*Draft- not yet approved* **TOWN BOARD MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**

Town of Ulysses

Sept. 12, 2023

*The meeting was held in person at the Town Hall at 10 Elm St., Trumansburg NY as well as via Zoom videoconference. Notice of Town Board meetings are posted on the Town’s website and Clerk’s board.*

*Video recordings of meetings are available on Youtube at*

[*https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWVIs--g9CpHIxdk9YxZyPw*](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWVIs--g9CpHIxdk9YxZyPw)*.*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

Board members- Michael Boggs, Mary Bouchard, Liz Weatherby, Rich Goldman

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Town Committee members:

Bob Howarth (BZA)

Linda Liddle (Planning Board & Water Source Protection Plan Committee)

Roxanne Marino (Conservation & Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) & Water Source Protection Plan Committee (WSPPC))

Tompkins County Legislator- Anne Koreman

Via Zoom:

Casey Beck (Deputy Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In-person:

Matt McKenna (MRB engineer), Claire Hoffmire, Randy VanDerzee, Todd Edmonds (Trumansburg Community Recreation (TCR)), Maureen Shallish, Tara Masters, Michael Cohen

Via Zoom:

Rob Kaplan, David Durrett, John Wertis (the younger), Melissa, Sally Yates, 6073791702

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Ms. Bouchard requested to add a resolution for appointments to the Bee Committee. Mr. Boggs requested to add a discussion of training for BZA/PB. Ms. Olson said that budget modifications resolution can be deleted.

**Motion:**

Mr. Boggs moved to approve the agenda as amended. This was seconded by Mr. Goldman and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW FORMING A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Goldman moved to open the hearing at 7:05pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

Ms. Olson noted that the purpose of the local law is to shift the Highway Dept. to a DPW as it is already doing tasks associated with public works (like water and parks).

Public Comments:

*(No comments from the public in-person or via Zoom but a* *written comment was received in advance from Ms. Rose (see Appendix)).*

Mr. Boggs moved to close the hearing at 7:08pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: (3 minute limit)**

Mr. Howarth (former chair, now member of BZA) spoke on behalf of the BZA to say that they are very unhappy with the training rules passed by the town board. He requested that the board put a moratorium on the training policy until the two groups can meet to discuss. He said that if the town board does not take action tonight, the BZA will not be able to meet due to being out of compliance with the requirement.

Ms. Olson asked which of the required trainings (Sexual Harassment, Civil Rights, etc…) the BZA has a problem with. Mr. Howarth said that he believes the trainings are inappropriate for the work that the BZA does.

Todd Edmonds:

Mr. Edmonds, president of TCR, introduced the non-profit to say that it was formed in 2016 to work alongside the town, village, and school to help facilitate development of spaces for sports and recreation. They have spent several years looking for land and seeking funding. They discovered that it is difficult to get funding before they have land. He also noted high property values as a barrier.

In 2022 the town board offered a once in a generation possibility of purchasing land from American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). They found Krums Corners and realized they would need to act quickly before it was snatched up by others.

He understands that it is not the perfect spot but is near the Black Diamond Trail, far from traffic (safe for kids), but close to town compared to how far many families travel for recreation. He looks forward to developing the space as a community to make it accessible and sustainable. If they don’t get this property, it could be a many-years set-back.

Claire Hoffmire:

Ms. Hoffmire introduced herself as parent of 3, coach, Trumansburg Education Foundation member. She feels that other spaces are not available, and supports agriculture as well. She reiterated that rec land is much-needed and TCR has spent many years trying to find land and has not been successful.

Erin (Rob) Kaplan:

Mr. Kaplan thanked the board and Todd. He is a coach and has 2 kids that have played soccer for years. He reiterated the need for space. They have had challenges for years due to lack of space.

He expresses gratitude to the Washburns for their willingness to work with them, as well as for TCR’s hard work over the many years trying to find land.

Randy Vanderzee:

Mr. Vanderzee said that he has been part of rec programs in Trumansburg and coaching since the 1960s. They worked on trying to find space over 30 years ago. The school has been great but is often packed. The current land is a rare opportunity and might be an inconvenience to some but is good for bigger picture and great benefits for kids.

Tara Masters:

Ms. Master is a past TCR president. She appreciates the town’s willingness to make this purchase. She said there are about 400 people are at school fields right now who would support more space.

Roxanne Marino:

Ms. Marino said she has done both online trainings as required by the town. She concurs with Mr. Howarth that they are not applicable to anything that the town board, BZA, PB, or CPSC does, as it is geared toward supervisors and managers. She has not found where NYS requires anyone other than staff to do this training and requests that the board respect volunteers’ time by accepting other agency trainings and offering something more relevant for the board/committees.

