



**Cont. Public Hearing-Critical Environmental Areas
Town Board Meeting
June 17, 2021, 7 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the continuation of the Public Hearing on Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs). Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Comment:

-John Gotto statement/letter- "I am speaking first as Chairman of the Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP). I remind the Board that CWOSP had submitted a letter of support on February 6, 2020, recommending adoption of the CEA Resolution proposed at that time. The support of CWOSP as expressed in that letter remains today. This support is based on a fundamental value placed on using objective facts to help guide decision-making about land use, whether in the context of preservation or development. Now speaking as an individual Town resident, I express my hope that the adoption of the current scaled-back CEA resolution will eventually be followed by its expansion to the original number of designated areas. The environmental features that define a CEA are simply a listing of things that actually exist, and not something that should be either chosen or disregarded. The true utility of the CEA is best served when the CEA accurately reflects the objective features of all areas that would qualify for designation.

-Linda Brotman letter- "I am a resident of New Paltz. I have been following developments surrounding the Environmental Conservation Board proposal to establish Critical Environmental Areas in the town. I fully support the current proposal that includes two CEAs – the Shawangunk and Plutarch CEAs. These CEAs will serve to increase public awareness of these environmentally important sites. They will also ensure that developers considering significant projects in or adjacent to the CEAs are aware of the need to take the CEAs into consideration.

-Roland Bahret letter- "It has come to my attention that the Town Board will soon be having another public hearing on establishing Critical Environmental Areas within the town. I am also aware that the Board has reduced the number of CEAs from six to two. Please consider the following:

- 1- Going from six to two is a backward approach to the care of the New Paltz environment. It is not in keeping with New Paltz's environment-friendly reputation. Couldn't some of the other four been modified in size instead of eliminated.
- 2- I hear the same old story that developers would have to pay more in fees and consults. Wait a minute; they are a business, that is what businesses do, invest and hopefully get a return. If one business (developer), doesn't have enough investment capital, another will.
- 3- Checking a CEA box on an application tells the interested parties that more attention has been given to the area in question and more will be given. If some of the planning board members, who are volunteers after all, feel overburdened with work or dislike duplication of box checks then the Town Board should reexamine the structure and work load of the Planning Board. Frankly, I don't know how they do it all.
- 4- As more and more people get on board with the impacts of Accelerated Climate Change, our future Planning Board volunteers and others, are going to be even more environmentally minded. The Town Board should set the stage for new volunteers, show leadership. Establishing CEAs is a start; reexamining and increasing from just two would be better.

5- Fragmentation is real. It cuts off the movement of wildlife between food sources as well the search for mates, with the additional loss of the ensuing variations in offspring. Fragmentation also allows invasive plant and animals to do their thing -invade with less than desirable consequences.

6- The Ridge CEA is a no brainer. We are so lucky to be bordered by the Mohonk Preserve. However, the town should do its part, as well. The described CEA should be fully protected. Allowing for edge development on 9 acres also sets the stage for future "nibble development": sub dividing the 9 for the in-laws or seeking a variance to squeeze in another lot, years after initial development.

7- Give maximum protection to the Plutarch wetlands and adjacent woods. Unfortunately, roads skirt the wetlands and woods causing a fragmentation of wildlife movement. Year by year vehicles take their toll as wildlife crosses from aquatic areas to terrestrial and back again a month or so later. Some wildlife species have to have both areas in order to survive.

8- I have a well. It has never run dry. I know the water cycle, the rain must enter the ground, likely through wetlands, which allow percolation down to the underlying geologic strata. In my case there would be a slow flow through cracks and fissures towards the Wallkill River and since I live near the river, my well is kept full. I thank the Plutarch wetlands for this bountiful supply. Protect this Critical Environmental Area!

