

**UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING MAY 21, 2020  
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE 7:30PM**

**PRESENT: Supervisor Maas**

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

**Highway Superintendent: Ed Kading**

**Town Clerk: Andrea Casey**

**Town Attorney: Jeff Battistoni**

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES**

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the April 16, 2020 meeting minutes, which was seconded Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

**Special Presentation: Peter Krulewitch, Resident and Michael McPartland, Resident:  
Volunteering to lead a fundraising effort to raise private funds for a building renovation to  
house a Union Vale library**

Mr. Peter Krulewitch spoke about his meeting with fellow residents, Mike McPartland and Perry Gusikoff to develop a 501C3 to raise money and plan for the possibility of our own Library. This would be the first step in a rather long journey. The facts are that currently Union Vale pays 4 library's a total of \$80,000. A few years back an architect came to investigate some of the existing buildings in Tymor Park and gave an estimate of \$250,000 to complete the project. Although this would incur payroll costs of staffing needs the group is hopeful this would be comprised of Union Vale residents. Mr. Krulewitch also noted that Pine Plains has their own library and has about half the population of Union Vale. To begin this process they would like to start a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds and encourage anyone else that would like to join this effort be a part of it.

Mike McParland also expressed his thoughts about the benefits of the long-term development and growth that will help to enhance the Town of Union Vale. He also feels having the financial control and transparency of how it operates is essential and hopes it will be a new source of employment for our residents. Mr. McPartland hopes this will be a grassroots effort and believes the feedback and perspectives from many will be invaluable to this process.

They will keep the Board involved of their findings and look to encourage more people to join them. Their first meeting will be comprised of researching the legalities of setting up a 501c3, putting together a budget based on the services needed to make it success. They hope this will invigorate the community, small donations and opportunities to do so will be exciting.

**Town Supervisor Report - Cash Flow, Town Financials, Tax Collections, Town Updates**

Supervisor Maas reported that the tax collection in April was \$101,212.00, penalties accrued to the Town are slightly over \$5,000.00. The remaining uncollected funds at the end of April was \$555,000.00 which if left uncollected will get turned over to Dutchess County and an additional 5% penalty will be added. Consistent with our practice, the Councilmen have received the warrants/abstracts, cash receipts, escrow report, Building Dept. report and lists of all deposits made in both the General Fund and Highway Fund. The cash balance on April 30, 2020 were: 3.2 million in the general fund and 1.1 million in the Highway fund. From a cash flow perspective, the Town is at 97% of the budget in comparison this time last year it was at 99%. Cash in-flow for the month of April total \$110,000.00 last year they were \$462,000.00.

Supervisor Maas received a letter from Comp Alliance (Worker's Comp Carrier) who sent a workforce reduction credit refund in the amount of \$502.00. The Town is working on the re-opening plan however, Supervisor Maas wants everyone to know although they are following the Governors order to stay at home order, Town Hall is open because all employees are working from home and encourages everyone to call Town Hall for any needs. The Vector Security Contract was signed for 2 Tymor Park road rental. The Millbrook Central School District called to inform the Town that they will be having a graduation parade to recognize all the seniors. The Iron Furnace will be doing a "Pay it Forward" to provide meals to those in need any volunteers are encouraged to help.

## **Board Member Reports**

Councilman Frazier – None

*Councilman Durland* loves the Iron Furnace ‘Pay it Forward’ idea and would be happy to volunteer and will be discussing Summer Camp later in the meeting Councilman McGivney is glad to see Dutchess County has met the 7 of 7 metrics and asks everyone to continue to practice good hygiene.

*Councilman Welsh* would like to alert residents, with guidelines from the County, the Union Vale Fire Department will not be holding the usual Memorial Day services due to the COVID-19. He has also been researching all the State and County guidelines so that he could make an informed decision on Summer Camp for Union Vale.

## **Highway Report**

Superintendent Kading reported that they have finished their blacktop schedule for 2020. The crew is aggressively trying to shoulder that road and had DCC soil and water to hydroseed those areas when complete. The same process was completed on Jordan Court. June 1 oil and chip will be applied to Quinlan, Still, Mennella, there will have lose gravel but they will do their best to keep the work minimum timeline. Superintendent Kading reported that there were some funds left in his budget so he was able to topcoat Pleasant Ridge Extension. The Highway Department Salt Shed in need of a new roof which is getting estimates and will choose the lower bidder. The Shekomeko Lodge in Pleasant Valley would like to set up an “adopt a highway” and would like to adopt Duncan Road to Pleasant Ridge Road to the town line. Supervisor Maas commended Superintendent Kading for getting all the roads done before Memorial Day. They are also in a race to submit all vouchers and receipts to ensure access to the CHIPS reimbursement program.

