



Town Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday Dec. 7, 2021

This regular meeting was held, in person, at the RMC in M-1 and began at 6:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

- Supervisor Parete called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and Councilman Stewart lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Parete took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present

Councilwoman Foote – Present (6:03pm)

Councilman LaFera – Present

Councilman Hunt – Present

Councilman Stewart – Present

Also, present– Heather Moody, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments were made on the upcoming resolutions.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AMENDMENTS

Town Clerk Moody stated there were no amendments to the vouchers submitted on November 16, 2021.

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

<u>12/7/2021</u>	<u>Vouchers</u>	<u>Total Payment</u>
General Fund	V#774-816	\$45,179.53
Highway Fund	V#434-452	\$4,510.25
High Falls Water District	V#127-131	\$4,198.95
RMC	V#144	\$30,925.74

A motion was made by Councilman LaFera and Seconded by Councilman Stewart to approve these vouchers.

Councilman Stewart	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman LaFera	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilwoman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Hunt	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

5-0 Aye; motion carried.

- Councilman Hunt asked to be reminded what the Greenman-Pedersen, Inc voucher covers. Supervisor Parete said they are the consulting firm that is assisting with the Grady Park project. Supervisor Parete said he would forward a summary of the fees to Councilman Hunt.

- Councilwoman Foote questioned the \$1,050 voucher for Dana Blackmon. Supervisor Parete explained he is the Special Prosecutor for court, and he is paid by a voucher, monthly.

MEETING MINUTES:

- Councilman Stewart made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hunt to approve the meeting minutes from the 11/16/2021 town board meeting. 5-0 Aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #103-2021; CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MARBLETOWN AND CROSSPOINT CONNECT INC.

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Foote, seconded by Councilman Hunt:

WHEREAS, the Town of Marbletown has a need for a service contract for a digital phone system and voicemail, and

WHEREAS, Crosspoint Connect Inc. has had a service contract with the Town of Marbletown that provides for parts and labor for operation of the system, and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown authorizes the Supervisor to sign the attached contract agreement with Crosspoint Connect Inc. for \$400 annually effective 12/21/2021-12/21/2022.

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

Councilman Stewart	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Lafera	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Hunt	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

5-0 Aye; Resolution #103-2021 was thereupon adopted.

- Supervisor Parete pointed out this is our phone vendor, and the annual price has not changed over the past 4-5 years.

RESOLUTION#104-2021: ESTABLISHING HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Foote, seconded by Councilman Hunt:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown desires to create an Housing Advisory Committee to review and analyze the housing needs of citizens of Marbletown and to advise on policies and initiatives, develop strategies, and recommend any zoning changes or adoption of ordinances to best serve the housing needs of Marbletown citizens.

WHEREAS, Housing availability and affordability is vital to the social and economic sustainability of our community; providing a range of affordability to support our people at all ages and stages of life; enable seniors who wish to securely age in place; assist families with children who are looking for stability; and encourage hardworking employees who deserve opportunity and choices to stay local; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing improves our neighborhoods by promoting stability and maintaining diversity; assuring the quality of the built environment and neighborhood character; and

WHEREAS, having an adequate supply of housing for the community's needs will ensure that all segments of the community have access to housing, ensuring that housing efforts contribute to a sustainable community; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown establish a Housing Advisory Committee to,

- Engage the community in ways that encourage meaningful support for affordable senior and sustainable housing.

- Review land use policies and legislation to encourage meaningful development of affordable senior and workforce housing.
- Work with policy leaders to ensure that present and future policies further these goals.
- Assist in the identification and development of potential sites for affordable senior and sustainable housing that preserve the character of the Town.

RESOLVED, that membership of the Housing Advisory Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the Town Board to serve three (3) year terms. Initial members terms will expire on December 31, 2024. The Chairperson will be selected by members of the Committee at the first meeting of each calendar year.

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

Councilman Stewart	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Lafera	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Hunt	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

5-0 Aye; Resolution #104-2021 was thereupon adopted.

- Councilman Stewart stated that RUPCO would like to do a presentation for the Town Board. Supervisor Parete said that maybe they could shoot for the second meeting in February. Councilman Stewart said he would follow up.
- Councilwoman Foote stated that this is very important, and it should be the number one goal next year to work on the housing advisory.
- A request for members will go up on the town website.
- Councilman Hunt would like to build upon the work that the County has started.
- Supervisor Parete mentioned that the County had done housing studies in 2004, 2011 and 2020 but no action has been taken by the County and they are leaving it up to the towns to address.

