



Town Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 3, 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 – Present

Councilman LaFera – Present

Councilman Davenport – Absent

Councilman Tim Hunt – Present

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

MEETING MINUTES:

- Councilman LaFera made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hunt to approve the meeting minutes from 9/19/2023 4-0 Aye, 1 Absent; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & AMENDMENTS

Town Clerk Moody stated there were no amendments to the vouchers submitted on September 19, 2023

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

<u>October 3, 2023,</u>	<u>Vouchers</u>	<u>Total Payment</u>
General Fund	V#665-682	\$87,220.16
Highway Fund	V#275-282	\$18,213.39
High Falls Water District	V#107-110	\$7,295.14
RMC	V#	\$
Marbletown Fire Protection District #1	V#21	\$143.77

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

Councilman Davenport Voting Absent

Councilman LaFera Voting Aye

Councilwoman Foote Voting Aye

Councilman Hunt Voting Aye

Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

4-0, 1 absent; motion carried.

- Councilman LaFera asked about the voucher for the Marbletown Fire Protection District, Supervisor Parete responded that it was for the Central Hudson bill. Parete added we had not gotten a bill for a few months, so he called, and it was provided.

- Councilwoman Foote questioned who Bridget McGrew was and Supervisor Parete responded that she is the pickleball instructor.
- Supervisor Parete pointed out that the general fund was high due to paying the Marbletown First Aid their quarterly fee of \$81,000 and this covers the last quarter.

PRESENTATION; COMMUNITY CENTER FUND DRIVE:

- Ev Mann and Nancy Plumer, residents and part of the ‘Save our Community Center’ group presented the Town with \$15,000 in donations to support work that needs to be done at the community center. Mann and Plumer added that over 300 individuals and community businesses contributed to the donations. Plumer, read a prepared statement, and pointed out that it is a unique gathering place for local celebrations, etc. The community center has been used for the holistic wellness group, tax preparations, home school, sports, etc. Plumer mentioned the group envisions so much more for the community center, like updating the kitchen, adding cutting edge technology so people can hook up, etc. Mann explained that this was a total team effort and took a minute to acknowledge the group. Mann also told the Board he understand they have financial responsibility, and the RMC is nice, but you can’t replace the Community Center.
- Councilman LaFera added that it goes a long way to get the community to behind something so strongly. Councilman Hunt thanked the community for the energy that they have demonstrated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Bill Terpening, resident, read and submitted a public comment, regarding the Resolution to Override the Tax Cap: Public comment on this is rather senseless since any need for such override is unknown to the public seeing as the Tentative Budget that is on tonight’s Agenda was not posted on the Town’s website at least 24 hours before this meeting, contrary to §103 (e) of the Open Meeting’s Law.

RESOLUTION #88-2023; ACCEPTING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it may be necessary for the Town of Marbletown to exceed the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Marbletown pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Supervisor has prepared a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and the same has been reviewed and approved by the Town Board members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the proposed local law for the year 2023 entitled “Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2024 pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c” for commencement of the local law adoption process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on said local law to be held on October 17, 2023 at the Rondout Municipal Center, 1925 Lucas Ave Cottekill NY 12419 at 6:00 p.m. and that the public hearing be duly noticed by the Town Clerk as required by 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>Aye</u>
Councilwoman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>

Councilman Hunt Voting Aye
Supervisor Parete Voting Aye
4-0, 1 absent; motion carried.

RESOLUTION #89-2023; STORAGE SHED FOR RONDOUT MUNICIPAL CENTER

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

WHEREAS, the Towns of Rosendale and Marbletown has the need to install a storage shed at the Rondout Municipal Center (RMC), and

WHEREAS, the RMC Building Manager has received three quotes which have been attached and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the 3 quotes a recommendation was made to accept the quote from Brad's Barns \$ 7,165.80.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign a contract with Brad's Barns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective upon its passage by both the Town Board of Rosendale and the Town Board of 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 Absent
Councilman LaFera Voting Aye
Councilwoman Foote Voting Aye
Councilman Hunt Voting Aye
Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

4-0, 1 absent; motion carried.

2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET :

- Supervisor Parete stated the tentative budget is available and also provided a summary sheet for the 2024 tentative budget:

2024 Town of Marbletown Budget Summary

	Taxes 2023	Taxes 2024	Increase
General	\$731,992	\$744,259	1.67% (\$12,267)
Highway	\$1,509,000	\$1,566,000	3.77% (\$57,000)
Ambulance District	\$260,500	\$369,500	41.84% (\$109,000)
Fire Protection District 1	\$59,780	\$59,780	0
Fire Protection 2	\$20,000	\$20,000	0
High Falls Water	\$10,400	\$10,400	0

Total	\$2,591,672	\$2,769,939	6.88% (\$178,267)
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General/Highway	\$2,240,992	\$2,310,259	3.09% (\$69,267)
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Per 1000	Tax Rate 2023	Tax Rate 2024
General	.6993	.7028
Highway	1.4449	1.4789
Ambulance District	.2270	.3178
Fire Protection District 1	.3647	.3611
Fire Protection 2	.4742	.3940
High Falls Water	.2235	.2122

\$400,000 Assessment	2023	2024	Difference +/-
General	\$279.74	\$281.12	+\$1.38
Highway	\$577.96	\$591.56	+\$13.60
Ambulance District	\$90.80	\$127.12	+\$36.32
Fire Protection District 1	\$145.88	\$144.44	-\$1.44
Fire Protection 2	\$189.68	\$157.60	-\$32.08
High Falls Water	\$89.40	\$84.88	-\$4.52