## **Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Casey reiterated that Town Hall staff is available during all normal work hours from their homes but encouraged residents to call as the phones have been forwarded to each departments cell phone. They can accommodate all resident needs and requests by either mail or appointment. The recycling center which has been very busy has permit counts of: 416 Resident Permits 340 Non-Resident.

## **Parks Report**

Park Report 5/19/20 Read by Councilman Frazier:

- Progress is being made in number 2 Tymor Park Road, the upstairs bathroom door that used to swing out over the stairs base been converted into a sliding “barn” style door with modifications made so that it is private. The floor in the down stairs bathroom is being replaced, toilet removed and new plywood installed on the floor with new laminate tile. Crown energy has fixed the vent on the exterior of the home as per George’s request and the remaining projects are underway
- Mow season is in full swing, keeping everyone super busy
- Adam focused on the equestrian center and in speaking to Loretta, we worked out that we could clean up the area by removing and storing the majority of the jumps that have been stacked up there for some time. Said jumps have been moved to the long barn so they are stored indoors now, out of the weather. Next on the list for the equestrian center is to fix the leaning fence on the south side of the rink
- Tom installed the bird boxes that were donated by the CAC throughout the park. I passed the list of locations along to the CAC (on 5/19) so they will be able to check out the boxes throughout the park
- The plows and the sander have finally been stored for the season, even though it is still pretty chilly in the morning
- We have two more doors to replace in the building that holds my office; this is next on the list with the weather finally starting to cooperate somewhat

## **Recreation**

Supervisor Maas reiterated the cancelation of Community Day and the County discouraging mass gatherings so Community Night will be moved possibly to July but perhaps later due to County guidelines. As of now, the next upcoming event will be Oktoberfest.

**Building Report**

Mr. Kolb, Code Enforcement Officer, prepared a report for 2 Tymor Park Road which Supervisor Maas read aloud.

**Replacing Library Services for Union Vale Residents**

Supervisor Maas reported she is getting a proposal that has not yet been finalized, she stated she knows people are confused and clarified that when the library's put the town residents on restrictions, it will still enable town residents to walk into the library however not have access to the video or digital services. In the event the Town is placed on restriction the Town will try to replace the services for our taxpayers. She further recapped the timeline of the library issue to date. When the proposal comes in, she will share it with the Town Board immediately.

**2 Tymor Park Rental**

Supervisor Maas noted that Pathfinder Academy, the soccer school renting 2 Tymor Park, will have their school and soccer fields elsewhere but using our house as a housing facility. Due to the pandemic renovations are behind in the schoolhouse they were planning on using. Colin McComb is proposing if he were to correct the issues with the exit signs and other items Code Enforcement Officer George Kolb had submitted to the Town Board, could he have 1 month free and then if he were to need a second month, pay \$2,400 for the second month. These items would make it compliant for classrooms and also offer the flexibility of a month to month for Mr. McComb. Supervisor asked the Town Board to consider this before his formal proposal.

**Establishment of Celebration Committee for the 50th Anniversary of Tymor Park**

Next August 2021 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the donation of Tymor Park and Supervisor Maas would love Town Residents to join the committee to help prepare for this event.

**Resolution #20-24** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TYMOR PARK SUMMER CAMP AND POOL FOR THE SUMMER OF 2020 (See Resolutions)

**MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

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

**Public Comments from email**

Supervisor Maas asked that comments from Mim Tannen, Glen Morrison, Sue Kilcrease and Corrina Kelley be attached to the record, and included in the minutes. (See attached)

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Frazier made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue which was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Frazier made a motion to exit executive session stating no action was taken which was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** At 8:24pm Councilman Frazier made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Next Scheduled Meetings: June 4th – Town Board Work Session / June 18th – Town Board Regular Agenda Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

*Andrea Casey*

Town Clerk

TOWN OF UNION VALE TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION # 20-24:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TYMOR PARK SUMMER  
CAMP AND POOL FOR THE SUMMER OF 2020**

