



Public Hearing- "Trans-Hudson Petition to Extend Water & Sewer Districts"
Public Hearing- "Shawangunk Ridge CEA"
Town Board Meeting
December 2, 2021, 7 p.m.
Via Videoconference

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

At 7 p.m. Supervisor Bettez opened the public hearing on the Trans-Hudson petition to extend water and sewer districts. The Town is still waiting for final approval from the Village. The Town is not taking any action tonight.

Public Input:

Don Kerr spoke in opposition of the petition.

At 7:04 p.m. Councilman Brownstein arrived.

Rose Rudnitski read the following letter in opposition of the petition:

"We, the undersigned New Paltz residents, are writing to express our opposition to the petition before you to expand a water district in order to include the Trans-Hudson site on the corner of Route 299 and North Putt Corners Road. As you know, Town Law § 194(2)(a) directs that if a town board determines it is "not in the public interest" to extend a district as requested, "the town board shall deny the petition."

With significant community participation and support, in 2019 the Town Board voted unanimously to rezone this area. The new zoning language explicitly endorses a widespread desire to "transition away from auto-oriented strip commercial development and extend the Village's walkable, mixed-use, 'Main Street' character into the Town."¹ Bicycle- and pedestrian-oriented planning is an important component of this vision. Extending water service to enable a car-oriented, sprawl development, indeed one that has been repeatedly described as a "de facto Thruway rest stop," is antithetical to these goals.

Because this site plan includes dangerous features that would compromise the safety of the Empire State Trail users—the Route 299 driveway and an in-road bike lane on Route 299—it actually reduces existing bike-friendliness in this corridor. A plan that undermines public safety cannot be in the public interest. Ensuring the safety of Empire State Trail users should be your paramount concern.

Finally, the current site plan would clear a significant portion of the forested Thruway buffer required by the Town code. The integrity of this buffer matters to New Paltz residents. Left intact, it will more effectively minimize the Thruway's negative impacts on air quality and noise levels.

Denying this petition will encourage Trans-Hudson to put forward an improved design that matches community desires for this area as reflected in the 2019 zoning amendment. This new plan should prioritize bike and pedestrian safety while preserving the critical Thruway buffer. This board acted with foresight in 2019 when it voted to rezone this area. We urge you to do so again now by protecting the public interest and denying this petition.

Sincerely,

Rickie Solinger Celia Cuomo Lynne Cherry Janelle Peotter Cathy Law Michelle Taylor
James Geiser Don Kerr Albert DeRobertis June Sanson David Thompson James Taylor
Alison Nash Andrea Thompson Michael Reade Megan Wolff Judy Mage Wendy Rudder KT Tobin
Ron Stonitsch Joel Oppenheimer Rachel Lagodka Susan Blickstein Krishnamurthi Ravishankar
Barbara Petersen Lee Bell Barbara Dorfman Dr. Rose Rudnitski Judy Dorney Judy Joffee Rosalyn Cherry
Roger Roloff Laura deNey Dan Stivers Jan Stivers Janet O'Dowd Jim O'Dowd Ingrid Haeckel"

Donna Goodman read the following letter in opposition of the petition:

"As a long-time resident of New Paltz, I am writing to urge you to deny the water petition sought for the proposed Mavis tire store, two fast food restaurants, and bank on the corner of Route 299 and North Putt Corners Road.

As a cyclist and someone who frequently drives through this intersection, I echo fears long expressed by the Bike-Pedestrian Committee that the current site plan would put Empire State Trail users in danger.

Preliminary approval from the DOT should not be taken as proof that the design is adequately safe. As you know too well, the Village and Town have for years pleaded with the DOT for basic safety improvements such as lower speed limits and more crosswalks, rarely with any success. I encourage you to take a close look at the proposed Route 299 driveway and in-road bike lane on Route 299 in order to decide for yourselves if you think Empire State Trail users of all ages would be safe traversing them. The Town should not support an unsafe plan.

Today, New Paltz is renowned for the Village's portion of Main Street, an area characterized by walkability, density, and efficient building. This was the model that you had in mind when you rezoned the Town's Gateway and created the Main Street Mixed Use District. By contrast, the plan before you harkens back to an auto-centric model of suburban sprawl, exactly what you and the many volunteers and residents who contributed to the rezoning process were justifiably trying to avoid.

Few other votes you will make as board members will have the kind of permanent, material impact on the town. You have a chance to reject a design that might have been welcomed in the 1960s or 1970s but which is entirely inappropriate today. In a time of climate emergency, this project—in its current form—would be a mistake as soon as it was built. A vote to deny this petition would be in the public interest and would leave open an opportunity for Trans-Hudson to return with an improved proposal.”

Joseph Londa asked about the carrying capacity.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis to keep the public hearing open. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein. There was a discussion but no vote.

Highway Superintendent Chris Marx spoke in support of the petition because the extension would be a big upgrade the water district.

