

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2023

249 DUNCAN ROAD, UNION VALE, NEW YORK

UNION VALE TOWN HALL 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Betsy Maas

Town Council: Kevin Durland, Kevin McGivney, Perry Gusikoff John Welsh

Highway Superintendent Ed Kading

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Town Attorney: Attorney Jeff Battistoni

Supervisor Maas called the meeting to Order to Order and Salute to the Flag at 7:30 PM.

Motion Approve Minutes: Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Gusikoff and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisor Report

- The State DOT offered to be a consultant to the Planning Board for any projects, idea of a traffic circle UV would be 125th on list prioritized by safety and funding.
- On February 7, met with the State DOT, County DPW and our Highway Superintendent to discuss the TC Zone changes and how it might affect the traffic at the Parlman, Bruzgul and Route 55 intersection
- Recycling Center will have the electronic waste picked up on a regular basis, DEC has new guidelines and hopes manufactures take their products back free of charge
- 11 Tymor Park Road is getting updates for new renters, seeking tenants
- There was a Town Center Zoning training presented by Nan Stolenzburg, Town Planner
- Executive Budget affordable housing issues, diminishing roles of local governments
- Cash Flow: 190% of goal in January and 88% of expenses, collected 40% of tax payments and \$650,000.00 in retro school taxes
- 2023 Recreation has new ideas and events coming for the year
- Correspondence: No smoking in parks, we will be required to post signs

Town Board Reports

Councilman Welsh attended the TC zone training, working on annexation information, reviewed procurement policy, and litter and junk storage code.

Councilman McGivney- reviewed town policies and invited any residents to stop in at the fire house on any Monday between 7:00-9:00pm if they are interested in volunteering, jobs for all

Councilman Durland did extensive research on policy changes.

Councilman Gusikoff spoke about litter roads spoke to local liquor store owner who is willing to help spread the word to ask all to stop littering. He saw Somers salt shed, looked non-permanent hoop building, maybe look into other ideas, will discuss further ideas for salt shed at a work session.

Highway

Superintendent Kading noted there were a few ice storms, no major issues, crew has been out patrolling and fixing pot holes, doing a survey to identify trees that need to be removed, getting lots of resident calls, they cannot take down trees in utility lines, he has reached out to Central Hudson, they are also cleaning drainage ditches in prep for spring rains, installed the sander body. The Highway crew is evaluating condition of roads for resurfacing, meeting contractors to discuss and wants to prioritize roads in need, will have more next month. Meeting with Dutchess County DPW and State DOT all seemed to be on board with assisting in that intersection.

Highway Commissioner, Bob Balkind suggested to improve the Bruzgul Clove Valley Road to build a berm 18-24 inches of soft material and put the fence on top of that and the CAC will assist in the beatification.

North Clove Road and Route 82, the town will own the former Redel corner, tentative plan is that the On the Green will be closed on and a cul-de-sac will be created with access only off Camby road. This projected is slated for 2026.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Casey reported the Town Clerks office was busy due to increased traffic because of tax due date and tax status date. As Dutchess County releases their hazardous waste and electronic dates, they will be shared on the Town site as well.

Public Comments – None

Library Update

Amy Watkins could not attend the meeting but submitted the draft version of the bylaws for the Town Board to review.

CAC- Supervisor Maas noted that the Chair, Josh Redinger, was unable to attend tonight. She advised there are environmental overlay districts such as fringe, wetlands etc. as part of the master plan and town code were never approved, these will be reviewed in the upcoming months and hopefully finalized.

Assessor’s Office – Eric Axelsen, Union Vale Tax Assessor

Assessor Axelsen, spoke about the senior exemption post card and the law behind it. He also discussed the income requirements for both the Senior Exemption and Star.

Parks Report

Jake Gosnell, Park Manager reported Trail races are up and coming and they have been working on trail maintenance. The disc golf course has been updated and improved based on research from players, he thanks Adam Babbett who assisted. They are using the mild winter to improve all parks of the park. The new Park truck has arrived and Trailer King honored the 2022 price for the plow and installation. Will need bedliner, research will be done in order to protect the bed of the pickup. Summer camp calls have been flooding in, one session is already booked.

Recreation, submitted by Recreation Director Maggie Collins

This week we are looking forward to our two upcoming February TGTT programs. Our Half Day on Friday will be our annual Valentine’s Party with themed crafts and activities, and Monday we will run for a Full Day for President’s Day. Parents and guardians can check our Parks and Recreation website for more information and seating availability.

