



## **Town Board Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, October 3, 2019**

**This regular meeting was held at the Rondout Municipal Center and began at 6:00pm**

**Present:** Supervisor Rich Parete and Town Board members Tim Sweeney, Joe Borzumato, Eric Stewart and Don LaFera

**Absent:**

**Also, Present:** Heather Moody; Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Ali Stewart; Blue Stone Press and Bond Brugard; Shawangunk Journal Reporter.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Denise Fryburg:** Resident who has a home on Cottekill Road and lives in the city. She is also representing her neighbors and would like to share that she does not feel the land on Cottekill Road is suitable for development of building of ball fields and a park. She does not want construction and the development would be threatening to the wildlife. She would like to preserve the land and respect all the needs.

**Clare Fleming:** Resident who submitted the document '2017 Site Alternative Analysis' prepared by former County Executive Michael Hein's office two years ago with regard to the 51 acres east, but not contiguous with, SUNY Ulster campus, on which, the Boards have proposed developing ballfields. The Site Selection Committee reported that the 51 acres, quote "significant development challenges are so much, that it struggles, due to the high investment required for roadwork to access developable areas of the site." "The additional constraints of a high-water table and federal designated wetlands [in the 51 acres] also present challenges, as [do] the cross-slope changes in elevation." Ms. Fleming asks the Town and College Boards to please consider improving the campus ballfields? And to consider what the County recognized, at a significant cost of time, legislative deliberation, and taxpayer expense: that the 51 acres of land east of campus-owing to its topography, hydrogeology, and protected habitats – are simply unsuitable for roads and facilities while aspects of SUNY campus stand disused and ready for revitalization.

**Bill Terpening:** Resident who submitted a formal complaint to the Town Board that compliance with time requirements are not being met regarding posting of the minutes from the 9/17/19 town board meeting (16 days prior), the 9/9/19 planning board meeting (24 days prior) and the 7/24/19 & 8/28/19 zoning board of appeals meetings (71 and 36 days prior). He also stated even if not required, he believes that minutes should be taken at the PZC meetings as this board considers and then proposes to the Town Board significant changes to the Zoning law. This committee meets on a weekday morning at 8:30am – a time not conducive to the general public's attendance.

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- Councilman Sweeney made a motion, seconded by Councilman LaFera to approve the meeting minutes from 09/17/2019. 5-0 Aye, motion carried.

### **PRESENTATION OF 2020 BUDGET**

- Town Clerk Moody handed out the tentative 2020 town budget.
- Supervisor Parete highlighted the following:
  - There will be no tax increase in 2020.
  - Budget code A1220.11 will increase from \$47,250 to \$67,050 as the bookkeeper will be retiring in 2020 and will have to train someone new. The increase in the line will cover the overlap to work with our current bookkeeper. The replacement bookkeeper may come in at a lower starting pay.
  - All employees will be getting a 2.75% raise in 2020.
  - Minimum wage has gone up.
  - Health benefits cost have increased.

### **OTHER TOWN BUSINESS:**

- The public hearing on the 2020 budget will be set at the next meeting, 10/15/2019.
- Town Clerk Moody stated the town offices will be closed on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Columbus Day.

**Motion to adjourn:** There being no further discussion Councilman Sweeney made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman LaFera; 5-0 Aye, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Moody  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector