



## **Town Board Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

**This regular meeting was held in person and began at 6:00pm**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Supervisor Parete called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and Councilwoman Foote lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Town Clerk Moody took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present

Councilwoman Foote – Present

Councilman LaFera – Absent

Councilman Davenport – Absent

Councilman Tim Hunt – Present

**Also, Present:** Heather Moody; Town Clerk/Tax Collector

- Supervisor Parete took a moment to recognize and honor Oscar Eugene “Gene” Kogan who passed away last week. Gene was 92 years old and had been a member of the Stone Ridge Fire Company for over 65 years. He was a staple at the fire house and once he stopped going on calls he liked to cook for everyone. He will be greatly missed.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW “PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE”**

- At 6:04pm a motion was made by Councilwoman Foote, seconded by Supervisor Parete to open the public hearing on the proposed Local Law # of 2023 ‘Prior Written Notice’, 3-0 Aye, 2 absent, motion carried.
- Supervisor Parete stated Town Clerk Moody had legally noticed the public hearing in the Daily Freeman on Sunday, March 26th. The legal notice as also posted on the town website and the Town Clerk’s Community Board.
- At 6:05pm there being no comments or questions on the proposed local law “Prior Written Notice” Councilman Hunt, seconded by Councilwoman Foote to close the public hearing on the proposed local law, 3-0 Aye, 2 absent, motion carried.

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- Councilman Hunt made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Foote to approve the meeting minutes from 3/21/2023 3-0 Aye; 2 Absent; motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & AMENDMENTS**

Town Clerk Moody stated there were no amendments from the 3/21/2023 vouchers.

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

**April 4, 2023**

**Vouchers**

**Total Payment**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>V#187-210</b>	<b>\$90,979.12</b>
<b>Highway Fund</b>	<b>V#92-105</b>	<b>\$21,002.54</b>
<b>High Falls Water District</b>	<b>V#30-34</b>	<b>\$2,421.84</b>
<b>RMC</b>	<b>V#</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Marbletown Fire Protection District #1</b>	<b>V#12</b>	<b>\$1,981.59</b>

A motion was made by Councilwoman Foote and Seconded by Councilman Hunt to approve these vouchers.

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

**3-0; 2 absent; motion carried.**

- Supervisor Parete stated that the General Fund vouchers are higher this month due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter payment to the Marbletown First Aid Unit.
- Councilman Hunt asked what the Sawyer Motors voucher covered? Parete responded that this covered work on a Highway truck that had to go to the shop.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- No public comments on the resolutions.

#### **RESOLUTION #43-2023 A LOCAL LAW KNOWN AS “PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE”**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Hunt and seconded by Councilwoman Foote

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has commissioned the drafting of a proposed Prior Written Notice Law; and **WHEREAS**, on April 4, 2023, the Town Board conducted a Public Hearing at Rondout Municipal Center, 1925 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill NY 12419 at 6:00pm regarding this proposed law; annexed hereto as Notice of Highway Defects, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board resolves to enact said local law.

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

Councilman Davenport	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Councilman Lafera	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Councilwoman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Hunt	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

**3-0; 2 absent; Resolution #43-2023 was thereupon adopted.**

- Councilwoman Foote asked if this is just for the roads, or does it include the buildings? Supervisor Parete responded that this law is only for the 84 miles of town roads and does not include the buildings.

#### **RESOLUTION #44-2023 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Foote and seconded by Councilman Hunt

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Marbletown Highway Department sells surplus vehicles and equipment, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown supports a vehicle replacement program, and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown authorizes the Highway Superintendent to sell 1987 Caterpillar Model 416 4X4 Backhoe/Loader Serial #T12959057.

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

Councilman Davenport	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Councilman Lafera	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Councilwoman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Hunt	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

**3-0; 2 absent; Resolution #44-2023 was thereupon adopted.**

- Supervisor Parete stated Highway Superintendent, George Dimler, provided a letter, which is on file in the Town Clerk's office, requesting to sell this 1987 Caterpillar Model Backhoe/Loader as the new backhoe will arrive around June of this year. Parete added that Dimler thought we might be able to get \$6,000-\$7,000 from Auctions International.

