

TOWN BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF POESTENKILL
October 12, 2023
(Not approved at time of distribution)

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Horton, Town Clerk

Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber, 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. Councilman Hass stated his concerns regarding the new website. He said that this evening meeting was not posted to the website and was concerned under the “News” section, he felt there was no current news and it needed to be updated.

S. Kalafut, Tymeson Road asked how the process worked when making a request to the Ethics Board. Supervisor Hammond explained the steps that needed to be followed. However, he suggested that she direct this question to the Town Attorney, A. Gilchrist. S. Kalafut requested time to speak to Attorney Gilchrist when he arrives tonight. D. Basle, Fire Co. mentioned that the agendas were not posted to the website in a timely manner. He was also concerned about several streetlights being out and asked Supervisor Hammond for an update on switching to LED lighting. Supervisor Hammond stated he was having a difficult time getting answers from National Grid but will look into this issue once again. L. Basle, Fire Co. questioned the Supervisor regarding the Fire Company’s request for an increase in the budget. After a brief conversation, Supervisor Hammond and Mr. Basle will meet to discuss this further.

When everyone was given the opportunity to speak, the public comment period of this meeting was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes (Butler and Van Slye absent) to accept the Town Clerk’s minutes of the September 14, 2023, as written. Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes (Butler and Van Slye absent) to accept the Town Clerk’s minutes of the September 28, 2023, as written.

Liaison Reports:

Planning Board – Town Board members had copies of the October 3, 2023, meeting in their packets. T. Russell, Planning Board Chairperson reported on the agenda items. He informed the Board that a Representative from NYSERDA, gave a presentation on their solar laws and fees.

Zoning Board –Town Board members had copies of the September 19, 2023, meeting in their packets. P. Jamison, ZBA member updated the Board on the agenda items. P. Jamison expressed his concerns to the Board about some of the increases in the ZBA fees.

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

Library – Ed Gresens, reported on the activities at the library. Ed listed the upcoming programs that will be held which include the Halloween swap program and the puzzle sale which will be held on Saturday, October 21st. He also stated that Toys for Tots will be coming soon. Ed informed the Board that during the month of September the library had 671 visitors. For a full listing of events, visit their website at poestenkilllibrary.org.

Youth Advisory Board – Supervisor Hammond stated there will be a Halloween parade which will take place on Saturday, October 29th. Children are asked to arrive at Town Hall at 11:30 a.m. to line up for the parade. There will be a Trunk or Treat at the Poestenkill Elementary School Parking lot from 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

CAC – There was no meeting this month.

Discussion Items:

Decorum Resolution – Councilman Wohlleber gave a detailed explanation for the need to establish Decorum Standards for the Town Board meetings, in view of some inappropriate activities at recent meetings. He said that dignified standards of behavior should be stated at a public hearing. He felt that this problem could be easily fixed and that it reflects badly on the town, and he recommended a workshop on the issue. Supervisor Hammond stated that this subject will be put on the next Workshop agenda which will be held on October 26th.

2024 Town Budget – B. Pinho, Bookkeeper updated the Board on her findings. She stated there were several errors in the Tentative Budget that was given to Board members at the September 28th meeting. These errors were corrected and resulted in an increase, not a decrease in the overall budget which makes the tax rate go from 14.49 to 16.06. Also, she is still working to get an accurate count of the water benefit units to determine what that charge will be. Supervisor Hammond stated that the Board needs to approve this as the Preliminary Budget, and a Public Hearing will be set at the next Board meeting. He also stated that changes will be made to this budget before it is Adopted.

Action Items:

BAR Appointment - Motion by Councilman Wohlleber, seconded by Councilman Hass and an oral vote of 3 ayes (2 absent) to reappoint Matthew Guilbault as a member of the Board of Assessment, for a five-year term which will expire September 30, 2028.

Accept Preliminary Budget - Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilman Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes (2 absent) to accept the 2024 Preliminary Budget and schedule the public hearing at the October 26, 2023 meeting which will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Reports:

Supervisor's Report- No report given.

Town Attorney's Report – Not in attendance.

Town Clerk's Report – Motion by Hass, seconded by Supervisor Hammond and an oral vote of 3 ayes (Butler and Van Slyke absent) to accept the Town Clerk's report of September 2023. The total amount received in the Clerk's office was \$9,310.10 and of that amount \$4,321.13 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, Water, and the Highway Department. DJ Goyer, Highway Superintendent stated that Fall Clean Up will be held from October 16th – October 20th.

Payment of Bills:

Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes to pay Warrant #29-2023 in the amount of \$37,695.41. Motion by Hass, seconded by Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes to pay Warrant #30-2023 in the amount of \$19,530.39.

Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilman Wohlleber and an oral vote of 3 ayes to adjourn this meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Horton, Town Clerk