



Town Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

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

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Parete called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and Councilman LaFera lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Moody took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present

Councilwoman Foote – Absent

Councilman LaFera – Present

Councilman Davenport – Absent

Councilman Tim Hunt – Present

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

MEETING MINUTES:

- Councilman Hunt made a motion, seconded by Councilman LaFera to approve the meeting minutes from 9/5/2023 3-0 Aye, 2 Absent; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & AMENDMENTS

Town Clerk Moody stated there were no amendments to the vouchers submitted on September 5, 2023

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

<u>September 19, 2023,</u>	<u>Vouchers</u>	<u>Total Payment</u>
General Fund	V#623-664	\$36,938.15
Highway Fund	V#262-274	\$13,569.06
High Falls Water District	V#102-106	\$2,472.37
RMC	V#126-145	\$22,586.16
Marbletown Fire Protection District #1	V#19-20	\$3,839.00

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

Councilman Davenport Voting Absent

Councilman LaFera Voting Aye

Councilwoman Foote Voting Absent

Councilman Hunt Voting Aye

Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

3-0, 1 absent; motion carried.

- Councilman Hunt questioned the voucher for the Marbletown Fire Protection District #1. Supervisor Parete explained this was for the removal of fire fighting chemicals that were left in the fire house. Parete said that they have to get a company in to remove the chemicals in a safe manner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Laura Cunningham, resident, stated that there was an aura of speculation about the new appointment to the Veteran's Committee and asked if the new appointment had been questioned about their feelings about the monuments being moved. Was this part of the interview?

RESOLUTION #86-2023; VETERANS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2019, the Marbletown Town Board created a Veterans Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Marbletown wishes to promote and support veteran's ceremonies, events and other activities in the Town of Marbletown, and

WHEREAS, a Veterans Committee would assist veterans and their families, as appropriate, in cooperation with other organizations and agencies, and

WHEREAS, a Veterans Committee would create awareness of the issues faced by veterans and maintain a forum for Town veterans to give feedback on issues that affect their lives, and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Veterans Committee, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Marbletown Town Board approves the appointment of Peter Davis to serve on the Veterans Committee.

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 Absent

Councilman LaFera Voting Aye

Councilwoman Foote Voting Absent

Councilman Hunt Voting Aye

Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

3-0, 2absent; motion carried.

- Supervisor Parete said that this Committee allows for five board members, if there was more of an interest and someone else wanted to join the town board could make a resolution to expand the commission. Parete added that Mr. Davis was a member of the Stone Ridge Fire House also. Parete took this time to respond to Laura Cunningham's public comment that "No, they did not ask Mr. Davis his feelings about the monuments."
- Councilman Hunt pointed out that reinvigorating this commission is good and appreciates all the work they do.

RESOLUTION #87-2023; INTER-MUNICIPAL MUTUAL IN-KIND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ULSTER

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

WHEREAS, this agreement is made pursuant to Article 5-G of the New York General Municipal Law and Sections 102,133-a and 135 of the New York Highway Law, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Marbletown and County of Ulster agree that a cooperative arrangement such as is established hereby is in the best interests of the citizens of the town of Marbletown, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the town of Marbletown authorize the Highway Superintendent to sign the attached agreement.

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 Absent

Councilman LaFera Voting Aye

Councilwoman Foote Voting Absent

Councilman Hunt Voting Aye

Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

3-0, 2absent; motion carried.

- Supervisor Parete said this resolution is in place to share equipment and employees, specifically with the County Highway Department. When the Town borrows equipment the operator comes along with the equipment. Insurance is also supplied at the time of sharing of the equipment.

OTHER BUSINESS :

