

**Joint Town & Village Meeting
May 19, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

Present: Supervisor Neil Bettez, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilwoman Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Councilman Marty Irwin. **Absent:** Councilman Jeff Logan.

Present: Mayor Tim Rogers, Trustee Rebecca Rotzler, Trustee Tom Rocco, Trustee Dennis Young. **Absent:** Trustee Don Kerr.

At 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Torres to open the meeting Town Board meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:31 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Rogers to open the Village Board meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Trustee Young, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda: -Parade Application Discussion, +Set date for next Joint meeting.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

Fran Wishnick spoke about development on S. Putt Corners Road, the possible Moratorium along the Gateway District, and a Comprehensive Master Plan for all of New Paltz.

Carol Roper of the Building Committee asked about the status of the Municipal Center project.

Josh Honig feels as though big issues before the Town and Village governments should be put up for public referendums.

Conservation Easements-Building Inspector Stacy Delarede:

Inspector Delarede explained that while working on a project, she discovered various issues relative to conservation easements (CEs). The Town currently holds CEs on private land; the Town owns land that has granted the easement to Land Trusts; there are easements in the Town that are held by property owners that have granted the easements to Land Trusts; there are Land Management Preservations with easements that they manage themselves, and Land Trusting/Conservatory Companies that own properties that don't have easements on their land, typically considered open space. Each of the easements are different and have different requirements and enforcement. Inspector Delarede indicated that the Town does not have the money for this. She also indicated the importance of collecting endowments to cover the cost of monitoring the easements.

Update on Community Improvement Team (Beautification):

CIT Chair, Sue Stegen discussed some of the projects that the committee works on throughout the year, which include the hanging baskets on Main Street, the snowflakes, banners, Clean Sweep, Textile Exchange, and three gardens throughout the community. She explained that they are always looking for more members but that it is hard to get volunteers to join. She would like to have two public programs a year and mentor more with master gardeners. As well as two public information sessions to talk about recycling and textile exchanging. Anyone with suggestions about how to make New Paltz look better is encouraged to contact the committee.

Proposed Resolution-"Tolerance of Belief/Good Neighbors":

Bill Weinstein read aloud the following proposed resolution that he drafted and presented to the Town and Village Boards and submitted his written comments to the Town Clerk:

"Tolerance of Belief / Good Neighbors"

WHEREAS recent public statements by political leaders seem to give license to expressions of hatred toward Muslim-Americans;

AND WHEREAS we also see many examples of hatred directed toward Jews, Christians and Sikhs;

AND WHEREAS we see, historically and in the present-day, acts of violence and discrimination directed toward African-Americans, Latinos and all groups seen as "other";

AND WHEREAS acts of religious and racial bigotry undermine the civic fabric of our country in the eyes of the world;

AND WHEREAS acts of religious and racial bigotry diminish the civic discourse of our country;

AND WHEREAS the need for peaceful civic discourse, without resort to violence, is the key to maintaining a civil society that addresses the needs of all;

AND WHEREAS the embrace and acceptance of our neighbors, no matter their religious affiliation or their racial heritage, is a cornerstone of the American Way;

AND WHEREAS a tradition of religious freedom and tolerance has been part of the fabric of life in New Paltz since its founding in the 17th Century by Huguenots seeking a place to worship without fear;

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz acknowledges the truth of Rev. Martin Niemöller's admonition during the Nazi era in Germany:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz embraces the statement of John Stuart Mill that “bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing”;

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz is mindful of the warning from Albert Einstein that “the world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing”;

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz takes to heart the statement by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that “history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people”;

THE COMMUNITY OF NEW PALTZ RESOLVES AND AFFIRMS

FIRST, that acts of violence against any group based on religion or ethnicity, whether Muslims today or any other group tomorrow, are intolerable and will be considered actions taken against our entire community;

SECOND, that the members of the New Paltz community who are not Muslim offer support and friendship toward their Muslim neighbors;

THIRD, that New Paltz is a community of tolerance that honors individuals from all walks of life and all beliefs or non-belief, and is a place where neighbors live and work together cooperatively for the benefit of all;

AND FOURTH, that the Community of New Paltz calls upon other New York State and American communities to join us in public expressions that honor the importance of tolerance, acceptance, diversity and nonviolence.

Respectfully submitted by

- William Weinstein, resident, Town of New Paltz

And the following New Paltz clergy as co-signatories:

- Reverend Tobias Anderson and the Church Council of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Paltz
- Rabbi Rena Blumenthal
- Fr. Salvatore Cordaro, O.F.M., Cap., Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church
- Azer Khan, Imam and President, Muslim Students Association
- Rev. Dr. Mark E. Mast, Pastor of Reformed Church of New Paltz
- Bishop Gregory Ortiz, Christ the King Charismatic Episcopal Church, New Paltz
- Rev. Marnette Saz, member, United Methodist Church of New Paltz and representative to the New Paltz Area Church Council
- Pastor Bette Johnson Sohm, New Paltz United Methodist Church
- Rabbi William Strongin, Jewish Congregation of New Paltz
- Father Andrew Wyns, Christ the King Charismatic Episcopal Church, New Paltz

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to adopt the resolution as read by Bill Weinstein. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Rocco to adopt the resolution on behalf of the Village, as read by Bill Weinstein. Seconded by Mayor Rogers, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Proposed Resolution in Support of Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in New Paltz:

SUNY Professor Ş. İlgü Özler presented the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in New Paltz

WHEREAS the United Nations having declared Syria to be the greatest refugee crisis since

World War II, with more than half of the Syrian population having fled their homes since the beginning of the conflict in 2011;

WHEREAS the United Nations has stated that the more than 4 million registered Syrian refugees living in five neighboring countries will not be able to return home any time soon and has called for resettling more than 400,000 refugees;

WHEREAS those 400,000 refugees scheduled for resettlement include those most at risk – including children without parents, single parents, victims of torture or violence, women at risk and people with family reunification needs;

WHEREAS Syrians now face increasing challenges to find safety and protection in these neighboring countries, which, faced with overwhelming refugee numbers, insufficient international support and security concerns, have taken measures this year to stem the flow of refugees;

WHEREAS to date the United States, which traditionally takes the lead in resettling UN registered refugees, has taken in only 1,500 Syrian refugees since 2011;

WHEREAS the pledge by President Obama to take in an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees is insufficient to meaningfully contribute to the United Nations reaching its resettlement goal;

WHEREAS the refugees in the program are all registered with the United Nations and cannot return to Syria because of a well-founded fear of persecution and will be reviewed by a proven vetting system in the United States;

WHEREAS the principle of protecting refugees is a core part of this country's identity as a nation committed to freedom and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz and Village of New Paltz Boards declare their support for resettlement of unregistered Syrian refugees in our community and call upon other New York communities to join them in supporting a “significantly” stronger national effort on Syrian resettlement.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the resolution as amended. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Rocco to adopt the resolution as amended. Seconded by Trustee Rotzler, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Proposed Resolution-Contracts with Verizon Communication:

Councilman Torres read aloud the following resolution:

Resolution to Reevaluate all Contracts and Services by Verizon Communications and Affiliated Companies

WHEREAS labor strife caused by Verizon's failure to settle contracts creates uncertainty with respect to communications and services that the Town and Village of New Paltz are expected to carry out; and

WHEREAS Verizon and Verizon Wireless replacement workers and managers do not have the experience, skills or know-how to deliver high quality expertise and service; and

WHEREAS Town and Village of New Paltz officials, staff and the constituents we serve deserve uninterrupted telecommunications services, not a network that cannot be properly maintained, especially in an emergency, by a low-skill, poorly-motivated replacement workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Communications Workers of America has initiated a large-scale strike boycott of products and services sold by Verizon and Verizon Wireless that may adversely impact our ability for efficient and uninterrupted telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, Town and Village of New Paltz, while taking no position on the Verizon contract dispute, is under an obligation to protect our agency, including providing efficient operations to further our mission;

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED: that Town and Village of New Paltz will not enter into any new contracts or obligations to purchase Verizon and Verizon Wireless products or services until labor disputes are resolved.

FINALLY BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town and Village of New Paltz will review any current contracts or obligations to purchase Verizon and Verizon Wireless products or services and contemplate the pending labor disputes while considering continuing or entering into and new contract with Verizon.

A motion was made by Councilman to adopt the resolution as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Rocco to adopt the resolution as amended. Seconded by Trustee Rotzler, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Farmers Market in Town Court Parking Lot:

The Farmers Market is currently being held at the Community Center, however, some vendors are not doing well. They would like to move it closer to Main Street so that it is more visible and accessible to pedestrians and tourists.

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers to work with the Farmers Market to make the space at the Court parking lot accessible. Seconded by Trustee Rotzler, all aye votes cast, motion carried. A motion was made by Councilman Irwin to work with the Farmers Market to make the space at the Court parking lot accessible. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution-Downtown Revitalization Initiative:

Mayor Rogers explained that the Governor's Office developed this program where the idea is for different communities to apply. The Town, Village and SUNY have discussed working together on a joint application.

