

August 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting

The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present are Supervisor Majestic, Councilmembers Wiegand, Richman, Carucci and Walls. There were approximately 20 ± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gardiner Parks & Rec and the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association is hosting a Stargazing Free Event on the “Cap” at Riverbend Trails, located at the Gardiner Transfer Station on Saturday, August 19th at 7:45pm.

Friday, August 25th Community Collaboration is presenting Family Movie Night at 7pm at Majestic Park. This is a combined effort of the Southern Ulster Rotary Club, Walden Savings Bank, Gardiner Day Committee and Gardiner Parks & Rec. The movie is Puss-N-Boots: The Last Wish with a rain date of August 26th.

REPORT FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR

Trevor Hults apprised the Board of the latest updates regarding the vacant buildings throughout Gardiner. Hults inspected the old Benson’s building, 600 State Rt. 208, determined no structural issues, just not aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The Building Dept. clerk was able to schedule an appointment to inspect 8 Sandhill Road. The Clerk sent another letter to 2324 Rt. 44-55, the condemned building East of the Town Hall, with a 15-day grace period to reach out to the Building Department without action of the Town Board. Hults suggests passing a Resolution to mitigate the building. With respect to the other 6 vacant buildings, the Building Dept. is working to set up Compliance inspections to determine if they are vacant or if it needs to be condemned. Hults suggests adopting a Fine Schedule. Modification of the current Code would need to be implemented before Fine Schedule could be adopted.

GARDINER DAY MASS GATHERING PERMIT

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, to accept the Gardiner Day Mass Gathering permit application.

OUTLOOK FARMS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Laura Rose of the Open Space Commission spoke to the Board regarding Conservation Easements. There are violations that need to be address and some that are being addressed. They found some confusion when looking at the Outlook Farm Easements. The mapping of Outlook Farm does not match the written Conservation Easements. OSI asked the Board to hire an attorney with experience in Real Property/Conservation Easements to help sort out the Outlook Farm issue. Mr. Bialecki volunteered to help assist OSI with figuring out the discrepancies.

REVIEW AND AWARD TREE WORK TO BE DONE ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE RAIL TRAIL

On the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried to accept the bid from IT Tree Service in the amount of \$20,000.00 for tree work on the southern end of the Rail Trail.

CONTRACT RESOLUTION WITH ULSTER COUNTY FOR ARPA SEWER GRANT FUNDING

Resolution No. 104 – Offered by Councilmember Walls;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner has applied to Ulster County for use of County American Rescue Plan Funding to assist in the required work needed as a result of the Inflow & Infiltration Study performed;

WHEREAS, the Town received notification that 33% of the funding of the total cost is eligible for this project;

WHEREAS, work will begin during the month of August 2023;

Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved as follows:

That Marybeth Majestic, Supervisor of the Town of Gardiner is hereby authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Town of Gardiner subject to approval of the town’s attorney.

Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried.

CYBER SECURITY OUTREACH/QUOTES

Emily Sperry presented to the Board two Cyber Security companies recommended for the Town. The first is a local company, Cyber Guardians out of Kingston. The second is Logically, formally Sullivan Data, which was recommended by Edmunds GovTech. After weighing what each company provides the Board suggested creating a combined list of services that would blanket the Town’s needs, send to Cyber Guardian asking for them to provide a quote based on the list of needs. The Board will readdress in September.

FOIL REQUEST AUTHORIZING WILLIAM HURST TO REPLY ON BEHALF OF TOWN BOARD

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, authorizing William Hurst, Esq. to reply to the FOIL Appeal to Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna on behalf of the Town Board.

VICTOR CHURCHILL, RBT UPDATE

Councilmember Walls discussed her communication with Victor Churchill of RBT as to the direction and priorities the Town has regarding the financial management needs of the Town. After discussing, the Board determined prioritizing services into phases. Request a quote for Phase 1 which includes; assisting with focus on the 8 years of missing data from RDA, which is a concern for the Town, assist in identifying data from RDA in a usable format and assist with identifying other options RDA data at an estimated annual cost of \$1,500.00. Once the Board hears back from RDA, they will readdress.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK QUOTES

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried authorizing the Supervisor to engage Marshall & Sterling to work with the Town of Gardiner on a new Employee Handbook for a flat fee of \$5,000.00.

