



## **Town Board Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Town Clerk Moody took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present

Councilwoman Foote – Present

Councilman LaFera – Present

Councilman Davenport – Present

Councilman Tim Hunt – Present

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

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- Councilman Davenport made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hunt to approve the meeting minutes from 4/4/2023 5-0 Aye; motion carried.

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

Town Clerk Moody stated there were no amendments from the 4/4/2023 vouchers.

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

| <b><u>April 18, 2023</u></b>                  | <b><u>Vouchers</u></b> | <b><u>Total Payment</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>                           | <b>V#211-262</b>       | <b>\$38,375.32</b>          |
| <b>Highway Fund</b>                           | <b>V#106-122</b>       | <b>\$23,869.22</b>          |
| <b>High Falls Water District</b>              | <b>V#35-39</b>         | <b>\$6,585.24</b>           |
| <b>RMC</b>                                    | <b>V#40-64</b>         | <b>\$12,743.77</b>          |
| <b>Marbletown Fire Protection District #1</b> | <b>V#</b>              | <b>\$</b>                   |

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

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Councilman Davenport | 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; motion carried.**

- Councilman Davenport asked what the water purification was for in the High Falls Water District vouchers? Supervisor Parete responded that this is for treating the water in High Falls.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Vivi Hlavsa, resident, brought up the resolution to extend the term of the Supervisor and asked why do we do that? Hlavsa does not think it should go from 2 years to 4 years.
- Laura Cunningham, resident, stated that the upcoming election will be the presidential election and there will be a huge turn out and thinks that the term extension is wrong.

#### **RESOLUTION #45-2023 MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

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

**WHEREAS**, May 2023 has been designated National Mental Health Awareness month in the United States since 1949 by the Mental Health America organization; and

**WHEREAS**, people across the United States experience mental health conditions that impact their individual health and wellbeing as well as their relationship with the community; and

**WHEREAS**, a focus on prevention and early intervention efforts could greatly reduce the number of children experiencing serious mental health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, children, youth and adults can recover from mental illness and lead full, productive lives in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing the complex mental health needs of our children, youth, and family's places upon our community a critical responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown finds that it is necessary and in the best interest of the residents that May 2023 be declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Marbletown.

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>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; Resolution #45-2023 was thereupon adopted.**

- Supervisor Parete stated that May is historically Mental Health Awareness month. Ribbons will be placed on trees around RMC to remember people who struggle with mental health. Councilman Hunt said that he is very much in favor of this resolution. Hunt added that there has been an increase in mental health issues since Covid.

#### **RESOLUTION#46-2023; SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NUMBER # OF 2023, A LOCAL LAW KNOWN AS A LOCAL LAW FOR EXTENSION OF TERMS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Davenport and seconded by Councilman LaFera

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds it to be in the best interests of the residents of the Town of Marbletown to adopt **Local Law # of 2023, known as the EXTENSION OF TERMS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS LAW**, in order to achieve the purposes and objectives set forth in the Local law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. A public hearing will be held by the Town Board on Tuesday May 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM local time at the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915-1925 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill, NY, to hear all interested parties on the proposed

Local Law # of 2023 entitled “**A Local Law # , 2023 EXTENSION OF TERMS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS LAW** “

2. The Town Clerk is directed to advertise such public hearing in the official newspaper of said Town, on the website of said Town and is directed to refer the proposed local law to all municipalities adjacent to the Town and any other applicable entities as required.

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>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; Resolution #46-2023 was thereupon adopted.**

- Supervisor Parete said that if this law passes it will then go on the ballot in November and the residents will vote. State law says this must pass with a minimum of 150 days before the election and the town did the same thing when the Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk/Tax Collector a few years ago.
- Councilman Davenport added that when this was being discussed it was brought up that 50% of towns are moving to 4-year terms for Supervisor. Davenport added that if we are going to get qualified people to run it makes sense to change the term of Supervisor.
- Councilman LaFera brought up that we set a precedent when we extended the Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector from 2 to 4 year.
- Councilman Hunt said he was doing research and wondered what other towns were doing and what the impact would be. Hunt also questioned if we had term limits? Supervisor Parete responded he is not aware that we have term limits.
- Councilwoman Foote said she asked the Association of Towns to provide list of what towns have 4-year supervisor terms. Foote added that the town is facing a lot of projects with the DEP, building a highway garage, extending the H2O line and housing issues and sometimes it takes more then 2 years to get up to speed.

**RESOLUTION #47-2023; APPOINTING GROUNDSKEEPER**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Davenport and seconded by Councilman LaFera

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Marbletown created the position of groundskeeper; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ulster County Department of Personnel must review and approve a new hire for the Position of Groundskeeper; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to appoint Jeremiah Brown as Part Time Groundskeeper at an hourly rate of \$22.00 an hour effective April 24, 2023.

