

Regular Meeting, Town of Tusten February 13, 2018

TOWN BOARD REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:36 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Weston, Town Clerk, Dominic Hillard, Water & Sewer Superintendent, and approximately 20 members of the general public.

Supervisor Ropke Wingert led the pledge to the flag and called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

RESOLUTION # 23-18

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR JANUARY AS WELL AS LATE BILLS

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the bills be paid in the following amounts:

General	\$51,572.74
Highway	\$126,289.91
Water	\$12,085.54
Sewer	\$10,332.74
Light Dist	\$1,204.36
TOTAL	\$201,485.29

Correspondence (Copies available at the Town Clerks office)

Division Reports:

Notice: Copies may be obtained at the Town Clerks office.

➤ **Highway/January 2018-** *Submitted by Highway Superintendent Donald Neiger*

- Used 1705.4 gal of diesel fuel 1495.3 gal was for highway and 210.1 was non-highway use.
- Used 399.4 gal of gas 133.7 was highway and 265.7 was non-highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Stock piled salt and made salt sand mix.
- Repaired trucks and snow removal equipment after storms.
- Put up winter restrictions signs on roads.
- Cut brush on Oak Street and Hemlock Lane.

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- Cleaned frozen drain pipes on roads.
- On snow removal most of the time.

➤ **Water & Sewer /January 2018**

Narrowsburg Water & Sewer	
Financial Report for January 2017	
Water Metered Rent	\$12,967.62
Unmetered Water Sale	\$0.00
Service Charge	\$174.10
Water Penalty	\$0.00
Total Water Dept	\$13,141.72
Sewer Rent	\$32,896.55
Service Charge	\$34.50
Sewer Penalty	\$0.00
Total Sewer Dept	\$32,931.05
Grand Total	\$46,072.77
Karen Valenti, Clerk	

➤ **Building Dept. January 2018 Report**

Construction Inspections - 9

Fire & Safety Inspections - 0
 Complaint/Violation Inspections - 1
 Certificate of Occupancy - 3
 Certificate of Compliance - 1

Building Permits - 2
 New Homes - 0
 Accessory Building/Garage - 0
 Renovation/Alteration/Addition - 1
 Chimney/Fuel - 0
 New Commercial Construction - 0
 Renovation/Alteration - Commercial Construction - 0
 Deck - 0
 Demolition Permit - 0
 Driveway Permit - 0
 Electrical - 0
 Logging Permits - 0
 Mechanical - 1
 Permit Renewals - 0
 Pool - 0
 Roof Replacement - 0
 Septic Permits - 0
 Sidewalk - 0
 Sign Permit - 0
 Well - 0
 Flood Plain Permit - 0

C/O and violation search - 4

Dangerous and Unsafe Building Declaration - 0
 Complaints Received - 1
 Complaints Closed - 0
 Violations Issued - 1
 Violations Corrected - 0
 Previous Violations Closed/Corrected - 0
 Stop Work - 0

Monies collected by this office from January 1, 2018 to January 31, 2018 are \$902.75.

Respectfully,

 Gary W. Amerbach, Building Inspector
 GWA/js

Attached is a copy of the Building Monthly Report

➤ Assessor's January 2018 Report

Assessor's Report

The month of January had a continued flow of exemption forms being returned. There were additional address corrections to process as Crystal is very diligent about passing any changes to me immediately. We have received our yearly information for the setting of the equalization rate, residential assessment ratio and level of assessment. It appears we will again be able to stay at the 54% level. By doing so the market value figure on the tax bills and assessment roll will not change again for this year. When the rate falls, the market value goes up along with the volume of complaints about the figure being way too high.

