



Town & Village Joint Meeting/Town Board Meeting
June 4, 2020
7:00 pm
Via Teleconference

Present (T): Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Alex Baer, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Councilman David Brownstein.

Present (V): Mayor Tim Rogers, Trustee KT Tobin, Trustee William Murray, Trustee Alex Wojcik, Trustee Michelle Zipp.

At 7:03 pm **Supervisor** Bettez made a motion to open the Joint Town/Village Board Meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to approve the Joint Town/Village agenda. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Announcements:

The Census is currently at 62% participation rate for the Town of New Paltz. Supervisor Bettez would like to see this percentage closer to 100%.

Public Input:

Ted Nitza email:

Notice is hereby given that the Town Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Management Program Annual Report will be presented at the **June 18th, 2020** regular public meeting of the Town Board to be held at the Town Hall and commencing at 7:00PM. The purpose of this public meeting is to encourage public discussion and participation regarding its stormwater quality and the administration of the Town's MS4 Stormwater Management Program.

Review of Feasibility Study and renewable energy production & storage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant: Ted Nitza, Village EPB Chair:

Engineering Students from SUNY New Paltz, Zachary Johnson, Nikki Maher, and Nolan West gave a presentation to the Town and Village Boards. The main objective of the presentation is to reduce the utility cost for village ratepayers and provide feasible example of successful use of renewable energy in an industrial application, after installing solar panels and battery storage technologies to the Village of New Paltz Wastewater treatment plants and to achieve points for solar technology for the village.

This project would cost \$282,750.00 to install solar panels and would have a total project cost of \$381,190.00. The Village will save approximately \$19,800.00 after breaking even in 20.6 years.

Presentation and Discussion regarding Complete Streets Initiative: Janelle Peotter:

Janelle Peotter and Anna Segal gave a presentation regarding the Complete Streets Initiative. The main goal is to make roads accessible for all motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, and individuals of all ages and abilities.

The Village of New Paltz has adopted a complete streets policy in 2013 but currently the Town of New Paltz does not have one.

Joint Resolution Regarding Ulster County Sales Tax:

Councilman Torres recused himself for this discussion. County Legislators Eve Walter and Jim Delaune joined the discussion.

Both Town and Village are trying to find creative ways to get more funds to Towns and Villages. They would also like see a more fair distribution of sales tax between Towns, Villages, and County.

Trustee Tobin made a motion on behalf of the Village to adopt the Sales Tax Extension Resolution. Seconded by Trustee Wojcik, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilman Brownstein made a motion on behalf of the Town to adopt the Sales Tax Extension Resolution. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

WHEREAS, Ulster County and the City of Kingston will be in negotiations regarding an agreement pertaining to sales tax distribution to commence in 2021; and

WHEREAS, said contract typically remains in place for five years, with the last agreement being approved pursuant to Resolution No. 280 dated May 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this agreement has seen little change in decades despite several innovations implemented in other New York Counties that warrant exploration; and

WHEREAS, we are currently experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic forcing our County to be on the mandated New York PAUSE for several months resulting in considerable loss in revenue from sales tax as well as other revenue for a total impact that is current immeasurable, and as a result consideration of innovations in the distribution and utilization of sales tax revenues are inappropriate at this juncture; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz fully support ULSTER COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.228 which proposes a one year contract agreement or one year extension of the current sales tax sharing distribution agreement, thus allowing time to understand and/or potentially recover from the economic implications of the pandemic and to identify possible innovative uses for this revenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Jen Metzger, State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, County Executive Patrick Ryan, City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Legislative Chair David Donalson, Ulster County Legislator Eve Walter, and Ulster County Legislator James Delaune.

Resolution in Support of repealing State Law 50-a:

Councilman Torres made a motion to amend and adopt the resolution in support of repealing State Law 50-a on behalf of the Town, with the following changes.

1. Remove/Change the part mentioning holding one Board accountable to the other Board
2. Changing the wording of the phrase legislate with love to legislate with love, caring, and concern.
3. Change the term White Supremacy to Systemic White Supremacy
4. Change review police accountability to review and strengthen police accountability

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

Trustee Tobin made a motion to adopt the resolution in support of repealing State Law 50-a on behalf of the village with the aforementioned changes. Seconded by Trustee Murray, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz respect the inherent dignity of all individuals and that no person or group should be made to live in fear of violence because of the color of their skin; and,

WHEREAS, New Paltz values equity and inclusivity and given that so many people and communities are facing hatred, discrimination, and violence because of systemic white supremacy, we believe it is crucial to speak out and fight back against racism and its harms; and,