**OTHER TOWN BUSINESS:**

- Supervisor Parete stated that the Town offices would be closed on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday. The Transfer Station will be open on Good Friday and closed on Sunday for Easter. Parete reminded everyone that the new transfer station permits were on sale at the transfer station and the town clerk's office.
- Supervisor Parete announced that the High Falls Fire House has been closed due to a mold issue. The trucks are still working, and they will still respond to fire calls. Parete said he would be talking to the Board of Elections and voting for districts 1 and 7 could possibly be happening at the RMC building.
- Supervisor Parete said he had attended the organizational meeting for the Catskill Watershed Corporation earlier that day and he had a discussion with a number of attendees about the leaks from the pressure tunnels which run under Marbletown and carry water. The Town will start notifying property owners that their properties will be included in the mitigation settlement. Parete added the property owners will not have to put money up front.
- Supervisor Parete reminded everyone that a new CCA program will go into effect this summer for a 24-month term. The Town received a few quotes and have made the decision to go with Direct Energy. 11 out of 12 municipalities have agreed to join the CCA and residents can opt in or out at any time. There will be a presentation in May from Joule.
- Town Clerk Moody mentioned that Earth Day is coming up and marked garbage bags will be available to pick up in the Town Clerk's office which can be brought to the transfer station at no charge. When you pick the bags up you will give your name and what road you are going to be cleaning up.
- Councilman Hunt thanked Town Clerk Moody for sending out the Financial Disclosure Forms. The emails were sent to the town board, department heads and employees that are responsible for purchasing. The emails should be sent out to all members that volunteer on the town committees and commissions. They will be due back to Town Clerk Moody by Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Supervisor Parete mentioned that the water meters in High Falls have not been working and bills are estimated. The town has new meters, and the installation of the meters went out to bid and unfortunately no bids were received. Parete said he would follow up with Dennis Larios to see what the next steps would be.
- Councilman Hunt detailed what the Youth and Rec department has been working on:
  - At the Town Park they are working on opening the bathrooms for the season. They are still looking to hire a grounds person, which they have been accepting applications for and hopefully hiring someone soon. The Probation Department went and assisted with some raking.
  - At the Community Center they have been busy with weekend rentals. The AARP Tax prep ground will end in about 6 weeks. The RV Middle School had their spaghetti fundraiser there. The Seniors continue to meet there on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month.

- The Youth and Rec just finished their basketball program with over 80 children in the program. Pickleball remains very busy at the RMC gym and outside. The Easter Egg hunt will be Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the town park.
- Volunteers continue to keep the rail trail clear by cutting down trees. There will be some repairs on the Rest Plaus Bridge coming up.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Nancy Plummer, lives in Stone Ridge and is concerned about the Community Center being closed or sold. Plummer has been going to the Community Center since the 80's. Plummer suggested fund raising and soliciting money for improvements. Maybe sell the Marbletown Fire House and put that money towards the Community Center. Maybe use it as a place for local farmers to have a café. Please consider keeping the community center as a gathering place. Plummer added her thanks for listening and suggested selling the Marbletown Fire House and old town hall and investing back into the community center.
- Laura Cunningham, local resident who liked what Nancy Plummer had to say. Cunningham stated on 2/21 she heard Supervisor Parete say he wanted to sell the community center, and this alarmed a lot of people. She added that Vivi Hlavsa collected the signatures of about 95 people for a petition to save the Community Center. She also said last time she was at the community center she looked at the walls and saw all the memorabilia of the veterans. Cunningham wants the sale of the community center off the table.
- Cornelia Watheren, representing the Marbletown Holistic Community, heard rumors of the possible selling of the community center and the organization was upset. Watheren added that they have had a partnership with Marbletown to offer free holistic services. They have a mailing list of about 2,000 people who use the beloved center. Supervisor Parete had offered the holistic community the use of the space at the RMC. Watheren does not feel the RMC is appropriate. The Community Center offers the right feel of the space. The holistic community wishes the town to consider not selling and maybe come up with some other strategies.
- Nina Shengold, resident who expressed her love of the community center and the store house of memories. Her daughter did after school arts there, attended events, parties, writing workshops and had her parents' memorial services at the community center. Shengold added that she would like to thank the board for listening to us about the senior tax breaks.
- Vivi Hlavsa, resident, asked who makes the decisions about the community center? Parete responded, 'The Town Board'. It was suggested the town have a committee that has oversight of the community center.
- Laura Angler, commented on what a beautiful historic building the community center is where young and old people come together. She asks the town board to figure out what to do with the building.

**Motion to adjourn:** There being no further discussion Supervisor Parete made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Foote; 3-0 Aye, 2 absent, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Moody  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

FINAL