I did not attend the January Sullivan County Assessor's Association meeting due to a personal conflict. As there was not a quorum apparently several others did not attend either.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Baim
Sole Assessor

- **UDC** (Upper Delaware Council) & **DRBC** (Delaware River Basin Commission) –
 - Susan Sullivan gave report
 - UDC Election of Officers for 2018:
Aaron Robinson, Chair; David Dean, Vice Chair; Al Henry, Secretary
 - New York State DEC proposed changes to the New York State Empire Forest Initiative, which would affect people with over 20 acres of woodland.
 - UDC has a lack of funding; According to Laurie, monies owed have come through and bills have been paid-there is a small balance remaining; the NPS/DOI Budget has not been approved yet, so the future for the UDC is still uncertain. In spite of much outreach, no funding was contributed by NY or PA
 - DRBC Fracking Regulations, UDC Comment letter; the letter approved was essentially the same comment made in March of 2011, which confined the comments to the River Corridor, and did not object to running lateral wells (underground) from outside the corridor, if done in accord with the River Management Plan. In regard to water withdrawals, and importation of frack waste, the DRBC will require a docket, and states the requirements for such a docket would be "very stringent" According to a comment from Carol

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- Collier, these activities are not specifically prohibited and these requirements would do this. The enforcement would be the DEC in NY and PA DEP.
- The comment period has been extended to 3/30/2018 and can be done via Catskill Mountain Keeper, Damascus Citizens or the DRBC Website.
 - Staff Resignation; UDC Office Manager Cindy Odell is leaving, due to the uncertainty posed by Federal government actions. A huge loss for the Council. This position is being advertised.
 - Alternate UDC Rep for Town of Tusten is needed, anyone who is interested should feel free to email me or Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert.
- **Energy Committee** - Councilwoman & TEC Chair, Brandi Merolla gave report
- **January 22** TEC meeting
 - In attendance was TEC Chair Brandi Merolla, Star Hesse, Carol Wingert, Naomi Holoch and Niklas Moran
 - We discussed documenting all outdoor town lights.
 - Water and Sewer have replaced their lights with LEDs.
 - Niklas informed us that Jesse Scott of NYPA proposed to Governor Cuomo's office to get bidders on LED streetlights for towns across NYS, bundling procurement, yielding a much cheaper price for towns to buy their streetlight arms, light heads and bulbs. The Governor approved the proposal.
 - Niklas documented our town hall indoor LED conversions, benchmarking, recycling efforts, commuting mileage for all town employees to record our Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory and we listed of all town vehicles and their make, model and mileage per year.
 - We discussed getting an electrician to replace all town owned outdoor light bulbs with LEDs. Star had the name of an electrician named Jim Porter
 - A composting bin to be set-up at the town barn and used by local town restaurants was not advised by Highway Superintendent Don Neiger due to bear presence up there.
 - **January 23**
 - Councilwoman Brandi Merolla testified before the DRBC in Waymart at a public hearing regarding a permanent fracking ban and ban of fracking wastewater storage within the Delaware River Basin. The town board asked Merolla to read our Resolution banning fracking and all fracking production activity protecting our air, land and water used by 15 million people.
 - **January 31**
 - Councilwoman Jill Padua organized a trip to Scranton, PA to tour a recycling facility specifically because they recycle Styrofoam. This facility processes paper, plastics, metals and cardboard as well but there are very few places that recycle Styrofoam in the Country. In attendance was Councilwoman & TEC Chair Brandi Merolla, TEC member Star Hesse, Councilwoman Jill Padua, Bill Cutler the recycling coordinator at Sullivan County Waste and Kim Hogue, Transfer Station Operator.

