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

Town of Ulysses

Nov. 28, 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 7:01pm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

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

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Recreation Director- Will Glennon

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In person- Roxanne Marino (Water Source Protection Plan Committee (WSPPC)), Devon Van Noble, Sage Peake

Via Zoom- Nancy Cusumano, Durga Bor, Jessica Valdez Taves, David Durrett, Heather Mount, 17812085907, Mike, Karyn, Michael, Molly Wadzeck Kraus, Jordan b (Bonafede), Ouckama, Michael

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion:**

Ms. Olson suggested that the following items be removed: item #6a, claims, and budget modifications. Mr. Boggs suggested a discussion of Ms. Parlato’s email from 11/20 regarding meeting security.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

*none*

MUNICIPAL BOARD & STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Goldman inquired about Planning Board concerns.

Mr. Boggs inquired about a complete list of fire inspections as well as an update on the Cemetery bridge project reimbursement.

OLD BUSINESS:

RECREATION UPDATE – WILL GLENNON, RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Glennon shared that he has been in the position since 2019 and registrations have increased in part because the town has taken over some independent programs like the adult/community ed programs. The program has also been updated with software to manage registrations and payments.

He supports the town’s purchase of rec land as it is a need for his program. The school has been generous in allowing the space to be used after 5pm when school practices are done. But there are issues in that some groups are forced to play on smaller spaces, daylight is poor after 5pm at this time of year, and some groups will not get any space at all due to the demand. Adult programs often do not get any space.

Mr. Goldman asked about space at the fairgrounds. Mr. Glennon said that they have been used but are labor-intensive to maintain due to the other activities that take place on those fields.

Mr. Glennon said that there are several activities each night. Community members are asking for activities but they do not have the space.

Mr. Glennon offered that the school offers interscholastic sports for 7th-12th graders but nothing for younger kids- the rec program helps fill this need.

Ms. Olson noted that the summer rec program has been very successful- was sold out almost all weeks this year. It serves an important need in the community for affordable childcare.

SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE - APPOINTMENT OF POLL WORKERS

Ms. Olson reiterated that the Special Election on Dec. 6, from 11am-8pm will be held at 2 locations- Racker Center & Village Hall. The Board of Registration held 2 registration sessions and 2 people registered. She shared the absentee ballots due dates. Poll Inspectors from the county’s list will be appointed tonight.

Government land acquisitions can take a long time. This process has taken 14 months to get to this point. The Town has been working with the school and village on recreation since 2016 and has been looking for land since the 1990s.

If the purchase of rec land passes at the election, the Town will work with the community in an engaged process to create a space for recreation that is not funded by taxpayer funds. The Town Board would be fulfilling a comp plan goal. If the public votes no, the decision will be respected but it will take a while before this could happen again.

She thanked the board, staff and community for their efforts. She also thanked the Village Board who passed a resolution last night to unanimously support the acquisition.

RESOLUTION #182 OF 2023: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING MATTERS RELATED TO THE DECEMBER 6, 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, the Town Board designated December 6, 2023 as the date for a special election concerning a petition filed on September 7, 2023, and took action to require personal registration for such special election; and

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to appoint persons to act as election inspectors and ballot clerks (hereinafter, “poll workers”) for such special election; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Higareda, Liz Thomas, Carol Czimbach, Patricia Dodge, Christine Holtkamp, Dorianne Almann, and Emily Ouckama were appointed by the Town Board and assigned polling sites at the regular Town Board meeting on November 14, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoints Patricia Speno to work as a poll workers for the Franziska Racker Center, 3226 Wilkins Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

All poll workers shall be paid $17 per hour.

This Resolution shall take immediate effect.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/28/23

Ms. Olson noted that the Town Attorney’s memo was received this evening and will be posted on the website tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION – DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 3

Devon Van Noble shared his plans for the old Barangus property. He wants to tear it down & put up a new bldg. for a restaurant, catering, packaged products with retail in front, a patio, and event space. He wants to subdivide off the trailer parcel (2.75 acres), retain 9 acres and remove the abandoned trailer.

Ms. Olson noted that in the past the town board referred zoning requests/development districts to the Planning Board to evaluate the request and make a recommendation on how the town board should respond.

Mr. Tygesen said that when the district was created the town board never established regulations for setback or lot requirements, but only what was permitted- a restaurant/bar, the mobile homes, signage and parking. He recommends that the Town Board establish additional rules.

Mr. Boggs said that his interpretation is that when the development district is over, the area reverts back to original zoning so it would now be considered Ag/Rural. Another issue is that no one enforces the development district rules.

