

DRAFT- TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town of Ulysses

Dec. 10, 2024

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--q9CpHlxdk9YxZyPw>.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ATTENDANCE:

TOWN OFFICIALS:

In person-

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

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

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Town Bookkeeper/Budget Officer- Blixly Taetzsch

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

OTHERS:

Via Zoom-

Krys Cail, Vermeer, Anne Koreman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion:

Mr. Boggs moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a resolution related to heat pumps at the highway dept. and a discussion to request that the DEC reverse their negative declaration on Cargill's Salt Mine permit. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 minutes per person):

Ms. Marino said that the last-minute agenda item on Cargill/DEC came from CLEAN.

Ms. Cail wanted to mention again that there are issues with drainage along Dubois and Perry City Road. The fact that drainage tiles are being installed indicates that the amount of water coming through the soil has increased markedly, probably as a result of climate change. In coordination with the comp plan update and for the purpose of correctly sizing new culverts and roadways, she suggests that the town have a hydrology study done.

MUNICIPAL BOARD & STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Koreman shared the following updates:

- Budget finalized- an increase
- Sheltering:

- Code Blue shelter- for when overnight temps drop below freezing- opened on 11/25. 13-15 people/night are utilizing it
- Contracted with motels to help with sheltering families since St. John closed
- 227 Cherry St was purchased to construct a 100 bed emergency shelter
- Sales tax for October was down .71% and 6.93% for the year. For municipalities, it is down 2.25% for Oct and 2.08% for year

Committee reports:

Ms. Marino gave the following updates:

- CSAC-
 - last meeting of the year was held on Thurs.
 - the group attended a CPSC meeting on resources
- WSPPC-
 - NYRW rep is working on draft maps; the committee is working on text
 - DOH hopes to host public workshop on septic/sewer in April
- The town has qualified for \$100k from NYSERDA

Ms. Weatherby gave updates on the CPSC (Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee)

- 2 focus groups have been completed, others on community services and infrastructure/ transportation upcoming
- Had a table at Winterfest to get community feedback
- Next meeting on 1/9. The town board is invited for a visioning session
- Community survey is ready

Ms. Olson gave the following updates:

- Youth Commission-new job for Recreation Activity Specialist
- The Youth Development program is offering field trips and doing class presentations

CONSENT AGENDA OF RESOLUTIONS # 172-176:

- SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 FIRE CONTRACT
- 2025 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG
- 2025 TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY IN THE 2025 TAX BILL
- PRE-PAY FOR GENERAL LIABILITY AND CYBER INSURANCE COVERAGE
- REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) TO EXTEND PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAYUGA LAKE SALT MINE

RESOLUTION #172 OF 2024: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 FIRE CONTRACT

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board schedules the public hearing for the 2025 Fire Contract for January 14, 2024 at 7:00pm; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board directs the Town Clerk to undertake the necessary public notification processes for the public hearing.

RESOLUTION # 173 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF THE 2025 AMBULANCE DISTRICT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, an ambulance district has been duly established in the Ulysses town; and

WHEREAS, the ambulance district the following territory in the Town of Ulysses: All of the Town of Ulysses, excepting the area within the limits of the incorporated Village of Trumansburg; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Trumansburg (hereafter referred to as “the Village”) maintains an ambulance department, with adequate and suitable apparatus, equipment and training for the furnishing emergency medical services within ambulance district; and

WHEREAS, Town Law §184 permits a town to contract with a village which maintains adequate and suitable apparatus and appliances for the emergency medical services in such ambulance district; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to contract with the Village to provide ambulance services in the ambulance district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Ulysses hereby approves and authorizes execution of the attached Agreement between the Village and the Town, whereby the Village will provide the Town with ambulance service capable of responding to medical emergencies on an ongoing basis within the ambulance district, for the period from January 1, 2025 until December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Agreement, the Town shall pay the Village the sum of \$487,854 for such services and the bill will be paid no later than February 15, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that, the Supervisor of the Town of Ulysses is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Town of Ulysses.