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- We learned how they feed used, clean Styrofoam onto a conveyor belt and then into a machine that grinds the material into small pieces. Then it is heated in the same machine and comes out of the machine almost like soft-serve ice cream. Those piles then get boxed together and shipped out to companies that then process this material by aerating it and then make recycled Styrofoam. It was informative and impressive. Jill invited the Sullivan County Waste head to have him learn and then research if this type of operation would be possible for Sullivan County.
- **February 2**
 - Councilwoman & TEC Chair, Brandi Merolla and TEC member, Star Hesse attended a Municipal Streetlight Symposium in Bethel at the Duggan School with Jesse Scott and Casey Mastro of NYPA and Niklas Moran of NYSERDA.
 - Since Governor Cuomo pledged to retrofit 500,000 streetlights to LEDs by 2015 in the State of the State, NYPA's program to provide small and large towns alike has become possible with aggregation.
 - The Town of Tusten is now awaiting a response from NYSEG by March 5 giving us a purchase price for our streetlights.
 - NYPA is a non-money making governmental agency who helps towns negotiate with the utility company, arriving at a price per light. Once agreed upon, they will help us with the entire process of putting out an RFP for labor, supplying us with fixture suppliers, procuring a low interest bank loan, designing a customized streetlight plan for our town.
 - NYPA's services are totally free.
 - LED streetlight conversion will yield energy savings, cost savings, drastically reduced maintenance costs and lower environmental impacts. It's a win-win opportunity.
 - The LED bulbs have a lifespan of 10,000 hours which is approximately 20 years. We will have a 2-year warranty on the streetlights.
 - 1 - 2 fixtures may fail per year due to auto accidents, weather or failed equipment.
 - A typical cost to lease the wood poles will be 50 cents - \$2 per pole to NYSEG. Tusten has 102 poles.
- **February 5** -TEC meeting
 - In attendance was Councilwoman & TEC Chair, Brandi Merolla, TEC member Star Hesse and Niklas Moran of NYSERDA
 - Benchmarking of recycling tote and informational flyer, recycling bins and new labeling of all town receptacles.
 - Tusten needs 2 more achievements as a Clean Energy Community to receive a \$5000 grant from NYSERDA.
 - Waiting on purchase price on Streetlights from NYSEG.
 - Will ask The Union to list their EV stations on www.Plugshare.com .
 - Waiting on last electric bill to show GHG reduction to Climate Smart Communities.

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- Forward all data to Dazzle at DEC.
- February 7 and 8
 - Brandi Merolla installed and documented new recycle and trash receptacles in the town hall kitchen and in the town barn.

Respectfully Submitted

Brandi Merolla, Chair TEC
2/22/18

➤ **Zoning Re-Write Committee**

- in progress, meeting twice a month. – Chairperson not present,
- Discussed remaining Air B & B ordinance
- Signs & Definitions is our last to be done
- New Zoning Maps, Noise & Mass Gatherings are in the works -Will have a draft law soon to be reviewed / first read by the Town hopefully by next month

➤ **Grants – Councilwomen Jane Luchsinger**

- Bridge NY program has been re- established and Shumaker is writing the grant for us due in March 2018
- Town of Tusten has been awarded the Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Partnership Grant in the amount of \$25,000. – This is a matching grant; The \$44,000 that we have put forth for the removal of the abandoned building on Crawford Rd will serve as a match.
 - Five towns within Sullivan County will compete for the grand prize of \$250,000. There will be a 2nd & 3rd prize awarded as well.
 - Need to Develop A Committee that will report at the monthly Town Board meeting- Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger recommends that the Committee includes:
 - 3 Reps from the Town of Tusten, 2 Reps from Tusten Youth Commission & 2 Reps from Narrowsburg Beautification Group.

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RESOLUTION #24-18

APPOINT SULLIVAN RENAISSANCE MUNICIPAL GRANT COMMITTEE

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the following persons will represent their said Group/Committee/ Town, as members of the Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Grant Committee.

Town of Tusten Rep.	1. Jane Luchsinger 2. Jill Padua 3. Michael Barsda
Tusten Youth Comm. Rep. (TYC)	1. Crystal Weston 2. Kelly Agar
Narrowsburg Beautification Group (NBG)	1. Star Hesse 2. Madeline Wootan

- Main Street Deck reimbursement
 - Recently sent a copy of the Deed for the Deck as requested
 - Expecting reimbursement soon.
- Frist SAM Grant \$75,000– Building Renovations – Work must be done within 2 years
 - Fire Escape, Bathrooms...
 - Barton & LaGduice - \$15,000 bid estimate sent to the Town of Tusten – Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert questioned why such a high bid and the following explanation was given.
 - Due to the DASNY requirements which are huge
 - Necessary drawings for fire escape...
 - The Town will be able to take some of the jobs off their list to help reduce cost- such as advertising bids...
 - Possibly able to decrease the pay hours of an offsite building inspector due to the fact that the town does have Gary Amerbach in house.
 - Would like to obtain a bid estimate C.G. Woods for the same building services as well – board agreed
- Constabulary Committee – Councilman Anthony Ritter
 - No new updates – No meetings have been held.