EMMY LANE RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 106 - Offered by Councilmember Walls;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner has determined that a certain parcel of land described in a Deed from Joseph P. Trapani and Emily Trapani to the Town of Gardiner and recorded in the Ulster County Clerk’s Office at Liber 3404 of Deeds at Page 30 consisting of .2449 acres at the end of Emmy Lane is no longer needed for Town purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner has determined that sealed bids shall be solicited for the sale of said real property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town Supervisor of the Town of Gardiner is authorized and directed to sign such documents and to take such action as may be necessary to convey said real property for the highest bid received for said real property (subject to the Town’s right to reject any and all bids).
Seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENTION RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 107 – Offered by Supervisor Majestic;

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy, and livelihoods; harm our ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities, and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner believes that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent, and secure communities, vibrant innovative economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner has taken the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2018 and was named a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community in the State of New York by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); and

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner had appointed a Climate Smart Task Force and Coordinator in November 2018, completes an annual report to distribute progress on CSC actions, and has completed a report entitled Town of Gardiner Climate Action Plan which establishes sustainability and climate goals; and

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner has taken a number of steps to begin addressing climate change including but not limited to:

1. Participation in the Climate Action Plan Institute, offered through NYSERDA, to complete an inventory of Gardiner’s municipal GHG emissions.
2. Completion of a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) by the Gardiner Environmental Conservation Commission and Open Space Commission to ensure continued prosperity, quality of life and responsible growth for the town.

3. Collaborate with Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County to complete a Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool, by assessing current policies and procedures and incorporate recommendations to promote climate change adaptation strategies.

WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner believes that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Gardiner in order to continue its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate *adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge Element 9, Climate Change Education and Engagement and commits to partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County to develop a webpage for the Town website addressing climate change emergencies by presenting information, photographs, resources, and links for residents, distributing printed informational materials such as rack cards and postcards, and by hosting up to 12 social media posts to inform Town residents of this new resource.*

Seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried.

Councilmember Walls left the meeting at 9:06 PM.

MINUTES

Minutes of May 2nd was approved as written on motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried. Councilmember Richman abstained. Councilmember Walls was absent.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. The July Supervisor's Monthly Report was approved as presented. Councilmember Walls was absent.

CLAIMS

Claims for the month of July 2023 were approved on the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried. They are listed on Abstract #7 as follows; General Fund voucher #324-379 \$35,997.53; Highway Fund voucher #120-13 \$326,576.85 Sewer Fund voucher #21-30 \$15,005.53.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolution No. 108 - Transfer in Highway Fund – Offered by Councilmember Wiegand, pursuant of Section 112, Town Law, the 2023 Annual Budget, Highway Fund is hereby amended to provide the transfer of \$4596.88 from Acct 01-04-5112-399 Jewels Court to Acct 01-04-5112-398 Albany Post Rd.; \$12,506.62 from Acct 01-04-5112-399 Jewels Court to Acct 01-04-5110-400 CE Contract Expense; \$17,766.87 from Acct 01-04-5112-350 Shaft Rd to Acct 01-04-5110-400 CE Contract Expense. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

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Resolution No. 109 – Supplemental Appropriation in Sewer Fund – Offered by Councilmember Wiegand, Resolved, pursuant to Section 112, Town Law, the 2023 Annual Budget, Sewer Fund, is hereby amended to provide for supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$350.00 in Acct 03-07-8110-464 CE Chlorine. Further Resolved, said money to be taken from the Sewer Fund. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

Resolution No. 110 - Transfer in Sewer Fund – Offered by Councilmember Wiegand, pursuant of Section 112, Town Law, the 2023 Annual Budget, Sewer Fund is hereby amended to provide the transfer of \$816.00 from Acct 03-07-8110-462 CE Tank Replacement to Acct 03-07-8110-468 CE Repair. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

Resolution No. 111 – Supplemental Appropriation in General Fund – Offered by Councilmember Wiegand, Resolved, pursuant to Section 112, Town Law, the 2023 Annual Budget, General Fund, is hereby amended to provide for supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$3,915.00 in Acct 00-01-1620-416 CE Mowing. Further Resolved, said money to be taken from the General Fund. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

Resolution No. 112 - Transfer in General Fund – Offered by Councilmember Wiegand, pursuant of Section 112, Town Law, the 2023 Annual Budget, General Fund is hereby amended to provide the transfer of \$185.00 from Acct 00-01-1355-401 CE General Misc to Acct 00-01-1355-421 CE Office Supplies Assessor; \$100.00 from Acct 00-06-7110-412 CE Electric to Acct 01-06-7110-463 CE Electric EV Station; \$41.00 from Acct 00-06-7310-433 CE Staff Supplies to Acct 00-06-7310-401 CE Misc. Uniforms; \$240.00 from Acct 00-06-7310-433 CE Staff Supplies to Acct 00-06-7310-430 CE Supplies. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Residents spoke about Awosting Club, Vacancy Tax and Noice Ordinance in CLI District.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, the Town Board entered Executive Session at 9:46 PM to discuss Personnel matters to come back to regular meeting to adjourn. Councilmember Walls was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM. Councilmember Walls was absent.