-Janelle Peotter letter- "I am speaking as a Town of New Paltz resident and the designated Coordinator for New Paltz Climate Smart. I would like to register my strong and continued support for the adoption of Critical Environmental Areas. As your Coordinator for New Paltz Climate Smart, my role is to help this municipality to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. We need to protect large, connected, resilient landscapes such as the proposed Critical Environmental Areas to enable species to migrate in our rapidly warming climate.

Some of the benefits of a CEA designation are that they promote more proactive planning and design to conserve critical areas by focusing attention on reducing fragmentation of large, intact habitats and forest corridors. However, they do not affect construction of a single-family dwelling on an approved lot, they do not regulate development like zoning does and they do not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

As the town website specifies, the purpose of the designation is to alert landowners, developers, and regulatory agencies to exceptional or unique local environmental features during State Environmental Quality Review. The

designation ensures that these features are not overlooked, and that potentially harmful impacts to them are evaluated in determining the significance of a proposed action. As this board has requested, the number of CEA's proposed has been greatly reduced and now is the time to adopt the present proposal without further delay.

-Jim & Janet O'Dowd letter- "We are writing to voice our strong support for the Environmental Conservation Advisory Board's proposal to establish Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) in New Paltz. New Paltz's beauty, quality of life, and attractiveness to residents and tourists alike relies on the health of our notable threatened habitats like the Shawangunk Ridge on the west side of town, but people often forget less-visible but equally important habitats like the Plutarch Wetlands and Woods on the east side of Town. These need to be protected to provide clean water, habitat connectedness, and the beautiful views from the Gunks to town. Adding them as CEAs merely offers the possibility that they are considered in new developments in these areas. We hope that - in the near future - areas like the Wallkill-Kleine Kill Corridor, Clearwater Woods, Swarte Kill Wetlands, and Stony Kill Woods will be recognized as CEAs as well. As parents to three sons (two of whom graduated from high school here) and grandparents to five grandchildren (who visit us here in our beautiful town) we are particularly aware of the need to protect important ecosystems for the next generation. As our climate changes these areas will not only be refuges for wildlife but security for people like our grandchildren - and yours. Please vote to support the proposal to establish these CEAs.

-Cara Lee letter- "I am a 25-year resident of the Town of New Paltz. My training and 40-year career were devoted to natural resource management, and I was the Program Director for The Nature Conservancy's Shawangunk Ridge Program for 15 years. I have served on the town's Clean Water Open Space Protection Commission since its inception in 2006, and these are my comments on designation of the two *Critical Environmental Areas* proposed.

I support designating the New Paltz portion of the Shawangunk Ridge and the Plutarch North Woods area as *Critical Environmental Areas*, as defined under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). These are distinct geographic areas with well-documented, exceptional, and unique environmental characteristics. Both areas are irreplaceable assets to our community and are particularly vulnerable to impacts associated with development.

Concerns about CEA Designations Expressed

Concerns have been raised that designating these CEAs will prevent development and that the designations will require the planning board to apply a vaguely defined "hard look" that will lead to lengthy reviews that will be costly to the Town.

The purpose of a CEA designation is not to prevent development, but to ensure that development within the designated area is designed with a high degree of sensitivity to the natural landscape and features. A CEA designation will require the Planning Board and a developer to take some additional steps when conducting a review of projects that will disturb over ten acres. With existing tools and well-defined steps, the planning board can accomplish this without undo cost, considering the high environmental values that are at stake for our community. (See below for tools and steps).

Concern has also been raised that the CEA designations will limit development of affordable housing. While affordable housing is a keenly important issue for our community, the areas proposed are not ideally suited for this type of development as they are not served by public transportation, are not in walkable neighborhoods or close to services of any kind.