Public Comment

- Iris – Possibly negotiate the bid estimate for SAM Grant to include future SAM grant bid work that we have already been awarded.
- Star Hesse – is there a 2nd & 3rd place award for the Sullivan Renaissance Grant?

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- Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger stated “yes” -2nd -125,000; 3rd – either \$50,000 or \$25,000 not sure of exact amount – will inquire.
- Juliette – did the Town Board review the design packet? – Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger clarified that a design packet was submitted with the application. The SRMG Committee will meet once a month – the date of the meetings will be posted and will be public- any further decisions in regards to beautification will be discussed at Committee meetings and brought in front of the Town Board for approval.
- Tim Wood present to answer questions in regards to video Ethan Wood made
 - Ethan Wood generously made and donated a Promotional Video to the Town of Tusten to be put on the Towns Facebook Page & Website.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger explained that the overall comments received were positive however, there were a few residents/business owners did bring the issue of not ALL local businesses were put into the video – Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger’s recommendation/ suggestion was to remove some of the business names that were largely apparent.
 - Tim Wood stated that removing all business names would remove more than half of the video
 - Councilwoman Jane Padua suggested to do more panning across in front of businesses rather than any real focus on any one business.
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter read his Statement and asked for it to be entered into the official minutes in its entirety as presented:

“In Webster’s dictionary, the word **democracy** is defined as “the rule of the majority”.

I refer to the video project that Mr. Ethan Wood created which was to document the many attributes of small town life in our town of Tusten.

Mr. Wood’s concept was approved unanimously by this board last year when he stated that he would like to photograph the positive features of a charming small town along the Upper Delaware River in the Catskills. There were no strings attached and no payment for any services rendered. This was a gift to the town from Mr. Wood.

After months of shooting and editing the video, Mr. Wood’s documentary was then positively received by everyone on the board, as well as the public, at the January 2018 town board meeting.

After viewing his video, the board decided that the video would find a home on the town of Tusten’s Facebook page, as well as the town’s website, serving to display many of the town’s attributes and to welcome both visitors and residents alike.

Unfortunately, the video was never posted on the town’s website and was pulled from our Facebook page after one day, without the approval of the board, after an email from a couple of business owners that were offended that the video did not feature every business in Tusten and that there was a certain bias towards those on Main Street against those on Kirk Road.

In point of fact, the video not only shows our Main Street but also the businesses on Kirk Road. The video also shows the Upper Delaware River, the Boy Scouts and their camps, Fort

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Delaware, Fourth of July parades, the Tusten Theatre and the Western Sullivan library, along with other unique features that are part of our town and make me proud to live here.

In closing, I will say that I have operated a fishing guide service in Narrowsburg for 24 years. Did you know that there are 65 other licensed guides and outfitters under permit from the National Park Service? There wasn't that much competition when I started a fledgling business back in 1994, but there is now. One reason is because of this beautiful river valley, clean water and proximity to New York and New Jersey. I didn't gripe or complain that my business wasn't featured on Mr. Wood's video about Tusten.

I try to look at the big picture and find ways to improve this town.

My goal as a member of this board is to make decisions that will benefit the town as a whole and that will serve Tusten as we go forward.

It is undemocratic for the opinions of a few to dictate policy to this board and to the majority, which has now resulted in the removal of a video conceived and produced with the best intentions for the town at large.

Anthony Ritter
February 13 2018"

- Tim Wood will forward all the concerns and suggestions to Ethan Wood and he would see how/ what he can do to edit /accommodate while still maintaining his artistic creativity - "I do know his intent is to add rather than remove from the video."
- The discussion held in regards to the Promotional Video made lasted approximately 25 minutes - the overall statements made by the public is that they would like to see a video that is less of a Business Ad and more of the scenic / surroundings of Tusten- unless in some way all local businesses can be advertised more or less equally. A few residents felt that this is an artistic piece donated to the town and should be either accepted as is or not.
- Mr. Wood stated that Ethan wants to accommodate the Town the best he can.
- This Discussion was closed by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert thanking Mr. Wood for attending the meeting on behalf of Ethan as well as for the time & effort spent on the current video and looks forward to what Ethan's input / editing will be.

