



**New Paltz Town Hall- Policing  
Town Board Meeting  
Thursday June 18, 2020, 7:00pm  
Via Teleconference**

**Present:** Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Alexandra Baer, Councilman David Brownstein, Councilman Daniel Torres, Councilwoman Julie Seyfert Lillis, Chief Robert Lucchesi

Councilman Brownstein made an announcement introducing the meeting and announcing the purpose and rules of the forum.

Councilman Torres read a statement regarding review of police policies, protocols, practices, and funding regarding policing and racism.

**Announcements:**

The Town Clerk received the following emails to be added to the minutes as part of Public Comment:

Misha Harnick- "I have never had any complaints about our Police force, quite the contrary. but considering all the soul-searching everyone is doing nowadays, especially in regard to the police departments, it would be a good idea to vet all incoming officers, especially about their past misogynist and racist comments, etc. further, we cannot even consider defunding the police: with scaled-down police force, people would take many actions into their own hands, and we might end up with a vigilantes movements ... perish the thought!"

Todd Fillette 2 Locust Ln, New Paltz, NY 12561- "Let these documents serve as a notice to the Town, the Police Commission, and the New Paltz Police department that we the Community of New Paltz humbly and respectfully request that Officer Robert Sisco be returned to full duty immediately.

Please see our petition included within this email and the link to the petition signatures which at the time of this email included over 500 signatures after being started late this morning.

"By signing this petition, we members of the New Paltz Community humbly request Officer Robert Sisco be immediately returned to full duty at the New Paltz Police Department so that he can continue to honorably serve his community as he always has.

Officer Sisco has served the New Paltz community honorably for many years and in many capacities. Officer Sisco has served on the Ulster Regional Gang & Narcotics Team for over 5 years, the longest-serving officer in New Paltz Police Department history. Officer Sisco has been awarded by the Department of Homeland Security for Narcotics investigations, awarded by the Police Chiefs Association for Meritorious Investigations, awarded by New Paltz Police Department for several long term narcotics investigations resulting in the seizure of thousands of dollars in drug money. Officer Sisco serves with care for his fellow human beings and impacts life in our community in a myriad of positive ways. Officer Sisco always selflessly puts the needs of others' needs before his

own. Most recently during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Officer Sisco personally donated generously to local servers and waitstaff. He is also a loving father of 4, an owner of a small business, and he rehabilitates animals.

Officer Robert Sisco is an asset to this community.

We humbly and respectfully request Officer Sisco to be immediately returned to full duty at the New Paltz Police Department."

<https://www.change.org/SupportSisco>

We request a confirmation of receipt to this email to be sent to: [tfillette@gmail.com](mailto:tfillette@gmail.com)

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter."

### **Public Comment:**

Kieran ?- Believes Officer Sisco should be terminated due to transphobic statements and believes the Town is overpoliced. Funding should be given to other facets within the community outside of the police.

Don Kerr- Commented on having a private forum where people can talk openly. Discussed an incident regarding Echols trial and lack of investigation from Police Commission. Commented on dash cams not working and lack of transparency.

Kevin Kelly- Suggested a regular scheduled town hall meeting with give and take. Hopes to see an ongoing dialogue where public can question with receive answers from the police commission. Agreed with the idea of a private forum. Made reference to the officer placed on leave and wants to know if immediate leave is a new procedure. Would like a transparent process with regards to complaints, investigations, and findings knowing how conclusions are come to.

Tanya Marquette- Referred to Paul Echols case and how police were not transparent. Discussed creating meaningful structural changes within the community to create equity.

Eve Papp- Made comments regarding Officer Sisco's rap video and as a trans female was offended by his video. Doesn't believe there are only two genders and provided scientific evidence to back up belief.

Edgar Rodriguez- Feels the Town failed with regards to Echols case. Wants a community chosen Police Commission and to eliminate the New Paltz Police Department.

Diana Armstead- Believes there should be a separate Police Commission board made up civilians aside from the town board members.

Tricia Bowen- Made reference to the stat act providing transparency. Will the Town go back a few years?

Nate Liebert- Discussed misconduct by the Police and not getting proper discipline. Wants to defund the Police and have a civilian review board. Wants a private forum without the presence of the police.

Michael ?- Police funding is better used for social programs and have separate police commission and believes Officer Sisco should be disciplined and fired.

Alex Wojcik- Urge Town Board to host different type of forum with an opportunity for people to comment with more time. Wants to be provided with police budget and state aid to police dept, real citizen police commission with citizens with access to records. Tell community what they need from us to give us transparency and what you need to defund the police. How will Town Board address the hate speech by an officer in uniform.