RESOLUTION #174 OF 2024: AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE A 2025 TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY IN THE 2025 TAX BILL

WHEREAS, the Real Property Tax Law section 922 (1) (d) permits municipalities to include a summary of the 2025 adopted budget with the tax bills if the Town Board approves such action by resolution; and

WHEREAS, all taxpayers deserve a clear and transparent explanation of how their taxes are used and the structure and changes in the Town of Ulysses 2025 budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Supervisor and Clerk to prepare a brief summary of the 2025 Town Budget for inclusion with the 2025 tax bill.

RESOLUTION #175 OF 2024: AUTHORIZATION TO SECURE GENERAL LIABILITY AND CYBER INSURANCE FOR 2025

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign documents to secure general liability and cyber insurance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the pre-payment of general liability and cyber insurance coverage for 2025.

RESOLUTION # 176 OF 2024: REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) TO EXTEND PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON MINE LAND RECLAMATION PERMIT FOR CAYUGA LAKE

WHEREAS, the NY Department of Environmental (NYDEC) determined on November 19, 2024 that Cargill, Inc. has submitted a complete Mined Land Reclamation permit application to amend the water storage location within Cayuga Salt Mine’s currently permitted Life-of-Mine area; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses passed a resolution on November 12, 2024 requesting a thorough environmental review of the project and submitted a letter to the NY DEC to that effect; and

WHEREAS, the comment period on the permit ends December 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, this is a comment period that falls during the Thanksgiving holiday and during a busy time of year for citizens and governmental organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board requests that the comment period be extended a minimum of 45 days to enable the public, interested organizations, and local governing bodies sufficient time to review and provide comment on the permit; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign a letter requesting a permit extension and accompanying rationale; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to submit this letter to the NY DEC and any interested parties that were included on the letter authorized on November 12, 2024.

VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS # 172-176:

Moved: Ms. Weatherby

Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

OLD BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF BIDS AND CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION FOR PARKING LOT PROJECT

The group discussed what would be covered by ARPA funds, how the remainder would be paid for, and discrepancies between costs in the various bids, especially with the electrical estimates.

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PARKING LOT AT TOWN HALL

RESOLUTION # 177 OF 2024: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PARKING LOT AT TOWN HALL

WHEREAS, the Town conducted a request for quote process for the reconstruction of the parking lot at Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town followed the procurement policy including wide distribution of the bid opportunity, including posting the opportunity on the New York State Contract Reporter; and

WHEREAS, the Town held a public bid opening on December 4th with the recording and results posted on the Town website;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board selects JMR Excavation, the lowest bidder, to reconstruct the parking lot at Town Hall; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into contract negotiations with JMR Excavation not to exceed \$188,720; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town will allocate \$179,202.38 out of the Town's allotment of its American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the balance of \$9517.72 will be paid for out of the Town's A Fund Contingency.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT SERVICES FOR THE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

RESOLUTION # 178 OF 2024: AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT SERVICES FOR THE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

WHEREAS, the Town conducted a request for quote process for engineering services for the renovation of the parking lot located at Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town followed the procurement policy including wide distribution of the bid opportunity, including posting the opportunity on the New York State Contract Reporter; and

WHEREAS, the Town held a public bid opening on June 28th with the recording and results posted on the Town website; and

WHEREAS, Barton and Loguidice was selected by the Town Board on July 9, 2024 to provide Conceptual Design services as outlined in the bid packet; and

WHEREAS, the bid packet allows the Town to enter into an contract amendment with Barton and Loguidice for final design and construction oversight services; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Town Board to pay for these services out of the Town's allotment of its American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the contract amendment with Barton and Loguidice for professional services for the parking lot project for \$50,000, to be paid for out of the Town's allotment of ARPA funds.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

