



Joint Town & Village Board Meeting
April 1, 2021, 7 p.m.
Via Videoconference

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

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

At 7:03p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the 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 Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried. The Housing Plan presentation has been postponed until May 12th.

Public Comment:

- Diana Francis asked questions about how stop signs are placed, and what is the process in the Village.
- Tom Denton spoke about the NPPRRC report, feels it does not address the data presented about the PD budget, the low rate of crime and the high level of Police deployments that might be conducted by private interests.
- Tanya Marquette read a statement regarding the NPPRRC report and how it inadequately addresses racism.
- Juna Keehn read a statement on behalf of Dan Schniedewind, regarding the NPPRRC report, feels it does not address policing in New Paltz and what the NPPD actually does.
- Jacki Brownstein wants to see New Paltz take a hard and creative look at the development of low income and affordable housing.
- Tom Jelliffe submitted the following statement:

I'm a member of U-Act and the NP Coalition for Community Safety and Wellbeing.

The final Town Police Reform and Reinvention report opposes "defunding" the police, even though it acknowledges that the concept had wide support and that it means reducing the police budget to fund alternative services, such as mental health response teams. We prefer to call this approach "divest-reinvest." The report offers three rationales for opposing police funding reductions—each unsupported by evidence:

1. First, it claims that New Paltz would lose state-county mental health services if it funded such services itself. We aren't told why that would be, but believe that the most important thing at this stage is for the community to envision what is possible; laws and regulations can be changed or worked around.
2. Secondly, it claims that the New Paltz police force would be overextended. The report cites no supporting crime and staffing trends. We documented large, long term crime reductions in New Paltz, just as the number of officers remained level and the budget grew. New Paltz now has more officers per 1000 residents than other Ulster County towns with much higher crime rates. And the report does not consider that police responsibilities could be cut back.
3. Thirdly, the report suggests spending even more on salaries to reduce turnover among officers. Again, no support, even as 8 of the 10 highest paid New Paltz employees are in the PD.

On the other hand, there are powerful reasons to adopt a divest-reinvest strategy. Following New Paltz Unified for a Responsible Budget we recommend reducing the police budget of \$2.8 million by 25%, gradually through attrition.

1. First, less officers means fewer discretionary contacts between police and citizens. For many in our community such contacts are fraught with threat and risk, as voiced by students and others in the aftermath of the Paul Echols case.
2. Secondly, divestment comes along with cutting back on police responsibilities better handled by social workers or, as in the case of vacant property checks, by civilians.
3. Thirdly, there are the opportunities for reinvesting the resulting \$700,000. Not a huge sum. But a down payment on the idea of shifting away from reactive and punitive law enforcement towards pro-active, caring concern for all forms of violence and harm. We tentatively proposed enhancement of mental health services and Restorative Justice, subject to further community discussion and consensus-building.

Thank you.

- Harper Keehn spoke about his concerns regarding policing.
- Edgar Rodriguez feels the community has not been adequately included by the Steering Committee and Town Board.
- Maggie Veve spoke about police accountability. She also suggested returning to a civilian Police Commission.

Natural Resources Inventory presentation:

Amanda Gotto presented the Project Deliverables which will include the Final NRI; and provided an overview of the project timeline dating back to December 2019, and the individuals involved.

Nate Nardi-Cyrus, NYS DEC, thanked everyone for their work on this project.

Rick Lederer-Barnes, Consultant, provided an overview on the NRI, how it can be used and what the next steps are.

At 7:50 p.m. Councilwoman Baer arrived.

Police Reform & Reimagination Collaborative Steering Committee Report:

Members of the Committee Jennifer Berry, Albert Cook, Diana Francis and Esi Lewis spoke about the process and work the committee was tasked with. It was mentioned that not many community members attended the committee meetings and that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. More people need to come out and get involved. The Committee and the Town Board agree that this is the beginning and not the end of the process. The Town Board expressed gratitude to the Committee for all its' hard work.