A Resolution Supporting The Filing Of An Application For \$10 Million Under The Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Whereas, the Mid-Hudson Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) is a product of the Governor's office and his effort to transform downtowns into vibrant communities where tomorrow's workforce will want to live, work, and raise families; and

Whereas, the Village of New Paltz, the Town of New Paltz, and State University of New York at New Paltz are working in partnership to address the opportunity presented by this revitalization initiative; and

Whereas, downtown New Paltz presents an important opportunity to work together to strengthen the connections between the village, the town and the university and the many enterprises, institutions and people who are engaged in downtown in many different ways, and;

Whereas, downtown New Paltz is recognized as a special place that is central to the unique character of this community, and;

Whereas, New Paltz is eligible to submit a competitive grant application for \$10 million toward the revitalization of downtown New Paltz, and;

Whereas, this grant would fund the preparation of a revitalization plan that will include extensive public involvement in framing a transformative investment strategy for downtown New Paltz, now, therefore be it;

RESOLVED, That the New Paltz downtown meets all DRI criteria, and there is great potential to capitalize on prior and planned future public and private sector investment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that awarding of \$10 million as part of the DRI will leverage tens of millions more in private funds, as well as human capital by tapping into the people, creativity, and growing entrepreneurialism taking place in the region, helping create new jobs, housing opportunities, and public infrastructure and streetscape improvements and other potential public benefits,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Paltz Town Board supports the filing of said application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Paltz Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to act in connection with the application and execute all necessary documents.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the resolution on behalf of the Town Board. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Rogers to adopt the resolution on behalf of the Village Board and to authorize the Mayor to execute the final application. Seconded by Trustee Rocco, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Collaboration with SUNY School of Business for Capital Planning:

Supervisor Bettez and Mayor Rogers met with the President of SUNY to discuss how the Town, Village and SUNY interact and can be more productive. The idea is to get input from the students on how the college can contribute to the community.

Discussion-Master Plan RFP:

Supervisor Bettez explained that the Town Board previously had questions about the RFP but that Village has already approved it. Mayor Rogers indicated that the Village Planner is looking for grant opportunities to fund a Comprehensive Master Plan.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez for the Town Board to approve the Master Plan RFP. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion-Municipal Center:

Mayor Rogers indicated that there may be funding possibly through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, which focuses on four anchor properties in the Village.

Discussion-Mill Brook Preserve:

Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis left the room. Councilman Irwin indicated that the draft of the proposed conservation easements and are moving forward in the hopes of meeting the June 30th deadline. Trustee Rocco requested that the Village Board be kept informed about the stipulations in the easements.

Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis returned.

Discussion-Town District water meter readings:

Mayor Rogers indicated the Village has identified inefficiencies and how things can be done better. They have been working with SUNY and Highway Supt. Marx.

Set date for next Joint meeting:

A motion was made by Councilman Irwin to schedule joint meetings for the first meeting of the month for the Board that is hosting the meeting, alternating each month. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Young schedule joint meetings for the first meeting of the month for the Board that is hosting the meeting, alternating each month. Seconded by Trustee Rotzler, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Young to adjourn the Village Board. Seconded by Mayor Rogers, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Town Board Meeting

Acceptance of Minutes:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to adopt the *Joint minutes of April 27, 2016*. Seconded by Councilwoman Seyfert-Lillis. Councilman Irwin requested an amendment to include how each board member voted when the vote was not unanimous. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to accept the minutes of *April 28, 2016*. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution-Meal Allowances for Highway Department:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to modify the motion for the resolution made on March 24, 2016 and replace it with the following:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz New York hereby authorizes reimbursement to employees missing their receipts for the agreed upon meal allowances, for dates up to and including April 4, 2016, using their call-in sheets instead the missing receipts.

Seconded by Councilman Torres. Councilman Irwin added an amendment to adopt the 2nd to last "Whereas" as amended to read:

"WHEREAS, the United Public Service Employees Union requires that we follow the contract and reimburse employees for meals,"

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

Barrier Mitigation Letter of Concurrence:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to authorize himself to sign the Culvert Mitigation Letter of Support with the amendments to reflect Nos. 1 and 2, not 3 and 4. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Crosspoint Communications Contract:

A motion was made by Councilman Irwin to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Customer Service Contract Agreement. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approval of Conference Attendance/PrePay:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the attendance of Jean Gallucci, Arlene Weber and Rachel Moreau at the Bond/Workplace 2016 Statewide Labor Employment & HR Conference on June 14, 2016 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, at a total cost of \$555.00 plus mileage; and approve it as a prepay. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Warrant:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to approve the May Warrant in the amount of \$544,817.80. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Return of Escrow-Alpenaster Corp:

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to return the money that is left over in the escrow. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Moriello Pool:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres for the Supervisor to authorize Highway Supt. Chris Marx to spend up to \$3,500.00 on emergency repairs at the pool and to consult with the Town Board during the expending of those funds. Seconded by Councilman Irwin, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:51 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 Mazzaccari
Town Clerk