Why The Shawangunk Ridge Should be Designated as a Critical Environmental Area

The 50-mile long Shawangunk Ridge is one of three wilderness areas within a 100-mile radius of New York City (P. Fairweather, Schnell, *The Shawangunk Mountains: A Critical Environmental Region*, 1987) Its unique combination of geology, soils, elevation support a very diverse array of plants and animals adapted to its specific conditions. The Nature Conservancy has ranked it as a globally important forest block (greater than 15,000 acres), able to support wide-ranging and area-sensitive species, especially those that depend on interior forest. It has an abundance of natural features including waterfalls, cliffs and outcroppings, headwaters of many pristine mountain streams, high-elevation wetlands, and talus fields. It is a migration corridor for golden and bald eagles, hawks and falcons and is a refugia for the timber rattle snake and a variety of common and rare mammals.

As well as being the scenic backdrop to our community, the ridge is the watershed for our drinking water supply reservoir and the 'Gunks are an ever more popular recreational destination- all vitally important economic assets. The Shawangunk Ridge environment is more susceptible to serious disturbance than other types of environments because: ground disturbance can cause severe erosion; surface run-off can contaminate headwater mountain streams; very thin soils present septic problems; excessive or poorly planned development can fragment forest blocks and disrupt habitat and wildlife corridors; and elevation makes development more visible from the Valley (David Church, Myers, J. *Shawangunk Ridge Conservation and Design Guidebook*, 1993)

New Paltz is one of eight "ridge towns" in Ulster County with a portion of the ridge in its stewardship. There is a common misconception in New Paltz that the ridge is "already protected", due to Mohonk Preserve's protected land and the more recent River-To-Ridge property. In fact, although most of the ridge TOP is protected, most of the slopes and foothills are primarily in private ownership and will face development pressure with increased demand for housing in our area. The build-out analysis done for the Town of New Paltz in 2007 showed that these areas are likely areas for development in the future, due the desire to live near protected open space. Maintaining intact forest, habitat connectivity and watershed protection are all important conservation design strategies for this area.

Why The Plutarch North Woods Should Be Designated as a Critical Environmental Area

The wetland/woodland complex on the northeast side of town include the hamlets of Plutarch and Ohioville and are recognized as a regionally significant resource (*Wildlife and Conservation Framework*, NYS DEC 2006). Protecting this area is part of the Town's investment in "green infrastructure" - natural resources that sustain our community by providing clean water, clean air, and flood protection. These wetlands and woodlands serve multiple other functions including aquifer recharge, pollution filtering, and wildlife habitat.

Suburban expansion, runoff from roads and impervious surfaces represent serious threats to this system. Maintaining unfragmented wetland/woodland habitat is the most critical conservation design strategy for this valuable complex. (*New Paltz Open Space Plan*, 2006)

Steps for Reviewing Projects in CEAs

1. **Define The CEA Area and State Its Purpose** - Provide a map and a state the purpose of the CEA such as:

"In order to assist in the protection of important community resources, the Town of New Paltz has designated the (Shawangunk Ridge/Plutarch Wetlands) as a Critical Environmental Area under the NYS SEQRA law.

If a project of greater than ten acres in scope is being reviewed under SEQRA and includes property which is within or substantially contiguous to the (Shawangunk Ridge/Plutarch Wetlands CEA) as defined below (see

map and boundaries), the developer and the planning board will document the effects that project might have on the area by completing an environmental assessment that takes into account the impacts of the project and the characteristics of the area within the CEA”.

2. More specifically, project reviews should:

- **Use the EAF Long Form** – Use the SEQRA Environmental Assessment Long Form to evaluate likely impacts of the project.
- **Use Additional Questions Specific to the CEA** - Work with conservation partners, the ENCB and others to create a checklist of additional questions that are particularly relevant to protection of the CEA characteristics and vulnerabilities, such as degree of forest fragmentation, proximity to protected land, connectivity, etc. The ENCB should be directed to develop a summary of the salient characteristics of the CEA area that require particular attention.
- **Use the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Mapper** – The Town of New Paltz has developed an excellent GIS mapping tool for evaluating the extent and nature of natural resources on a parcel-by-parcel basis which is an invaluable planning tool for the planning board and applicants considering conservation evaluation and design.
- **Employ Conservation Planning for Subdivisions** - Require subdivision applicants to prepare a conservation design plan, to avoid impacts on features on the property and to assign 50% of the property for conservation, as required by existing Town code (<https://ecode360.com/9167826>).

