



**Town Board Meeting  
Public Hearing-  
Local Law D1: Community Preservation Transfer Tax  
July 30, 2020, 7:00 pm  
Video Conference**

**Present:** Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Alex Baer, Councilman Dan Torres, and Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis. **Absent:** Councilman Brownstein

At 7:02 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the following Public Hearing: Local Law D: Community Preservation Transfer Tax. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Robert Gabrielli- Spoke in opposition of Transfer Tax.

Cara Lee- Gave clarification of the Transfer Tax will not have an effect on Real Property Tax.

Ruth Molloy- Submitted letter stating: I am writing to thank you for this memorable accomplishment in the approval of the Community Preservation Plan and New Paltz Community Preservation Fund. The efforts of our volunteers and town board members in this project are a realization of decades of work, thousands of volunteer hours and credible professional expertise. I found the plan to be thorough, comprehensive and easily understood to those outside the arenas of preservation, conservation, open space and beyond.

I want to express my support for the approval of the local real estate transfer tax as the means to practically support the work of the preservation plan. The sooner this fund is implemented, the sooner our community can lay the foundation for conservation and preservation of our identified wetlands, habitats and view sheds.

It is my understanding that, in these historically uncertain times, interest in real estate investments in our region are at a growing high. Let's move forward to protect our community and our precious environment.

Kitty Brown- Submitted a letter stating: Thank you for adopting the Community Preservation Fund last week. I fully support adopting the Real Estate Transfer Tax rate at 1.5%.

MaryEtta Schneider- Submitted a letter stating: While I am not a resident of New Paltz, I am the chairman of the board for Historic Huguenot Street, and am actively involved and interested in the New Paltz community. I applaud the Town of New Paltz board for taking advantage of the opportunity to create a Community Preservation Fund, based on a local real estate transfer tax, to protect the open spaces and historic features that define New Paltz's unique character and sense of place. The economy and well-being of the New Paltz community will benefit enormously from having dedicated funds to carry out the carefully developed Community Preservation Plan that you have recently adopted. Thank you for your leadership in protection of our natural and historic resources in New Paltz.

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**Town Board Meeting**

At 7:04 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the Town Board Meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Agenda:**

A motion was made Supervisor Bettez to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast motion carried.

**Announcements:**

County Fair Canceled, instead doing drive in fireworks event at the County Fairgrounds Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>. Lot opened at 7:30 pm and Fireworks will begin at 8:30 pm.

**Public Input:**

Edgar Rodriguez- spoke and submitted a letter stating: The act of the NP Town Board establishing tonight a steering committee of five people of color under certain circumstances may turn out to be a good approach for our community. It may curtail the long public controversy of the process of addressing Governor Cuomo's

Executive Order 203 on re-inventing our local police regarding the participation of people of color. I have no personal issue with the five people, and I know them personally. The issue is that the mission, process, and the self-selection of all community stakeholder groups be done in a public and open process as an act of community self-determination. I see the purpose of the steering committee as a vehicle to help the community select its representation and define the final mission and process, and not to select the representation, mission, and process. I can see the five people becoming part of the final community of stakeholder groups if they represent a community group. In other words, the steering committee would be facilitating the community stakeholder groups to organize self-selection process to the Town's Executive Order 203 group. Under these circumstances Concerned Parents of NP would be open to participating as a stakeholder group given the email invitation of Board member Dan Torres, dated 6-23-20, 12:44 pm. I will read this email tonight during public input. Carol Nolan- As a member of UACT spoke regarding mission statement originally not being satisfactory and is pleased they are revisiting the wording. A suggestion was made to take wording from Executive Order 203.

Tanya Marquette spoke and submitted a letter stating: It seems the Town Board has chosen to ignore the community and its valid criticisms of the way Exec Order 203 is being handled. Given the letters, emails and commentary already given, let me simply enumerate the problems and demands for correction:

1. The Mission statement completely ignored the core element of racism needing to be addressed in EO 203 and it has still not been corrected.
  2. The selection of the community Stakeholders is not being carried out as per EO 203. The Town Board is still trying to control the community with its top down selection of participants. This top down approach is the essence of the problem with law enforcement and the Town Board is continuing the problem by duplicating the hierarchical controlling power structure and ignoring/cutting out the community from making a decision on the process for selecting its representatives
  3. The Town Board should be emulating the County process, at the very least, by notifying the community that seats are available and people need to inquire for gaining a seat at the table. In particular people of color who are most negatively impacted by racism in policing and other people who have demonstrated a hands on concern for racism in the community wit demonstrable history of working to undo racism.
  4. Perhaps more egregious is the Town Board also being the Police commission. The Town Board needs to step down from this role immediately It needs to create community based Oversight Commission immediately that is free from control or influence by the Town Board or the Police Department. Functioning in this double role is not consistent with good government, transparency, and independent analysis and decision-making.
  - 6 .According to a careful reading of EO 203, the Town Board must recognize that it only has authority to call for a committee to come together. It does not have the authority to chose the process or members for this committee to review policing and reimagine a new structure for community safety. And lastly, I ask this statement be distributed to all Town Board members as well as be read into the public record.
- Jacki Brownstein- Spoke as a member of UACT regarding the proposed steering committee and was very pleased with the concept. Possible organizations were mentioned to be considered as resources.

Maggie Veve- Spoke regarding being pleased with Steering Committee. Would like to know how voices will be heard, how decisions will be made, and what the plan is for voting. Would like to see clear and transparent voting procedures to gain the trust of the community.