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic that is disproportionately hurting Black Americans, George Floyd was coldly and brutally murdered in Minneapolis by a police officer while several other officers idly watched him die on May 25, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the George Floyd murder was not an isolated incident as Black Americans are three times as likely as Whites to be killed by police and as a result Blacks are overrepresented in police killings: in 2019, 24 percent of people killed by police were Black, despite Blacks comprising only 13 percent of the total population (source: MappingPoliceViolence.org); and,

WHEREAS, it is empirically proven that when police departments enact use of force policies with clear guidelines as to how much force can be used it significantly reduces police violence, including the following policies that are already Town of New Paltz Police's [Defensive Action Policy](#): requiring all use of force to be reported; requiring officers to use all other means before shooting; banning chokeholds and strangleholds; requiring de-escalation strategies; making it a duty to intervene if another officer uses excessive force; restricting the shooting of moving vehicles; requiring warning before shooting (source: UseOfForceProject.org); and,

WHEREAS, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz stand united in the goal to always legislate with love, caring, and concern in such a way that fosters a community of unlearning, undoing, and working to defeat racism; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz condemn the murder of George Floyd and any and all racist acts, and we commit to actively condemn police brutality, galvanize public support for anti-racist efforts, and commit to doing what is in our power to address the scourge of racist police violence; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz thank our Town of New Paltz Police for working with organizers of the May 30, 2020 march, ensuring and providing a peaceful and safe anti-police violence protest in our community; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz in particular want to thank our Town of New Paltz Police Chief Robert Lucchesi for his leadership in the protest planning, as well as his statement about the murder of George Floyd and acknowledgement of our entrenched systemic racism that included his commitment "to listen to what the community has to say in the hopes dialogue can lead to positive change"; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz also thank the organizers and many protesters who took part in the demonstrations in New Paltz on May 30, 2020, for peacefully coming together as a community to speak out against police violence and racism; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New Paltz Town Council, as Police Commission, commits to thoroughly analyzing all police department spending, hiring, training, and support services, as well as any local use of force policies and contracts, with a keen and constructive eye as to how they protect and serve the entire community, with a priority toward ensuring racial equity, social justice and community transparency; that such analysis will include ample opportunities for community input, questions and suggestions and that a report of findings and suggested changes are transparently shared with opportunities for feedback, with the New Paltz community; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New Paltz Town Council commits to working with our police department to review and strengthen police accountability that buttresses against acts of police brutality and abuse, builds trust, and makes it safer for all of us; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of New Paltz Board supports the Town Council's commitment to doing the necessary work to ensure police accountability in actively being anti-racist, transparent, and publicly accessible in their roles as Police Commissioners; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town and Village Boards of New Paltz also support statewide legislation that would make it a hate crime to issue a false 911 complaint (A3566); the repeal of 50-a, the NYS law that enables police departments to hide officer misconduct and discipline information (S3695/A2513); legislation that would allow the Office of the Special Prosecutor to investigate and prosecute all criminal cases against law enforcement (S02574/A01601); The Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act, which requires police departments to report on racial disparities in the enforcement of low-level encounters and the number of killings by police throughout New York State (S1830A /A5472); the requirement of police officers and peace officers to issue appearance tickets to individuals charged with certain offenses instead of arresting such individuals (S6360/A3201); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Jen Metzger, State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, NYS Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan, NYS Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, County Executive Patrick Ryan, City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Legislative

Chair David Donalson, Ulster County Legislator Eve Walter, and Ulster County Legislator James Delaune.

Bills and Claims Resolution:

Mayor Rogers made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the auditing and payment of claims. Seconded by Trustee Tobin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Village of New Paltz has been presented with certain bills and claims for payment in the ordinary course of business of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Treasurer has presented an abstract of the aforesaid bill and claims organized by budgetary fund from which each bill and claim will be paid; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Village Law 4-412, it is the responsibility of the Village Board to audit and authorize payment of all bills and claims appropriately presented to the Village for payment,

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the following abstract of bills and claims are approved for payment

5/29/2020	General	\$4,068.61	A Fund
	Water	\$7,490.74	F Fund
	Sewer	\$5248.04	G Fund
	Capital	\$19,193.89	H Fund
	Total	\$36,001.28	

AND IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Treasurer, or her designee, is hereby directed to take all steps necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution and pay said bills and claims forthwith.

At 9:22 pm the Joint Meeting was adjourned.