USE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY FUND ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR IT MODERNIZATION & PARKING LOT PROJECT

RESOLUTION #179 OF 2024: 2024 USE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY FUND ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR IT MODERNIZATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses received a 2021 audit by the NY Comptroller's Office that found that the Town systems were deficient and in need for overhauling to bring them into compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board prioritized rectifying these issues in 2022-2024, forming an IT/Cyber Committee, conducting a search for service providers, and implementing a range of projects to correct deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board discussed over many meetings in 2022-2024 the use of ARPA funds to bring the Town's IT environment up to acceptable standards per the Comptroller's report; and

WHEREAS the Ulysses Town Board authorized the expenditure of ARPA funds for the Town's IT/Cyber Modernization at the July 23, 2024 meeting; and

WHEREAS, there are an additional \$3,633.14 in expenditures that have been approved and approved by the Town Board in the vouchering process since July 23, 2024 that are appropriately classified under the IT Modernization; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of these expenditures does not exceed the original amount allocated by the Town Board for the modernization project; and

WHEREAS this resolution is for the purpose of documentation and reporting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes \$3,633.14 of ARPA funds to be used for this purpose.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

RESOLUTION # 180 OF 2024: 2024 USE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY FUND ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR TOWN HALL PARKING LOT ENGINEERING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board undertook a robust public engagement process in 2024 to best determine how to use the Town’s remaining ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the deficiencies and structural deterioration of the Town Hall Parking lot has been noted and discussed as a potential use of ARPA funds dating back to 2021; and

WHEREAS, a prioritization of projects was reviewed and assessed by the Town Board, Highway Superintendent/Commissions of the Department of Public Works, Town Clerk, Town Supervisor, and Second Deputy Town Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, a rating and review process determined that replacing the Town Hall parking lot, which provides accessible parking spaces to the public and which has been identified as an insurance liability to the Town, was the highest priority in expending ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Town undertook a competitive bidding process for engineering services related the initial design, final design and construction oversight; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board accepted a bid of \$72,500 for engineering services from Barton and Loguidice, and authorized contracts for said services on July 7, 2024 and December 10, 2024;

WHEREAS this resolution is for the purpose of documentation and reporting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes \$72,500 of ARPA funds to be used for this purpose.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

RESOLUTION # 181 OF 2024: 2024 USE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY FUND ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR TOWN HALL PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION/PAVING

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board undertook a robust public engagement process in 2024 to best determine how to use the Town’s remaining ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the deficiencies and structural deterioration of the Town Hall Parking lot has been noted and discussed as a potential use of ARPA funds dating back to 2021; and

WHEREAS, a prioritization of projects was reviewed and assessed by the Town Board, Highway Superintendent/Commissions of the Department of Public Works, Town Clerk, Town Supervisor, and Second Deputy Town Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, a rating and review process determined that replacing the Town Hall parking lot, which provides accessible parking spaces to the public and which has been identified as an insurance liability to the Town, was the highest priority in expending ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Town undertook a competitive bidding process for construction and paving services; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board accepted a bid of \$188,716 from JMR Excavating and

WHEREAS, the Town has \$179,202.38 in unallocated ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS this resolution is for the purpose of documentation and reporting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes \$179,202.38 of ARPA funds to be used for this purpose.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

REQUESTS REGARDING CAR4GILL’S PERMIT APPLICATION TO THE DEC FOR SALT MINE

RESOLUTION # 182 OF 2024: REQUESTS REGARDING CARGILL’S APPLICATION TO DEC FOR SALT MINE

WHEREAS, Cargill Inc. has submitted a permit application (0-9999-00075/00001) to renew and modify its Mined Land Reclamation Permit for the Cayuga Salt Mine, which includes plans to

flood the abandoned S3 Zone of the mine beneath Cayuga Lake with wastewater, potentially impacting the environment and the community; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has declared itself the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and issued a Negative Declaration despite the application being classified as a Type I action, which typically requires a more thorough environmental review; and

