



Town Board Meeting
April 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
59 N. Putt Corners & Via Videoconference

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

At 7:01 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the Town Board meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input: None

Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Approval of Minutes: March 16, 2023
- b. Appoint Izzy Defino to the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force
- c. Authorization for release of escrow: PB #22-490; Naughton & Torre (Kastner); in the amount of \$0.00
- d. Authorization to approve Adele Ruger and Amy Donnelly's Conference Authorization Request – for the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals NYPF 82nd Conference in the amount of \$240.00 each for the conference and \$298.00 for the hotel
- e. Authorization to pay Butler Construction Group, Inc, Pay Application #6, in the amount of \$169,290 for the Phase III Backup Water Supply

At 7:03 p.m. Councilwoman Seyfert arrived.

Executive Session:

At 7:03 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:23 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Seasonal Workers for Moriello Pool:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the following "Seasonal Workers" for Moriello Pool Pre-Season: Jules Branitz, Alexandra Ratch, Tessa LaPolt, Will Mergl, Zachary Musso, Brady Saunders, Tauri Schenker, John Weber, and Beckett Weires at \$16.00/hour with a start date of April 7, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Building Department Clerk:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize to extend Jasmine Towers, Building Department Clerk for an additional 3 months. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resignations:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept and approve the resignations of Brian Mazzaiello, and Anthony Apel as MEOs in the Highway Department, effective March 20, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approval to hire MEOs:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approval the hiring of Joseph Hafner and Jakob Demorest at the union rate of MEO to the Highway Department on April 24th, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Accessory Dwellings Unit Law:

Supervisor Bettez indicated that former Building Inspector Stacy Delarede will be working with Attorney Joe Moriello to finalize the changes to the law.

Letter of Interest to County to purchase parcel.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter of interest to the County to purchase a parcel, to be used for the public good by means of open space preservation using Community Preservation Fund monies. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to apply for Grant:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize applying for the Ulster County Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant for the Bike Lane project on Henry W. DuBois. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Set Public Hearing- "Grievance Day":

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to set a public hearing for April 20th, 2023 at 7:00pm for the Town of New Paltz to adopt "A Local Law to Add a New Article XI, 'Grievance Day' to Chapter 137, 'Taxation of the Code of the Town of New Paltz Changing the Date Established for Grievance Day for Real Property Assessment Review'" – enacting the local law pursuant to New York Property Tax Law §512, which enables a Town to enact a local law to change Grievance Day for Real Property Assessment Review from the fourth Tuesday of May to the first Thursday after the fourth Tuesday of May. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Set Public Hearing- "Solid Waste":

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to set a Public Hearing for April 20th at 7:30pm for the Town of New Paltz to adopt a local law to amend Article I, "Residential Collection" of Chapter 114, "Solid Waste" in order to improve the current residential solid waste collection system within the Town by adding additional regulations governing the collection system presently operated by an independent contractor following a public bidding process. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution-Indian Point:

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

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF NEW PALTZ IN OPPOSITION TO INDIAN POINT DISCHARGING CONTAMINATED WATER INTO THE HUDSON RIVER

WHEREAS, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, to date there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of this water which is heavily contaminated from the storage of the nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level "as low as reasonably achievable;" and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled; and

WHEREAS, such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and

WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson present the risk of entering the food chain; and

WHEREAS, there are community members who depend on fish from the river as a food source; and

WHEREAS, in addition, there are seven communities upriver who source their drinking water from the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, since the Hudson River is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south, this fact must be considered; and

WHEREAS, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this reckless action; and

WHEREAS, if these discharges are allowed, great strides in conservation efforts and investments made in the last 50 years would put those efforts back decades while possibly erasing them. This work has resulted in the significant return of the Bald Eagle, an increase in osprey and blue heron, with sightings of dolphins, seals, otters becoming more frequent. The decline in some fish populations, such as striped bass and herring, may be leveling off, while other species such as shad and sturgeon are still at risk. In recent years, restoration projects are aiding the recovery of oyster populations for the ecological benefits they provide. And, biomonitoring of macro-invertebrate communities consisting of mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies has shown an ongoing increase in their populations over the decades, indicative of cleaner waters; these and many other positive environmental developments would be imperiled; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz strongly opposes the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Pat Ryan, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Legislative Chair Tracey Bartels, Ulster County Legislator Eve Walter, and Ulster County Legislator Megan Sperry, New Paltz Town Board.

NPPD use of Seized Asset Funds:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to Approve the withdrawal of up to \$80,000.00 from the New Paltz Police Department Seized Asset fund to purchase a marked patrol vehicle to replace a 2017 Ford Sedan patrol vehicle. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Rescue Squad Contract:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to sign another 3-month contract with the New Paltz Rescue Squad. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Fire Sprinklers at Community Center and Youth Program:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve that repairs be made to fix deficiencies that were found during the fire sprinkler inspection of the Community Center and the New Paltz Youth Program – \$1,750.00 for the Community Center and \$1,650.00 for the New Paltz Youth Program, this will bring these buildings up to full compliance. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:36 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

Draft