Town Board Meeting

Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Approval of minutes: Town Board 5/21/20; Police Commission 5/21/20
- b. Authorization to hire Tom Plitsch for the 2020 Moriello Pool season at the salary approved by the Town Board as part of the 2020 budget (\$9,593)
- c. Approval to close PB #19-51, New Paltz Storage, LLC escrow with no refund due
- d. Approval to close PB# 19-272, Institute for Family Health escrow with no refund due
- e. Authorization to fund Masters in Education courses for Andrew Vlad, NPYP as proscribed in the Town Employee Handbook
- f. Authorization to dispose of all obsolete IT equipment including the equipment recently replaced in the Town-wide Computer Replacement Capital Project
- g. Authorization to expend up to \$4500 to service the main pool pump at Moriello Pool

Discussion: protocols and timeline for reopening Town Hall and other Town Offices to employees:

Supervisor Bettez discussed developing and putting protocols in place prior to reopening. Town Offices will remain on current schedule until the end of June. Possibilities are being discussed to open Moriello Pool in July.

Local Law to Amend Section 133-2, Subdivision A and Section 133-5 of the Code of the Town of New Paltz to Exclude by Weight Motor Vehicles from Designated Highways (Old Rte 299): Resolution declaring lead agency and setting a date for public hearing:

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to declare lead agency and set public hearing for June 18th at 7:00 pm for local law to amend sections 133-2 and 133-5 weight limit of motor vehicles on Old Rte 299. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution declaring June 2020 LGBTQ+ Virtual Pride Month:

Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis made a motion to adopt the resolution making June 2020 LGBTQ+ Virtual Pride Month. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

WHEREAS, in June of 1969, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City staged an uprising to resist the police harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ+ Americans were commonly subjected, marking the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ+ Americans; and that LGBTQ+ folks continue to suffer discrimination, hostility and exclusion at almost every level of society, including in areas of housing, education, employment, healthcare, family law, immigration and marriage equality; and, **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ Pride Month has been celebrated each year since in the month of June to honor the commitment of the LGBTQ+ pioneers who fought for civil rights in the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, a critical tipping point historically for the LGBTQ+ community in the United States; and during this month we celebrate the progress we have made in creating a community more inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ people; and, **WHEREAS**, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many states and many LGBTQ+ people in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ+ identities while living in secrecy and fear; and, **WHEREAS**, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584, that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and acknowledged that “[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family;” and, **WHEREAS**, the Village of New Paltz made history in Peace Park on February 27, 2004, as the location of the first same-sex marriages in the country (outside of San Francisco) under former Mayor Jason West, and the community has since hosted the annual Hudson Valley Pride Parade & Festival every June; and, **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ people in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States; and, **WHEREAS**, many states have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and many states have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in education; and, **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ people, LGBTQ+ youth especially, are at increased risk of suicide, homelessness, and being the targets of bullying and violence; and, **WHEREAS**, the LGBTQ+ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States; and, **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ people in the United States, in particular transgender individuals, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crime and higher likelihood of being homicide victims; and, **WHEREAS**, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (division E of Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2835) into law to protect all people in the United States from crimes motivated by the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual; and, **WHEREAS**, despite being marginalized throughout the history of the United States, LGBTQ+ people in the United States continue to celebrate their identities, love, and contributions to the United States in various expressions of Pride; and, **WHEREAS**, the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the United States continues to expand every day and LGBTQ+ people and their allies in the United States remain determined to pursue equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of New Paltz Town Board declares June 2020 LGBTQ+ Virtual Pride Month and memorializes it as such in this Resolution, as a symbol that we stand as allies even when a global pandemic prevents us from marching together; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of New Paltz Town Board stands committed and united to help break down the walls of fear and prejudice, and will work to build a bridge to understanding and acceptance until all LGBTQ+ peoples are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of New Paltz Town Board hereby calls upon residents, employers, public officials, and all community members to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and does further encourage all to observe the month of June with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities -- albeit virtual and/or done at home, in accordance with necessary social distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic -- that celebrate our diversity and recognize LGBTQ+ Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our lives; 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 Antonio Delgado, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Jen Metzger, State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, County Executive Patrick Ryan, City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Legislative Chair David Donaldson, Ulster County Legislator Eve Walter, and Ulster County Legislator James Delaune.

Water District #5 202b Order Calling Public Hearing:

Supervisor Bettez discussed negotiating with the DEP for the construction of Water District #5. Engineers are looking at the cost.

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding Water District #5 202b on June 18th, 2020 at 7:05pm. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Motion to spend \$2,750.00 to replace Nexus (Channel 21 equipment used to broadcast meetings):

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to authorize the purchase of a used Nexus in the amount of \$2,750.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion:

Councilman discussed phase 2 reopening and allowing businesses to provide outdoor seating and dining.

Supervisor Bettez made a motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign any documents necessary to allow restaurants to provide outdoor dining. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:52 pm Supervisor Bettez made a motion to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari
Deputy Town Clerk