MUNICIPAL BOARD & STAFF REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*written reports provided in advance*)

Tompkins County Legislature update by Ms. Koreman:

* Sunday is airport day & pancake breakfast
* Strategic Plan input forum for this side of the lake at Enfield Comm Ctr on Thurs. at 6pm
* Proposed budget will be presented soon
* CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now) meeting to discuss Cargill’s sale of salt mine
* TC Library closed 9/15-10/2 for HVAC overhaul
* Broadband lacking in some areas- county looking at solutions- considering infill to poor areas
* Decided to sell 408 N. Tioga St. historic house and have center of gov in other area
* Some cases of Legionnaires disease a few weeks back
* Senators May, Webb, and Assemblywoman Kelles sponsored a lake tour on floating classroom discussing lake health and other topics

Mr. Boggs shared that the WSPPC survey is almost done and they will present to the board on 9/26.

Ms. Weatherby said that the Ag committee will meet on 10/2 at fire hall, and the CPSC meets tomorrow.

Ms. Olson shared the following:

* An end of year gathering for youth, families of the youth employment program will be held on 10/12.
* Youth commission approved its budget
* RYS contract negotiations not successful- will look at how to provide youth services in house for 2024
* Fire/EMS- 37% of tax levy. Fire is going up 14-15%

Ms. Marino gave the following updates on CSAC:

* Seneca Meadows landfill closure- consideration of sending letter regarding this to support closing it in 2 years
* Town is 100 points away from a $10K grant

OLD BUSINESS:

MRB GROUP CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION FOR NPS GRANT ENGINEERING REPORT AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. McKenna submitted a grant last year to that would allow the town to create an engineering report that would help the town apply for culvert replacement funding.

Ms. Olson noted that the town has received a grant for the Curry Rd. bridge (which is actually a culvert).

RESOLUTION #145 OF 2023: MRB GROUP CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION FOR NPS GRANT ENGINEERING REPORT AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses received up to $30,000 from the Department of Conservation Nonpoint Source Planning Grant for a study of identified culverts in the Town of Ulysses with a required 10% cash match; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board has reviewed a proposal from MRB Group, the Town’s engineers, to complete the engineering report for $24,900 and the conduct administration of the grant for $3,500;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board approves contracting with MRB Group for the completion of the engineering report for $24,900 and the administration of the Nonpoint Source Planning Grant for $3,500 and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the contracts to that effect; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board directs the Town Clerk to submit the two signed contracts to MRB Group.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Mr. Bogg asked whether this was put out to bid. Ms. Olson said that it was not necessary to put it out to bid. Mr. Boggs asked the board whether they should bid it as there are many options for engineers who could do it.

Mr. Goldman clarified that that the funds were going to be covered by the grant.

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/12/23

APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION SUPERVISOR

Ms. Olson said that the Town Board created this position in August to provide youth programming this fall. Mr. Holmes has been the summer camp director for the last few years.

RESOLUTION #146 OF 2023: APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION SUPERVISOR

RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board appoints Ryan Holmes as Recreation Supervisor at $22/hour for up to 19 hours per week.

Moved: Ms. Weatherby Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/12/23

RECREATION LAND PURCHASE UPDATE

Ms. Olson has appreciated the public interest generated by this issue made the following comments.

* Town Attorney is reviewing the petition- the board will discuss findings on 9/26
* Passionate people on both sides can have productive dialogue
* Wants to encourage accurate info
* ARPA funds for town for ~$300K due to COVID
  + Board originally discussed using the funding to redo parking lot behind town hall (would only benefit a few people)
* Board did not act hastily and could not find affordable land adjacent to village
  + Seneca land going for ~$37K/acre
* Town has to purchase the land according to what it is independently appraised at- (~$7k/acre)
* The location:
  + Quiet area better for kids
  + Flaglot safer for kids
  + Most townspeople can’t walk to things already anyway
  + Stormwater- town has funding for stormwater mgmt. on the property
    - Farmland tiling/runoff into lake- town cannot regulate this- state does
    - This property will have better mgmt.
  + Drinking water valued and most rec fields are not irrigated
* Cost:
  + town is mindful of keeping taxes low
  + ARPA funds cannot be used to lower taxes
* Town would own land but not develop until TCR has developed concept plans with public input
* TCR would be a partner so that it could fundraise- town cannot fundraise
* Lights, water… can be worked out with public input
* Families move to our community for more space and rec opportunities
* Camp Barton:
  + has space for 1 soccer field and 1 baseball diamond
  + will be a NYS Park managed by Ulysses, Tburg and Covert
  + Not a substitute for rec fields
  + Summer camp program will move there
* If public is aware of 20+ acres at ~$7K/acre, please let the town board know
* Traffic generated would be from Ulysses residents rather than out-of-towners
* The purchase will probably go to public vote and public voice will be heard

APPOINTMENTS TO BEE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION #147 OF 2023: APPOINTMENTS TO THE BEE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the Town Board appoints the following people to the Bee Committee:

George Myers & Achula Wali

Moved: Ms. Weatherby Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/12/23

DISCUSSION ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

Mr. Boggs said that he agrees with BZA about training as they already do it for work. Mr. Goldman said he wants to try to accommodate the needs of the BZA.