WHEREAS, significant concerns have been raised regarding the adequacy of Cargill's application, including compliance with the Mined Land Reclamation Law, monitoring treatment of waste materials, the potential for ground water pollution, the stability of the mine, and the long-term reclamation of the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed flooding of the S3 Zone raised serious questions about the safety and environmental integrity of Cayuga Lake, particularly in light of prior instability noted in this area and the implications of storing not-fully-saturated brine beneath the lake; and

WHEREAS, various stakeholders, including environmental groups and local officials, have expressed concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts of Cargill's proposed activities, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive environmental impact statement and public engagement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ulysses formally requests the DEC:

1. Deny Cargill's permit application, or, alternatively, rescind the Negative Declaration and require the preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement to assess all the potential environmental risks associated with the proposed activities.
2. Conduct a public hearing to allow for community input and address the substantive concerns raised by residents and stakeholders regarding the application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the following to ensure that voices of the Town of Ulysses' residents are heard in this critical decision-making process:

- Comment.cayugasaltmine2023@dec.ny.gov
- DEC Commissioner Dereth Glance (dereth.glance@dec.ny.gov)
- OGS Commissioner Jeanette Moy (officeofthecommissioner@ogs.ny.gov)
- DEC Permit Administrator Jonathan Stercho@dec.ny.gov

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES- discussion

Ms. Taetzsch shared several updates to the policy, including:

- The addition of a committee policy
- Gender neutralization
- Updated appendices (and references to them)
- Updated definitions

SHORT-TERM FINANCING FOR CAPITAL PROJECT:

Ms. Taetzsch recommends that the board use Municipal Solutions to get bids for short-term financing for the Curry Road bridge project. The town has received a grant and will get reimbursed but will need to have money available until then. The board will need to act on this in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPRECIATION FOR APPOINTED TOWN BOARDS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLUTION #183 OF 2024: APPRECIATION FOR APPOINTED TOWN BOARDS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses is supported by a variety of appointed boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board recognizes the combined thousands of hours of work that these groups dedicate to the town on an annual basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board expresses appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all town boards and committees:

- Bee Friendly Community Committee
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Council
- Habitat Nature Preserve Committee
- Planning Board
- Tree Advisory Council
- Water Source Protection Plan Committee
- Youth Commission

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 12/10/24

RESOLUTION #184 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF HEAT PUMP QUOTE FOR HIGHWAY DEPT

Whereas, the Town has been allocated two grants from NYSERDA totally \$15,000 for climate-smart projects; and

Whereas, the Highway Superintendent has acquired three bids for a heat pump project for the highway barn in accordance with the Town's procurement policy;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approves the Town Supervisor to enter into a contact with Switzer Services for the installation of the heat pump system for \$10,463.24, which was the lowest of the three estimates provided by area contractors.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0
Date Adopted: 12/10/24

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24-25 and December 31-January 1– Town Buildings Closed
January 9 – Organizational Meeting, 8:15am @ Town Hall
January 14 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION #185 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approve the meeting minutes as presented from November 12, 2024 (regular meeting).

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0
Date Adopted: 12/10/24

Ms. Weatherby was excused at this time (8:50pm).

BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:

Ms. Olson notified the board that she approved new computer upgrades for several staff totaling \$5075.

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

RESOLUTION #186 OF 2024: BUDGET MODIFICATIONS:

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approves the 2024 budget modifications as presented. (See Appendix)

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0
Date Adopted: 12/10/24

PAYMENT OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

RESOLUTION #187 of 2024: PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

RESOLVED that the Town board approves payment of audited claims #564-638 in the A-SW funds totaling \$128,342.60.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson aye
Boggs aye
Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0
Date Adopted: 12/10/24

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

(None)

ADJOURN:

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk
12/12/24*

APPENDIX:

Please find these documents on the following pages:

- Staff reports
- Budget modification