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>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; Resolution #47-2023 was thereupon adopted.**

- Supervisor Parete reminded everyone that this position was in the budget and approved last year. Highway Superintendent George Dimler and the highway department do a lot of maintenance and we need

somebody that would help with building and grounds. Councilman LaFera, Supervisor Parete and Youth and Recreation Director Jill McLean interviewed four candidates and at the end it was unanimous that they all thought Jeremiah Brown would be the best fit. He is very energetic and has great ideas.

- Councilwoman Foote asked if he'll help with the rail trail? Supervisor Parete responded yes, along with assisting with the shoveling at the community center and the transfer station.
- Supervisor Parete said the position would start with 30 hours and they would reevaluate as time goes on.

#### **OTHER TOWN BUSINESS:**

- Highway Superintendent Dimler gave a brief update on what is coming up for the paving and ditching season. Dimler asked everyone to please be patient when the highway trucks are out working on the roads and to slow down through work zones. The following roads are scheduled to be chip sealed over the summer; Whitelands, Kripplebush, Oakwood, Field Court, Fairview and 213 in High Falls. The full schedule will be on the website and posted on the town social media. Roads that are scheduled to be paved this summer are: Marcott, Mary's Lane, Peak, Buck, Upland, Mossybrook, Chestnut Hill and Mill Road. The highway department is sweeping roads right now and they are about halfway done.
- Supervisor Parete announced that the RRA will be providing the town with a trash compactor that should cut our pulls down from 5 pulls to 3 pulls which will save the town money.
- Supervisor Parete stated that at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> town board meeting the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board will be giving a presentation on a property that they are interested in.
- Supervisor Parete mentioned that the NY State Parks and Historic Preservation is conducting an audit which is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Hunt said that it is in the works and will be ready for submission by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Town Clerk Moody reminded everyone that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth day, and you can pick up marked contractor bags that can be used to clean up roads in town and those bags can be taken to the transfer station up to Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilman LaFera reminded the community that the burn ban is still in effect. There have been a number of brush fires in the area. The DEC can extend the date but as of now the burn ban is in effect until May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Ali Stewart, resident, who spoke up asking the town board not to sell the community center. She understands the town has a fiscal responsibility but the one thing you can not change is the location of the community center.
- Vivi Hlavsa, resident, asked if there was any reason why her group should not hire their own contractor to see what the problems are at the community center? Councilwoman Foote responded that the town has comprehensive reports on all the buildings that the town owns and states what needs to be done and these were done by Peak Engineering. These reports are on the website. Hlavsa also asked what firehouse the town is selling, and the response was the Marbletown Fire House. Councilman Davenport added that we need to get an inventory of all assets and what is best for the whole town. Hlavsa asked if a group of residents were to raise money could it be earmarked for the community center?
- Supervisor Parete responded that the Town was not able to raise funds but if others wanted to they could. Parete added that Evry Mann has discussed doing a fund raiser and possibly setting up a go fund me page. The fundraiser will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, tentatively. The plan is to have live music, food and beverages and donations can be made. A number of other residents have expressed interest in being involved.
- Bobbi Esmark, resident, read a prepared statement and filed the statement with the Town Clerk for the record. Esmark's statement is as follows "At the Town Board meeting of April 4, 2023, the supervisor said in a response to Vivi Hlavsa, that I stopped teaching at the community center because I was paying \$10 a hour rent and when they raised it to \$25 a hour I didn't want to pay it and left. That is not the truth. It is totally

false and there are others on the Town Board who know it. The reality is that I offered to **pay \$25** an hour to the Town for renting the space for my classes. In addition to being untrue, his false statement shifts the focus from what really happened and why. The issue had nothing to do with the amount of rent. At that meeting, Councilperson Daisy Foote commented about being in my classes where she stated I was “making a tidy sum”. I wonder what exactly she thinks is “a tidy sum,” and I wonder how she knows how much I made. Well, I can help her. My income tax records can tell exactly what “sum” I made from teaching those classes. In the last two years of my classes when I had my fullest complement of students at the community center, I made, in 2017 \$1471 and in 2018 \$927. But rather than looking back, let’s look at the present. The Town wants to sell the building because it doesn’t make revenue and needs repairs. The Town’s policies put in place by the supervisor have resulted in no ongoing classes by independent teachers at the community center to provide a consistent revenue. I’m glad to see people out in support of a way to keep the Community Center building. that is beyond my purpose here, which was to set the record straight that I did not choose to leave the community center due to a rent increase, and to insure that no-one has to wonder what my “tidy sum” of income was.” Councilman Foote added that we are looking at different pay structures and Councilman Hunt added that going forward they will be looking for guidance from Youth & Rec Director Jill McLean as to what is fair. Parete added that McLean has gone to other towns to see what they are doing and what their rates are.

- Mary Louise Wilson, resident, stated she feels getting estimates from engineers sounds like a good idea and to look at the all the buildings.
- Councilman Hunt reminded everyone that there are 5 votes, and the board listens to all the opinions, they talk, brainstorm and they hear what people are saying. Hunt added he has no interest in selling the community center.

**Motion to adjourn:** There being no further discussion Supervisor Parete made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman LaFera 5-0 Aye, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Moody  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector