



**Town Board Meeting  
May 6, 2021, 7 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

At 7:00 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:** A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Announcement:**

- This month's conversation with the Police is Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 p.m. at Hasbrouck Park.
- New Recycling Center hours are now in effect.

**Public Comment:**

- Tom Jelliffe, "a member of U-Act and the New Paltz Coalition for Community Safety and Wellbeing. I'd like to close the loop on an issue I raised several months ago, namely that 2019 reported crime data for the Town of New Paltz was missing on the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services crime statistics web page. Apparently there had been a glitch in the submission process; it has been fixed and I have received the data. In reviewing those statistics which were still pre-Covid, I was happy to find that reported crime in New Paltz had declined again from 2018 by a sizable 12%. This brings the total 10-year reduction to fully 65%. Put another way: reported crime is now a third of what it was 10 years ago. Meanwhile the number of police officers in the NPPD has remained unchanged, indicating as we have argued before, that New Paltz is over-policed and it is time for a reduction in the force and its budget consistent with fiscal good sense and calls from Movement for Black Lives and others to reduce the overall presence of police in our communities. The savings should be reinvested, for example, to civilianize the majority of responses to mental health crises. Thank you."
- Edgar Rodriguez, Town resident, read aloud text from a petition to the Board regarding reinventing Police and safety and wellbeing.
- Jacki Brownstein, Town resident and member of U-ACT spoke about the need for affordable and low-income housing.
- Tanya Marquette, member of the New Paltz Community for Safety and Wellness, spoke about the community process for undoing racism, policing and community safety.
- Maggie Veve, Town resident, member of U-ACT, spoke about the report from the NPPRRC.
- Jennifer Berry, member of the NPPRRC, addressed comments that were made regarding the Committee's report.

**Discussion-Police Reform and Reinvention Initiative:**

Supervisor Bettez indicated that the Town Board is committed to carrying out the reforms. Councilman Brownstein indicated that moving forward, the Town Board along with the Chief will address 1-2 of the recommendations made by the NPPRRC, at each meeting. This will begin with the May 20<sup>th</sup> Police Commission meeting where the items on the agenda will be the recommendation to begin aggregating data based on race, ethnicity and language; as well as the recommendation to remove the Choke Hold from the Police's continuum Use of Force Policy. The Board agrees that the priority is to work on a new law regarding the all civilian Police Commission.

At 7:49 p.m. Councilwoman Baer arrived.

**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: Police Commission April 15, 2021; Town Board April 15, 2021
- b. Authorization for Supervisor to sign 2021 YMCA Summer Recreation contract
- c. Appointment of McKenzie Willis to the Board of Assessment Review (BAR)
- d. Resolution Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to Finance the Preservation of Community Character in New Paltz
- e. Authorization of payment in the amount of \$1,592.04 for NPYP tuition reimbursement

- f. Authorization for the Supervisor to sign the Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement for the Release of Information on Species of Special Concern with NYSDEC
- g. Adoption of Recycle Center Shift / Hour Exchanges policy
- h. Authorization to modify the adopted 2021 budget for shared services as follows:
 

Debit	B 960	Appropriations		15,600.00
Decrease	B 522 8010 100	Zoning-P.S.		5,460.00
Decrease	B 522 8020 100	Planning-P.S.		10,140.00
Credit	B 960	Appropriations		15,600.00
Increase	B 522 8010 400	Zoning-C.E.		5,460.00
Increase	B 522 8020 400	Planning-C.E.		10,140.00

**Proposed CEA Presentation & Discussion:**

Ingrid Haeckel, Town EnCB, recapped the significance of 2 specific CEAs presented to the Town Board in 2019-2020. This is a scaled down version of the 6 CEAs originally proposed. Ms. Haeckel is requesting the Town Board set a new public hearing to designate the Shawangunk Ridge and Plutarch Woods and Wetlands as CEAs.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to set the public hearing for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Change orders for 59 N. Putt:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the change orders for water main service, façade improvement, and insulation at the Police and Court building. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Ulster County Auction Parcels:**

Supervisor Bettez presented 4 unbuildable wet parcels up for auction in New Paltz to the Community Preservation Advisory Board. They total about 55 acres at about \$65/acre totaling \$3,550. There is the potential for nearby landowners to add with easements to increase the protected area. The Town would lose about \$300/year in taxes. A motion was made by Councilman Brownstein to assign the Supervisor the authority to act on behalf of the Town Board and reach out to the CPP Board. Seconded by Councilwoman Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Middle School Climate Club sapling planting:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to work with the club to find a place to plant saplings on Town land and to work with the volunteer to move the pollinator garden along Rte. 32 forward. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Authorization to sign contracts:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign contracts with Troy and Banks for franchise fee audit. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Part-time seasonal hire:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Tyler O’Brien and Matthew Hoffman as part-time seasonal Buildings & Grounds workers at a rate of \$20.34/hr. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:01 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