Conclusion

There is a good case for designating the Shawangunk Ridge and the Plutarch North Woods as CEAs and doing so will benefit New Paltz as our community continues to grow and expand.

A CEA designation is intended to increase recognition of the importance of our local natural resources and what is needed to keep them intact and functional. Other communities in Ulster County have opted for stronger alternatives than CEA designation, such as overlay districts or special permit zoning for critical environmental areas in their towns (i.e., Town of Shawangunk has a ridge overlay district and Gardiner has special permit ridge zoning). New Paltz may ultimately also wish to adopt stronger measures for the two critical environmental areas proposed.

-Dr. Lori Morris letter- “As a representative of the Ulster Activists we endorse and support the designation of the 2 woodland areas in Shawangunk and Plutarch as forever wild”

-Nava Tabak letter- “I am writing on behalf of Scenic Hudson to express our support for your Environmental Conservation Board’s proposal to designate Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) in the Town of New Paltz. We wish to reiterate the importance of the Plutarch Woods and Wetlands area to larger regional conservation priorities, in which Scenic Hudson and several conservation partners have invested considerable efforts. We submitted comments in support of the proposed CEAs in March of 2020, which I hope you will reference for greater detail on the many ecological benefits of this area. These benefits include remarkably intact natural communities supporting a great diversity of species, landscape connectivity, climate resilience, and irreplaceable water resources. The biggest threat to this unique natural area is fragmentation by a gradual and piecemeal encroachment of development. On their own, federal and state regulations do not adequately protect regional resources such as the proposed CEAs in New Paltz—it is up to municipalities to ensure their long-term persistence. As you know, a CEA designation would not prevent development, but rather would assist you as local decision-makers to find smart-growth solutions and avoid the irreversible fragmentation of critical habitats. We hope you will join us in working towards a future in which the natural assets of the Hudson Valley—which are one of the reasons it is such a desirable place to live—are balanced with the growing needs of the human community.”

-Fran Dunwell letter- “I live within the boundary of the proposed Shawangunk Ridge CEA and wish to lend my support for the proposed designation. This is a unique and special part of New Paltz that deserves the extra care and attention a CEA would provide. The unique habitats and environmental benefits this ecosystem provides can be better conserved if they are considered in the beginning of the planning process as part of any subdivision or development. Homes and roads can be placed where they will avoid adverse impacts. Expert advice can be provided by the environmental board. By avoiding adverse impacts and using expert input, the development process can actually be smoothed out, helping to avoid some types of conflict that come when problems are discovered at the end. I encourage the board to vote yes on this proposal.”

-Tom O’Dowd & Dan Schneidewind letter, read by Susan Stessin-Cohn- “We are writing to urge you to approve the EnCB’s recommendation for the designation of two Critical Environmental Areas. In March 2020, we wrote to encourage the enactment of their initial, full proposal and we look forward to the adoption of the other four CEAs. We are glad to see that the Plutarch Woods and Wetlands has been put forward for this first stage. For many years, we have been part of a team that surveys this area as part of the National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count, the longest running wildlife census in New Paltz (and in the world). As our results have repeatedly demonstrated, this area hosts an unusual diversity of species of high conservation priority, most notably the Red-headed Woodpecker. The Red-headed Woodpecker’s precipitous population decline has been well-documented, leading to its addition to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Red List, among other related listings. The wet woods in this part of town host the only enduring population of this species in Ulster County and one of very few in the region. Below we have included an updated version of our earlier letter which remains pertinent to your consideration of the revised proposal:

We are writing as long-time New Paltz residents and products of the New Paltz Central School District to express our strong support for the full adoption of the EnCB’s CEA Proposal. Doing so would be in accord with what New Paltz residents have for years made clear: that there is broad-based support for protecting the landscapes whose existence makes New Paltz so special. This community priority is evidenced not only by the Town’s Open Space Plan and by efforts toward comprehensive planning but also by the now two decade-long run of electoral results in which New Paltz voters have repeatedly chosen candidates who support conservation measures just like this one.