Board Comment

- Councilman Anthony Ritter - What are the parameters for the winnings of the SR Grant? - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger stated it can be used for capital improvements - it will be a decision the Town Board will make as a whole.

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Old Business

- Septic Bidding
 - 2 sealed Bids were received by the Office of The Town Clerk

M & S Sanitary Sewage Disposal	\$ 0.15/gallon
Koberlein	\$ 0.16/gallon

RESOLUTION # 25-18

AWARD BID FOR 2018 SEPTIC TANK PUMPING

On Motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Councilman Tony Ritter the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the bid for septic tank pumping be awarded to Koberlein in the amount of \$0.16/ gal as per the recommendation of Water and Sewer Superintendent, Dominic Hillard.

- Parking Lot Project off Main Street
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert has a request out to meet with Wayne Bank – due to weather they have had to cancel the last two scheduled meetings.
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert has asked to appoint Karl Wasner as the Project Manager to oversee construction at an hourly rate that will be brought before the board once the contract has been received.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger asked for clarity on cost for Mr. Wasner – Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert stated she will bring Karl Wanser’s contract as Project Manager for the Parking Lot Project in front of the town board for review & approval.
 - Wes Illing & Gary Packer along with the attorney are finishing up in regards to the easement
 - Wayne Bank owns the parking lot Wayne Bank – Vice President Robert Mancuso last email received by the entire Town board was January 25, 2018 stating he believes there is need for a security easement from the adjacent property owner as well as certificate of insurance naming Wayne Bank as additional insured and all subcontractors that will be providing a service – Councilman Anthony Ritter asked for clarification as well as where we stand with the above email information.
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert stated that she will be meeting with the Highway Superintendent and Mr. Mancuso once he is back from holiday. Supervisor has been in contact with Mr. Mancuso between the town receiving the email and the current meeting.
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter stated that the Wayne Bank had been waiting on the town for 2 months to fulfill the request documents – “In

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my opinion I would do everything it takes to satisfy the bank in a timely fashion since they own the land.”

- Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert clarified that the Wayne Bank has indeed requested said documentation however it took the bank approximately 2 months (since the end of October) with many conversations back and forth for the Wayne Bank to send a satisfactory email providing the files in a format that could be opened. Due to the time table in this matter other projects have taken precedent over this. However, we are in fact moving forward at this point in time with providing these documents as needed/ requested.

- Humphrey Rd
 - No updates at this time

- Constabulary
 - Discussion held by the Town Board if the 3rd Draft Survey should be sent out how it stands or do we have / need additional information.
 - The Town of Tusten now has a violent, level 3 repeat, sex offender. This individual has been recently re-released to the Town of Tusten after violating parole approx. 2 weeks after being placed in Tusten the first time
 - Sullivan County Public Health wrote to the NYS Parole Board stating that Sullivan County does not have the services that this gentleman is in need of – therefore he will be underserved – Parole Board decided to still
 - Councilwoman Jill Padua will reach out to The Town of Lumberland & Highland to ask that they come and speak at the next Regular Town Board Meeting in regards to the pros and cons in their town with having a constable present.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger has requested that Councilman Anthony Ritter, as chair of the Constabulary Committee, edit the current survey as it stands to reflect the additional options and comments that have been brought forth – Councilwoman Luchsinger will forward the information that she “believes” should be added in order to give the residents a complete understanding of what all the options are.
 - Motion that the Constabulary Committee be authorized to send out the survey as presented has been set for the recessed meeting
 - Town Board members have asked Councilman Anthony Ritter to insert more information in regards to numbers/cost, option of contracting with Sullivan Sheriff Dept. & drop off location for said surveys.

- Incident Command System ICS 100-update
 - Councilwoman Jill Padua has completed

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- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)
 - Councilwoman Jill Padua read the following aloud:

“Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a policy tool that enables New York cities, towns, and villages to select the default energy supplier(s) for electricity and/or natural gas on behalf of residents and small businesses. CCA empowers communities to aggregate the buying power of individual consumers and issue solicitations for energy supply contracts that compete with the incumbent state-mandated default supplier (utility). A municipality may sign a supply contract with one or more ESCOs and/or directly with local renewable generators...There is currently a single operational pilot program in New York State, *Westchester Power*, which launched in May, 2016. Westchester Power serves 20 municipalities and more than 90,000 residential and small business customers in two utility service territories, roughly two-thirds of which are enrolled in a 100% Renewable supply mix. Con Ed residential consumers alone have saved in excess of \$2 million, and deferred an estimated 150,000 tons of CO₂ as of March 2017. “ – *excerpt from the Policy Brief & Administrative Proposal*
 - Councilwoman Jill Padua
 - after reviewing the CCA and speaking with Dick Reisling- the next step is for the Town of Tusten to pass the Local Law
 - Council woman Jill Padua has proposes the Town Board move forward
 - The board will forward this to Victoria for her review prior to hold the first reading
- General Code- Legal Analysis
 - Motion to accept the table Recessed Meeting
- Solar PILOT-discussion re: %
 - Motion to change the percentage in the Solar PILOT agreement to: ___% table to next month
- Opportunity Funds – Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger
 - Funds that are generated from unspent capital are then put together in an opportunity fund and then used in opportunity zones.
 - An Opportunity Zone is defined by the census area you live in and the demographics in that census area. Opportunity Funds are spent in low income zones – Tusten does not qualify as an Opportunity Zone, however we are contiguous to the Town of Highland which is an Opportunity Zone, therefore we can annex on to Highland and become an Opportunity Zone.
 - If we would like to be considered as an Opportunity zone we have been told by Sullivan County we need to pass the following resolution.

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RESOLUTION #26-18

DESIGNATE TOWN OF TUSTEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY ZONE

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Town of Tusten be Nominated and Designated as an Opportunity Zone under the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,

WHEREAS, the Town of Tusten is interested in promoting community and economic development, small business development, and neighborhood stability; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act created the Opportunity Zone Program designed to drive long-term capital to distressed communities by providing tax benefits on investments in Opportunity Funds; and

WHEREAS, census tract 9523 in the Town of Tusten qualifies for Opportunity Zone Program designation; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tusten finds that having the aforementioned census tracts designated as an Opportunity Zone supports the Town's mission to promote community and economic development, attract businesses, increase local job creation, and foster neighborhood stability; and

WHEREAS, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo may nominate 25% of all eligible census tracts for Opportunity Zone designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Tusten supports the designation of census tract 9523 in the Town of Tusten as an Opportunity Zone; and

RESOLVED that the Town of Tusten requests Governor Andrew Cuomo to nominate the aforementioned census tracts as an Opportunity Zone.

New Business:

RESOLUTION # 27-18

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes have been accepted.

- Boy Scout Property and right of first refusal- discussion.

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- Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger is asking the Town Board for permission to contact the Boy Scouts of America – and discussing the right of first refusal in regards to the property they own at Ten Mile River. – If at that time we so choose to make it part of our Town.
- Councilman Anthony Ritter suggested possibly writing an introductory formal letter/request to the Boy Scouts of America first prior to a meeting.
- Town Board unanimously agreed for Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger contacting the Boys Scouts on behalf of the Town of Tusten however she sees fit-either with a letter of introduction or a follow- up letter after holding a person to person meeting.

RESOLUTION #28-18

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR 2018 SAND & STONE BIDS

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise bid requests for Stone & Sand for the 2018 year, as per the recommendation of Highway Superintendent, Donald Neiger.