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

ADOPTING THE NEW PALTZ POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT: "RE-IMAGINING POLICING IN NEW PALTZ, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK: A RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #203"

WHEREAS, there is a long and painful history in New York State of discrimination and mistreatment of black and African-American citizens dating back to the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in America; and

WHEREAS, government has a responsibility to ensure that all of its citizens are treated equally, fairly, and justly before the law; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, Executive Order 203 was issued by the Governor of the State of New York, stating that each local government entity in the State of New York which has a police agency operating with police officers as defined under 1.20 of the criminal procedure law must perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz convened the head of the local police agency and stakeholders in the community to form the New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Steering Committee and develop such plan, which considered evidence-based policing strategies, including but not limited to, use of force policies, procedural justice; any studies addressing systemic racial bias or racial justice in policing; implicit bias awareness training; de-escalation training and practices; law enforcement assisted diversion programs; restorative justice practices; community-based outreach and conflict resolution; problem-oriented policing; hot spots policing; focused deterrence; crime prevention through environmental design; violence prevention and reduction interventions; model policies and guidelines promulgated by the New York State Municipal Police Training Council; and standards promulgated by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, and

WHEREAS, the New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Steering Committee, in coordination with the New Paltz Police Department, consulted with stakeholders, including but not limited to membership and leadership of the NPPD; members of the community; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups; the local office of the district attorney; the local public defender; and local elected officials, created a plan to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from its review and consultation, entitled, "Re-Imagining Policing in New Paltz", and

WHEREAS, such plan was offered for public comment to all citizens in the locality on March 16, 2021, and after consideration of such comments, was presented to the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz on April 1, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz does hereby adopt such plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town Clerk shall transmit a certification to the Director of the Division of the Budget to affirm that such process has been complied with and the resolution has been adopted.

Acceptance of Easement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez and Mayor Rogers to authorize the Supervisor and Mayor to accept the Village and Town easement on Stewart's property for the extension of the Empire State Trail to be connected to the Rail Trail and execute any necessary documents, including the TP-584. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein and Trustee Murray, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Village Business:**Draft MS4:**

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers to approve the Draft MS4 Report. Seconded by Trustee Wojcik, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Bond Resolution:

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers authorizing the issuance of an additional \$150,000 aggregate principal amount serial bonds of the Village of New Paltz, New York, pursuant to the local finance law, to finance the additional cost of the construction, reconstruction and installation of improvements to the water supply system of said Village. Seconded by Trustee Murray, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Bond Resolution:

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers to authorize the issuance of an additional \$250,000 aggregate principal amount serial bonds of the Village of New Paltz, New York, pursuant to the local finance law, to finance the construction, reconstruction and installation of improvements to the water supply system of said Village. Seconded by Trustee Murray, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Acceptance of scope and fee:

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers to accept the scope and fee and authorization to pay Alta Planning + Design to develop the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail connection along NY State Route 32. Seconded by Trustee Zipp, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Mayor Rogers addressed the concerns regarding the stop signs in the Village. All stop signs are installed with pedestrian safety in mind and there is no preferential treatment for anyone.

Resolution-Community Choice Aggregation:

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

**INTENT TO CONTINUE THE TOWN OF NEW PALTZ'S COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)
PROGRAM BY CONTINUING TO OFFER ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND INCORPORATING OPT-OUT
COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTED GENERATION**

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz wishes to maintain control of sourcing their electricity supply, reduce electricity costs, access 100% renewable sources of electricity and catalyze the development of renewable power plants in New York;

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2019 the Town of New Paltz enacted Local Law No. 5 of 2019, "Community Choice Aggregation", enabling a Community Choice Aggregation Program;

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2019, the Town of New Paltz engaged the services of Joule Assets, Inc. ("Joule") as CCA Program Administrator for the Municipal Program;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz entered into an Electricity Supply Agreement to provide 100% renewable electricity supply to eligible residents and small businesses who did not opt-out from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz intends to continue the CCA Program and access additional benefits for eligible residents and small businesses by continuing to offer electricity supply and in addition incorporating an Opt-out Community Distributed Generation ("Opt-out CDG") offering;

WHEREAS, Opt-out CDG offers guaranteed savings on electricity bills and supports the local development of solar projects through an agreement with a CDG project developer/owner ("CDG Sponsor");

WHEREAS, a CCA Program incorporating electricity supply and Opt-out CDG will maximize the financial and environmental benefits to participating residents and small businesses;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz seeks to obtain competitive bids from electricity suppliers (each a "Supplier") pursuant to a request for proposal (the "Supply RFP"), that is intended to result in a three-party Electricity Supply Agreement between the selected Supplier, the Town of New Paltz and Joule that, among other things, will govern the terms of provision of the electricity supply by Supplier for the Municipal Program;

