*Draft- not yet approved* **TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Town of Ulysses

Sept. 26, 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 7:08pm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

Board members- Mary Bouchard, Liz Weatherby, Rich Goldman

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Second Deputy Supervisor/Budget Officer- Michelle E. Wright

Absent:

Board member- Michael Boggs

Town Committee members:

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

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

Liz Thomas WSPPC

WSPPC- Amy Panek, Tim Martinson

Tompkins County Legislator- Anne Koreman

Via Zoom:

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In-person:

Nancy Cusumano, Liz Thomas, Roxanne Marino, Maureen Shallish, Michael Cohen, Vivien Rose

Via Zoom:

Rebecca Schneider, Amy Panek, Becky Sims (RCAP Solutions (Rural Assistance Community Partnership)), Bridget, Dale Strok, David Durrett, Linda Liddle, Tim Martinson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Ms. Olson said that Budget Modifications could be stricken from the agenda, and noted that the Three Falls LDC meeting location was moved to the Village Hall. Ms. Bouchard suggested discussion of a sign for the Bee Committee.

**Motion:**

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ms. Cusumano- see (attached).

Liz Thomas

* CWIO- has great candidates
* WSPPC- on that committee
* Re- rec land: TCR is an advisory committee. Protocol is that the town should do a survey first and then develop its own plans. Salo funding was free. The funds used for rec land could be spent in other ways
* Like DPW idea
* A referendum is expensive so please consider-maybe rescind the offer?

PRESENTATION: Water Source Protection Plan Committee (WSPPC):

Ms. Schneider shared a power point (see Appendix) on the WSPPC’s upcoming survey, highlighting the following items:

* Drought map
* Aquifer depletion & overuse & mismanagement
* Increase in frequency & magnitude of torrential storms combined with poor land use mgmt. leads to pollution

Ms. Weatherby asked how they would contact people who don’t respond. Ms. Marino said they are still working on that but will follow up somehow and post paper copies around town. It is important to get the broadest response possible.

Ms. Thomas said that the best option is to mail to everyone with the various response options and a postage-paid on return option.

Ms. Marino said that responses will go into database created by RCAP and few will be able to connect addresses to the data for privacy purposes.

Ms. Liddle said that after responses are received it will take some time to present the data as they want to compare it with previous data to draw bigger picture conclusions.

After the committee completes the Water Source Protection Plan and NYS approves it, it will enable the town to apply for additional funding pools.

OLD BUSINESS:

LAND ACQUISITION - PETITION FOR REFERENDUM ON ACQUISITION OF LAND

Ms. Olson said that the town budgets for an election every year. The county Board of Elections gave her an estimated cost of ~$1000 for the election. Poll workers will be paid about $17/hr. These costs are accounted for in the 2023 budget.

RESOLUTION #152 OF 2023: PETITION FOR REFERENDUM ON ACQUISITION OF LAND

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk received a petition on a resolution of land acquisition on June 27, 2023 subject to permissive referendum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board accepts the petition and directs the Town Attorney to prepare a resolution to schedule a special election.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

DISCUSSION:

The group discussed outcomes of not accepting the petition or rescinding the purchase offer as well as additional details on the election. Ms. Olson noted that the board will discuss the election details at one of the next few meetings after advice from counsel.

Olson aye

Boggs absent

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 9/26/23

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Ms. Olson prefaced the discussion by saying that board approval for this item is not required, but just a good idea for the board to be aware.

RESOLUTION #153 OF 2023: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approves the Request for Qualifications for the Comprehensive Plan process, subject to final review and approval by the Town’s attorney.

Moved: Ms. Weatherby Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Goldman asked how much of this the grant covers. Ms. Wright clarified that it is a 50/50 match.

Olson aye

Boggs absent

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 9/26/23

CONSENT AGENDA FOR Resolutions #154-156:

Mr. Goldman noted that an alternate appointment for Mr. Klankowski enables him to get a feel for the job without a big commitment.

TOMPKINS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES CONTRACTS

RESOLUTION #154 OF 2023: TOMPKINS COUNTY CONTRACT 2023

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approved the Tompkins County contract for the disbursement of youth development funds for 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING BOARD

RESOLUTION #155 OF 2023: APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING BOARD

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board appoints Karl Klankowski to serve as an alternate on the Planning Board through December 31, 2023.

APPRECIATION TO TOWN BOOKKEEPER BLIXY TAETSZCH

RESOLUTION #156 OF 2023: APPRECIATION OF TOWN BOOKKEEPER BLIXY TAETZSCH FOR THE CONVERSION TO THE ENHANCED GOLD REPORTING SYSTEM IN THE NEW YORK STATE LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the New York State Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) provides a retirement plan to Town's employees; and

WHEREAS, the monthly online reporting system is critical for ensuring that Town employees receive their retirement benefit upon retiring; and

WHEREAS, Town Bookkeeper Blixy Taetzsch has successfully converted the Town’s monthly reporting process to the Gold Level Enhanced Reporting System which will ensure NYSLRS reporting data integrity for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the conversion to this reporting system requires countless hours of administrative work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board recognizes this system upgrade as a critical improvement to the Town's overall financial operational capacity and Town employee benefit administration; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board expresses great appreciation to Blixy for the vision to prioritize this work that builds the Town’s basic reporting and general operational capacity.

**VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS #154-156:**

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs absent

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 9/26/23

NEW BUSINESS:

TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2024

Ms. Wright gave a brief overview of the 2024 Tentative Budget including:

* Taxable assessed value (TAV)
* Is below tax cap
* Line increases/decreases
* Fund balance estimates

She discussed next steps for the process including board discussion, approval, and public hearing. The board agreed to meet at 6pm on 10/10 for a budget discussion.

PETITION REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A WATER DISTRICT – DISCUSSION

Ms. Olson said that a petition was received from Grassroots to create a single-user water district (connecting to Village of Trumansburg water main) and that the Board has discretion on whether they would like to require any additional information from the petition as well as in deciding to accept or reject it. Additionally there is a timeline that needs to be adhered to.

Ms. Olson recommended that the board commission a map, plan, report by MRB (town engineers) since MRB is already familiar with the Village’s water system. This would mean that the town pays for it but could charge the costs back to the petitioner if the water district is approved. If not, the town eats the cost.

The town could also ask Grassroots to pay to get its own map, plan and report.

The group discussed pros and cons.

BEE COMMITTEE SIGNAGE:

Ms. Bouchard noted that for the committee to remain affiliated with Bee City USA, a sign is required.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10 – Regular Town Board Meeting starting at 6pm

October 24 – Regular Town Board Meeting

October 25 – Three Falls LDC/New York State Parks Informational Meeting on Camp Barton @ Trumansburg Village Hall, 7pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*(will be voted on at next meeting)*

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 min limit per person; 10 minutes maximum):

Ms. Marino said that she doesn’t understand why the town wouldn’t ask Grassroots to do the map, plan & report instead of the town commissioning it. She added that if the town doesn’t feel that Grassroots is using a qualified engineer or if the results are not a quality product then the town can reject it.

ADJOURN

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk*

*10/6/23*

**APPENDIX:**

***Will be added after approved and converted to .pdf***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN STAFF**