

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING DECEMBER 4, 2024

249 DUNCAN ROAD, UNION VALE, NEW YORK

UNION VALE TOWN HALL 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Steve Frazier

Town Council: Pat Cartalemi, Kevin Durland, Kevin McGivney, John Welsh

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Town Attorney: Attorney Jeff Battistoni

Supervisor Frazier called the public hearing to Order at 7:00PM

Amy Hardisty- Liberty Way, is a wedding/event planner and consultant, not opposed to a venue in the RD10 district as a whole, just on any lot in the RD10 district that is less than 150 acres, as it doesn't provide the ample sound barrier needed for nearby neighbors. She is also not in favor of any venue on any RD10 lot that borders a residential zone for the same reason.

Her main issue is noise, she sited each venue in the area is over 100 acres, she feels the 8pm noise ordinance should be in effect for Town of Union Vale.

Vicky Pittman- is not in favor of the change in zoning, there are no restaurants to be allowed and feels the wedding venue swap to conference center isn't a comparable swap. She cited examples of other things are not allowable in RD10 and does not feel the code should be changed on a per case basis.

Hans Hardisty- Liberty Way, spoke about the RD10 zoning original intent and is not in favor of this change and feels the proposed changes should be considered in the larger scope of the master plan. Also has issues with the potential noise and impact on emergency services. Traffic is another issue, along with larger acreage for this type of venue.

Leah Struzzi, Wingdale Mtn Road, is not in favor of this type of venue noting the application of this area is not an ideal location and has concerns about the traffic and maintaining the towns rural character.

Joe Fuscaldo- potential property owner, spoke about his intention with his project highlighting 160 people not 200, created a soundproof building so no sound escapes the building and designed it accordingly. He explained fireworks would not be used the Town did not allow, they are envisioning a farm venue mirroring the houses on Liberty Way. He pointed out venues on 3 acres or less and wants this to be a working farm in some sense.

Supervisor Frazier noted they did not receive the information from DC Planning and would like to table a vote and potentially extend the public hearing. This was motioned by Supervisor Frazier and seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Casey

Town Clerk

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

Motion Approve Minutes: Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes which was seconded by Councilman Cartalemi and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisors Report

- Thanked resident Darren Sampson for volunteering his time to film the meetings.
- Reviewed the budget and observed that it will cost the residents \$1 more per parcel which was due to the cost of living adjustments cut from employees and some services and funneled into the library line which 2/3 of residents voted to not fund.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Welsh – nothing to report

Councilman Cartalemi- spoke about his impression of the 2025 budget. In his opinion, the original budget was crafted to make it look better which was done by removing money from the engineering and legal funds. There was almost \$70,000 taken out to supply things cost of living increases. He noted everybody got a raise, every single person that that is a full-time employee got a raise and encouraged the Supervisor to review the budget line by line as he did at the meeting, which was never presented in that format to the Town Board.

Councilman Durland – reiterated with Councilman Cartalemi and had nothing else to report.

Councilman McGivney- worked with Supervisor Frazier on replacing the old florescent lights at the equipment shelter for the recycle center we replaced them with newer LED fixtures that will use less electricity put off a lot more light. Secondly, he attended the cookie swap at Town Hall just prior to the meeting. Noted it's a great time got to sample a lot of the cookies that our residents made and brought & was a success, looks like it's going to be done again next year.

Town Clerk Report

Clerk Casey reported that the 2025 recycling passes are almost available but can be purchased and receive one in the mail as they become available.

Town Justice – Justice Paul Pancio spoke about the impacts of the budget on the Town Court, felt that statements made the court is failing is false, as they do generate some revenue. He also noted that as a Town Board They are here for Justice. He further spoke about the training and location. He stated the budget was not done correctly as it lacked input from the Departments especially the Court and from the residents. He also stressed the need for a raise for the Court Clerk as other towns are soliciting her.

Councilman Cartalemi apologized for any statements that were misinterpreted, he spoke about the research he did was in the northern part of the County. He does agree with a more itemized approach for the line items. They both agreed that training is a very important aspect for Court as well as all other departments.

Recreation Report, Submitted by Recreation Director Maggie Collins

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first ever community cookie swap. We had a lot of fun swapping recipes and delicious sweet treats! Congratulations to our winners, and we look forward to hosting another swap in the future.

This Saturday December 7th we will host the annual Grand Illumination scheduled from 4:30pm-6pm. This event is free for residents and \$5 per family for non-residents. Families and friends can enjoy warm drinks and snacks, crafts, and a visit from Santa. At 6pm all will be invited outside into the park to enjoy watching the holiday lights turn on and start off the Winter season. We will also once again be accepting unwrapped toy donations on behalf of the Hope Through Pope toy drive. These toy donations will be enjoyed by the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. The donation box is currently placed up in Town Hall, and will be located Santa at the Grand Illumination. More information for both of these events can be found on our social

media pages and the Parks and Recreation website. She also Spoke about the first Union Vale Cookie Swap.

Parks Report, Submitted by Park Manager Vincent Germano

- The parks department has been focused on putting up Christmas lights and preparing for The Grand Illumination event that is taking place this coming Saturday at the park.
- Thankfully we had gotten our trucks ready and were able to deal with the storm that hit a few weeks ago and clear the areas that we are in charge of maintaining. The storm knocked out the transformer for the park building and central Hudson had to come in and replace it.

Equestrian Center Report, Lorreta Ryan, Equestrian Center Director

We had a fun year this year in June we had our annual draft horse poll which has been a long-standing tradition here at the park if any of you know Betty and Rich Albrecht and this year we had our biggest competitive field of horses we ever had since hosting the poll we had 10 teams in the lightweight and 12 teams in the heavyweight. This event is only possible through the generosity of our wonderful sponsors. I have the full list of the sponsors in the brochure, also posted on Facebook. Next year we'll be having our 30th Anniversary it'll be held on Saturday June 7th so mark your calendars if you've never been to this event. I strongly encourage you to bring the family and see some real horsepower power. If anybody wants to be a sponsor I can get you a sponsorship form. Last month we held our year-end celebration at the Links, we had about 80 people from friends, family, neighbors, trainers, Town Officials draft horse enthusiasts, Horse Show competitors, and volunteers again all coming out to mark the end of another year Thank you to the local businesses and people that supported our silent auction as well while those names and businesses are posted on our Facebook page. We held three horse shows this year April, June, and September and it's great to see the interest that year-over-year has grown. We even needed the assistance of our town constables for parking at the September show. She read a letter from an attendee of one of the shows. She also spoke about new awards and thanked everyone that helped.

Library Report

Randy Braun, Library Trustee Attorney

Spoke about proposition #2 and noted the verbiage of the question did not include “shall the town abolish the Union Vale Library”. The trustees feel this was not sufficient to legally abolish the Union Vale Library and feels it is an advisory opinion. If there is another proposition citing the proper verbiage of abolishing the library, and it is voted no by the voters it fine however at this time they feel it is premature. While the trustees are willing to work with the board he stated that if there is an effort to abolish the library for example, in January that's going to force the trustee's hand to seek judicial intervention to confirm that the proposition in fact does not abolish the existing Library. The trustees have taken the oath of office required by the New York State Constitution and are fiduciaries and as fiduciaries they have to take all appropriate steps to protect the interests of the library. Abolishing the library on these facts is not something that the trustees believe is appropriate therefore, they are hopeful that they can work with the board moving forward. Education Law Section 259 deals with the turnover Library funds they are requesting 2024 funds to be turned over to the treasurer. They also are requesting 2023 even though the library wasn't chartered, funds were collected for the library for library purposes. 2025 nothing has come up yet but to the extent that any monies are collected in 2025 he asserted that those monies will have to be turned over upon demand not only collected but in 2023 we're also talking about monies that were encumbered for the specific Library purpose. The trustees are willing to work with the to try to resolve these issues but in the event that that can't be effectuated, the trustees are going to have to do is they're going to have to take appropriate legal action in order to advance that and that's only going to cost taxpayer funding to do that and we think that that would be a travesty.

Attorney Battistoni gave his opinion. Prior to the last meeting the president of the board Trustees of the library had submitted a letter to the town the letter included a written request for payment to the trustee to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees of funds that had been raised by taxes for Library purposes supported the library so at the last meeting he had to research that and did submit an email Tuesday to the town board members where he summarized his advice New York State education law section 259 is the relevant section and copied that for the town board members did distinguish between three years. For 2024 there's a budget where funds are encumbered for support of a public library and reading in part it says, “money received from taxes for the support of a public library shall be paid over to the treasurer of such Library upon

the written demand of its trustees” and so I think for 2024 fund should be turned over to the library treasurer in 2023. I didn't think it was clear we have to go back and look at what is in the budget from then since the library had not yet been chartered there's a reference here to having funds expended on properly authenticated vouchers they don't know whether an event happened in 2023 at the I don't know whether a separate fund was ever created in 2023. I don't know at the end of the year money stayed in the library fund or it got paid into the town general fund so we know what it needs to be done in a way just internally with the book here. 2025 is not there yet there are no funds so that was my advice in my email. I did say however as an ending matter that there's been a proposition in the town practically speaking right now there are three votes on the town that have been supported by the municipal Public Library. In January he speculates this will change direction. I think that the intent of the proposition was to address the issue of abolishing clearly the word abolish is not used but the intent is there.

Supervisor Frazier spoke Frank Reese at the Board of Regents who stated from the States point of view the proposition is binding. Attorney Battistoni stated this is a new issue and would prefer something in writing and urged the Town to gain this letter as soon as possible.

There was further discussion on this matter.

Public Comment Agenda Items

Paula Young, Verbank Club Rd, spoke about the ideals that Supervisor Frazier & Councilman Elect Harrington ran on and had concerns that they are standing in the way of a public library. She hopes they can find other revenue sources such a cell tower.

Jean Moore, Darren Road, she spoke about the library steering committee results, the 414 proposition which failed by 139 votes and referenced misinformation being circulated. She also cited the library lease permissive referendum and how that was circumvented. She also spoke about the latest proposition in November and how it is under scrutiny over wording when the intent is obvious. She asks when the town board will do what the majority of residents want as recently demonstrated.

Motion to Table RD10 Code Change Vote

Councilman Cartalemi made a motion to table the vote until further notice which was seconded

Recycling Center Rates

Supervisor Frazier noted numbers were given based on rates prices look good, based on weight There will be a resolution on fee changes for next meeting.

Public Comment Town Issues

Chuck Richwine, on the Green, spoke about gaining other ways of generating town revenue such as the cell tower to help fund other services for the Town.

Approve Budget Adjustments, Transfers, Warrants, Pay Bills

Councilman Durland made a motion to pay the bills and which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Next Meeting

December 18th at 7:30

Motion to Adjourn At 8:38PM Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilman McGivney and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,


Andrea Casey, Town Clerk