



Town Board Meeting
April 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
59 N. Putt Corners & Via Videoconference

Present: Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilwoman Julie Seyfert, Councilwoman Kitty Brown, Councilwoman Esi Lewis, Councilwoman Amanda Gotto.

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

Agenda:

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

Public Comment:

Len Loza requested that in the future, anyone being considered for an open position on a Board or Committee, it would be helpful to also allow the Board or Committee to interview the candidate as well.

Interview:

The Town Board interviewed Michael Burke for the Recreation Director position.

Interview:

The Town Board interviewed Kristina Perez for the Public Access TV Committee.

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 Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

- a. Approval of minutes: Town Board, March 21, 2024
- b. Authorization to refund the remaining escrow balance of \$1,106.35 due Michael Cuddire, 15 Shivertown Road, for PB23-269 Lot Line revision Application which was approved by the Planning Board on September 28, 2023
- c. Authorization to pay Hudson Valley Code Enforcement Officer Education Conference (HVCEOC) \$750.00 for training, April 16-18, 2024 by Thomas Tryon and Christian Kitchen
- d. Authorization to refund the remaining escrow balance of \$2,478.75 due Christopher Scheuer, 650 Kernberry Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903, for PB21-229, a Subdivision Application for the property located at 192 Mountain Rest Road, which was withdrawn by the owner on March 28, 2024

Grant:

The Town Board discussed hiring Millenium Strategies to work on the US Department of Transportation-Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant. They will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Authorization to hire:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Scott Harrington at the rate of \$23.00 an hour (not to exceed 220 hours) as a Seasonal Laborer (to replace Avery Herring) with a start date of April 6, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Permitting alcohol at the FOD and CC:

The Board discussed the request to allow alcohol at a party scheduled for the Field of Dreams and the Community Center. The Board would like to run this by the Town Attorney, Insurance Company and Chief of Police. They will not take action at this time.

Approve Retirement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept and approve the retirement of Chief Robert Lucchesi effective May 30, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approve Appointment:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint Matthew Sutton to the rank of Chief of Police effective May 31, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approve Appointment:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint Carmine Fuoco to the rank of Lieutenant effective May 1, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution-No Mow May:

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

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz wishes to expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, encouraging the community to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz is in a unique position to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by asking its citizens to take direct and meaningful action on their own properties, and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, is free or nearly free of pesticides, is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins; and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species which depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town of New Paltz recognizes No-Mow May to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the duration of the month of May, the Town of New Paltz shall not issue citations for excessive weed growth in order to encourage homeowners to delay lawn-care practices until June, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and flowers to establish.

Authorization sign MOA:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign the New Paltz Police Association, Inc Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Monthly Purchase Orders:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to add the following monthly purchase orders, one for the new Toshiba lease in the Town Clerk’s Office, and one for the Building Department Temporary Agreement, to the list of authorized prepays. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Toshiba	AAA-522-1410-400	\$83.08
Normann Staffing	BBB-522-3620-400	\$1,200.00

Approve Appointment:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint Diane Lee as Appointed Sole Assessor at a rate of \$56,000.00 annually. Seconded by Councilwoman Gotto, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approve MOU:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to authorize the Planning/Zoning Secretary, Kristine Tabasko, to be paid overtime or given compensatory time for hours worked outside normal business hours. This MOU would remain in for a 3-month trial period. Seconded by Councilwoman Gotto, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorize Prepay:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to prepay The Copy Hut a deposit to purchase No Mow May signs for purchase by residents at \$15.00 apiece. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to sign agreement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Supervisor to sign off on the Municipal Parks and Recreation Subaward Agreement: Town of New Paltz, American Recovery Fund (The “SLFRF”) for the Henry W. DuBois Project. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Consolidation:

Two proposals were received from the RFQ put out by the Village. The Board will review the proposals for the next meeting.

Executive Session:

At 8:18 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:54 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Gotto, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Appointment to ZBA:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to appoint Jon Decker to the ZBA. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resignation:

Supervisor Bettez announced that he will be resigning from his position as Town Supervisor as of May 3, 2024. He has accepted a position as the Climate Resilient Program Manager with the Hudson River Estuary Program. The Board will be appointing a replacement until the end of the year. If anyone is interested, please send your letter of interest to assistant@townofnewpaltz.org.

At 8:59 p.m. a motion was made Supervisor Bettez by to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Gotto, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
Town Clerk