Maggie Veve- Made reference to Paul Echols case and police brutality and racism locally and nationally. Feels police should be eliminated focusing more on other securities than personal property security. Wants regularly scheduled meetings.

Michelle Zipp- Believes Officer Sisco's rap promotes transphobia and violence towards women. Would like to know what the Police Commission does. Wants to defund, demilitarize, and reimagine the police department putting more emphasis on other areas within the community.

Tim Rogers- Elected officials need help on how to make things better for the people of the community. Laws may be putting pressure on the community.

Juna Keehn- Believes we should have separate forum without police presence. Town is paying way too much for police. Separate board for police commission. Work to decrease the amount of money people pay for fines and bail. Overpoliced.

Jane Schanberg- Likes having the open forums. Wants timeline and plan for fulfilling the mandate by the governor when how and who we can expect results.

Harper Keehn- Believes in defunding police. Wants to get rid of the police entirely. Would like to know what type of police calls come in daily.

Gabrielle Wood- Town is overpoliced. Has private survey results regarding personal experiences with police. Will provide surveys if requested

Matthew Goodnow- Spoke in favor of the police. Defunding is not the answer. Works with the police often and sees no issues with gender, race, or violence.

Billy Rittenhaus- Anti Semitic images on Officer Sisco's Instagram.

Renee Hack- Spoke about defunding. Word means something different to different people based on personal situations.

Richard Heyl de Ortiz- Overpoliced. Stated that African American son felt conspicuous and self-conscious walking down main street. Feels police suppress us instead of protecting and serving. Police commission members need to be changed.

Matteo Undici- Needs of different methods for different backgrounds need to be met. Believes zoom doesn't provide the opportunity for all people to participate. Predatory policing is a concern. Armed police officers do not need to be interacting with citizens.

Barbara ?- Been helped by the police feel they are helpful but can also be not helpful. Violence is unacceptable. Discussed defunding and would like a new paradigm.

Dylan ?- Is a Trans person fearful of walking down Main St. and does not reach out to the police due to trust issues.

JB ?- Defunding isn't the answer believes proper training is needed. Discussed Officer Sisco making a mistake and needs second chance.

Erika Olver- Police made personal experience worse during mental health issue. Feels things would be different if the crisis involved a black person.

Sophie Rose Goodman- Angry and offended and disrespected that councilman Brownstein did not comment on a participant's comment.

Jess ?- Read petition on behalf of Officer Sisco and commented on Officer Sisco identifying as Jewish

Justin Fenichel- Commented on someone waiting to speak

Cindy Joao- Wants to know how Officer Sisco will continue to serve the community when he has broken his oath.

Rosalyn Cherry- Suggested getting a copy of Governor Cuomo's list of public safety measures.

Councilman Brownstein thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the forum.  
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At 8:08 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open Town Board Meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the agenda as listed. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Public Hearing: Weight Limits Old Rte. 299**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open public hearing to open Public Hearing on Weight Limits on Old Route 299. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

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**Public Hearing: Increase in Amount of Cost of Alternate Water Supply System: Water District #5:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Seyfert Lillis to open the public hearing on Water District #5 alternate water source. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried. A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to pass the resolution as posted. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to close public hearing. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

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**Presentation- Town MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Stormwater Management- Program Annual Report:**

Ted Nitza gave presentation regarding Town MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Stormwater Management Program Annual Report.

**Draft Community Preservation Plan:**

Cara Lee, Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, Ted Fink and Ingrid Haekel gave a presentation identifying the purpose of the plan.

The task force has been working to draft a plan to protect water resources, open space, farmland, and historic sites and buildings. The plan combines and updates the Towns Open Space Plan, Farmland Protection Plan, and Historic Resource Survey and will include new geospatial information that has been collected in more recent years. It will identify New

Paltz's open space and historic preservation priorities and be a tool to help guide conservation and protection activities in the future.

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to approve and/or authorize the following items on the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

1. Acceptance of resignation: Janelle Peotter, ENCB
2. Appointment to ENCB: Hope Nitza
3. Authorization to expend \$2,240.76 for horizontal grinder repair
4. Authorization for pool pump repair
5. Authorization of MYCOMCO licensing agreement for 59 N Putt
6. Approval of minutes: Joint Meeting 6/4/2020
7. Authorization to add MCB Security as a consultant to the Town Board for the purpose of consulting for the design of security system at the rate of \$150/hr for the 59 N Putt project.
8. Authorization to Hires: Moriello Pool 2020 season

