



Town Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday August 18, 2020

This regular meeting was held via Zoom at the Rondout Municipal Center and began at 7:01pm

CALL TO ORDER

- Supervisor Parete called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Parete took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present via Zoom

Councilwoman Foote – Present via Zoom

Councilman Lafera – Present via Zoom

Councilwoman Sprachman – Present via Zoom

Councilman Stewart – Present via Zoom

Also present – Heather Moody, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; George Dimler, Highway Superintendent and Scott Davis, Peak Engineering

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Town Clerk Moody submitted the following vouchers for approval:

<u>August 2020</u>	<u>Vouchers</u>	<u>Total Payment</u>
General Fund	#384-439	\$ 59,498.83
Highway Fund	#256-295	\$ 22,098.55
High Falls Water District	#78-86	\$14,010.26
RMC	#83-99	\$ 9,059.31

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sprachman and Seconded by Councilman LaFera to approve these amended vouchers 5-0 Aye, motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES:

- Councilwoman Foote made a motion, seconded by Councilman LaFera to approve the meeting minutes from the 6/16/2020 town board meeting. 5-0 Aye, motion carried.
- Councilman LaFera made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Sprachman to approve the meeting minutes from the 07/21/2020 town board meeting. 5-0 Aye, motion carried.

TOWN BOARD RESIGNATION:

- Councilwoman Sprachman announced her resignation, effective September 16, 2020. She read a statement that will be posted on the town website and social media. The original copy will be on file in the town clerk's office and included with these minutes. Sprachman stated it was a hard decision to make and would like to volunteer to help further with certain town issues.
- Supervisor Parete thanked Councilwoman Sprachman for her service and said she had been a valued member of the team.
- Councilman LaFera added that he was sorry to see her leave and she had been doing a good job.
- Councilman Stewart said she would be missed dearly.
- Councilwoman Foote stated she was really sorry to see her go, and they had worked really well together.
- Supervisor Parete said the town board will appoint a new town board member, to serve until 12/31/2021, due to the fact that Sprachman resigned 90 days before the general election, which is the state law. There will be a special election in November 2021 for the remaining two years of her four-year term.
- Supervisor Parete announced that you must be a resident of the town and all letters of interest should be sent to Town Clerk Moody at clerk@marbletown.net or PO Box 217, Stone Ridge, NY 12484 by September 15th.

RESOLUTION #70-2020; REQUESTING A SPEED STUDY ON STATE ROUTE 209

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Sprachman and seconded by Councilwoman Foote:

WHEREAS, State Route 209 is a New York State highway, and the Town Board does not have the authority to designate a speed zone for this area; and

WHEREAS, said road has multiple public ingresses and egresses that access multiple houses along its entire length, and said section of road has multiple individual driveways on both sides, and

WHEREAS, four new homes were recently built on Rockledge Lane, and

WHEREAS, the current speed limit of 55 miles per hour in front of Wutche Lane is too high, school buses stop with young children and there is a poor line of site, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes the speed limit should be reduced to 40 miles per hour from 2873 State Route 209 to 2815 State Route 209, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown agrees that the speed limit is too high and should be lowered to 40 miles per hour, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown hereby requests that the New York State Department of Transportation conduct a speed study and reduces the speed to 40 miles per hour from 2837 Route 209 to 2815 Route 209.

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

Councilman Lafera Voting Aye

Councilwoman Foote Voting Aye

Councilman Stewart Voting Aye

Councilwoman Sprachman Voting Aye

Supervisor Parete Voting Aye

5-0 Aye; Resolution #70-2020 was thereupon adopted.

RESOLUTION #71-2020; AUTHORIZING THE COMMENCEMENT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DUCHESS FARM EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY, LLC

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board hired James Bacon, Esq. by Resolution #24-2020 on February 18, 2020 and special prosecutor Kevin Barry, Esq. by Resolution #24-2020 on March 3, 2020 and in executive session advised them to take actions necessary in Town Court and/or Supreme Court, Ulster County, to bring Duchess Farm into compliance with Filed Maps on record and the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the commencement and continuation of legal proceedings in either the Town of Marbletown Court and/or the Supreme Court, Ulster County against Duchess Farms is in the interest of health, welfare and safety of residents and visitors.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the Marbletown Town Board has authorized its attorneys to commence legal proceedings in Marbletown Town Court and/or Supreme Court, Ulster County against Duchess Farms.