Councilman Durland introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Frazier, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 or Coronavirus Disease started in 2019 in China and has since spread to over 177 countries killing 325,000 people and “sickening over 4 million in a matter of months”; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the highly contagious nature of Coronavirus, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of New York issued Executive Order no. 202 declaring a “State disaster emergency for the entire state of New York” and on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, County Executive Marc Molinaro declared a State of Emergency for Dutchess County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Union Vale has operated a summer day camp for over 25 years where 120 or more children can visit Tymor Park daily to pursue creative, athletic and intellectual activities guided by a large staff of Counselors, Lifeguards and Camp Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, given the unprecedented public health circumstances, it is apparent that the Town Board cannot guarantee the safety of the children or our staff if we opened and operated our summer camp and pool in 2020. Even with required face coverings (for every child over the age of two), social distancing, restrictions on attendees based on health conditions, massive disinfecting, additional hygiene requirements for campers and limited camp activities, there are too many aspects of running camp that are out of our control, and that includes making sure that our campers actually have a fun experience;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale hereby declares the cancellation of Summer Camp and the cancellation of the opening of the swimming pool in Tymor Park for the 2020 season as a preventative measure for the safety of our Camp Staff and Camp families.

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

Councilman Frazier	<u>Aye</u>
Councilman Durland	<u>Aye</u>
Councilman McGivney	<u>Aye</u>
Councilman Welsh	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Maas	<u>Aye</u>

DATED: Union Vale, New York

May 21, 2020

Andrea Casey

Andrea Casey, TOWN CLERK

Please read this during the May 21 Town Board meeting

Good evening everyone

I was recently made aware that any resident with public comments about Town affairs, including what is presented and/or discussed during tonight's Board meeting, is expected to submit those comments before the meeting. This seems illogical to me (i.e. how can someone comment on something that has not happened?) but I feel compelled to at least comment on what I am aware of

First, thank you to Peter Krulewitch for what I expect was a thoughtful opening on the subject of raising private funds for a building renovation to house a Union Vale library. Obviously, establishing a Union Vale library involves more than raising funds for a building renovation. More specifically, it clearly needs to include initial and on-going efforts/costs associated with library materials, labor, technology, etc. and, in addition to what I expect Mr. Krulewitch reviewed, I think that all residents need to see the business plan and Return on Investment for the entire effort.

Turning to the agenda subject regarding replacing library services for Union Vale residents. I assume that this refers to Town efforts to address the needs of residents if the Town does not provide the required funding as committed in the Town budget and the MHLS therefore restricts access as they have stated in writing. I listened to the Board meeting from two weeks ago and, among other things, heard that the Town plans a resolution that will provide \$25 to \$30K to a third-party to supply library services (temporary?) similar to what the Board mentioned earlier this year. I remain concerned that the Board does not seem to want to consider resident input on this and other topics. I have participated in multiple group and one-on-one conversations regarding library services over the past 6 or 7 months and residents have overwhelmingly urged the Town to continue our relationship with the MHLS (Mid-Hudson Library System) and/or strongly expressed concern regarding any third-party's ability to meet needs in a manner similar to what has existed through the MHLS in the past.

As an example, during the February Board meeting, no less than 11 residents urged the Board to sign the library services agreement; some questioning the ability of a third-party to provide equivalent services. Nobody took the position that the Board is now appearing to authorize. The Town Board is proposing a formal resolution to do exactly what residents have spoken against.

- What am I missing?
- Is this Town Board ignoring resident input or maybe are residents just not being clear?
- How will performance of a third-party library service provider be measured?
- Can the Town guarantee that a third-party will provide equivalent services? My mother-in-law is a resident at the Fountains – will residents still be able to borrow multiple copies of the same book for their book club?

I would like to urge the Town Supervisor and Councilmembers to remember the residents that you represent. Too many times over the past several years have resident voices not been heard and acted on in a meaningful way. There are other examples, including at least one where local, state and Federal requirements are not being enforced.

While I direct most of my comments at historical Town Board members, I remain confident that the new council people (Kevin Durland and Kevin McGivney) will help the Board re-evaluate how decisions are made and make it a priority to listen and meaningfully act on resident input as opposed to what appears to be making independent decisions for reasons that are unclear to residents. Examples of what can be done toward that end include implementing community focus group discussions, publishing Board meeting agenda's well before meetings so residents can provide informed input and eliminating time limits on resident comments during Board meetings.

We all live in this community and have a voice in making it the best that we can

Glenn Morrison  
232 Bloomer Road

I am requesting that my comments be read during the 5/21/2020 Town Board Meeting and I submit them into the minutes of the meeting

Good evening,

Thank you to Peter Krulewitch for stepping up to take on this potential endeavor to provide a space to house a library to serve the residents of Union Vale. I am looking forward to your presentation.