- Discussion held in regards to the Town Supervisor receiving paid health insurance
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert Abstained from discussion.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger in favor of the Supervisor receiving paid health insurance.
 - Councilwoman Brandi Merolla stated that Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert has brought in \$ 500,000.00 in grants which is not part of her job description and continues to put in many hours of grants work- she goes above her call of duty as Supervisor and deserves the paid healthcare. The Town of Tusten Supervisor position makes substantially less than the surrounding town supervisors.
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter has a few questions prior to making a decision.
 - This specific issue was never brought up before the full town board {Wingert, Ritter, Merolla, Luchsinger, Lang} at the Annual Budget meeting for Fiscal Year 2018 in October 2017 for discussion and any possible inclusion in a line item thus the public was not informed for any comment whatsoever at the public hearing on our 2018 proposed budget in 2017.
 - Councilman Anthony Ritter will find out how similar towns in Western Sullivan County handled this topic and bringing it back to the board prior to making a decision on the matter at hand.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger has suggested that we postpone this to our recessed meeting.
 - Motion to authorize that the office of the Supervisor will receive paid health insurance with the Empire Plan that serves the rest of the town employees

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effective February 28th, 2018 has been tabled to the recessed meeting as per the following resolution.

RESOLUTION #29-18

RECESS DECISION REGARDING PAID HEALTHCARE FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR

On Motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Anthony Ritter the following was

ADOPTED AYES 3 NAYS 1 - Councilwoman Brandi Merolla opposed, Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert Abstained.

RESOLVED that the Motion to authorize that the office of the Supervisor receive paid health insurance with the Empire Plan that serves the rest of the town employees will be tabled to the recessed meeting scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

RESOLUTION #30-18

SET PUBLIC HEARING

On Motion of Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing will be held at 6:20 p.m., March 13, 2018, for the purpose of public review of contracts for fire protection, emergency services and the Tusten Youth Commission.

RESOLUTION #31-18

AGEEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONEYS

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys be accepted as presented by the Highway Superintendent.

RESOLUTION #32-18

AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE & DISTRIBUTE DRUG AWARENESS FLYERS

On Motion of Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Deputy Supervisor is authoriazed to to print and mail to every mailbox a flyer which communicates awareness of the epidemic recreational drug problem in our Town, the flyer will include instructions for action they may take to fight this epidemic and the mailing of such shall not exceed \$800.00.

RESOLUTION #33-18

REIMBURSEMENT OF MONIES TO NARROWSBURG BEAUTIFIATION GROUP

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

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ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED the town will reimburse the Narrowsburg Beautification Group up to \$3,130.00 upon proper documentation of expenses such as receipts, for their continued efforts to enhance the aesthetics of the Town of Tusten, pending award of a 2018 Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Partnership Grant.

RESOLUTION # 34-18

LOCAL LAW #1- 18 AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2007

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

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

To enact Local Law No. 1 of 2018 which amends Local Law No. 2-2007, Cold War Veterans' Exemption,

WHEREAS, a proposed Local Law to amend Local Law No. 2-2007, the Cold War Veterans' Exemption, was presented to the Town of Tusten Town Board at a meeting held on January 9th, 2018 at the Tusten Town Hall, 210 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY, to consider said proposed local law and notice of public hearing having been duly published and posted as required by law, and said public hearing having been held and all persons appearing at said public hearing deeming to be heard, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Tusten Town Board does hereby enact and adopt the Local Law to amend Local Law No. 2-2007, the Cold War Veterans' Exemption, which local law is annexed hereto and made a part hereof.

RESOLUTION #35-18

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REUSABLE TOTE BAGS

On Motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla the following resolution was

ADOPTED AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED that the Energy Committee is authorized to purchase reusable tote bags to be given to each town resident, with a total expenditure of no more than \$900.

- Town Municipal Building renovations update
 - Toms Interior world has come to measure for flooring in the Town Hall.
 - The floor will need minor adjustments to replace with carpet. The floor would need major adjustments to go with another tile similar to the current one- the current flooring has not had proper maintenance and is breaking. The town did have the broken tile area filled for safety reasons until a new floor is obtainable.
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert will obtain at least one other estimate to replace the flooring

- Security cameras- table to next month

Regular Meeting, Town of Tusten February 13, 2018

Public Comment

- Annie Stanly – NBG has submitted a Memorandum to the Town Board and would like approval for two specific properties.
 - Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert stated that this will not be reviewed tonight.
 - Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger clarifies that all discussion will happen at the SRMG Committee meeting and then brought before the board.

Board Comment

No Comment

On Motion by Supervisor Carol Ropke Wingert to recess the meeting to Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm was made at 8:52 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Weston
Town of Tusten Clerk