- Supervisor Parete pointed out that general taxes will go up 1.67% and the Highway will go up 3.77%. The ambulance district is going up 41.84%, adding that the past two years the town has taken money out of the reserves to cover some of the cost. It will be approximately \$51.30 more this year in taxes, for a property of \$400,000.
- Supervisor Parete explained that the RMC is budgeted to have an increase of \$72,000. Health and liability insurance is higher as is fuel for buildings and highway vehicles. This past year we bought the property and had a new generator put in. Electricity costs about \$3,500-\$4,000 a month. Councilwoman Foote chimed in that because of inflation everything is going up.
- Councilman Hunt inquired what all of this means for the senior exemptions. Supervisor Parete said he spoke with the Assessor, Jeremy Baraca, and the town's exemptions increased about \$6 million, primarily because of the increase in senior exemptions. The tax rate would have been lower without that increase.
- Councilman Hunt also asked about the highway budget and the mild winter of 2023. Councilman LaFera stated they did not use as much sand and salt as previous years.

OTHER BUSINESS :

- Councilman Hunt announced that Narcan training is coming up on 10/23 at 11:00am and you will need to sign up.
- Councilman LaFera took a moment to discuss public comments and reminded and if you want to leave the meeting, go ahead but do it without disrupting the whole meeting.
- Town Clerk Moody stated there would be a Trunk or Treat at the RMC offices put on by the Marbletown Elementary School on 10/27/23.
- Councilman LaFera brought up bikes on the rail trail, reminding the board they will need to talk about this further.
- Supervisor Parete brought up possibly having to go back to court as a developer has not reimbursed the town in five months and the developer is refusing to comply, so the town would like the court to make a ruling.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Estie Jacobs, resident, asked if the tax base should be getting bigger and why don't we have more money? Supervisor Parete responded that the town has healthy reserves, and more money does not always change the budget.
- Alan Newman, resident, asked about the covid relief funds and how will that affect 2025? Parete responded that the town does not factor in the covid money, and we will have to spend that by 2026. Parete added that the town has used some of the money to provide internet access to some of the roads and we are hoping to use the rest for a water district on rt. 209.
- Nancy Plummer, resident, mentioned she did not see anything in the budget for repairs at the community center. Supervisor Parete responded that the town has reserve funds, and they could be used for the repairs. Plummer suggested a barn raising event where the town pays for the materials and volunteers do the work.

- Celia Seupel, resident, asked what the process is for using some of the reserve funds for the community center repairs? Supervisor Parete, again, stated we won't know the costs until the report comes back from the town engineer. The board will then make a decision as to what repairs will be done and those jobs will have to go out to bid and the lowest possible bid will be awarded. Parete reminded the group the community center is still open for business.
- Wendy Saul, resident, brought up her concerns about the proposed Adult Recreation committee structure? Councilman LaFera added maybe we can have a sub-committee. Supervisor Parete brought up all the things that the Youth & Rec are involved in; Veterans Committee, rail trail stewards, responsible for town park programs & upkeep, booking the community center, RMC pickleball and after school activities to name a few. Saul and Newman said the grant they are working on is due in November and will be awarded in February.
- Vivi Hlvasa, resident, stated she had sat in on the last Youth and Rec Committee meeting and they could not remember when they met last and maybe they should meet monthly.
- Laura Cunningham, resident, said that the subject of selling the community center was brought up back in April. Cunningham said she knew the engineer and he did not feel there was a lot of work to be done. Also asking if the repairs would be done before winter? Supervisor Parete responded that he is pretty sure that the town engineer is not talking about the work to be done and the report is not finished yet. Councilwoman Foote said the Scott Davis has a business and he knows what he is doing and when the report is done it will be shared. Councilman Hunt the maintenance and future of the community center is important and the board wants to make sure the building is stable.
- Shelly Wyant, resident, pointed out that the roof at the community should be taken care of right away. The town received \$15,000 from the community so why not use that to fix the roof before the winter.
- Maria Ryabak, Rosendale resident from High Falls, added that the water and roof issues should be taken care of. Councilman LaFera stated we don't want to move forward with the roof due to the grant that the town is trying to get.
- Bill Terpening, resident, read and submitted a prepared statement, regarding the two war memorials at the Community Center: Historically they have been in place at the Community Center building for around 63 years now. Apparently, the oldest war memorial stone was initially located in High Falls in the 1950's. So, at most, it was there for only 10 years out of the 73 years since 1950. This means that for at least 86 percent of its existence it has been an essential part of the Community Center site. The second war memorial stone was obviously created for the Community Center site. These war memorials are especially distinguished looking in their position next to the historic Community Center building. Moving them near a busy intersection on the Stone Ridge Firehouse site would degrade this aesthetic quality. This corner location already has a large sign for the Community College, a memorial, three flagpoles and flags and the Firehouse sign. And after the recent complete removal of a line of vegetative buffer at this site, the cell tower, siren tower and a metal shed are now readily obvious. Hardly a fitting and dignified spot to further add the two war memorials. Additionally, the war memorials are unrelated to and have no history at the Firehouse site. Regarding the now former Marbletown Firehouse building: It contains a highly significant, historic, one-room, stone schoolhouse, circa 1832. To my knowledge, this is the only existing stone schoolhouse in Marbletown. Selling this site, is to sell an essential part of the Town's heritage. A buyer can raze this building at will.

Motion to adjourn: There being no further discussion Supervisor Parete made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman LaFera 4-0 Aye, 1 absent; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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

FINAL