

The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present is Supervisor Majestic, Councilmembers Wiegand, Walls, Richman and Carucci. There were approximately 5 ± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Saturday, June 17th the Transfer Station will be closed.

Town Hall and Highway Garage will be closed Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

The fees for the Building Department have increased and are now effective.

Ulster County is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan and they are reaching out to residents for more input. There is information on how to participate on the Town's website, Facebook page and the Town's E-Blast list.

The Ulster County Supreme Court Judge, Kevin Bryant dismissed the Article 78 served to the Town by Camilla Bradley of Awosting Club. Awosting Club has 30 days to file a Notice of Appeal.

Councilmember Richman expressed her concerns with the transparency of legal representation.

CHURCHILL/RBT PRESENTATION

Councilmember Walls introduced Victor Churchill, CPA from RBT, a firm that has a variety of expertise including consultant work for towns and other entities, and presented options based on the recent audit report findings, the software capabilities, and consideration for processes including segregation of duties, and checks and balances.

Discussed the challenges with a small staff with several duties and inability for segregation of duties. Opportunities to establish policies and procedures like approved vendor lists, voucher preparations, and establish review processes that are in alignment with state law.

Next steps can include an assessment and proposal on how the RBT firm can help the Town.

SUMMER RECREATION HIRING RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 92 – Offered by Councilmember Walls;

Resolved, pursuant to Section 27 of the Town Law and upon the recommendation of the Director of the Summer Recreation Program, the following named persons are hereby employed in the position indicated to be compensated at the hourly wage rate indicated for 2023, to be paid bi-weekly: Director, Brian Edelstein - \$25.00/hour; Assistant Director & Health Director Katrina Pisciotta \$21.00/hour; Lifeguard Sean Geisler \$28.00/hour; Senior Counselors – Ashlee Gagliardi, Katie Every, Matt Sabarese, Amanda Mele and Kiera Power \$14.95/hour; 3rd year Counselors –Darius Youssefbaik and Pierce Lutz \$14.70/hour; 2nd year Counselors Gabriella Lutz, Ezra Allibone, Ricky Kinyon, Maryann Spano and Olive Adamek \$14.45/hour; 1st year Counselors – Alyssa Gonzalez, Callie Borrello, Doug Borrello, Mateo Petrocitto and Atticus Fall-Schembri \$14.20/hour.

Seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried.

PLANNING BOARD VACANCY

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried to remove Moises Rivera from the Planning Board.

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, to reinstate Keith Libolt to another 7-year term on the Planning Board expiring April, 2030.

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, to appoint the current alternate Robert Boettcher to a permanent seat on the Planning Board. Councilmember Richman opposed.

On motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried to appoint Ryan Wiley as the alternate to the Planning Board.

TRANSFER STATION BROCHURE CHANGE

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, to give authorization to remove the reference of weight on the Transfer Station fee schedule. Councilmember Richman abstained.

LAND STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH WALLKILL VALLEY LAND TRUST 2023

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Land Stewardship Agreement with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust for 2023.

FUND BALANCE UPDATE

Councilmember Wiegand explained the Fund balance as the excess funding from taxes where money has been approved but not spent, and there has been significant increase of fund balance since 2009, to over \$1.5 million. In 2022, the general fund balance was 91% and over 50% for highway, which are significantly higher than the recommended 15%. This indicates potential over taxing of town residents. The recommendation is to lower the fund balance for the general fund balance and highway fund, prevent overtaxing while still maintaining an appropriate rainy-day fund of 15%.

Actions should be taken to get to a 30% fund balance as a goal for next year. Recommend review more in depth and refined review during the budget process including cease underestimating the revenue assumptions for mortgage tax and sales tax revenues, decrease the amount of fresh taxes applied to taxpayers, and cease overestimating expenses of projects that could not be completed due to staffing challenges. Also recommended is to redeploy fund balances by building reserves, but we already have a significant amount of reserve funds which are restricted and sometimes challenging to use, and decrease the total number of reserve funds. Use of ARPA and Spectrum funds offset the use of the excess fund balances. The office of the comptroller has sample formats for creating a standard policy for managing fund balances.

DUSINBERRE PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT QUOTE

Supervisor Majestic attended an emergency meeting at the Pump Station on Dusinger Rd. When trying to replace the pump, they found many issues including corrosion and rust, including a corroded electrical panel box. The supervisor received a quote from H2O to replace for the amount of \$81,527.00. The supervisor will reach out to Pitingaro and Doetsch for recommendations for the parameters.

BOOKKEEPER REQUEST

On the motion of Councilmember Walls, seconded Councilmember Wiegand and carried, to increase the hourly wage of the bookkeeper, Darlene Halstead, to \$38.50/hr. Councilmember Carucci opposed.

MINUTES

Minutes of March 28th were approved as written on motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried. The May Supervisor’s Monthly Report was approved as presented.

CLAIMS

Claims for the month of May 2023 were approved on the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried. They are listed on Abstract #5 as follows; General Fund voucher #202-253 \$31,837.27; Highway Fund voucher #84-106 \$36,521.93; Sewer Fund voucher #13-18 \$4,170.79 ARPA voucher #2 \$18,500.00. Councilmember Walls was absent.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolution No. 93 – 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 \$873.30 in Acct 03-07-8110-472 CE I&I Study. Further Resolved, said money to be taken from the Sewer Fund. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

Resolution No. 94 - 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 \$376.00 from Acct 00-06-7110-412 CE Electric to Acct 00-06-7110-463 EV Station; \$28.85 from Acct 00-07-8010-401 ZBA Misc to Acct 00-07-8010-438 ZBA Advertising. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

Resolution No. 95 – 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 \$7,150.00 in Acct 00-01-1320-403 Financial Statement Audit; \$5,000.00 in Acct 00-02-3620-107 PS Sign on

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Bonus for Building Inspector. Further Resolved, said money to be taken from the General Fund. Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried. Councilmember Walls was absent.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

A resident spoke about their concern of abandon buildings in Gardiner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the Town Board entered Executive Session at 9:05 PM to discuss Personnel matters to come back to regular meeting only to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.