



**Special Town Board Meeting  
July 29, 2019  
Courthouse, 23 Plattekill Ave.  
7 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilman David Brownstein and Councilman Marty Irwin. **Absent:** Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis.

At 7:04 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 Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez and seconded by Councilman Irwin to approve and/or authorize the following items as part of the consent agenda. All aye votes cast, motion carried.

1. Authorization to change **monthly** purchase orders for Highway and Buildings & Grounds uniforms, effective August 1, 2019, from Cintas to:

Unifirst	AAA-522-1620-400	\$84.00
	DBB-522-5110-400	\$206.00

2. Authorization to correct Michael York's rate of pay to \$20.04 as per the contract and give him retroactive pay on the next payroll for the hours that he has already worked
3. Authorization to modify the adopted 2019 budget for salary increases for non-union and UPSEAU-General Unit and Blue Collar Unit personnel as follows:

<u>To:</u>				<u>From:</u>		
A1220.100	Supervisor, P.S.	907.00		A1110.10	Justices, P.S.	2,902.00
A1340.100	Budget, P.S.	3,958.00		A1990.400	Contingent, C.E.	<u>20,807.00</u>
A1355.100	Assessor, P.S.	1,807.00				<b>23,709.00</b>
A1410.100	Town Clerk, P.S.	1,616.00				
A1620.100	Buildings, P.S.	1,603.00				
A3120.100	Police, P.S.	1,109.00				
A3510.100	Control of Dogs, P.S.	166.00				
A4050.100	Public Health, P.S.	1,286.00				
A7020.100	Recreation Admin., P.S.	3,054.00				
A7150.100	Recreation-Moriello Pool, P.S.	496.00				
A7310.100	Youth, P.S.	6,455.00				

A8189.100	Recycling, P.S.	<u>1,252.00</u>				
		<b>23,709.00</b>				
<b>To:</b>				<b>From:</b>		
B3620.100	Safety Inspections, P.S.	13,500.00		B1990.400	Contingent, C.E.	<b>14,145.00</b>
B8010.100	Zoning Board, P.S.	226.00				
B8020.100	Planning Board, P.S.	<u>419.00</u>				
		<b>14,145.00</b>				
<b>To:</b>				<b>From:</b>		
DBB3310.100	Traffic Control, P.S.	391.00		DBB1990.400	Contingent, C.E.	<b>15,424.00</b>
DBB5110.100	General Repairs, P.S.	1,575.00				
DBB5130.100	Machinery, P.S.	844.00				
DBB5140.100	Brush & Weeds, P.S.	180.00				
DBB5142.100	Snow Removal, P.S.	<u>12,434.00</u>				
		<b>15,424.00</b>				

4. Authorization to expend up to \$10,000 of Parkland funds for the purchase and installation of a water treatment system at the Field of Dreams, and to authorize the Supervisor to sign all associated paperwork on behalf of the Town.

#### **Review of Town Justice Candidate Applications:**

Based on an opinion from the Committee on Open Government, it was determined that all discussions regarding the appointment of the Town Justice or any elected position, must be made in public, not in executive session. The Town Board's goal tonight is to come up with a process and a set of criteria on how it will narrow down the 12 candidates. The appointment cannot be made until the current Judge has left office which will take effect on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Board agreed to use a ranking system using point values of 1, 3, 5 and 7 (highest), where each point value can only be given to 3 candidates. The Board members will send their scores to the Town Clerk by 9 a.m. on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She will then tabulate the scores and notify the Board of the 3 highest scoring candidates. Those 3 people will be invited to interview at a Special meeting on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at the Courthouse. The vote to appoint will occur at the Town Board meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

With input from the Chief Court Clerk, Justice Bacon and Attorney Andy Kossover, the Board agreed on the importance of appointing someone who is an attorney for our court, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest in Ulster County. This person will have to begin immediately with no time for training. Supervisor Bettez indicated that the voters have overwhelmingly elected an attorney in previous years.

The Board also agreed that factors such as criminal court experience, judicial temperament, administrative experience and residency are all important factors and will be part of its

consideration. The Board agreed to narrow down the 12 candidates to attorneys who are New Paltz residents:

1. Kevin Barry- NP resident/Attorney
2. Rhett Weires- NP resident/Attorney
3. Mariann Connolly-NP resident/Attorney
4. Jennifer Kelly-NP resident/Attorney
5. Kenyon Trachte-NP resident/Attorney
6. Charles Strugatz- NP resident/Attorney
7. Richard LaRose-NP resident/Attorney
  
8. Bruce Blatchly-Non-resident/Attorney
9. George Selby-Non-resident/Attorney
10. Terrance Ward-NP resident/Non-Attorney
11. William Murray-NP resident/Non-Attorney
12. David Freidman- NP resident/Non-Attorney

The Board adjusted the ranking system to use the same 1, 3, 5 and 7-point values but now each value can only be given to 2 candidates. Once the top 3 candidates have been determined, the Supervisor will assign each Board member a reference to check between August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board will be looking for feedback regarding what the candidate is like and if he/she is fair and equitable.

When the top 3 candidates are invited to interview, the Supervisor will make sure they understand that if appointed, they are prohibited from practicing in front of other lawyer judges in Ulster County and that they may be called for late night arraignments. The order of interviews will be randomly determined by the Town Clerk. The candidates will be interviewed in public on August 12<sup>th</sup> but with no particular structure.

At 8:15 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