



## **Town Board Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

**This regular meeting was held via Zoom, at the Rondout Municipal Center began at 7:00pm**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- Supervisor Parete called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Supervisor Parete took roll call:

Supervisor Parete – Present via Zoom

Councilwoman Foote – Absent

Councilman LaFera – Present via Zoom

Councilwoman Sprachman – Present via Zoom

Councilman Stewart – Present via Zoom

**Also, Present:** Heather Moody; Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Tracy Kellog; Attorney (via Zoom)

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- Councilman Stewart made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Sprachman to approve the meeting minutes from the 8/18/2020 town board meeting. 4-0 Aye, 1 absent; motion carried.

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councilman Stewart     | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilman LaFera      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilwoman Foote     | Voting <u>Absent</u> |
| Councilwoman Sprachman | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Supervisor Parete      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |

**4-0 Aye, 1 absent; motion carried.**

### **RESOLUTION # 72-2020; HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WORKER**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Stewart and seconded by Councilwoman Sprachman:

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent has a need for a full-time employee, and

**WHEREAS**, Ulster County Personnel has deemed Jeffery Greer as an eligible employee, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Marbletown Town Board approves the hiring of Jeffery Greer as HMEO at a rate of \$21.15 an hour effective September 1, 2020.

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

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councilman Stewart     | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilman LaFera      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilwoman Foote     | Voting <u>Absent</u> |
| Councilwoman Sprachman | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Supervisor Parete      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |

**4-0; 1 absent; Resolution #72-2020 was thereupon adopted.**

## **RESOLUTION #73-2020; PROVIDE OFF PAYROLL INCENTIVE TO CERTAIN MARBLETOWN EMPLOYEES**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Sprachman and seconded by Councilman Stewart:  
**WHEREAS**, Marbletown faces budgetary reductions in light of Covid-19 and the resulting economic downturn, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Marbletown wishes to provide an off-payroll incentive to eligible town employees who may be affected by these budgetary reductions, and

**WHEREAS** the off-payroll incentive will save the town money by reducing salary costs, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED**, that the Marbletown Town Board approves the off-payroll incentive in its entirety attached hereto.

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

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councilman Stewart     | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilman LaFera      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilwoman Foote     | Voting <u>Absent</u> |
| Councilwoman Sprachman | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Supervisor Parete      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |

**4-0**; 1 absent; Resolution #73-2020 was thereupon adopted.

- Supervisor Parete stated eleven employees will receive letters that will offer them an incentive to retire early. The amount offered, \$5,000 or \$10,000, is based on if the employee had been part time and full time.

## **RESOLUTION #74-2020 ADOPTING THE MARBLETOWN 100% RENEWABLE ACTION PLAN**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Stewart and seconded by Councilwoman Sprachman:  
**WHEREAS**, The Town of Marbletown has a history of being an environmental leader in the Hudson Valley, and

**WHEREAS**, The Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC), working with Sustainable Hudson Valley (SHV), have investigated current energy use in the Town of Marbletown and developed the “Marbletown 100% Renewable Action Plan” (the Plan) that identifies steps the Town government and its residents can take to accelerate the transition to 100% renewable energy, and

**WHEREAS**, the transition to 100% renewable energy through electrification, energy efficiency, and other strategies identified in the Plan can potentially save the Town and its residents as much as \$6,500,000 annually, or over 40% of current energy expenditures, and

**WHEREAS**, the ECC has developed a framework called the “Ten Cost Effective Steps to 100% Renewable Energy” to help residents plan their own transition to 100% renewable energy based on the end-of-life replacement of fossil fuel powered appliances, equipment, and vehicles; moreover, these steps can pay for themselves on an ongoing basis and create long term savings compared to the continued use of fossil fuels, and

**WHEREAS**, SHV (working with the ECC) is sponsoring a Green Group Purchase Program that offers residents of Ulster and Dutchess counties one-on-one advice on how to transition to renewable energy, secure discounts on those measures, and generate donations to Covid-19 relief charities. Residents can participate by signing up at <https://sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program/>, and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown officially adopts the Marbletown 100% Renewable Action Plan as a guide to the Town’s energy transition, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Plan shall be made available on the Town website along with links to detailed guidance materials on the SHV website, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown encourages its citizens to study the “Ten Cost Effective Steps to 100% Renewable Energy”, use this framework to develop their own plans for transitioning to 100% renewable energy, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown encourages its citizens to participate in SHV's Green Group Purchase program by signing up at <https://sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program/>, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown supports the steps identified in the plan to cost-effectively accelerate the Town's transition to a greener, efficient, and prosperous future using renewable energy. Moreover, it will work to identify further actions to accelerate the energy transition.

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

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councilman Stewart     | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilman LaFera      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Councilwoman Foote     | Voting <u>Absent</u> |
| Councilwoman Sprachman | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |
| Supervisor Parete      | Voting <u>Aye</u>    |

**4-0**; 1 absent; Resolution #74-2020 was thereupon adopted.

- Tom Konrad, ECC Chairman, pointed out that this is an economic plus for the Town.

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

- Supervisor Parete announced that the 2021 budget process has started, and he will be sitting down with department heads to review their budgets over the next few weeks. Supervisor Parete pointed out that when he, Councilman Stewart, and Councilman LaFera all started with the Town there were employees' making \$13.00-\$14.00 an hour. With the new budget, as of 1/1/2021 there will be no employee's making under \$15.00 an hour.
- Supervisor Parete stated the Town received the sales tax check for June, July, and August in the amount of \$46,000. In 2019 \$53,000 was collected for the same time frame.
- Supervisor Parete also announced that the RMC is accepting bids for a generator. Having a generator would allow the RMC to be used as a warming center during storms and other emergencies. The bids will be opened 9/30/2020. Tom Konrad, ECC Chairman, asked if the towns are investigating non-fossil fuel generators. Supervisor Parete said a non-fossil fuel generator may not be big enough for the entire building. The Town of Rosendale has money left over from a state grant and this \$60,000 would cover a portion of the generator. The two towns will split any additional costs.
- Councilwoman Sprachman pointed out there had been a lot of comments on social media referring to a solar farm project in Kripplebush. Due to this Councilwoman Sprachman took a moment to review the process of how the Town Board and other boards work. The Town Board passes laws and the boards, that are made up of volunteers, responsibilities are to enforce the laws. The solar law was passed before any of these members sat on the town board and last year the solar law was amended.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- At 7:34pm Supervisor Parete made a motion to open an executive session, seconded by Councilman LaFera. 4-0; 1 absent, 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 8:06pm Councilwoman Sprachman made a motion to close the executive session and reconvene the meeting with no action taking nor monies expended, seconded by Councilman LaFera. 4-0; 1 absent, motion passed.

**Motion to adjourn:** There being no further discussion Supervisor Parete made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman LaFera; 4-0; 1 absent, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Moody  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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