This Friday we look forward to hosting our first Adult Paint and Sip event of the year, where patrons can practice their creative skills while having fun with friends. While registration for this event is full, information on the next event in April will be up on our website.

Our Summer Camp programs are filling up quickly, with multiple sessions of Traditional and Teen Leadership camps already being full. Registration continues to be open on our website and we look forward to planning another fun summer.

Constable Report Submitted by George Treadwell, CIC

Constable Monthly Report for January 2022:

Constables patrolled approximately 623 miles of town roads including all properties filling the Explorer with 33.9 gallons of gasoline.

The (3) town court dates totaled 24 cases on the dockets with 13 actual appearances, 3 cases plead not guilty by mail, 3 cases plead guilty by mail and 4 cases were dismissed for failure to prosecute (officer did not show to court). There were not issues to report

Constables had no issues to report during daily patrols this month.

Additional Note: 1/28 - Explorer 5,000-mile maintenance service performed.

Animal Control, submitted by ACO Mary Jean Calvi

December 2022 Animal Control Report

During the month of December 2022, there were no lost or found dogs. There was one dog complaint.

Animal Control Report January 2023

During the month of January 2023 there were no lost or found dogs. There were three animal complaints and one call for assistance from the Putnam County SPCA.

Furnace Pond Dam

Supervisor Maas informed the Board that DPW Commissioner, Bob Balkind was asked to contact the engineering firm to see if there is another path the Town can take. The water levels were low over the summer and the boring test company could not perform the test. Mr. Balkind agreed in helping find the right team with the right equipment to perform the test.

Playground at Godfrey Park

Supervisor Maas mentioned the Town had put aside \$50,000 for the park and then also was awarded the grant for \$100,000. After several meetings, the resident committee is very excited about the upcoming designs. After the committee comes to a consensus they will present their choice to the Board

Policies & Procedures – Reviewed for 2023

Motion to Approve Procurement Policy

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the Procurement Policy as is for 2023. This was seconded Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Approve Cash Handling for Recreation Department

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the Cash Handling for the Recreation Department for 2023. This was seconded Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Approve Credit Card Policy

Councilman Durland made a motion to approve the Credit Card Policy for 2023. This was seconded Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Approve Town Clerk & Tax Collector Financial Policy

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the Town Clerk & Tax Collector Financial Policy for 2023. This was seconded Councilman Gusikoff and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Approve the Public Health Emergency Plan

Supervisor Maas made a motion to approve the Public Health Emergency Plan for 2023. This was seconded Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Approve Financial Controls Policy

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the Financial Controls Policy for 2023. This was seconded Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisor Maas noted that the Cyber Security Policy needs updating, wants the IT company to look at after conference call.

Motion to Approve Internet, Email & Social Media Policy for Summer Camp

Supervisor Maas made a motion to approve the Internet, Email and Social Media Policy for Summer Camp 2023. This was seconded Councilman Gusikoff and all were unanimously in favor.

Employee Handbook & Retirees – Insurance Participants

Supervisor Maas explained this is a discussion from years past, handbook changed who was eligible to receive benefits. In order to comply with town code this must be voted on annually.

**TOWN OF UNION VALE TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 23-2023:
CONFIRMATION OF INSURANCE PLAN PARTICIPATION AND PREMIUM
COVERAGES FOR RETIREES (See attached)**

Master Fee Schedule – Recreation Fees and other new additions

Recreation fee- should consider the same fee for all accessory apartments and implement it and for all future use. Other local governments are charging \$4,000.00 which we are in line with Union Vales. Want to get a better handle on fees charged for the fields and possibly increasing the current amounts. The Supervisor asked the Board to research to help get a market price

Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers Exemption

Supervisor Maas mentioned this will need a public hearing and hoping to pass it all in the same night. Still need details on who will be certifying and other stipulations such as after 20 years automatic and also discussing for keeping in place for surviving spouse.

**Littering in Union Vale. Review of Town Code Chapters 188, 161 & 151-4,
Definitions- Junk, Rubbish and Debris**

Supervisor Maas explained the confusion in the court room as to what is considered rubbish and debris. Is the fine per bag, per bottle, per incident, per date? Attorney Battistoni advised there must be a maximum so it qualifies as a violation rather than a misdemeanor. There is a difference between littering and solid waste in the code, want to give judges flexibility, will research more. 188-22 must be removed as it has outdated fees and added to the master fee schedule 161-9 and 161-10 penalties, fine or imprisonment. May be a provision to have the unpaid fine added to their tax bill.