Eli Godwin sent the following letter in opposition of the petition:

” I am writing to express my opposition to this particular proposal for development. I am not against developing this corner with businesses that will meet the needs of our local residents, but the current plan would not do that. A chain tire store is a rather tone-deaf proposal in a community that needs to become MORE walkable/bikeable and have better public transit infrastructure, not cater to car culture. Fast food restaurants are also not in keeping with our town’s values of environmental stewardship and good health. The site plan not only does not enhance bikeability but instead would create additional hazards for bicyclists, as the Bike-Ped Committee has pointed out. Let’s hold out for something more in keeping with New Paltz’s values and character and that is safer for our cyclists.”

The public hearing will be left open.

Public Hearing-Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area

At 7:22 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the public hearing on the Shawangunk Ridge Critical Environmental Area. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input: None

The public hearing will be left open.

Town Board Meeting:

At 7:23 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:14 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to close all three public hearings. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda as written. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input: None

Discussion-Police Commission search process:

Supervisor Bettez indicated there are currently 7 applicants. These applications will be reviewed, and interviews will begin in January. There was a discussion on how many applicants will be chosen and when. Supervisor Bettez suggested a gradual transition by appointing one member a month. Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis suggested appointing 2-3 members to start. The Board would like to see more applicants to choose from.

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: Joint Meeting 11/10/21; Police Commission 11/18/21; Town Board 11/18/21
- b. Authorization for PCM Communications to continue with the completion of the town-wide phone migration by servicing, updating, programming, and re-installing Town owned PBX equipment for an amount not to exceed \$4000
- c. Acceptance of resignation: Karen Verney, Assessor’s Aide
- d. Appointment of Jim Tinger to serve as the Town employee on the Town Ethics Board

- e. Establishment of escrow for PB 21-51, Viking Industries Site Plan: New Commercial Construction, with an initial deposit of \$10,000.00 escrow to be replenished at \$5,000.00
- f. Approval of the following budget modifications:

Request authorization to <i>modify</i> the adopted 2021 budget for cost overruns as follows:							
TO:				FROM:			
A	1420.400	Attorney, CE	10,500.00	A	1990.400	Contingency, CE	30,682.00
A	1620.400	Buildings, C.E.	9,500.00	A	8189.100	Recycle, PS	13,000.00
A	1670.460	Print/Mail-Recreation	7.00				
A	3120.200	Police, Equip	2,963.00				
A	4050.400	Public Health, Other	500.00				
A	7150.130	Moriello Pool, PS	1,214.00				
A	7150.441	Recreation, Clearwater	26.00				
A	8189.200	Recycle, Equip	18,972.00				
A	9062.800	Vision Premiums Paid	263.00				
			43,682.00				43,682.00
TO:				FROM:			
DB	3310.100	Traffic Control, PS	3,050.00	DB	5110.100	General Repairs, PS	7,008.00
DB	5112.200	CHIPS, Perm Imp	1,948.00	DB	5110.400	General Repairs, CE	30,000.00
DB	5130.400	Machinery, CE	30,000.00				
DB	5140.100	Brush & Weeds, PS	2,010.00				
			37,008.00				37,008.00
Request authorization to <i>increase</i> the 2021 adopted budget for additional grant funds and donations:							
Increase				Increase			
A	510	Anticipated Revenues	1,000.00	A	960	Appropriations	1,000.00
A	980-4089	Fed Aid-Other	1,000.00	A	522-4050-400	Public Health, Other	1,000.00
Increase				Increase			
A	510	Anticipated Revenues	13,990.00	A	960	Appropriations	13,990.00
A	980-2450	Commissions	6,950.00	A	522-7310-400	Youth, CE	13,990.00
A	980-2771	Donations-Youth	7,040.00				
Increase				Increase			
DB	510	Anticipated Revenues	58,353.00	DB	960	Appropriations	58,353.00
DB	980-4089	ARPA Funds	58,353.00	DB	5110.100	General Repairs, PS	3,606.00
				DB	5110.400	General Repairs, CE	51,142.00
				DB	5140.100	Brush & Weeds, PS	1,442.00
				DB	5142.100	Snow Removal, PS	2,163.00
							58,353.00

- g. Authorization to advertise for the position of part-time Municipal Worker I for Recycling/ReUse
- h. Appointment of Shanna Marie C. M. Wallace to the Bike-Ped Committee
- i. Authorization of prepay to Leprechaun Lines in the amount of \$1,400 for bus charter (NPYP Dec. 18 field trip)

Agenda:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to add executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel, to the agenda. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Petition of BFB New Paltz LLC (Trans-Hudson) to extend water & sewer districts:

The petition is to extend the existing Village of New Paltz Sanitary Sewer System and Water Service to the property known as 12 N. Putt Corners Rd. Section 86.12, Block 4 and Lot 5.1 located in the Town of new Paltz. Supervisor Bettez indicated that the Town has not heard back yet from the Village regarding its request to extend the districts. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Executive Session:

At 7:38 p.m. the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel.

At 7:53 p.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of executive session with no action taken. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:53 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,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
Town Clerk