

TOWN BOARD MINUTES  
TOWN OF POESTENKILL  
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP  
October 7, 2021  
(Not approved at time of distribution)

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

Councilwoman Butler	Present
Councilman Hass	Present
Councilman Van Slyke	Present (via zoom)
Councilman Wohlleber	Present
Supervisor Hammond	Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Horton, Town Clerk

Supervisor Hammond opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending tonight's workshop.

**Establishing a Registry for Vacant Buildings and Property Maintenance Requirements for Lots Containing a Vacant Building:**

Councilman Wohlleber introduced the subject by saying that this has been discussed at several recent Town Board meetings and stated that he has drafted this proposed legislation based upon his review of the Brunswick Town Law. Councilman Wohlleber said that to help in Poestenkill's understanding of the subject, he has invited three Brunswick representatives who are directly involved to tonight's meeting. He then introduced A. Gilchrist, Attorney and two individuals from the Brunswick Assessor's Office who discussed their involvements in such cases. The Town Board members and members of the audience asked many questions and the "bottom line" responses indicated that solutions to these situations are extremely difficult and time consuming and frequently involved Rensselaer County and numerous legalities, many of which could be handled by the Code Enforcement Officer using the New York State Property Maintenance Code and other existing Town Codes. Tracy Church, Poestenkill Code Enforcement Officer, discussed some open cases which he is handling and indicated that he needed more support from the Courts. The discussions and experiences detailed by the Brunswick guest were very helpful in explaining the difficulties which they encountered, and Councilman Wohlleber expressed his sincere appreciation to the Brunswick representatives for taking their time and meeting with us.

**Establishing Local Law Establishing Public Meeting Guidelines and Rules of Decorum**

Supervisor Hammond opened the subject by stating that he appreciated the hard work that Councilman Wohlleber has put into this undertaking and then turned the meeting over to Councilman Wohlleber. Eric briefly discussed the fact that there have been instances where members of the audience and also the Town Board have become so emotionally involved in an issue that they have become extremely rude. Eric said that he believed that we needed to formally establish "Guidelines and Rules of Decorum" to address these situations. He also stated that he believed the Town should adopt the Robert's Rules of Order to accomplish the objective of civilly and professionally having meetings. There was discussion of the pros and cons of this recommendation including the Town Board members and also members of the audience. At this point, Supervisor Hammond discussed his approach to handling debatable subjects in the past.

He said that he has always attempted to be polite, not losing his temper, and treating each person with respect. After much discussion, Supervisor Hammond closed the subject by stating that at the next Town Board meeting he would propose establishing a special committee to address this subject and recommend suggestions.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Town Board members had copies of the 2022 Budget requests from all Department heads and Board members reviewed figures line by line. All Department heads were given the opportunity to discuss their budgets. There will be another Budget Workshop on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Hass and carried to enter into Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue with no votes being taken. Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Hass and carried to exit Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. and to immediately adjourn this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Horton, Town Clerk