As others have pointed out, the ENCB’s delineations were drawn directly from the best available studies provided by a wide range of relevant experts including the New York State Natural Heritage Program, Ulster County, The Nature Conservancy, the DEC, Labruna and Klemens’ “Northern Wallkill Biodiversity Plan” (2007), and the ToNP Open Space Plan (2006). Areas that qualify as CEAs based on their recognition by these independent, empirically verifiable

assessments merit designation as CEAs regardless of their cumulative acreage. That CEAs could potentially comprise a sizable portion of the town reflects a remarkable advantage for New Paltz, not a problem to be overcome. As the CEA Proposal describes, each of these areas is unique and sensitive. They were identified for specific reasons and their designation as CEAs would reflect values widely held in New Paltz, including the value of protecting clean water, fragile habitats, and the vulnerable species that depend on them. Of course, as all seem to agree, the Shawangunk Ridge should be a CEA. But an approach to landscape planning that is concerned with only the most iconic and charismatic landscapes is clearly inadequate in an era of species extinction and habitat loss unprecedented in human history. The designation of the Plutarch Woods and Wetlands as a CEA would guarantee a minimum threshold of oversight in an area that is less heralded though still widely recognized to be significant ecologically.

The other primary criticism that we have seen, that existing environmental review mechanisms are already sufficient, is one we have heard every time a new conservation measure is put forward. Compared to many of these previous measures, the impact of CEA designation is utterly mild. Some have called it “restrictive.” Frankly, we wish it was restrictive. It isn’t. Instead, as you know, it merely assures that environmental reviews are done carefully within already existing review protocols.

Since the earliest zoning standards were put in place in New Paltz, there has been handwringing about what stood to be lost by property owners and developers. And yet, in retrospect, none of these alarmist warnings have ever been borne out. To the contrary, with each new conservation measure New Paltz has become a more coveted place to live, its uniqueness and landscape receive more celebration, and community appetite grows for the preservation of its forests, streams, and wetlands.

This has been reflected in the CEA drafting and in the previous public hearing in early 2020. As the Town commendably did with the Gateway Rezoning process, the EnCB has been extremely transparent and forthcoming from the start as they developed this proposal, providing numerous opportunities for concerns to be raised. Nonetheless, as speakers at the public hearing have demonstrated, there is overwhelming, almost unanimous support for this initiative.

Once upon a time, albeit in our lifetimes, Town Board members were elected on militant pro-property rights, pro-developer, and anti-conservation platforms. And yet, this has not happened in over two decades because New Paltz voters have consistently opted instead

for candidates committed to protecting wetlands, to avoiding reckless construction, and to preserving the landscapes that make New Paltz special. Each of you were elected by these voters, by residents who voted for you precisely because they expected you to support measures just like this one. Now is the time to embrace the principles that you ran on and that you share with those who elected you. While the critiques provided by a few Planning Board members should of course be listened to, Planning Board members are, unlike all of you, not elected and are therefore less incentivized to take positions consistent with those of the public. Adopting the current CEA Proposal in its entirety will place you squarely in line with the trajectory that New Paltz residents have repeatedly for two decades shown that they want the town to go.

-Laura Heady letter, as read by Ingrid Haeckel- “I’m writing to you in a personal capacity to share my comments on the proposed Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) and my experience as a former resident and planning board member in the Village of New Paltz. I now live in neighboring Rosendale, and work, shop, dine, and enjoy outdoor recreation in the Town of New Paltz.

In the book, *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*, the authors state:

“To truly improve quality of life, the planning codes must define open space with the same degree of precision and concern that they now apply to the design of parking lots.”