OTHER TOWN BUSINESS:

- Tom Konrad, ECC Chairman, announced that he would like to apply for a grant towards an electric car for the Building Department. We were originally denied because they did not want to pay for a used car. Konrad feels that a new plug-in hybrid SUV for the building department would be about \$35,000 and that would be a good fit for the rough driveways they have to drive down sometimes. Konrad also spoke about applying for a \$10,000 grant by 12/26 which could be used for an electric lawn mower for the maintenance department. Konrad would like the support of the town board members to apply for three more grants.
- Supervisor Parete stated that the DEP shutdown of the water will be ending this week which is earlier than anticipated. The college will be back up online with water soon. The question now is what to do with the large water tanker truck. Originally the DEP bought the truck, so the town needs to decide what to do with the truck. Maybe sell the truck and put the money aside for future back-ups. Supervisor Parete and Councilman LaFera will work with Rosendale how to proceed with the truck.
- Supervisor Parete announced that the High Falls Christmas tree lighting will be 12/11/2021 at 4:30pm with Santa arriving at 5:00pm.
- Councilman Hunt stated the Ethics Board met last night, via Zoom and Attorney Tracy Kellogg joined to answer some questions.
- Councilman Hunt made a motion to opt out of marijuana on site consumption. (No second was provided to Councilman Hunt's motion) Supervisor Parete brought up the executive order from the governor's

office that states any resolutions to be voted upon must be on the agenda and made public for 24 hours. Councilman Hunt stated his research showed there are instances where 'walk-on' agenda items are allowed with less than 24-hour notice. Supervisor Parete said that could lead to the subject being challenged or scrutinized at a later date.

- Councilman LaFera pointed out that we held a publicized public forum and residents had a chance to attend.
- Councilman Hunt added he had given more thought and given the caution that Massachusetts did in rolling out their lounges and conducting a pilot he would like to wait and see the regulations to know where we could be allowing by license application and what is allowable at consumption sites. He feels that is vague and open to interpretation. He pointed out that we should not forget about adjustments and research that will have to go into updating zoning laws.
- Councilwoman Foote added that this will be an income source once stores are up and we'll lose out if people go to Rochester or Rosendale. 3% of the sales tax from each purchase will go back to the town.
- Supervisor Parete reminded everyone that the town has been discussing the Cannabis law for nine months and we are getting down to the wire with setting a public hearing due to legally noticing the meeting. He added that he told the town board that if two of them sent him an email, by tomorrow morning, he would hold a special meeting to set a public hearing.
- Councilman Stewart said he feels we have discussed the Cannabis law enough and he is ready to move on.
- Councilman Hunt provided a brief update on the Youth & Rec Department:
 - Light Up Marbletown parade is December 18th along with the lighting up the luminaries. Over 65 kits have gone out.
 - Keeping the park open all winter again
 - Rentals are picking up at the Community Center on the weekends
 - Seniors meet 1st and 3rd Friday of every month
 - Wrestling has started on Mondays and Thursdays
 - Basketball enrollment has started, and the program starts Jan. 3rd.
 - Indoor Pickleball is back at the RMC gym, very busy.
 - Volunteers continue to keep the trails clear.
 - The trail committee voted against naming the trail after the Conservancy. They voted on naming it the High Falls Creek Walk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Terpening, resident, submitted a public comment to Town Clerk Moody, which will be kept on file. He submitted, and read, a formal complaint to the town board members. Mr. Terpening believes Supervisor Parete violated the Town's Code of Ethics, namely the Standards of Professional Conduct. He feels that Supervisor Parete verbally demeaned and attacked him personally. Mr. Terpening provided a transcription of pertinent parts of the last meeting. He feels that Supervisor Parete and Attorney Tracy Kellogg should recuse themselves from any involvement in the Councilmembers consideration of this complaint. He would like the Town Board to consider this complaint and to take any actions that may be called for under the Code of Ethics as provided in Penalties for Offenses. A copy of the full statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office.
- Anthony DiGiuseppe, resident and Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission stated he had sent an email to the Town Board members but had not heard back from anyone. DiGiuseppe read his email, and a copy is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Supervisor Parete along with Councilwoman Foote, Councilman Stewart and Councilman LaFera all said they received the email and also the email that was sent back to DiGiuseppe from Supervisor Parete.

DiGiuseppe would like an announcement made that the HPC is looking for people that meet requirements, which were sent out, to volunteer for the HPC. Member Marjorie Shelley resigned due to increased responsibilities at her job. The HPC would like Doug Adams to be appointed for another term. Two other people have shown interest in joining the commission. Supervisor Parete pointed out that a couple former members would like to come back and join the HPC if changes occur. Councilman LaFera added he had spoken with William Brinnier, and he seems like a good fit.

- Laura Cunningham, resident, stated that residents deserve respect. Ms. Cunningham is also on the Historic Preservation Commission and feels that Doug Adams should be reappointed for another term. She added that two of the members have expressed no interest in being part of the commission, they did not take any training. Supervisor Parete asked that all training information be sent to him. Councilwoman Foote asked that the annual report be sent out to the town board.

Motion to adjourn: There being no further discussion Councilman LaFera made the motion to dismiss the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hunt; 5-0Aye; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Moody

Town Clerk/Tax Collector