- Tom Konrad, ECC Chairman, reported to the town board that there is an opportunity within the County for a grant. Konrad suggested, if the grant is awarded, to take out the boiler at the community center and put in heat pumps. Konrad added that there would be no cost to the town. Wendy Saul and Paul have offered to do the grant work. Saul added she would like a point person from the town board to direct questions to. Parete added that Councilman LaFera would be the point person. Councilman Hunt added that we should also be investing in extending the water district.
- Councilman LaFera announced that the Marbletown Fire House is up for sale and the sign will be going up later this week. Supervisor Parete added that they had the firehouse professionally cleaned and it looks great.
- Supervisor Parete said the tentative budget is due to Town Clerk Moody by 9/30 and it will be handed out at the next town board meeting. Parete pointed out that healthcare and salaries are going up. Fuel cost has gone up. Parete also discussed getting a better handle on the RMC, which they have bought the property and bought and installed a new generator. For 2024 it looks like it will cost about \$148,000 to operate the building, adding electricity and fuel costs have gone up. Supervisor Parete mentioned there was a supervisor's meeting recently and a lot of towns have a tight budget for the new year.
- Councilman Hunt asked about the Marbletown Ambulance district going up about 10%. Parete said they have made 100% of their calls. Councilman LaFera said that the cost of meds and fuel have gone up. EMT's make \$18.00 an hour and the drivers make \$16.00 an hour.
- Supervisor Parete and Town Clerk Moody said credit card machines are coming soon and after some training the town clerk's office, Youth and Rec, building and possibly the transfer station will accept credit cards.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Vivi Hlvasa, resident, questioned if we got the assessment of the community center from Peak Engineering? Also asked if it is true once we get this assessment other people can come in and assess the property? Supervisor Parete responded that the assessment from Peak Engineering has not been completed and when it is he will let everyone know. Parete added that the town has put in over \$35,000 in the past year of work at the community center. The work to be done will have to go out to bid, which would probably include electrical, mechanical, etc. The town would hire the lowest responsible bidder, and prevailing wages would be a factor.
- Laura Cunningham, resident, stated that \$15,000 had been raised for the Community Center. Cunningham also stated she had petitions to hand into Town Clerk Moody with signatures of those that do not want the monuments to be moved. (31 signatures are on the petition) Cunningham took this opportunity to ask Highway Superintendent Dimler about the digging being done at the Stone Ridge Fire House and Dimler responded that they are clearing up dead trees. Supervisor Parete took this time to share that in the 1950's the American Legion Hall was in High Falls and then they moved to Stone Ridge. Parete added that personally he does not object to the monuments being moved but added it will be a discussion for the town board.
- Wendy Saul, resident, asked if there had been any discussion about the reformation of the Youth and Rec Commission. Parete stated they are gathering information and reviewing what was sent.
- Bill Terpening, resident, read and submitted a prepared statement/transcript of the August 15th town board meeting. Terpening submitted a copy to Town Clerk Moody for the record. Terpening pointed out

that he did not attend the referenced town board meeting on August 15th, but he carefully listened to the audio and did not hear anyone tell Parete to shut up. Terpening added what he heard was Parete and Councilman Davenport repeated interruption of Vivi 's very brief public comment on the Community Center. Terpening was referring to a rumor that was heard by Vivi and she directed her question about the rumor to Councilman Davenport. Terpening went on to transcribe the 3-minute discussion.

- Larry Skala, resident, expressed that he feels the monuments should stay at the community center.
- David Nichols, resident, likes where the monuments are and if they are moved to the Stone Ridge Fire House they will get lost.
- Mary Jane Nusbaum, resident, asked about the extensive clearing on the rail trail, by the beaver dam, adding 'someone is logging across the rail trail'. Supervisor Parete responded that the property was logged, and the owner of that property has an easement over the rail trail. Parete added that the town does not own that property and the State is in charge of logging. The owner of the property also told Parete they will leave the trail in the same condition it was before the logging started. Parete told Nusbaum that this is not a town issue it is an issue with the DEC, they deal with harvesting timber. Nusbaum told Parete she would give him the name of the person at the DEC that she spoke with.
- Nina Shengold, resident, pointed out to the town board has not said they are not selling the community center and suggested prioritizing what needs to be done. Supervisor Parete, again, stated we do not have the town engineer's report yet. Adding if it is \$300,000 - \$400,000 to get all the work done he's not sure if it is worth it to the town. Parete reminded everyone that if the repairs do take place the community center will have to be closed down while the work is being done and people would have to use the RMC or find other places for their meetings, etc. Councilman Hunt added that right now we are talking in hypotheticals, and we really need to get something in writing. Councilman LaFera agreed.

Motion to adjourn: There being no further discussion Councilman Hunt made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman LaFera 3-0 Aye, 2 absent; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted,
Heather Moody
Town Clerk/Tax Collector