

November 1, 2022 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this evening at 7 PM. This meeting was conducted as a hybrid - in person and on Zoom. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilmembers Carucci, Richman, Wiegand and Walls. There were approximately 14± audience members.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November 8 – Town Hall & Highway Dept is closed for Election Day

November 11 – Town Hall, Highway Dept and Transfer Station is closed in observance of Veterans Day.

### **GRANTS RECEIVED**

The Town of Gardiner is in receipt of 2 checks with respect to grants that the Town had applied for. The first is from Ulster County Youth Bureau in the amount of \$1,000 for Summer Recreation and the second is from NYSERDA in the amount of \$5,000 that had been secured by the Climate Smart Task Force.

### **PASSING OF BARBARA JO KOBELT**

Supervisor Majestic announced the passing of long time Gardiner employee Barbara Jo Kobelt. Barbie as she was known to most, took over the care of Majestic Park from her father, former Town Councilman Thomas Upright in 1998. She was dedicated to the Town and took pride in “her” park as she cared for the grounds. You could also see her mowing the Town Hall property. We will miss her greatly.

### **KENNEL LAW REVIEW**

Councilmember Richman is proposing to the Town Board that attorney David Yaffe review the Town’s current Kennel Law, which she believes is flawed. Supervisor Majestic stated that the resolution to hire Mr. Yaffe was just for the Awosting Club and does not feel this is appropriate for Mr. Yaffe to review. Councilmember Walls suggested to Councilmember Richman she review the law and present her suggestions/changes to the Town Board before sending the law to the attorney for review. Councilmember Carucci suggested adding it to next weeks agenda for discussion.

### **REVIEW OF ZONING CODE BY DAVID CHURCH**

David Church, consultant to the Town Board for the update of the zoning code is currently comparing the newly adopted comprehensive plan and the existing zoning code. Mr. Church will provide the Town with recommendations once completed.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 BUDGET**

At 7:10 PM the Town Clerk read the public notice for the hearing on the 2023 budget.

Supervisor Majestic noted that the taxes for 2023 have decreased. She reviewed the substantial unexpended fund balances and announced that \$300,000 was taken from the General Fund Balance and \$75,000 from the Highway Fund Balance to reduce the taxes. The hearing was then opened for public comment.

Councilmember Richman – commented on the building inspector’s salary

Councilmember Walls – reviewed her research on the fund balances and stated that the Town is way over the allowed amount by the State Comptrollers Office. Stated the Town needs to get a new financial management program and create reserve funds. Board members discussed the

financial program and concluded that professional help will be needed to implement the new program. Councilmembers Wiegand and Richman would like estimates/quotes before moving forward. Reserve funds will be addressed early next year.

There being no comments from the audience the Supervisor held the hearing opened for anyone wishing to speak.

**RESOLUTION – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EXCAVATOR**

Resolution No. 158 – Highway Department Excavator

Offered by Councilmember Walls

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gardiner Highway Department requires an excavator for the purposes of cleaning, replacing and maintaining the culvert ditches, drainage easements, and for general uses associated with the work of the Town of Gardiner Highway Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gardiner Highway Superintendent, after due inquiry, has identified a CAT 309 Excavator as the appropriate equipment needed for said purpose;

**WHEREAS**, said equipment is available for procurement from a NY State sourceable bid list under a Lease Purchase Agreement at a price of \$172,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board, at an October 13, 2022 meeting, authorized the Town Highway Superintendent to move forward with said purchase;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Town Board of the Town of Gardiner hereby authorizes the Town of Gardiner Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor to execute the Lease Purchase Agreement and to sign and deliver such other documents and to take such action as may be necessary to acquire said CAT 309 Excavator.

Seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried.

**VIDEO-CONFERENCING OPEN MEETINGS LAW -SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town Board scheduled a public hearing for December 13, 2022 at 7:05 PM for a resolution regarding attendance of board members of any town related board by videoconference. Motion was made by Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried.

**AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE WITH LAW FIRM HAMBURGER & YAFFE**

David Yaffe, counsel for the Town regarding Awosting Club, has informed Supervisor Majestic that the current law firm of Hamburger, Maxson & Yaffe will be dissolving at the end of the year. Mr. Yaffe will now be practicing as law firm Hamburger & Yaffe LLP and is asking the Town Board to authorizing his continued representation for the Town of Gardiner as Hamburger & Yaffe, LLP. Motion to authorize this was made by Councilmember Richman, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 BUDGET**

On motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, the public hearing for the 2023 Budget was closed at 7:55 PM.

**ADOPTION OF 2023 BUDGET**

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the 2023 preliminary budget was adopted at the final 2023 budget.

**PROPOSED DRAFT NOISE MANAGEMENT LAW**

Councilmember Walls presented the Town Board with a draft of a Noise Management Local Law. It is a very generic version and Ms Walls would like to keep the law simple. Also addressed in this law is lighting and exterior illumination. Board member would like this to be discussed as a stand-alone law. This is just the beginning of the discussion. Councilmember Wiegand commented that this can be addressed with the changes to the zoning code.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Suzanne Levirne and Wolfe commented on noise and enforcement

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM in memory of Barbara Jo Kobelt.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher  
Town Clerk