

TOWN BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF POESTENKILL
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2023
(Not approved at time of distribution)

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

Councilwoman Butler	Present
Councilman Hass	Present
Councilman Van Slyke	Present
Councilman Wohlleber	Present
Supervisor Hammond	Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Andrew Gilchrist, Attorney
Susan Horton, Town Clerk

Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler, and carried that the monthly bills had been audited for payment.

Supervisor Hammond opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the floor was opened for public comment at 7 p.m. L. King, town resident addressed the Town Board regarding Public Decorum at previous Town Board meetings. He highlighted Councilman Wohllebers' proposed Public Decorum Resolution which has not yet passed. He cited the last meeting, where a young child was present, and he thought that the Decorum at the meeting was disrespectful. He said that he would like to be involved and work with the Town Board members to help solve this problem. He mentioned his familiarity with problem solving techniques and requested that the Town Board make this a priority for the January 2024 Town Board meeting.

TOWN CLERK MINUTES

Motion by Hass, seconded by Van Slyke and an oral vote of 4 ayes (Wohlleber abstaining) to accept the Town Clerk's minutes of November 9, 2023, as written. Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to accept the Town Clerk's minutes of November 14, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

Charter Communications – Notification dated December 8, 2023, regarding program changes effective January 10, 2024, to the community.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Board – Town Board members had copies of the December 5, 2023, meeting in their packets. S. Valente, Planning Board member reported on the agenda items. He informed the Board about an applicant who applied for a SUP to rent out their property as an event venue. He touched base on some of the Planning Board's concerns regarding this applicant. He also commented on the Public Hearing that was held for a Minor Subdivision on property located on Weatherwax Rd.

T. Russell, Planning Board Chairman informed the Board that the Town received a Grant for \$10,000 from Hudson River Valley Greenway to start the Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning Board – Town Board members had copies of the Zoning Board of Appeal's meeting of November 21, 2023, in their packets. F. Burzesi, Chairperson reported on the agenda items. He also reported on the interviews for open positions on the Zoning Board.

Fire Company – Town Board members had copies of the Fire Co. November 2023, report.

Library – M. McLaren, reported on the activities at the library. Meg stated for the month of November there were 1,103 items in circulation, 87 programs and 644 visits to the library. She wanted to thank the Poestenkill Fire Co. for visiting the library during Storytime for the children. Meg shared with the Town Board a Resolution Honoring Councilman Van Slyke prepared by the library’s Board of Trustees for his service to the library over the past eight years.

Youth Advisory – There was no report this month.

CAC – There was no meeting this month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Butler – Granite Monument – Councilwoman Butler addressed the Board about a monument that was “dug” up by the Highway Superintendent, DJ Goyer. This monument was originally displayed at the four corners of town but was broken when transported to a new location.

J. Butler informed the Board that Adam Ross Cut Stone, Inc. will be restoring this monument as best as possible. She expects the cost to be somewhere around \$2,500 - \$3,000. She also stated that she was going to approach the VFW to see if they would take this monument to display on site.

Planning and Zoning Board Interviews/Discussion – Supervisor Hammond stated that this will be discussed at a later date.

Planning Board – Revisions to Density Law – This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Emergency policies - Councilwoman Butler stated that the “Emergency Policies” are outdated and need to be updated so they can be added to the Employee Handbook. Councilman Wohlleber will look into this matter and report back to the Board with his findings.

Decorum – Councilwoman Butler provided the Board and A. Gilchrist, Town Attorney her version of the Code of Conduct to compare against Councilman’s Wohlleber rules of decorum.

Employee Handbook – Councilwoman Butler briefly brought the Town Board members up to speed on her work in preparing the Employee Handbook. Councilwoman Butler indicated that she has submitted a draft copy to the other town board members and to Attorney Gilchrist for review. During the meeting it was stated that the Emergency Procedures and employee health plan should be included in the handbook.

Fire Contract 2024-2025 – A. Gilchrist, Town Attorney will get the updated figures of the Fire Company’s contract and will report back to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Assessor Clerk – Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Hass and an oral vote of 5 ayes to appoint Diane Horton, Clerk to the Assessor. Term to expire 12/31/2024.

Youth Director – Motion by Councilman Van Slyke, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to appoint Kara Horton, Youth Director for the Town of Poestenkill. Term to expire 12/31/2024.

REPORTS

Supervisor's Report – There was no Supervisor's report given.

Town Attorney's Report - A. Gilchrist, Town Attorney reported that along with routine matters, he worked on the Fire Company's Contract and the Town's Defense Council.

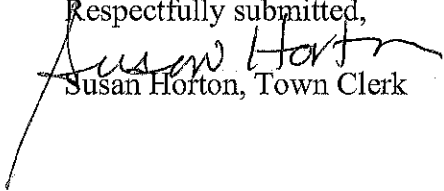
Town Clerk's Report – Motion by Hass, seconded by Supervisor Hammond and an oral vote of 5 ayes to accept the Town Clerk's report of November 2023. The total amount received in the Clerk's office was \$11,925.16 and of that amount \$10,003.57 was remitted to the Supervisor. Town Board members had copies of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer's written report. There were also reports from the Assessor, 811, Water, and the Highway Department. Highway Superintendent, DJ Goyer reported that GPI has been working pretty hard on the bridge design on Reichards Farm. He stated that they have the Environmental Study going for Habitat & Wetlands, right-away boundaries are done and turned in and the design is started. However, he and Wayne Bonesteel (Town Engineer) met with two gentlemen from GPI around Thanksgiving, and they just announced that the State will be offering the Bridge NY Grant once again. Rensselaer County will receive around \$7 Million in Grants. After meeting with GPI, we thought it was the best approach to try for a fourth time for the grant. We were lacking some studies the last time we applied and now all those studies are completed. We feel confident enough to try and feel we owe it to the taxpayers to try again.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #36-2023 in the amount of \$36,599.10. Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #37-2023 in the amount of \$1,363.36.

Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and carried to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss a legal issue. Incoming Supervisor Russell was invited into Executive Session. There were no votes taken in Executive Session. Motion by Councilman Hass and seconded by Councilman Van Slyke to exit Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. and immediately adjourn this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Horton, Town Clerk