reporting forms have been given to both the Highway and Recreation personnel. I would like to thank Jake and his crew for doing a fantastic job of the work req. for the Theresa Ct. Drainage District.
2. As you are aware the secretary for both the accessor's and my office has left for another position in the Town of Wappinger's. Joan miller has agreed to fill in until another qualified person is found to fill this position.

3. As you can see by the receipt report permit activity has picked up considerably. There may be some delays in inspection and municipal requests until the secretary position is filled. We ask all our residents to be patient with their requests and we will do our best to complete all inspection in a timely manner.

**Work outline as follows:**

Inspections preformed	: # 96	Complaints received	: # 8	Complaints acted on	: # 8
Violation Notices issued	: # 15	Violation abated	: # 8	Appearance tickets issues:	# 3
Building Permits issued	: # 39	Residents meetings	: # 23	Fire call outs	: 0
Old Permit C/O's issued	: # 29	Cert. Occupancy/Compliance #	42	Plan review hrs.	: # 36
Municipal Searches	: # 10				

Supervisor Maas stated the Building Department will soon be accepting credit card pay through the website.

**Old Business:**

Proposed changes to Sign Regulations and Local Law

This is an ongoing topic and Supervisor Maas will keep everyone up to date as they continue their work with the Planning Board

**Contract with MHLS expires 12/31/18** – Discussion on Funding A letter has been sent requesting Union Vale to continue with the current contract and would like to extend it to an additional 3 years. It was asked that Union Vale respond in writing to which Supervisor Mass let MHLS know they would send something this month. Councilman Welsh asked that the response include the findings from the steering committee's decisions. Councilwoman Kelley said she received 22 emails in support of the Library. She further spoke about the options at hand and staying under \$80,000 in the span of 3 years. Councilwoman Kelly feels there is no negation and is happy with the offer in the contract. Supervisor Maas feels it is inappropriate to disregard the findings of the Library Steering Committee and would like to review the recommendations and feels it is ultimately the town residents decision as there is more to the situation. There was further discussion on this topic about what the response should include. Councilman Frazier agreed that he would like an opportunity to read through the Steering Committee's findings and would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

**MOTION TO TABLE LIBRARY CONTRACT DISUCSSION**

Councilman Frazier made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting for the opportunity to review the Library Steering Committee's findings which was seconded by Supervisor Maas and all were unanimously in favor. She added she will bring the report from the Committee's findings to the next work session for the Board to review.

**Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant**

Town Center Extension Received- Discussion for a work session as it is much information regarding the plan for the Town Center and then revisits it at the formal meeting in July.

**RFP for IT**

This was customized for Town of Union Vale regarding equipment and software that the Town has and the needs that have presented.

**MOTION FOR RFP FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Councilman Frazier made a motion to move forward with finalizing the RFP for IT services for distribution to at least 3 qualified providers seconded by Councilman McMorris. All were unanimously in favor.

**Procurement Policy Update**

Irrevocable letters of credit & Performance Bond: Attorney Battistoni spoke about the difference and why it should be listed as an option in the Procurement Policy as from his experience when the Town of Pleasant Valley tried to call a performance bond due, they were met with opposition that led to litigation. He proposed that the option for an irrevocable letter of credit posted for a

different kind of security. He made this recommendation to be included in the Procurement Policy and saw that it was added. As this Policy was already passed the Board now needs to update the policy.

**MOTION TO UPDATE PROCUMENT POLICY**

Councilman McMorris made a motion to update the changes to the Procurement Policy regarding the addition of the option of “irrevocable letter of credit” which was seconded by Councilman Frazier and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve Budget adjustments, Warrants & pay bills which was seconded by Councilwoman Kelley and all were unanimously in favor.

**Public Comment on Town Issues**

*Shannon Burke*- Aquatics Director, questioned the accessible pool chair lift for those that cannot enter due to accessibility issues. After conversations with the Recreation Director she learned that the money originally budgeted was no longer available. She wanted to know why the budget was amended. Supervisor Maas responded that when the Parks & Recreation Department reduced the budget during the financial reviews, this was one of the items that was removed as there is very little traffic for use however she agreed to do some homework on the legal aspects and because it is something that would be nice to have but the pool is mostly utilized by the Town camps.

*Bill McCabe*- stated the Board has substantially reduced opportunity for public comment by eliminating the public comment in the work session. He feels the work sessions are productive as well as the exchange and feels it is a good exercise and it should be witnessed it. He hopes the idea of it being televised can be revisited.

Barmore Road Resident – owns ECS exercise and he wanted an explanation of why his offer was declined. The Board was unaware of the offer made to the Real Estate Agent. He further spoke about his ideas about building his business and wants to build his business in Union Vale.

Next Agenda Meeting: July 19th / Work session: July 5th

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilman McMorris made a motion to adjourn at 10:21pm which was seconded by Supervisor Mass and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO REOPEN THE MEETING**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to reopen the meeting at 10:22pm which was seconded by Supervisor Maas.

**MOTION TO APPOINT PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to appoint Larry Mattiello as the Planning Board Alternate to fill the vacancy which was seconded by Supervisor Maas and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm which was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Andrea Casey*

Town Clerk, Union Vale