WHEREAS, the Electricity Supply Agreement (in the form attached hereto), has been reviewed and approved for form by the Town of New Paltz Attorney, and has been deemed to provide benefits, adequate protections, and minimize risk to the Town of New Paltz.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Joule to issue a Supply RFP consistent with the provisions of this Resolution, with bids to be evaluated based upon compliance with the specifications of the Supply RFP including, without limitation, price and term parameters, and Supplier's acceptance of all material terms of the Electricity Supply Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the Electricity Supply Agreement in substantially the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A, such form to be included in the Supply RFP;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Joule in its role as Administrator for the CCA Program shall, among other things, manage the energy procurement process, prepare and issue the Supply RFP, and make recommendations for award to the Town of New Paltz; provided however, that the Town of New Paltz will, through the Supervisor, make the final award decision;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that subject to the conditions that the awarded Supplier has been prequalified as required by Joule and that the awarded bid meets the specifications established in the Supply RFP, the Supervisor is authorized to execute an Electricity Supply Agreement on behalf of the Town of New Paltz in substantially the form attached hereto with the awarded Supplier and Joule in a timely fashion; provided, however, that the Town of New Paltz is under no obligation to award the Supply RFP for any bid that fails to meet the specifications established in the Supply RFP. In addition, the Town of New Paltz is under no obligation to award the Supply RFP if any of the conditions of the CCA Administration Agreement shall not be met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz authorizes Joule to prepare or include the Town of New Paltz in an Opt-out CDG Implementation Plan for submission to and approval from the New York State Department of Public Service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz authorizes Joule to enter into negotiations on Town of New Paltz's behalf, with Utility and CDG Sponsor(s) for incorporation of Opt-out CDG into existing CCA Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to enter into any agreements on behalf of the Town of New Paltz in relations to Opt-out CDG consistent with this resolution in the Supervisor's reasonable discretion.

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: Police Commission March 18, 2021; Town Board March 18, 2021; Special Meeting March 22, 2021
- b. Authorization to execute Notice to proceed and Construction IGA with NYCDEP
- c. Authorization to hire the following laborers for Moriello Pool opening at the rate of \$13.00 per hour: Sean Benkert, Lucas Brady, Alex Demis, Max Easton, Alexandra Dratch, Noah Fishman, Sean Geisler, Alexandra Hekking, Josie LaPolt, Tessa LaPolt, Kendall Lucchesi, Samantha Musso, Zachary Musso, Logan Pece, Paige Sarvis, Brady Saunders, Tuari Schenker, Samantha Vos, John Weber, and Jediah Weires
- d. Establishment of Escrow for PB#21-79, Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays, in the amount of \$7,000 with a replenishment threshold of \$3,500
- e. Establishment of Escrow PB#21-93, 215 Huguenot St., in the amount of \$4,000 with a replenishment threshold of \$2,000
- f. Authorization for the Supervisor to send a letter of support to the NP Community Foundation on behalf of the Board regarding the compost/pollinator garden project at the Community Center
- g. Authorization for the Supervisor to sign commissioning proposal from Alfandre/GPI
- h. Authorization for Matthew Burd to plant hawthorn tree(s) at 1 Veteran's Drive
- i. Authorization for Supervisor to sign Services and License Agreement with American for Suicide Prevention for Interactive Screening Program and related services
- j. Authorization for Supervisor to sign Purchase and Sales Agreement for Well #7, SBL 78.3, Block 1, Lot 30
- k. Authorization to modify the adopted 2021 budget to accommodate new title:

TO:

DB	3310.100	Traffic Control, PS	320.00
DB	5110.100	General Repairs, PS	1,334.00
DB	5140.100	Misc (Brush & Weeds) PS	214.00
DB	5142.100	Snow Removal, PS	<u>800.00</u>
			2,668.00

FROM:

DB	5110.400	General Repairs, CE	2,001.00
DB	5142.400	Snow Removal, CE	<u>667.00</u>
			2,668.00

Fire Dept. Budget 2021/2022:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract when received. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Review of Sewer bill meter charge, Account #284-0, 17 Holland Lane:

The customer at 17 Holland Lane has requested the \$50 monthly surcharge be waived retroactively. Supervisor Bettez informed the Board that this customer declined to have the new meter installed and was aware that she would be incurring this monthly charge.

A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to authorize the Supervisor to offer this customer a payment plan. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:05 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Torres to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
Town Clerk