



**Town Board Meeting**  
**Public Hearing-Critical Environmental Areas**  
**May 7, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Via Teleconference**

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

At 7:10 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to open the Town Board meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Agenda:**

At 7:12 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the agenda with some order changes and adding Geotechnical Construction at Courthouse. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Executive Order by Governor postpones any in person meetings until June.  
 Former Town Supervisor Carol Roper passed away.

**Public Input:** None

**Resolution: Community Preservation Plan-** John Orfitelli, Susan DeMark, Cara Lee, John Gotto: John Orfitelli on behalf of the Community Preservation Plan Task Force, gave a presentation utilizing tools to determine priorities for preservation. The main goal of this presentation was to seek Town Board approval to become an Ad-Hoc Committee.

At 7:17pm Councilman Brownstein arrived.

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to pass the resolution to establish the task force as an Ad-Hoc committee. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**WHEREAS**, The Town of New Paltz is distinguished by its unique landscape setting, including the Shawangunk Ridge, the Wallkill River Valley, woodlands, wetlands, farmland, scenic features; and

**WHEREAS**, New Paltz's historic features are fundamental to our unique community character and are integral to our landscape and sense of place;

**WHEREAS**, the protection of our natural resources provide clean water, fresh local food and resiliency in the face of climate impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, these features contribute to the quality of life for all New Paltz residents and visitors and are important to the economic future of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town's Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, and Farmland Protection Plan all call for additional protection of these resources in the face of encroaching development; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has recently enacted a Community Preservation Act which enables communities that have a Community Preservation Plan to create a Community Preservation Fund for open space and historic resources, derived from a local Real Estate Transfer Tax;

**WHEREAS**, New Paltz's existing plans can be updated and consolidated into a single Community Preservation Plan in accordance with the criteria set by the Community Preservation Act; and

**WHEREAS**, With a Community Preservation Plan our community will be eligible to establish a Community Preservation Fund, if approved by the community by referendum.

**THEREFORE**, the Town will: • Create an ad-hoc committee, made up of members of the Environmental Conservation Board, the Clean Water Open Space Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission and other interested residents to carry out the following activities: ♣ Draft a comprehensive Community Preservation Plan based on New Paltz's existing planning documents for adoption by the Town Board that will identify open space, farmland and historic preservation priorities;

♣ Educate the public about New Paltz's natural and historic priorities, funding needs and potential opportunities for a new funding source; ♣ Evaluate and make recommendations about the opportunity to participate in New York State's Community Preservation Act and make recommendations on a referendum to enact a Community Preservation Fund

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that it is the legislative policy of the Town to consider, evaluate, and support the adoption of these proposed activities, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Supervisor, upon the advice of the Board shall charge the adhoc committee to make recommendations to the Board and to the Supervisor regarding open space, farmland and historic resources, and funding for their protection, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the committee will explore technical, environmental, and economic considerations to aid the community in selecting protection priorities and funding sources, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the committee, the staff of the Town, and Town consultants should develop plans to implement appropriate practices so that the Town can continue to be a conservation leader and an outstanding steward of our irreplaceable resources.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to approve and/or authorize the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of minutes: Police Commission 4/16; Town Board 4/16
- B. Approval of Justice Court radio lease with NYCOMCO
- C. Authorization for Edmunds Code Meter Reading Import expenditure for Water & Sewer billing

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

#### **Discussion: CIT Banners for Main Street:**

Councilwoman Baer discussed the idea of hanging flower baskets along with banners designed by High School Seniors along Main Street. The banners would be funded through fundraising and CIT budget money. Banners will be hung by potential volunteers and/or Highway Department. Watering is a concern for flower baskets.

#### **Requisition Requests for Board Approval:**

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to approve the following requisition requests:

- Annual maintenance of lawn mowers in the amount of \$2,107.73
- Supplies for trucks and mowers in the amount of \$1,760.68

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

#### **Geotechnical Construction at Courthouse:**

Supervisor made a motion to approve Geotechnical construction work at the Courthouse in the amount of \$9,545.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

#### **Discussion: Toshiba Contract:**

Supervisor Bettez discussed the idea of cutting down the number of copiers in the building from two to one large quality copier. One copier would provide a savings of approximately \$60.00 per month. Councilman Brownstein suggested individual offices purchasing a small copier/printer for immediate need.

Supervisor Bettez proposed a vote. All aye votes cast.

#### **Discussion: Town Operations/Workforce Reductions:**

Supervisor Bettez discussed the recent Department Head workforce surveys and how the Town could do everything normally done by each department. Modifications to comply with social distancing regulations were also discussed. Potential layoffs are a concern but the Board is trying to avoid this.

The ability to obtain building permits and/or getting a response from Building Department was a notable concern.

Planning Board and Zoning Boards will have meetings via Zoom or YouTube beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Executive Session to Discuss Personnel:**

At 7:52pm, Supervisor Bettez made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:42pm, Supervisor Bettez made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast motion carried.

Supervisor Bettez made a motion to implement a hiring freeze for full time employees until further notice. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:43 pm, a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari  
Deputy Town Clerk