Tom Jelliffe- Spoke about transparency and how the proposed Steering Committee needs to be resourced well. Would like to see the committee independent of the Town Board. Would also to see outreach looking for help as needed and frequent reporting.

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to move the discussion regarding the Steering Committee to the first item. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Discussion re: appointment of the following residents to form the Steering Committee for the New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative: Diana Armstead, Jennifer Berry, Albert Cook, Randall Leverette, and Esi Williams-Myers:**

A motion was made by Councilman Torres stated the community members listed above came forward to help address the requirements of Executive Order 203. He would like to empower this committee. Also noted that although these meetings do not need to be publicized, he would like to see this happen regardless with meetings being announced publicly and minutes taken.

Orelle Feher- Stated she is concerned about the selection process. Concerned it will be an appointment process.

Councilman Torres approved the above five people to serve as a Steering Committee on behalf of the Town of New Paltz. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve and/or authorize the following items on the consent agenda.

- a. Approval of Meeting minutes: Town Board as Police Commission 7/16/20, Town Board Meeting 7/16/20
- b. Approval of the following requisitions:

July 21, 2020  
11:14 AM

THE TOWN OF NEW PALTZ  
Requisition Listing By Requisition Number

Page No: 1

Format: Detail without Line Item Notes		Print Other Quotes: N		Open: N	1st Aprv: N	2nd Aprv: N
Range: First to Last				3rd Aprv: N	Canceled: N	Denied: N
Threshold: 0.00 (For Each Requisition)		Print Comments: N		Held: Y	P.O. Generated: N	
Requested Date Start: 0		End: 07/21/20		Print Approval Users: N	Resubmitted: N	Needs Revision: N
Include Project Line Items: Yes						

  

Req #	Req Date	Vendor	Charge Account	Status	Description	Amount
R0000199	07/17/20	FALLF001 FALL FITTINGS INC.		Held		
1		SANDER REPAIR	B DBB-522-5142-400		SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTUAL EXPENDITURE	2,573.24
R0000202	07/17/20	KIEFER KIEFER AQUATICS		Held		
1		Recyc Plastic LG Chair	B AAA-522-7150-430		RECREATION - MORIELLO POOL CE	1,500.00
R0000209	07/17/20	NRTHST01 NORTH STAR		Held		
1		GAS COMPRESSOR 525	B DBB-522-5130-400		MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL	1,999.99
Total Regular Requisitions:		3	Total Line Items:	3	Total Amount:	6,073.23

- c. Authorization for Supervisor to sign contract with Alta Planning and Design for Green Infrastructure on Henry W DuBois Road as per Green Infrastructure grant.

Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**SEQRA Review: Henry W DuBois Road Improvement Project**

Kristie DiCocco engineer at Alta Planning gave overview of proposed resolution for New Paltz to become Lead Agency.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the Resolution declaring Lead Agency for the Henry W DuBois Road Improvement Project. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**WHEREAS** the Town Board authorized and approved the Henry W. Dubois Drive Bike & Pedestrian Lane Project (P.I.N. 8762.48), Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, and

**WHEREAS** the Town's consulting engineer, Alta Planning + Design, has advised the Town Board that the proposed Project is an Unlisted Action in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board is duly qualified to act as Lead Agency for compliance with SEQRA which requires environmental review of certain actions undertaken by local governments and in accordance with the coordinated review procedures of SEQRA, the Town of New Paltz wishes to be designated as the SEQRA Lead Agency for the proposed Projects; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz hereby indicates its wish to be Lead Agency for SEQRA review of the proposed Henry W. Dubois Drive Bike & Pedestrian Lane Project (P.I.N. 8762.48); and be it further **RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz authorizes and directs the Town of New Paltz's Town Supervisor to send a copy of the Short Environmental Assessment Form Part I presented at this meeting, along with a certified copy of this resolution stating the Town Board's intention to be declared as Lead Agency, to any and all communities or agencies that it is necessary to give written notice to in accordance with New York State Town Law, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Village of New Paltz.

**Vehicle Sale and Equipment Reserve Fund Request**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the sale of the 2010 Dodge pickup and roller trailer and replace the revenue in the highway equipment reserve fund. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast motion carried.

**Kitay-ReUse Center Dispute**

Resident wrote letter regarding being banned from the ReUse Center and wanted his privileges reinstated.

Supervisor Bettez showed video demonstrating he did in fact not follow the Reuse Center's rules regarding number of bags dumped per ticket.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez implementing a probationary permit system for ReUse Center. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Dziedzic-103 Henry W DuBois Account # 364-0 Water/Sewer Complaint**

Resident believes balance on water/sewer bill is incorrect. Resident also believes that when old meter was swapped out that wrong meter was read.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to offer the resident a payment plan to help with balance due. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Water and Sewer Meter Installations/Calibrations**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez that once residents have scheduled meter replacements, the \$50.00 fee will be waived. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Close Public Hearing Local Law D**

At 7:46 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to close Public Hearing on Local Law D1. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye vote cast, motion carried.

**Resolution approving Local Law D for Referendum**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve Local Law D1 authorizing the adoption by the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz of Local Law D1 (Revised Proposed) of 2020 relating to a real estate transfer tax for the Community Preservation Fund. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Executive Session:**

At 8:06pm Supervisor Bettez announced going into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and personnel.

At 8:35 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of Executive Session with no action taken. Seconded Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to cancel the August 6, 2020 Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:35 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari  
Deputy Town Clerk