



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

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

At 7:02 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 Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Amanda Gotto spoke in favor of the proposed BESS Law and suggested it be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Executive Session:

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to go into executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:11 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Diane Fauci as the Community Relations Specialist, 40 hrs/wk at a salary of \$60,000/year effective March 25, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize the Building Inspector to take action in regard to personnel. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to deny the UPSEU grievance. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Appointment:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to nominate Amanda Gotto to fill the vacant seat on the Town Board. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Interview:

The Town Board interviewed Joseph Davis for the Recreation Director position.

Resignation:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept the resignation of Amy Donnelly from the ZBA. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Interview:

The Town Board interviewed Jon Decker for the ZBA.

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

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to rescind the previous motion and revisit in 2 weeks. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, 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 Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

- a. Approval of minutes: Town Board, February 15, 2024
- b. Authorization to establish a Planning Board escrow in the amount of \$3,000.00 with \$750.00 replenishment for the wetland permit application of Jeffrey Arliss, 44 Rocky Hill Rd, PB24-024

Procurement Policy:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the updated procurement policy. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to hire:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to hire Albert Bodie as a Municipal Worker II in the Building & Grounds Department with a start date of March 24, 2024.

Authorization to approve copier lease:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the Town’s Lease with Maintenance Agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions for Toshiba e-STUDIO2528A for the Town Clerk’s office for \$83.03/mth for 63 months, a 5-year lease for \$5,234.04 with the option to purchase at the end. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

284 Agreement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Money, pursuant to provisions of section 284 of Highway law, setting aside \$132,021.83 to be expended for the primary work and general repairs upon 59.25 miles of Town highways, including sluices, and guide trails, including bridges having a span of more than 5’ or renewals thereof – the following sums shall be set aside for permanent improvements: a. Plutarch Road – \$448,040.00 b. Old Tschirky Road – \$45,000.00 c. Sarafian Road – \$47,000.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Authorization to approve signage:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve phase 2 Wallkill Valley Land Trust, Inc Rail Trail Interpretive signage. Seconded by Supervisor Bettez, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

2023 Budget Modifications for Cost Overruns:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the following 2023 Budget Modifications. Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Request authorization to modify the adopted 2023 budget for cost overruns as follows:							
TO:				FROM:			
A	1355.400	Assessor, CE	1,725.00	A	9015.800	Fire & Police Retirement	2,225.00
A	1420.400	Attorney, CE	500.00				
			2,225.00				
<hr/>							
TO:				FROM:			
B	7110.210	Parks-Moriello Pool	480.00	B	7110.410	Parks-Rail Trail	480.00
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TO:				FROM:			
SSF	1440.400	Engineer, CE	1,052.00	SSF	8130.400	Sewage Treat & Disp, CE	1,052.00

Appointments:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to appoint Katie Hamill, Mischa Cohn, Evan Holland-Shepler, and Susan Denton to the Housing Smart Communities Initiative. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Adoption of Local Law #1/2024-ADU:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to repeal Section 140-17, “Accessory Apartments” of Article III of Chapter 140, “Zoning” of the Code of the Town of New Paltz and to Replace It with A New Section 140-17, “Accessory Dwelling Units”, Local Law #1 of 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Adoption of Local Law #2/2024-Building Construction & Fire Prevention:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to repeal Chapter 78, “Building Construction and Fire Prevention” of the Code of the Town of New Paltz and To Enact a New Chapter 78 “Building Construction and Fire Prevention” of the Code of the Town of New Paltz, Local Law #2 of 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Battery Energy System Storage Law:

Tabled. Will be sent to the Planning Board for comment.

Resolution:

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF NEW PALTZ in support of S89 (Ryan)/A351 (Bronson)
Prevents IDAs From Abating School District Taxes**

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to waiving school taxes by a town, city, or county industrial development agency

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 creates a new section 889 of the General Municipal Law which dictates that town, city, or county industrial development agencies may not waive any taxes or enter into an agreement for payment in lieu of taxes if such taxes would otherwise be received by the school district.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

In FY 2021, New York State public schools lost at least [\\$1.8 billion in revenue to business tax breaks](#), overwhelmingly from property tax abatements provided by local Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs). It is bad tax and social policy to allow IDAs to deprive schools of revenue.

There are hundreds of studies by independent experts showing tax breaks for businesses are a poor investment of public funds. (Twenty of the most important can be downloaded [here](#).) In sharp contrast, public [education has been shown](#) to offer a high return on taxpayer investments.

The Town of New Paltz strongly supports this legislation and we thank our State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha for being co-sponsors.

We urge the Legislature to pass this bill and ask the Town Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Senate Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and to House Speaker, Carl E. Heastie.

Rates for Consultants:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the hourly rates of consultants to finish the overlay zoning project, up to \$2,500.00 Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Online Banking:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to add Maria Pastrana-Mucito to our M&T online banking and NYCLASS investment accounts. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resignation:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept the resignation of Arlene Weber as Municipal Bookkeeper, effective end of business day, April 5, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Promotions:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to promote Maria Pastrana-Mucito to replace Arlene Weber as Municipal Bookkeeper at the union wage rate. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to promote Eileen Hedley to replace Maria Pastrana-Mucito as Senior Account Clerk at the union wage rate. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Moriello Pool and Youth Center wages:

The Town hires a small group of people to help get the pool ready before it opens. The hours and days vary. There is a discrepancy with pool worker wages being higher than those of full-time Youth Center employees. This will be discussed further.

Liaison Reports:

The Board gave updates on their Committees, Commissions and Boards.

At 9:15 p.m. a motion was made Supervisor Bettez by to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Rosenkranse
Town Clerk