Mr. Tygesen said that based on his conversations with the Town Attorney, if development district is over - once the town issues a rezone/variance…, that is in effect until the town changes it, so DD#3 is still applicable.

The group then discussed the mobile homes. Ms. Olson clarified that double-wide mobile homes are permitted but single-wides only in mobile home parks.

Ms. Olson said she has spoken with Nate that altering/creating a development district is at the discretion of the Town Board. Since the board has taken no action to dissolve it, it still adheres to the DD#3 rules.

The group discussed what other regulations would have the greatest benefits to the public and the applicant.

Mr. Klankowski shared the Planning Board’s concerns about the property, i.e. the parking area being able to accommodate big delivery trucks, being sensitive to wetland, regulations for entertainment/special events tents.

RESOLUTION #183 OF 2023: REFERRAL OF DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 3 TO THE PLANNING BOARD

Ms. Olson moved that the proposal merits further consideration and be referred to the Planning Board for additional review and recommendations for alterations to the development district language on lot dimensions, building, signage, wetland and stream standards, etc. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby.

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/28/23

SCHEDULE 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The board agreed to meet at 8:30am on Thurs. 1/4/23 for the Organizational Meeting.

BOARD NOTIFICATION ON CANNABIS DISPENSARY @ 1708 TRUMANSBURG RD.

Ms. Olson said that the town received notification of plans for a dispensary on Trumansburg Rd. The board has a window to let the state know if it has any concerns.

**MR. BOGGS- SECURITY AT PUBLIC INFO MEETING:**

Mr. Boggs brought up the email regarding security/safety at the 11/9/23 Public information Session. He felt that tension was created at the meeting as some people did not who Ms. Olson’s husband was and his role was unclear.

Mr. Goldman said that it was awkward.

Ms. Weatherby said that the behavior of the other gentleman was awkward as well and that Jordan is an officer trained to de-escalate and was not just defending his wife.

Mr. Boggs suggested that we discuss further to decide how we would like to handle future situations.

Ms. Olson said that having an armed officer in the room may have made people complain about intimidation. She takes security very seriously and staff and board members have received threats in the past. An individual was not acting appropriately and was asked to sit down. People deserve to be treated.

Mr. Goldman agreed but said that it could have looked confusing to members of the public as people did not know who he was.

Ms. Olson said that members of the public were also uncomfortable with the actions of the man who stood up and interrupted.

Mr. Boggs said that the Safety Committee can come up with a procedure.

Ms. Weatherby said that Jordan was trying to keep the peace and she agrees that having someone armed at the meeting would have been uncomfortable to people.

Mr. Goldman said that a simple introduction at the beginning of the meeting would have worked well.

Ms. Olson said that he was acting as a concerned member of the public.

Jordan Bonafede said that nice people can turn unkind quickly. He would prefer not to be pointed out at a meeting due to his profession. People are allowed to disagree and yell and scream but when they leave their seat, it is necessary to intercede verbally. The Town should discuss whether it wants armed or unarmed security. Armed security brings its own issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 6 – Special Election, 11am-8pm, Village Hall and Racker Center

December 7 – Special Town Board Meeting, 9am @ Town Hall

December 12– Special Town Board Meeting, 6pm @ Town Hall

December 12 – Regular Town Meeting @ 7pm ---- CANCELLED

December 26 – Regular Town Meeting @ 7pm --- CANCELLED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION # 184 of 2023: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2023 (special meeting) and October 24, 2023 (regular meeting) as presented or amended.

Moved: Ms. Bouchard Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/28/23

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

Sage Peake thanked the Washburns and the town for its efforts on the rec land purchase. She has kids and knows that the fields get crowded and need a break from use, looks forward to more space and hopes it brings more families to our area.

Nancy Cusumano referenced the last discussion and said that she didn’t feel threatened by Joel but was by Jordan as all she heard was a loud voice coming from behind her. She felt that Joel was only standing up and talking.

Roxanne Marino said that the people she were sitting with got very uncomfortable when Jordan approached and came forward. Thinks that in the future the security needs to be called out at the beginning and the rules need to be clearly noted to the public.

Durga Bor asked about the discussion of the Inn at Taughannock. Ms. Olson said that the presentation was pulled from tonight’s agenda. Ms. Bor also asked what was happening with a Grassroot meeting about recreation. Ms. Olson said that this will happen on Thurs.

ADJOURN

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk*

*12/29/23*

**APPENDIX:**