

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

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Horton, Town Clerk
Andrew Gilchrist, Attorney

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 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – P. Plante, resident, spoke about his personal experiences and noted that there are new people in Town who do not know of many past issues. He discussed his past experiences, citing a November 1995 Advertiser article, and other issues. He went on to inquire about the Public Hearing for the proposed Water District 2. He was told that the Public Hearing was still open. C. Sargent, town resident, talked about the Vosburgh Road issue and continued the discussion from the last town board meeting. Resident M. Gibbons then voiced his concerns. After these discussions Supervisor Hammond stated that Vosburgh Road is still an existing Public Town Highway. G. Pattenaude said that he had recently observed young children riding bicycles on Algonquin Beach Road and that he was concerned regarding the speed limit. He asked that the Town look into it and requested that the Sheriff’s Department consider putting a speed zone machine on that road.

D. Ruppert, Fire Chief, D. Basle, Asst. Fire Chief, and L. Basle discussed recent incidents, one associated with the Fire Company performing traffic control for the 22nd Triathlon at which a “Public Official’s” comments deemed inappropriate and proposed that the Ethics Board be involved. They asked for a public apology, which was given. It was noted that perhaps proper advance notification was insufficient when it was necessary to close or detour public roads. Town Attorney, A. Gilchrist stated that his experience dictates the need for some “mechanism” for the notification. This procedure will be looked into for improvement.

TOWN CLERK’S MINUTES -

Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 3 ayes (Wohlleber abstained/Van Slyke absent) to accept the Town Clerk’s minutes of August 10, 2023, as written. Motion by Wohlleber, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 4 ayes (Van Slyke absent) to accept the Town Clerk’s minutes of August 24, 2023, as written.

Correspondence -

Charter Communications - Memo’s dated September 1, 2023, and September 12, 2023, regarding upcoming program changes to Spectrum customers.

Liaison Reports:

Planning Board – Town Board members had copies of the Planning Board’s meeting of September 5, 2023, in their packets. T. Russell, Planning Board Chairman reported on the agenda items. He discussed solar energy and stated that a representative from NYSERDA will be at the next Planning Board meeting in October.

Zoning Board – Town Board members had copies of the Zoning Board’s meeting of August 15, 2023, in their packets. K. McGrath, Board member reported on the agenda items.

Fire Company – Town Board members had copies of the Fire Co. report of August 2023, in their packets. D. Ruppert, Fire Chief reported on the number of calls the Fire Company received for the month of August.

Library – S. Pattenaude, reported on the activities at the library. Susan listed the upcoming programs that will be held which include the Halloween costume swap and during the month of September you will be able to sign up for a library card. Susan also reported that the library welcomed over 895 visitors for the month of August. She also stated that Notary services are now available at the library by appointment only. For a full listing of events, visit their website at poestenkilllibrary.org.

Youth Advisory Board – No report given.

CAC – no meeting

Discussion Items:

Court – Felicia Dickinson, Court Clerk – J-CAP Grant (Justice Court Assistance Program)

Felicia Dickinson, Court Clerk informed the Board and the audience on exactly what a J-CAP Grant is. The Grant funds are eligible for court purposes for scanning and indexing paper documents into an archive of text and searchable digital files. If awarded this Grant, it can be up to \$30,000. The deadline for filing this Grant is October 13th and the Court will be notified in January 2024 if they receive the Grant.

RESOLUTION #33-2023 – IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE POESTENKILL TOWN COURT. Therefore, Be It Resolved that Justices Thomas H. Slavin, Jr. and Gregory T. Kronau, are hereby authorized by the Town Board to make an application to the Justice Court Assistance Program for a grant of funds to assist in the operation of the Poestenkill Town Court.

MOVED BY: Councilman Hass
 SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Butler

VOTED UPON AS FOLLOWS:

Councilwoman Butler	YES
Councilman Hass	YES
Councilman Van Slyke	ABSENT
Councilman Wohlleber	YES
Supervisor Hammond	YES

Oath of Office and Undertaking – Town Attorney, A. Gilchrist addressed this topic and provided an overview of the Oath of Office and Undertaking. He said that it was required to be included in the Policies of the Town.

Website update – Councilman Wohlleber discussed the progress on this topic. He said that it was going very well and that while they were “fixing all the bugs” the Town website would not be accessible from Google Chrome until after this weekend. During this time other internet browsers could be used successfully.

Action Items:

Approve June Butler, Deputy Supervisor as FOIL Appeals Officer – Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 4 ayes to approve June Butler, Deputy Supervisor as the FOIL Appeals Officer for the Town of Poestenkill.

Recognize Supervisor’s Appointment of Kara Seifridsberger as Secretary to Supervisor – Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 4 ayes to appoint Kara Seifridsberger as Secretary to the Supervisor to be paid bi-weekly at an annual salary of \$45,481.50.

RFP for Reichard’s Farm Bridge Rd. - DJ Goyer, Highway Superintendent spoke on this subject. He stated that ten different Engineering firms were given this RFP and only two responded. The two respondents were Colliers Engineering and Design (CED) AND Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI). The proposals were reviewed and evaluated. Although both engineering firms have qualified staff, GPI’s proposed staffing of the project has the edge with more experience in their local office.

RESOLUTION #34-2023 – AWARDING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES. Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Poestenkill in regular session duly convened as follows: The Town Board of the Town of Poestenkill hereby awards a contract to GPI/Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for professional engineering services pursuant to its written proposal dated August 31, 2023 in connection with the culvert replacement project as described above, for the scope of services described therein, in an amount not to exceed ninety-nine thousand four hundred fifty-five dollars zero cents (\$99,455.00), and further hereby authorizes the Supervisor of the Town of Poestenkill to execute any and all documents that may be necessary in furtherance of such award.

MOVED BY: Councilwoman Butler

SECONDED BY: Councilman Hass

VOTED UPON AS FOLLOWS:

Councilwoman Butler: YES
 Councilman Hass: YES
 Councilman Van Slyke: ABSENT
 Councilman Wohlleber: YES
 Supervisor Hammond: YES

Approve Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for William Sansone – Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Supervisor Hammond and an oral vote of 3 ayes 1 nay (Van Slyke absent) to approve the Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials.

National Constitution Week: Proclamation – National Constitution Week A Proclamation

Whereas: It is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the anniversary of the drafting of the constitution of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and Whereas: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17-23 as “Constitution Week”. Now, therefore, I June Butler as Town Councilwoman of the Town of Poestenkill do

hereby proclaim the week of September 17-23 as “Constitution Week” and urge all citizens to study the constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

In Witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the community to be affixed this 14th Day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.

National American Indian Heritage Month A Proclamation

Whereas, Native American Awareness week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

Whereas, in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational, and historical activities have been planned.

Now, therefore, I David Hass by virtue of my authority as Town Councilman of the Town of Poestenkill do hereby proclaim November 2023 as National American Indian Heritage Month, in this Town and urge all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, or activities.

In Witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town to be affixed this 14th Day of September the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three.

Quotes for purchase of PC equipment - Motion by Wohlleber, seconded by Hass and an oral vote of 4 ayes to purchase (1) Desktop computer and (1) Notebook G10 for the Town Clerk and Secretary to the Supervisor not to exceed \$1,203.83 for both the desktop and notebook.

Bookkeeper for Town Hall – this will be discussed in Executive Session.

Hudson River Valley Greenway – RESOLUTION #35-2023 – AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the governing board of the Town of Poestenkill hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Hudson Rive Valley Greenway Planning Grant Program, for a project known as Town of Poestenkill Comprehensive Plan and located within this community.

MOVED BY: Councilwoman Butler

SECONDED BY: Councilman Wohlleber

VOTED UPON AS FOLLOWS:

Councilwoman Butler	YES
Councilman Hass	YES
Councilman Van Slyke	ABSENT
Councilman Wohlleber	YES
Supervisor Hammond	YES

Reports:

Supervisor’s Report- No report given.

Town Attorney’s Report – A. Gilchrist, Town Attorney reported along with routine matters, he worked with the Town Clerk on a FOIL request and researched local laws on mass gatherings.

Town Clerk's Report – Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 4 ayes to accept the Town Clerk's report of August 2023. The total amount received in the Clerk's office was \$13,443.46 and of that amount \$10,262.98 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, DCO, 811 report, Water Department and the Highway Department. The Highway Superintendent, DJ Goyer stated that Fall cleanup will take place October 16th - October 20th.

Payment of Bills:

Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 4 ayes to pay Warrant #26-2023 in the amount of \$53,701.84. Motion by Hass, seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 4 ayes to pay Warrant #27-2023 in the amount of \$48,986.0.

Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and carried to enter into Executive Session at 8.30 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue with no votes taken. Motion by Councilman Wohlleber and seconded by Councilman Hass to exit Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. and immediately adjourn this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Horton, Town Clerk