It’s true -- volunteers on planning and zoning boards have explicit directions on requirements like number of parking spaces, widths of sidewalks, and size of outdoor signs. But they are given relatively little guidance on how to effectively protect the natural systems that sustain our communities with clean water and clean air. These “open spaces” not only keep the community resilient to environmental and climate change, but also provide the scenic backdrop and outdoor playground that attract residents and visitors who in turn support the local economy. It’s so important that decisions that can *permanently change the natural landscape* are thoughtful and well-informed.

How can we equip volunteers to make decisions that will protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents, and ensure benefits from nature, like clean water, are sustained? For starters, the use of scientific data, analysis, mapping, and community input can inform practices and policies to guide the land-use planning process.

CEAs are an excellent example of how informed land-use policy can create a predictable process for both planners AND project sponsors. By identifying important places in the municipality in a formal and public way, all parties involved in the land-use process are equipped with the same information about community values.

I recall when I was on the Village planning board, we did not have any guiding tools like CEAs when we were faced with large projects like Woodland Pond. We had to navigate the specific code requirements related to details like parking lots; the understandable impatience of aging neighbors who were anxious for Woodland Pond to be built; and the steady, ongoing stream of new information and rising concerns by residents about impacts to nature. I suspect the prolonged deliberations could have been streamlined had the Village been proactive in creating a blueprint for future conservation and development. CEAs can be part of that blueprint, and an important step in defining open space “with the same degree of precision and concern” commonly applied to the design of parking lots. I think New Paltz is the kind of community that will want to be celebrated for its thoughtful open spaces and healthy residents – not its well-designed parking lots.

-Ingrid Haeckel read aloud a letter from Emily Senson in support of the CEA designations. She also shared a video made by Libby Zemaitis and Laura deNay.

There was a discussion among the Board members regarding how to move forward.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to continue the public hearing on both CEAs on July 1st at 7 p.m. and to set a new public hearing on the designation of just the Shawangunk Ridge on July 1st at 7 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Town Board Meeting:

At 9:12 p.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: + #6h Maseo invoice, + #2 Additional items for auction, + #13 Contract with B&L
A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

-Edgar Rodriguez hopes there is an alternative for the demo of the NPCCC trailer. He also spoke about the need for affordable housing.

-Liz Lee- "I live at 21 Tricor Avenue, New Paltz. I am part of the Voter Reform Committee of Ulster Activists (U-ACT). I am asking the New Paltz town hall to adopt the resolution to support congressional Senate bill S1, For the People Act. This voting bill will ensure voting rights, equal access to the election process, and protect the voting rights of all voters."

-Tom Denton email- "I cannot attend the meeting tonight, but I appreciate the Board's consideration of the resolution to support the For the People Act--urgently needed legislation that will protect Americans' freedom to vote, stop partisan gerrymandering, and inhibit the influence of dark money in politics."

Highways truck purchase proposal:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the purchase of 2 trucks as per the proposal. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to put out to auction:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the following items be put out to auction:

- Bomag Large Roller
- 2 digging buckets for an excavator
- Paladin Snow Blower
- 2 Tarco Highlander Sanders
- Heil Tailgate
- Ox Body for a Dump Truck
- 2004 International Hook Lift
- 2011 International Hook Lift

Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Acceptance of Resignation:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept the resignation of Oliver Fisher, Highway Department, effective June 30, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to hire:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Anthony Apel for the MEO position replacing Oliver Fisher at the rate of \$25.15/hr beginning July 1, 2021, increasing to \$26.24 in January 2022 and increasing to \$26.74 in July 2022. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-demolition of NPCCC trailers:

Supervisor Bettez indicated that they have been empty for over a year, they have been physically disconnected from the school and the windows have been broken. This has become a liability and safety concern for the Town and the School has requested the trailers be taken down.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Highway Superintendent to demo the NPCCC trailers at Duzine School. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Approval of minutes: June 3, 2021; June 8, 2021
- b. Acceptance of resignation: Philippe Robbins, Ethics Board
- c. Authorization to sponsor women's kickball at Field of Dreams
- d. Approval of 30-day waiver for liquor license for Rubirosa Cucina and Bar, Inc, 5 New Paltz Plaza
- e. Authorization to comply with required filings in response to Department of Public Service guidance relating to the Covid-19 moratorium on utility service terminations and disconnections
- f. Hampton Inn reimbursement for Central Hudson payments

- g. Authorization to hire Steve Pearl and Disability Management Associates, Inc. as the Town of New Paltz's workers' compensation claims manager
- h. Authorize payment of invoice #12296 from Maseo Landscape, Inc. in the amount of \$990.00 from the Tree Trust Reserve fund

Appointment of Police Officer:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint Officer Caelen March to a 90-day temporary full-time position at the rate of \$22.62/hr beginning July 11, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Acceptance of Resignation:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept the resignation of full-time Officer Michelle Yeager effective end of tour on June 22, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution-Water Line Easement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the following resolution authorizing Water Line Easement from the New Paltz Fire Department, Inc. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz (hereinafter referred to alternatively as the "Town") is the owner of approximately 14.3 acres of lands, together with the buildings and improvements erected thereon located at 59 North Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, New York 12561 (the "Premises") bearing Town of New Paltz tax identification number S-B-L: 86.8-6-21; and

WHEREAS, the Premises is situated and configured to adequately meet the present and future needs of the town with respect to its police department and town justice court; and

WHEREAS, by Order, dated January 22, 2021 the Town duly established "Extension No. 3 of Water District No. 1 in the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York;" and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz, in cooperation with the New Paltz Fire Department, Inc. and the incorporated Village of New Paltz deems it in the best interests of the town to acquire consistent with the aforesaid extension of Water District No. 1 a permanent easement and right-of-way in, under and along a portion of the lands of the New Paltz Fire Department, Inc., located at and known as 117 Henry W. DuBois Drive, New Paltz, New York (S-B-L: 86.8-5-36.210) more particularly described easement attached hereto for the purpose of building, constructing, maintaining, using, operating, repairing, and reconstructing water mains and pipelines for the attachment to and conveyance of water from water lines lying within the boundaries of the aforesaid Water District No. 1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz that the Supervisor be and he hereby is authorized and directed to sign on behalf of the town the aforesaid water line easement in the form attached hereto and to sign such other and further documents as are necessary to give full force and effect to the intents and purposes of this resolution.

Resolution-For the People Act:

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

CALLING ON THE U.S. SENATE TO PASS THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT, S1, IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

WHEREAS, the right to vote is one of the foundational rights of all American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Lewis spent his life fighting against hate, bigotry, and equal opportunity at the voting booth inside and outside of Congress to advance voting rights for everyone; and

WHEREAS, voting rights are under attack nationally by state legislators introducing and passing laws to create barriers to our participation in elections; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act is a transformative, comprehensive bill addressing voting rights and election administration, money-in-politics, redistricting government transparency, and ethics; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act will provide a needed overhaul of money-in-politics, voting and ethics laws to make our democracy more inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act is based on countless democracy reforms passed and successfully implemented in states across the country; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act's solutions are broadly supported by the American people across the political spectrum. Polling indicates 67% of Americans – including 56% of Republican voters and 68% of Independent voters – support the For the People Act; and

WHEREAS, the For the People Act is the most comprehensive pro-democracy bill introduced in Congress since the Watergate era, containing the bold action that the American people want and deserve; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of New Paltz, New York calls on New York's United State Senators, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, to do everything possible to support and pass S1, the For the People Act, before the 2021 Senate summer recess.

Warrant:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the June Warrant in the amount of \$1,077,513.59. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Return to in-person meetings:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to return to in-person public meetings at the Community Center until the new Police and Court Building is done. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Contract with B&L:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Barton & Loguidice for up to \$30,000 for bidding services. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:34 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
Town Clerk