Emily Barbato	\$15.00	Lifeguard (3) / WSI
Emily Benkert	\$16.00	Head Lifeguard / WSI
Sean Benkert	\$15.00	Lifeguard (3) / WSI
Lucas Brady	\$12.30	Attendant (2) / CPR
April Cook	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Antonia DeMassio	\$15.00	Lifeguard (3) / WSI
Alexandra Dratch	\$16.30	<u>Head Lifeguard</u> / WSI
Maxwell Easton	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Sean Geisler	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Griffin Goldleaf	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Alexandra Hekking	\$16.60	<u>Head Lifeguard</u> / WSI / LGTI
Josie LaPolt	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Tessa LaPolt	\$12.30	Attendant (2) / CPR
Emily Lawrence	\$12.30	Attendant (2) / CPR
Megan Loughran	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Kendall Lucchesi	\$13.30	Lifeguard (2)
Michael Messina	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Samantha Musso	\$15.00	Lifeguard (3) / WSI
Zachary Musso	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)
Ava Rosen	\$15.00	Lifeguard (3) WSI
Paige Sarvis	\$13.60	Lifeguard (3)

<b>Brady Saunders</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)
<b>Tuari Schenker</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)
<b>Tadeusz Trzewik-Quinn</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>Samantha Vos</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>John Weber</b>	<b>\$12.30</b>	<b>Attendant (2) / CPR</b>
<b>Jedidiah Weires</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
Thomas Plitsch	Salary	<i>Co-Director</i>
William Russell	Salary	<i>Co-Director</i>

**Subs: Lifeguard & Attendants**

<b>Alexander Barbato</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	Lifeguard (1)
<b>Ashley Benkert</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)
<b>Ava DeMassio</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	Lifeguard (2) / <b>Attendant</b>
<b>Alex Demis</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>Haley Donohue</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	Lifeguard (1)
<b>Morgan Dunn</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	Lifeguard (1)
<b>Noah Fishman</b>	<b>\$12.30</b>	<b>Attendant (2) / CPR</b>
<b>Kaitlyn Geisler</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)
<b>Campbell Heiz</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>Attendant (1) / CPR</b>
Sarah LaSpada	\$16.60	<b><u>Head Lifeguard / WSI</u></b>
<b>William Mergl</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>Attendant (1) / CPR</b>
<b>Logan Pece</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)
<b>Andie Psilopoulos</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>Attendant (1) / CPR</b>
<b>Alyssa Puleo</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>Attendant (1) / CPR</b>
<b>Quinn Ratynski</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2) / <b>Attendant</b>
<b>Luke Roberts</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>Abigail Santos</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>Griffin Santos</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>Attendant (1) / CPR</b>
<b>Kaela Santos</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3) <i>(swim coach)</i>
<b>Zofia Trzewik-Quinn</b>	<b>\$13.60</b>	Lifeguard (3)
<b>Rhys Weires</b>	<b>\$13.30</b>	Lifeguard (2)

Sean Zupko	\$13.00	Lifeguard (1)
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**a. Budget Modifications:**

<b>DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2020</b>									
Request authorization to increase the adopted 2020 budget as follows:									
<b>A Fund</b>									
Debit	A 599	Appropriated Fund Balance		50,000.00					
Credit	A 960	Appropriations			50,000.00				
Increase	A 3120.200	Police, Equipment	50,000.00						
To increase the A Fund budget for \$50,000 received in 2019 from Woodland Pond for the purchase of a police vehicle.									
<b>DB Fund</b>									
Debit	DB 599	Appropriated Fund Balance		148,501.00					
Credit	DB 960	Appropriations			148,501.00				
Increase	DB 5130.200	Machinery, Equipment	148,501.00						
To increase the DB Fund budget for \$148,501 authorized in 8/2019/order still pernding/change to 2020 purchase. CHIPS funding.									
Request authorization to modify the adopted 2020 budget as follows:									
<b>A Fund</b>									

Debit	A 510	Estimated Revenue		1707					
increase	A 2680	Insurance Recovery	1707						
Credit	A 960	Appropriation			1707				
Increase	A 3120.40 0	Police. Contractual Exp	1707						
To increase the 2020 budget for the receipt of \$1706.77 from Marshall & Sterling for police car damage and repair.									

**Discussion: waiving permit fees for outdoor dining:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez directing the Building Department to waive any fees regarding outdoor dining. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert -Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**June Warrant:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the June Warrant in the amount of \$384,010.17. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Executive Session:**

At 9:07 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert Lillis, all aye votes cast motion carried.

At 10:16 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of Executive Session. No Second noted.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Fred Riley as recommended by the Building Department at the rate of \$24.038 an hour. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes carried, motion carried.

At 10:17 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari  
Deputy Town Clerk