Short Term Rentals & New Legislation

Senator Michelle Hinchey has the bill for short term rental which forces a property owner to put it on a statewide list and if not, be charged a penalty per day. This also ties in with the littering problems. Supervisor Maas proposes a permit to keep track of these just for emergency purposes and charge a permit fee for a self-check form. Hoping if the Town has a plan in place the State will not to impose a State-wide registry on local government. Asks the Board to think about the sample application and further the discussion in March

Expanding Pool of Applicants for Constable Positions

Supervisor Maas noted after speaking with the Head Constable, they would like to change the code that says constables must reside in the Town. They are losing a constable due to him taking a full-time job with the highway department and would like to hire people from outside the town who are already trained which will save the town money. Language will be prepared for March meeting.

Motion for Supervisor to Sign Real Estate Rental Agreement

Councilman Durland made a motion to Motion for the Supervisor to Sign Real Estate Rental Agreement which was seconded by Councilman Gusikoff and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Set Public Hearing for Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers Exemption

Councilman Welsh made a motion to set a public hearing regarding Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers Exemption on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm which was seconded by Councilman Gusikoff and all were unanimously in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2023: CONFIRMATION OF INSURANCE PLAN PARTICIPATION AND PREMIUM COVERAGES FOR RETIREES (See Attached)

TOWN OF UNION VALE TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION No. 24- 2023 RESOLUTION RATIFYING PURCHASE OF A SANDER FOR OSH KOSH TRUCK # 5 IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – (See attached)

Motion to Enter Executive Session At 9:30 PM Supervisor Maas made a motion to enter executive session to discuss litigation which was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Motion to Exit Executive Session At 9:58 PM Supervisor Maas made a motion to exit executive session and resume the meeting, and noted no action was taken, which was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Public Comment: Glenn Morrison wonders why the town does not broadcast the planning boards meetings, he would be interested in the reason for not doing this.

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

Motion to Adjourn At 9:59 PM Supervisor Maas made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Casey, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF UNION VALE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 23-2023:
CONFIRMATION OF INSURANCE PLAN PARTICIPATION AND PREMIUM
COVERAGES FOR RETIREES**

RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Welsh and seconded by Councilman Gusikoff:

WHEREAS, the Town of Union Vale’s Employee Handbook (section 6.1, pg. 37) specifies that all full-time regular employees and all full-time elected officials as “defined by the Town Board”, are entitled to health insurance coverage using the primary insurance carrier; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Union Vale Town Code specifies that eligible retirees are entitled to receive post-retirement health benefits, when other criteria are met, but the “the contribution that the Town makes toward the premiums of eligible retirees is subject to change by the Town Board on a yearly basis” and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale previously determined that full-time elected officials are the Town Supervisor, Town Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk and the contribution made by the Town towards the premiums of the five eligible retirees would be the same percentage as that for full-time employees or 100% if they were just taking Medicare Part B; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 due to the unfortunate passing of one of our retirees the number of eligible retirees has been reduced to four;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale, has determined that the elected officials who are required to be full-time will have access to health insurance by virtue of their full-time status and due to the Town’s healthy balance sheet, four eligible retirees will continue to have their Medicare Part B premiums paid in full until a new resolution is passed.

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

Councilman Durland	Aye
Councilman Gusikoff	Aye
Councilman McGivney	Aye
Councilman Welsh	Aye
Supervisor Maas	Aye

DATED: Union Vale, New York
February 15, 2023



Andrea Casey, TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF UNION VALE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION No. 24- 2023**

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING PURCHASE OF A SANDER FOR OSH KOSH
TRUCK # 5 IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Welsh and seconded by Councilman McGivney:

WHEREAS, the Town of Union Vale Highway Department needs a new sander and the Highway Superintendent, Ed Kading, would like to purchase one at auction for a below market price; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent found a Tarco S/S V-Body Hydraulic Spreader from Auctions International (Invoice # 102144) for \$16,000 plus a 10% buyers' premium for a total of \$17,600 (includes a 4% discount on fees); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale hereby ratifies the previous motion accepting purchase of the aforementioned sander / spreader and hereby and authorizes the Town Supervisor to pay the full cost, \$17,600 upon delivery of the invoice from Auctions International.

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

Councilman Durland	Aye
Councilman Gusikoff	Aye
Councilman McGivney	Aye
Councilman Welsh	Aye
Supervisor Maas	Aye

DATED: Union Vale, New York
February 15, 2023



Andrea Casey, TOWN CLERK