Ms. Olson said that there have been instances of sexual harassment at the town. Other organizations also require their vetted trainings so the town is not unique in this ask. She wants the public to know that these issues are important and how people are treated is important, and a culture of shared understanding around this is important.

Mr. Howarth again requested that the board pass a moratorium tonight on the training rules.

Ms. Olson said that the Town Board can choose to extend the compliance deadline but she thinks that town staff/board members should be held to a higher standard of behavior. She further noted that according to the town attorney & insurance company, the town cannot vet trainings from other agencies.

RESOLUTION #148 OF 2023: EXTENSION OF MANDATORY TRAINING DEADLINE

RESOLVED that the TB extend the training deadline to Nov. 15, 2023.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/12/23

NEW BUSINESS:

SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION FOR THREE FALLS LDC

RESOLUTION #149 OF 2023: SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION FOR THREE FALLS LDC

WHEREAS, the Towns of Ulysses and Covert and the Village of Trumansburg, having collectively engaged in discussions with the State of New York concerning an opportunity to manage certain real property known as Camp Barton (the “Park Premises”) for public recreation and other purposes, subsequent to the acquisition of said property by the NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation from the Baden Powell Council; and

WHEREAS, the Towns of Ulysses and Covert and the Village of Trumansburg determined that it was in the best interests of the foregoing to jointly form a Local Development Corporation as defined by NY State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board, having considered the proposed certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the Three Falls Local Development Corporation (the “LDC”), approved the execution and filing of the certificate of incorporation and the adoption of said bylaws (the “By-laws”) on February 14, 2023, which certificate of incorporation was filed with the Department of State on March 17, 2023 and By-laws are in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses, together with the Towns of Covert and the Village of Trumansburg, is a Voting Member of the LDC, as such term is defined in the By-laws; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3.07 of the Corporate By-Laws, the Voting Members, must approve, inter alia, any transaction involving the purchase, lease, license, exchange or other acquisition by the LDC of any assets; and

WHEREAS, the LDC is currently negotiating a certain municipal park management agreement by and between the Three Falls Local Development Corporation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (the “Park Management Agreement”), which Park Management Agreement is the contractual vehicle by which the LDC will acquire management rights of and to the Park Premises, and which must be approved by the Voting Members in accordance with Section 3.07 of the Corporate By-laws of the LDC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board designates Katelin Olson, Town Supervisor, to be the Town’s Authorized Representative on its behalf, and is hereby authorized and empowered to vote in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Ulysses as a Voting Member of the LDC for purposes of approving the Park Management Agreement without additional further approval of the Ulysses Town Board.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/12/23

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14 – Special Town Board Budget Meeting (9am-12pm)

September 14 – Special Town Board Meeting on Fire/EMS @ Fire Hall (7pm)

September 26 – Regular Town Board Meeting (7pm)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION #150 OF 2023: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approve the meeting minutes from August 8, 2023 (regular meeting) and August 10, 2023 (special meeting) as presented or amended.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 8/8/23

BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:

*(none)*

PAYMENT OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

RESOLUTION # 151 OF 2023: PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board has reviewed and approves payment of claims for vouchers numbered 356 through 403 in the amount of $92,929.34.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 8/8/23

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ms. Olson moved to go into Executive Session at for purposes related to collective negotiations (pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law); and the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. This was seconded by Mr. Boggs and passed unanimously.

Mr. Goldman made a motion to end Executive Session at 9:05pm. This was seconded by Mr. Boggs and passed unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 min limit per person):

Ms. Marino commented on the training again to clarify (in response to Ms. Olson’s comments) that no one thinks they are better than anyone else or that their training is better. She feels that this was insulting to BZA and PB members. She further noted the town board was going to discuss the training requirements with the other boards in advance of passing it but did not do so. She suggested

replacing the current trainings with something more pertinent.

ADJOURN

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 9:14pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk*

*9/26/23*

**APPENDIX:**

*(items in .pdf form will be added after approval)*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN STAFF**