



**Town Board Meeting
July 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

Present: Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Alex Baer, Councilwoman Esi Lewis, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis.

At 7:27 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda as written. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Announcement:

Supervisor Bettez announced the untimely passing of NP Police Officer Daniel Carpinelli. A moment of silence was observed.

Public Input:

Gabriela O’Shea read a statement regarding the safety of Ulster County roads and trails. She urged the Town Board to apply for an Empire State Trail Planning Grant.

Executive Session:

At 7:38 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into executive session to discuss personnel with Judge Bacon and Judge Weires. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of executive session with no action taken. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Appointment of Police Commissioners:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint the following individuals to their respective terms on the Police Commission:

- 1. Steve Ford: 7/21/22- 12/31/22
- 2. Janice Butcher: 7/21/22- 12/31/23
- 3. Cindy Sanchez: 7/21/22- 12/31/24
- 4. Karrie Rahaman-Bunce: 7/21/22-12/31/25
- 5. Tara Fitzpatrick: 7/21/22-12/31/25

Seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to Hire:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the hiring of Kaitlyn Bochnik, Cherity Hiltz and Jorge Guerron as full-time police officers effective August 1, 2022 at the full-time officer rate outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve and/or authorize the following as part of the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

- a. Approval of Minutes: Town Board Meeting July 7, 2022
- b. Appointment of Robert Ferri to serve on the Environmental Conservation Board
- c. Authorization of transfer of \$75,000.00 from 5110.2 to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund
- d. Authorization for the Supervisor to sign the Maintenance Agreement with Schindler Elevator Corporation for service at 59 N. Putt Corners Rd.
- e. Authorization to pay invoices #3829, #3830, and #3831 from Esposito's Heat and Water Treatment for treatment of the Field of Dreams water system to be paid from Parkland Fund
- f. Establishment of Escrow: PB# 22-167, Culinarian’s Home- Site Plan Amendment
- g. Extension of date of service for Tyler O’Brien, Buildings & Grounds, through 11/2/22
- h. Establishment of Escrow: PB# 22-206, 44 Rocky Hill Rd. Lot Line Adjustment
- i. Authorization to hire Donnie Yinger as a per-diem employee at Recycling/ReUse at the rate of \$20.80/hr., effective July 22, 2022
- j. Authorization to pay Payment Application #1 for CDE Electric in the amount of \$252,003.84-Backup Water Supply

- k. Authorization to pay Payment Application #5 for Merritt Construction in the amount of \$318,959.14-Backup Water Supply

Resolution-Mohonk Preserve Grant Application, Brook Farmhouse Project:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the following resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION OF MOHONK PRESERVE, INC. FOR A GRANT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND FOR THE BROOK FARMHOUSE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Mohonk Preserve, Inc. is applying to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund to be located at the Brook Farmhouse in the Mohonk Preserve Foothills, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Town Board of New Paltz; and **WHEREAS**, as a requirement under the rules of these programs, said not-for profit corporation must obtain the "approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located"; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, subject to all applicable approvals and associated permit issuances, the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz hereby does support and endorse the application of Mohonk Preserve, Inc. for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund known as The Brook Farmhouse Project and located within this community.

Discussion-Shared Services Proposal:

The Town will be hiring the Assessor from Esopus and her Clerk as consultants, to be paid on an hourly basis.

Shannon Harris Assessment Consulting Services Contract:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to execute the contract based on the Scope of Work Agreement with Shannon Harris. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Proposal for Professional Services:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract for professional services related to the Preparation and Development of a Combined Water System Source Balancing Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) Manual and Commissioning Protocol by LaBella, PC. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution- "Idaho Stop":

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the following resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE BILLS A3104A/S920A
(AKA "IDAHO STOP")**

Idaho Stop: A person operating a bicycle approaching a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. After slowing to a reasonable speed or stopping, the person shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle and pedestrians if required, before proceeding. A person operating a bicycle approaching a steady red traffic-control signal shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic. Once the person has stopped, the person may proceed through the steady red traffic-control signal with caution.

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 846 bicyclists killed in crashes with motor vehicles in the U.S. in 2019—including 29 in New York, and

WHEREAS, a majority of these crashes occur at intersections, often involving cyclists "hooked" by turning vehicles, as well as when bike lanes are blocked, forcing cyclists into the path of traffic, and

WHEREAS, permitting cyclists discretion to proceed in the absence of cross-traffic will enable them to: clear intersections ahead of turning vehicles; exit vehicle "blind spots," and; establish visibility on the road ahead, and

WHEREAS, the New York City Police Department wrote 35,000 moving violations to cyclists in 2019—more than for trucks which figured in 43 of that year's 220 road deaths, and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that 6,205 pedestrians were killed in crashes involving motor vehicles in 2019 vs. none involving bicycles, inferring that any increase in bicycle mode share would proportionally reduce pedestrian fatalities, and

WHEREAS cyclists in New York City have been allowed to proceed at red traffic signals during the "leading pedestrian interval" (thus emulating Idaho Stop behavior) since 2018 with no rise in complaints by motorists or pedestrians, and **WHEREAS** cyclists' exposure to tail pipe emissions is 4.3 times greater than car occupants and that the bill's passage would increase cyclists' distance from car exhaust, and

WHEREAS Idaho, which first passed such legislation in 1982, had the third fewest fatalities per 10,000 bicycle commuters in the U.S from 2011-2015—despite ranking 47th on federal funds spent on bike-walk improvements, and **WHEREAS** Delaware crashes involving bicycles at stop sign-controlled intersections fell 23% in the 30 months after it passed its Bicycle Friendly Act in 2017, and

WHEREAS NHTSA concluded in 2022 that bicycle stop-as-yield laws enhanced cyclist safety in states where they were evaluated, and

WHEREAS non-motorists pay half the cost of road construction and maintenance and are therefore entitled to proper infrastructure and enlightened legislation so they may safely share in its use, and

WHEREAS New York State has invested billions of dollars in bridges and extended bikeways, making cycling safer and easier on the public roads will increase throughput, maximizing the return on this investment, and grow the constituency for further improvements, and

WHEREAS bicycle tourism generates half a billion dollars per year in NY State and that NY City houses 800,000 active adult cyclists who comprise a ready market, and

WHEREAS allowing cyclists to yield-and-go at signed intersections will facilitate planners' use of secondary roads to create bike networks—further enhancing cyclists' safety, and
WHEREAS forty cycling organizations and fifteen state legislators have voiced support for this legislation, and
WHEREAS passage of this legislation will enhance cyclist safety; extend resident access to green space; yield significant public health benefits; increase patronage of local business; and broadly enhance transportation connectivity, sustainability and resilience,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of New Paltz calls on the New York State Assembly, Senate and the Governor to pass and sign into law A3104A/S920A (aka "Idaho Stop") to make cycling safer and easier across New York and to grow cycling as means of transportation, recreation and tourism, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Governor Kathy C. Hochul.

Warrant:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the July Warrant in the amount of \$1,363,593.48. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to execute contract:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to execute the contract with Walden Engineering for Grant Application Preparation-2022. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:22 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
 Town Clerk