

Town Board Regular Meeting, Town of Tusten January 9, 2018

TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6:30p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert
Councilwoman Jill Padua
Councilman Anthony Ritter
Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger
Councilwoman Brandi Merolla

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Weston, Town Clerk, Karen Valenti, Town Bookkeeper/Confidential Secretary, and approximately 10 members of the general public.

Supervisor Ropke Wingert led the pledge to the flag and called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert asked the public to join for a moment of silence in remembrance of long time resident George Krause who volunteered his time and services to many local organizations thereby benefitting the residents of Tusten.

RESOLUTION # 15-18

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

On Motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that the following bills for the months of December 2017 / January 2018 be paid in the amounts presented.

General	\$42,849.81
Highway	\$4,336.73
Water	\$2,519.75
Sewer	\$4,524.41
Light Dist	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$54,230.70

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Empire State Performance Rally, Inc. re: Thank you to Supervisor and Town Board for supporting the Rally in October, in appreciation enclosed was a \$750.00 check made to the Town of Tusten Youth Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Town Board extends its' appreciation and gratitude to the firemen and other volunteers who helped erect and fill the skating rink for our residents to enjoy.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Ethan Wood re: Tusten Video
 - Ethan Wood has made a promo video during the summer of 2017 and would like have it put on the Towns Website
 - All in attendance viewed the 7minute Town of Tusten Video
 - The Town Board all agreed that the link for the video would be emailed to the Town Clerk and posted on the town website - all were in favor.

DIVISION REPORTS:

- **Highway/December 2017**
 - Used 1169.9 gal of diesel fuel 1091.8 gal was for highway and 78.1 was non-highway use.
 - Used 513.8 gal of gas 77.1 was highway and 436.7 was non-highway use.

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- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Plowed and sanded roads.
- Stock piled sand and salt for winter use.
- Repaired sand screen.
- Ditched Blind Pond Rd.
- Cut trees on Ackerman, Hankins and Bear Run.
- Replaced some missing road signs.
- Removed steel rail on Lake Street and replaced with delineators.
- Worked on snow equipment to get ready for winter.
- Graded dirt roads for winter.

➤ **Water & Sewer Report**

Water Metered Rent	\$60.25	
Unmetered Water Sale	\$0.00	
Service Charge	\$70.00	
Water Penalty	\$5.78	
Total Water Dept.		\$136.03
Sewer Rent	\$167.15	
Service Charge	\$20.00	
Sewer Penalty	\$7.40	
Total Sewer Dept		\$194.55
Grand Total		\$330.58

➤ **Building Dept.**

Town of Tusten Code Enforcement Officer's Report
2017 Annual Report

Construction Inspections - 154
Fire & Safety Inspections – 8
Complaint Inspections – 24

Certificate of Occupancy – 13
Certificate of Compliance – 55

Permits -----	77	(97 in 2016)
Addition -----	3	
Accessory Bldg/Garage-----	4	
Alterations/Renovation -----	7	
Chimney/Solid Fuel-----	2	
Commercial New -----	1	
Commercial Alteration/Renov -----	4	
Deck -----	7	
Demolition -----	7	
Driveway -----	7	
Electrical -----	13	
Logging -----	3	
Mechanical -----	1	
New Homes -----	8	(6 new homes in 2016)
Pool -----	2	
Renewal -----	0	
Roofs -----	8	
Septic Permits -----	2	
Sign -----	1	
Well-----	4	

Municipal Search – 62 (67 in 2016)
Flood Plain Permits - 0

Dangerous and Unsafe Building Declaration – 2
Complaint/Violation Notices – 11 with 5 completed

Monies collected by this office from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 were \$28,132.40
(\$23,850.90 for 2016)

Respectfully,

Gary Amerbach, Building Inspector
GA/js

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➤ **Assessor's 2017 Report** – Town Assessor Ken Baim

- The month of December flew by with two holidays on my normal work days. There was a continued flow of exemptions returned and a large influx of calls about prepayment of the 2018 taxes to take advantage of itemized deductions in 2017. Crystal was expedient at getting the instructions on our web page and helping people complete this process.

I have continued to update deeds and information on the system as it has come in. Preparation for the 2018 field work has begun to gather information for the new 2018 tax roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Baim
Sole Assessor

➤ **UDC (Upper Delaware Council)**- Susan Sullivan not present

- Gave report at the organizational meeting

➤ **DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission)**

- Has extended the Public Comment period for one month on the public hearing on Fracking Regulations in the River Basin

➤ **Energy Committee** - Councilwoman Brandi Merolla gave report on a few goals for 2018

- We will be purchasing and distributing recycled plastic recyclable tote bags – 1 per household. In addition, we will ask Pete's Market if we can donate extra reusable totes all of us already have at home to gift to customers to encourage use of non-disposable bags.
- \$1.60/bag TEC is asking for \$800 to purchase 500 bags
- \$75,000 Grant will go towards green improvements - new LED lights in the main building, insulating the brick walls, updated windows, 2 hand dryers in the downstairs, town hall bathrooms
- Next Grant - a new kitchen stove, insulating the fan, roof replacement, theatre vents, windows and heating need insulating and updating
- NYPA rep has offered a trip to the Tusten Energy Committee to tour a town in Westchester to see how the LED lights look, work, and how they contribute to the Community.
- Working on stickers to place on garbage bins that will help to encourage recycling by clearly differentiating recycling from trash.

➤ **Zoning Re-Write Committee**

- in progress

➤ **Grants** – Councilwomen Jane Luchsinger

- The NY preservation grant -for a "building condition report" with special intent to bring heat to the theater. – in progress
- Sullivan Renaissance Municipality Grant - Met with the Sullivan Renaissance Municipality Grant Committee to review and gather all details and information needed to move forward.
- TAG Grant - received
- General Code Grant-in progress
- Building Renovations – Spoke with Barton & LaGuidice ; Business Proposal for the Bid docs are almost done and ready to go out
- Sullivan Renaissance - \$25,000 was received for the deck on Main street.

- **Constabulary Committee- Councilman Tony Ritter gave report**
 - Incorrect information is spreading and we would like to put out facts and only facts in response to claims made by the general public.
 - The town of Tusten has employed on road constables in the past. Councilman Ritter read board minutes from 1972 and 1990 as examples of past town board's approval of the position.
 - In these instances, the motion was met with unanimous approval by prior town boards.
 - Mr. Ritter asked the question:
 - Compared to the present, was the town busier and in need of a constable during the peak season in 1990 when the board, in fact, budgeted and approved of a constable? Mr. Ritter suggested it was not. Thus, why approve a Constabulary in the past and not consider it in 2018 when there is infinitely more commerce, traffic, etc. which is borne out incidentally by the recent video about the town which was shown before the board that same evening.
 - Will Contact the Sullivan County Sheriff's Dept. to inquire about costs to hire a part time Sheriff instead of constable – this information will be added to the survey that will be sent out to all Tusten Residents to allow for input from every household.
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert has spoken with the Sullivan County Sheriff's office briefly regarding this matter and this is in fact an option.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Iris Helfeld – Concerns that the town having a Constable would decrease the attentiveness of State Troopers &/or Sheriffs in town have been heard – “I believe if we could go the route of hiring through the Sheriffs Dept. then that will dissolve this concern.”
- Naomi – What would the Constable do?
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert responded – A Constable is a peace officer, there is a few things they cannot do compared to a police officer.
 - We are still collecting estimated costs.
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter also responded with a brief reading of the proposed survey laying out in more detail the job description of the said constable.
- Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert clarifies that the town does still indeed have a Constabulary they are just not on the road – the Town has never fully done away with them.
- Debbie Swendson – What will be included in the contract from the Sheriffs Dept.?
 - The Town Board will be following up with the Sheriffs Dept. to fulfill all questions regarding cost details.
- Rick Lander – There is in fact a contract with the Sheriffs Dept. for River Control; The reason that the Town Board got rid of the constable in the past (removed from the road) was due to insurance cost, liability, they also have much less training in comparison to the Police Officer; The Town also pays for the State Troopers to have a Barracks here.
- Ilene- Constables do not solve any issues including drug issues & noise “I have lived in the surrounding towns that have constables and they don't help.”
- Kevin – Is there a need? You have to make a solid case for why. Is this the solution?
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter clarifies that there has been MANY complaints made to the town and that is the only reason the Town Board is looking into this.
- Star – If we had a constable we have discussed getting an electric car, is this a possibility of we contract with the Sheriffs Dept.?
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert stated no, as far as she knows but we will keep that in mind.