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

Councilman Lafera	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilwoman Foote	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilman Stewart	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Councilwoman Sprachman	Voting <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Parete	Voting <u>Aye</u>

5-0 Aye; Resolution #71-2020 was thereupon adopted.

- Supervisor Parete pointed out that this issue had been ongoing for six months and the town had tried to compromise on widths of the roads with Duchess Farms. It had been agreed that Duchess Farms, along with their engineer, would provide new plans within two weeks of a Zoom meeting held in June. No plans have been provided and Duchess Farms has hired a new attorney.

OTHER TOWN BUSINESS:

- Supervisor Parete said Ulster County will be redistricting in 2021 which happens every ten years. The County Executive will be looking for volunteers. More information will be provided on the town website for those interested.
- Supervisor Parete said he would be starting to hold 2021 budget meetings with department heads. The town budget will be presented by Town Clerk Moody at the first meeting in October.
- Parete stated that a few employees were still on the work shared program and a few were still furloughed.
- Tom Konrad, ECC Chairman, discussed the Energy Stretch Code that the ECC recommended the town board adopt last November. With the large number of home sales and construction, and remodels, adoption has become more urgent. The additional building costs are estimated at only around \$2000 per home and will pay for themselves in a handful of years. The ECC understands that there have been some discussions behind the scenes between board members and the building department, but we are dismayed that these discussions are progressing so slowly. Every house built under the old code wastes significant energy, continues to greenhouse gas pollution, and costs the occupants far more than the additional measures would have under the Stretch Codes. The energy stretch code is a win-win, it saves money for homeowners (even if they have to finance the upgrades), helps the environment by cutting energy use, and leads to healthier buildings through planned ventilation.
We understand there are some concerns about how the stretch code will impact remodels, but the process has seemed to stall because of some players' unanswered concerns. Because of this, the ECC believes that these concerns should be brought to light and hopefully answered by bringing in a NYSERDA expert. The ECC formally recommends that the town board hold a public information session with an expert on the code to which the building community and town residents would be invited.
- Mr. Konrad would also like to highlight the green group discount program we have been working on with Sustainable Hudson Valley. If you sign up at sustainable Hudson valley's website and click on Green group discount program, residents can get significant discounts on community solar, home solar, battery storage, energy efficiency upgrades, heat pump water heaters, and air source heat pumps and also generate donations to covid relief charities. <https://sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program/>

- Highway Superintendent Dimler announced that Leggett Road will be closed for a day or two due to paving. He also stated there had been some questions about culvert pipes in residents' driveways and those are actually the resident's responsibility not the town.
- Councilman Stewart said there had been a Zoom meeting last month about Grady Park and if you had not taken the survey yet there was still time. He said there would be another public forum, but no date had been set yet.
- Councilman Stewart said the event, hosted by Joule Community Power, was a great success. \$9,050 was raised through the town's Community Solar Program. Part of the money will be used for improving the Marbletown rail trail and money was also donated to the Rondout Valley Food Pantry.

MARBLETOWN FIRST AID UNIT (MFAU):

July 2020 response rate 98%

Total calls: 49

Got outs: 48

Transports: 24

Cancelled: 9

Standby: 0

RMA: 12

Good Intent: 3 (e.g. call was cancelled en route, or responded but no emergency found)

Failed to assemble: 1

Calls within MFAU primary response rate in other townships

Rochester: 4 (8%)

Rosendale: 2 (4%)

Included are Mutual Aid to other EMS agencies outside MFAU primary dispatch area

Rochester: 4

Hurley: 1

Wawarsing: 1

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 8:06pm Councilwoman Foote made a motion to open an executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Sprachman. 5-0; motion passed.
- The Town Board motions to enter into executive session for the purpose of
 - Discussion of matters regarding proposed litigation.
- No votes were taken during executive session.
- At 8:59pm Councilwoman Sprachman made a motion to close the executive session and reconvene the meeting with no action taking nor monies expended, seconded by Councilwoman Foote. 5-0; motion passed.

Motion to adjourn: There being no further discussion Councilman Stewart made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Foote; 5-0 Aye, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Moody
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

FINAL