I understand from the previous meeting that Union Vale has been impacted financially due to the pandemic. I am curious if the lost revenue to date (from items such as sales tax, mortgage tax, etc.) can be outlined clearly by the Supervisor as the chief financial officer as well as projected losses because of the pandemic. I am wondering if there are extra costs that the town has incurred related to the pandemic. I am interested to hear the Town Board tonight and moving forward discuss the options that have been considered in amending the budget in light of the current situation, how the fund balance can be used to assist the Town, and how the Town Board is responding financially to concerns related to the pandemic.

Referring to Agenda Item 10.1, I am still unclear regarding the disposition of the contract with MHLS. I was not aware of a Town Board action regarding the library contract. I am interested in ALL the details moving forward with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. I presume that if a contract has already been signed with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company that there was a request for proposals and the Town Board has acquired these services for town residents in compliance with the Union Vale Procurement Policy.

Moving forward with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party was definitely not the option preferred from what I heard from a majority of the town residents. However, since the residents are not entitled to vote on this issue the Town Board can proceed regardless of whose interests they are representing. I am wondering if a 3<sup>rd</sup> party is providing ALL the same services as MHLS was providing to Union Vale residents at a 1/3 of the cost or is it only providing a fraction of the services. I cannot wait to hear what is gained by 3<sup>rd</sup> party library services (besides financial savings) vs. contracting with MHLS. I am wondering if the Town Board can present a clear comparison of the two with pros and cons.

Corrina Kelley  
239 W. Clove Mountain Road



It was surprising to see that the town board planned a presentation about raising funds to build a Town of Union Vale library on tonight's agenda. While many residents have voiced their support for signing the contract with the MHLS, along with the appropriate payment, not one person has publicly voiced their opinion that we should have our own library. Yet, here we are. The agenda items include the presentation for a fundraising effort and replacing library services for Union Vale residents. There has been no communication from the town board to residents that they have decided not to sign the contract with the MHLS and that they will offer replacement services. Since these comments need to be submitted before hearing any information about these topics, these assumptions are based on what town residents will lose if local libraries establish restricted use for Union Vale residents:

- The replacement services will provide the town residents with print copies of recently published works of fiction and non-fiction
- The replacement services will provide programs for children and adults when it is deemed safe to gather again
- The replacement services will provide non-print resources to town residents
- The replacement services will provide computer access, along with support, to town residents
- All of the above will be provided until the town library is formed

Even if these assumptions are accurate, many residents will find themselves in local town libraries, using their available services, free of cost. For some of us, this seems like a theft of services.

When the town library is complete, it is assumed that:

- The library will be staffed by qualified personnel
- The library will be open to the residents six days a week, with some hours extending into the evening
- The library will provide free programs for both children and adults.
- These programs will enroll a sufficient number of residents to make them attractive
- Books, media and other resources will be updated regularly
- Computers and printers will be available, with support, whenever the library is open
- The library will be a part of the MHLS

Where will the funding for staff and constant resource updating come from? Will there be a constant fundraising effort or will this responsibility fall on the tax payer? Will this cost be less than \$80,000? It is hard to believe that would be possible in order to run a proficient library. In that case, it appears that not signing the contract with the MHLS and building a town library is not about financial issues, but rather about control. The residents have spoken up in support of maintaining our relationship with the MHLS and our neighboring libraries. There are many ways to have our voice heard on our neighboring libraries governing boards.

Building a town library would be unnecessary and costly in the best of times. Building it now, as our community struggles to move beyond the economic fallout of the pandemic is irresponsible. Well established local non-profits and organizations need our money to stay afloat and care for our most needy right now. We don't need to put effort or money into an unnecessary town library when we have easy access to great libraries.

Susan Kilcrease  
84 Darren Rd

## Andrea Casey

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**From:** Betsy Maas <supervisor@unionvaleny.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:50 AM  
**To:** 'Miriam Tannen'  
**Cc:** councilmanfrazier@gmail.com; CouncilmanMcGivney@unionvaleny.us;  
CouncilmanDurland@Unionvaleny.us; CouncilmanJohnWelsh@gmail.com;  
townclerk@unionvaleny.us  
**Subject:** RE: Town Board Meeting May 21, 2020

Dear Ms. Tannen,

I still read a fundamental misunderstanding in your words about the library situation.

- Children in our town will be able to go into and meet friends at any library they choose.
- In December we offered both Millbrook and Beekman \$28K (+/-) and \$37K respectively for 2020 and they turned us down.
- We were not able to come to terms with the libraries because they stubbornly REFUSE to either listen to us or react to the concerns of many of our residents. They DO NOT CARE what Union Vale thinks, says or feels. The most outspoken and insistent Board President, who wants us to keep paying more and more, is Erin Hawkes from LaGrange, one of the wealthiest libraries and one we do the least amount of business with. If the others choose to listen to her and not accept our money or listen to us, we cannot do anything about it.
- We all pay State taxes. The MHLS has a \$3.4M budget most of which is given to them by the State. That gives us free access to any library in our System any time. It is part of their Direct Access Plan, which you can read online.
- They are only legally permitted to put us on restriction from certain services / products for which their local taxpayers pay for such as e-books, video streaming, etc. Those are the services we are discussing replacing.
- Why would you make an assumption that we would not be permitted to get our own library? If Union Vale wants a library, Union Vale gets a library. We would have to meet certain qualifications in order to get Chartered, which I am sure our town volunteers would strive to meet.
- When we get Chartered we can join the MHLS and people around the System will be welcome to visit our library and vice versa.
- It is not as complicated as the library people make it out to be.
- Continue going to Beekman or Millbrook libraries and if there is a service you cannot get access to, let us know and we will strive to replace it here.
- Maybe you should consider joining the group who want us to step up and build our own. You are passionate and might help them speed up the process.

Many thanks for your thoughts, Mim. You have consistently said the same thing, but there are others who have faith that Union Vale can and should chart our own course. As long as no one wants to negotiate with us, we as a Town Board will watch that group closely and wish them well!

Betsy

CC: Andrea Casey, Town Clerk. Andrea, Please add Ms. Tannen's email and my response to the record for our May 21 meeting. Thank you.

### Betsy C. Maas

Town Supervisor  
Town of Union Vale  
(845) 724-5600 ext. 110 (office)  
249 Duncan Road  
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

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**From:** Miriam Tannen [mailto:mimtannen@optonline.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:48 PM

**To:** supervisor@unionvaleny.us

**Cc:** councilmanfrazier@gmail.com; CouncilmanMcGivney@unionvaleny.us; CouncilmanDurland@Unionvaleny.us; CouncilmanJohnWelsh@gmail.com

**Subject:** Town Board Meeting May 21, 2020

Dear Supervisor Maas,

I am planning on "attending" the Zoom Town Board Meeting on May 21, and was surprised to find out from the Town Clerk that there is no time for live comments. I am sorry to hear that, since as we are all becoming familiar with zoom, it is clear that there is opportunity for community participation.

Since that is not the case this time, I am writing, and ask that this be read aloud into the minutes.

As I looked at the website tonight, I noticed that the original letter from MHLS to us, was dated May 24, 2019- a full year ago. How sad that you and MHLS could not come to agreement. A library is more than a pile of books- and in view of item 4 on the agenda which I just saw tonight, I will add that it is more than renovating a building. If we look at the cost of \$80,000 to support the libraries in our area, it is clear that there is no way to run a library for that amount on our own. It would not cover the cost of even one professional librarian. So it is obvious to me that it is not the cost of the contract with MHLS that is the issue. The existing libraries that serve our town, Millbrook and Beekman primarily, and Dover and LaGrange much less offer audio books, tapes, videos, online magazines, newspapers. In their buildings they have of course books, magazines, computers, classes, groups for all ages, and professional staff to assist with searches, computer help, job searches, spaces for ESL classes, and much more. They are open six days a week with morning and evening hours. There is no way that UV can meet these services even if we double the \$80,000, and without joining MHLS we could not offer the breadth of services that are now available. There is no way that our children who go to school in Millbrook, Arlington, Dover will be able to meet their school friends at a library in UV- when their school mates will be going to Millbrook, Beekman and Dover libraries. You are doing a disservice to young families in our town, as well as those of us that use the existing libraries. I doubt that NYS would license a library so close to three others that serve our population. I sincerely hope that as you continue your path to a UV Library, you consider what this will cost the town in the end, and never be as useful as the existing libraries. You have done many wonderful things for this town, and I've enjoyed watching the camps at Tymor, the after school programs, your understanding of budgets, and more- but I don't understand your refusal to pay what is asked so that residents can use the full services of the libraries we have used for years.

Sincerely,

Mimi Tannen

Camby Road