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OLD BUSINESS

- Parking Lot -need to meet with bank
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter will be meeting with the bank
- Humphrey Road-update
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert met with Gary Packer they have reviewed all the tax maps and walked the property believed to have been Old Humphrey Rd and surrounding properties; the recommendation made by Gary Packer & Supervisor Wingert to the town board is to officially abandon Humphrey Rd
 - The Town Board agreed to move forward in having the necessary paperwork drawn up. - The Town Board will review before being finalized.

RESOLUTION #16-18

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW No. 1-18

On Motion of, Councilman Anthony Ritter seconded by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing be set for February 13th, 2018 at 6:25pm for Local Law No. 1-18 entitled "Local Law to extend the Cold War Veterans Exemption" as February 13th, 6:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS Cont'd...

- Incident Command System ICS 100-update (online course)
 - All town employees need to take the course and submit a certificate of completion to the Town Clerk.
- General Code- Legal Analysis in Progress
 - Motion to accept the (table to next month)
- Solar PILOT-discussion re: %
 - Motion to change the percentage in the Solar PILOT agreement to: ____% -table to next month

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 17-18

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On Motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that the following meeting minutes be accepted as presented

12-12-17	Public Hearing
12-12-17	Regular Monthly Meeting
12-28-17	End of the Year Meeting
01-02-18	Organizational Meeting

- Community Choice Aggregation- discussion
 - Tabled to next month
- Dog enumeration/licensing EDDM with notice
 - Need to educate the residents of our laws & procedure in regard to licensing
 - The Dog Control Officer also has a Chip reader now if a dog is found it helps with returning dogs to their owners.

RESOLUTION # 18-18

APPOINT DEPUTY DOG CONTROL OFFICER

On Motion of, Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert seconded by Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that Fawn Schneider our former Dog Control Officer will now be the Deputy Dog Control Officer.

NEW BUSINESS Cont'd...

- Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys as presented by the Highway Superintendent. - Tabled to next month
- Chair Lift - discussion
 - Approximate estimate of \$3500 installed
 - The town will obtain one or two more estimates

RESOLUTION #19-18

AUTHORIZATION FOR QUOTES

On Motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua that the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that the Supervisor has been authorized to get quotes and proceed with an installation of a chair lift for the second floor of the building to make it more handicap accessible at a cost of no more than \$3,500.00.

- Security Cameras - tabled to next month

RESOLUTION #20-18

APPOINT MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL FOR RINK

On Motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert that the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that Arthur Foster be appointed to open/close the rink as well as inspect the rink and snow removal as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

-No comment

BOARD COMMENT

- Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger has been in contact with the public health dept. - would like to put together a mailer to get out to our residents.
- Councilwoman Brandi Merollla -"This morning I asked our town board to dress in black for our meeting tonight.
Women from all over the world have come forward to share their story of being sexually harassed. They have done it on social media using the hashtag "Me Too", which aims to show the magnitude of sexual assault. I stand here proudly beside my town board in support of these women."

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RESOLUTION #21-18

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua that the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED that the town board enter into executive session at 7:41pm to discuss the work history of a particular individual.

RESOLUTION #22-18

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion of by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua that the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYES 0

RESOLVED the Town Board exit executive session at 8:02pm

On Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:04pm, by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua

Next Regular Town Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Weston
Town of Tusten Clerk