

June 17, 2014

Town Board Meeting

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on June 17, 2014 in the Vincent F. Nyberg Meeting Room of the Cortlandt Town Hall located at One Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY (10567) with the following elected official and appointed staff in attendance:

LINDA D. PUGLISI	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
DEBRA COSTELLO	Councilmember
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember
SETH FREACH	Councilmember

Also present:

JO-ANN DYCKMAN	Town Clerk
EDWARD VERGANO	DOTS, Director
GLENN CESTARO	Comptroller
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk
ROSEMARY B. LASHER	DOTS/Asst. to Director
JEFFREY COLEMAN	Director, DES

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Supervisor Puglisi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Supervisor Puglisi led all in attendance in a Pledge to the Flag.

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SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS AND REPORTS

Supervisor Puglisi spoke of the many events of the past month. These included several Memorial Days ceremonies which can be seen on Channel 78 and the Town's website. Also the Mt. Carmel's Society's picnic honoring all veterans and current service men and women was held and is the same organization that will have the Feast in July. Flag Day was June 14th, officially designated by President Harry Truman and the 70th anniversary of D-Day when 160,000 allied troops, including the late Town Councilman Michael Mongero, landed on the beaches of Normandy. More than 9000 solders lost their lives or were wounded and which led to the end of World War II.

The **Supervisor** also attended New York State Senator Greg Ball's Woman of Distinction Award Night. The Cortlandt nominees Lea Olsen and Jenny Schutrek were honored, the **Supervisor** commenting that they were very well deserving of this tribute for all they do.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS, (cont.)

The Town's pool is open and the **Supervisor** wished everyone a very wonderful and safe summer season. The crews have been working very hard to put the pool together and she thanked Jeff Coleman and his crew.

The **Supervisor** announced that at the Town's Youth Center there will be a full court basketball court. That construction is on the way now and will be completed in about two weeks.

The Town's Paving Bid will be awarded in July and will begin late August/ early September. Over one million dollars will be allotted for paving this year, last year about 1.5 million dollars. Potholes have and are being filled and litter is being picked up. The seasonals, who are all Cortlandt youth, have been hired to help with this work.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that she attended a forum put on by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef regarding a property tax freeze. The **Supervisor** was asked to speak on shared services; something the Town has had many successes in the Town. This is done to save the taxpayers money. She also attended a forum by Congresswoman Nita Lowy to speak about the prevention of substance abuses, especially the heroin epidemic everywhere. **Supervisor Puglisi** also spoke at that forum discussing what she and the Town Board and the staff are doing to educate the community on that important subject.

The new medical drop off box which is located at Town Hall has had over 10 lbs. of medical tablets, etc. picked up safely by the Westchester County Police. The **Supervisor** thanked them and everybody else who was involved in that endeavor. She urged residents to use this drop box for their expired medications.

The **Supervisor** was invited to attend and have the honor of going to Cortlandt resident Virginia Reed's 100th birthday and presenting her with a proclamation.

The Shop, Dine and Do Business Month was a huge success and that was to bring attention to doing business locally. The **Supervisor** added that everyday in Cortlandt is shop, dine and do business locally and urged residents to help out the local businesses.

June 1, 2014 officially began this year's Hurricane Season. The **Supervisor** brought this up as they already put the information out and linked it to Westchester County Emergency Services and to Con Edison. They give key factors of what to do in case of a hurricane. **Supervisor Puglisi** emphasized that it is very important to register cell phone numbers and emails in the **Supervisor's** office to provide with immediate emergency messages, such as Code Red. This is totally confidential only used for to give residents important emergency messages.

There have been a lot of discussions regarding opposing a large energy company that wants to come into Verplanck called West Point Partners (nothing to do with West Point). They want to build a large transformer on Con Edison property. The **Supervisor** stated that the Town already have and has done enough for energy in the community and do not need to become the energy capitol of New York or the country. She commented that this building would impact residents,

SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS, (cont.)

schools, children and the quality of life in our community. The Town is opposing it and having a rally tomorrow night in Verplanck and urged residents to attend.

The Town is also opposing the large expansion of the Spectra/Algonquin gas pipeline. They want to expand and reroute it and it goes within 500 feet of the Buchanan/Verplanck Elementary School. The **Supervisor** stated we are against that happening and fighting this with Buchanan.

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ROLL CALL

On a roll call attendance taken by Town Clerk Dyckman all Town Board members indicated their presence.

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TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilmember Costello: Stated that residents of all ages will be welcome at the rally and they hoped the media would show up and let everyone know that they are against the West Point Partners and Spectra pipeline. Councilmember Costello urged the residents to attend and hopefully they have heard about it. She stressed that it’s just not something in Verplanck and Buchanan, that it will affect everyone in the Town of Cortlandt. She encouraged residents to learn about it and come to the rally.

Councilmember Costello commented that she did a ribbon cutting for the opening of GNC in the Cortlandt Town Center and her and Councilmember Freach both attended the new restaurant in Verplanck, Ralph and Dave’s. She encouraged everyone to shop locally and visit the new restaurant as well.

She gave kudos to the Montrose Firemen for their great bazaar once again and parade enjoyed by so many people. Councilmember Costello urged residents to find time to volunteer in any capacity available, a great way to give back to the community and help others.

Councilmember Becker: Had the opportunity to attend two Planning Board meetings this month concerning Abby Rose, a development that has been proposed for going on 20 years. It is at the top of Dickerson Mt., 120 acres of pristine land, wetlands, and two lakes. The developer proposed many homes on these 120 environmentally sensitive acres. After many years, this project was turned down because of its environmental impact on the community. It had been whittled down to 27 homes and the developer filed an article 78 and sued the Town. The NY State Supreme Court upheld the Town’s decision. The property has sat and the owner has accumulated debt and taxes. Negotiations proceeded and there is now a tentative deal where the owner will give 106 acres for open space and he will develop 5 homes. The Town feels it is a very good deal for the Town and is in the hands of the Planning Board.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS, (cont.)

Supervisor Puglisi thanked Councilmember Becker for his work on this project to control development in the area.

Councilmember Freach: Chose not to reiterate what the Supervisor has already discussed, but wanted to revisit the medical drop off box. Councilmember Freach stated that this is a resource that over 10 lbs. of medication has already been turned in that would have been sitting in someone's medicine cabinet where others can find them. As we are continually facing the heroin epidemic, it is important to be diligent and do what we can to make our community safer. He thanked the County Police for operating it for the Town and is a great tool to keep our community safer.

Councilmember Freach also urged residents to attend the rally in Verplanck.

Councilmember Farrell: Remembers when Cook Pool was known as Pine Lake and stated that if you haven't been there, you owe it to yourself to check it out. It is a beautiful amenity for this Town, great lifeguards, snack bar, shallow pool area for kids, and is just a really nice place.

Councilmember Farrell wanted to recognize and thank the DES for some work recently completed on Washington Acres on a drainage project. Decades ago detention ponds were created and a drainage system was set up to transfer water through the area and to alleviate flooding. Through the years some filled in, pipes got clogged and after an assessment and work performed, they are now functioning properly. This was performed in cooperation with Westchester County using their equipment and was another example of shared services.

He also attended an Eagle Scout Award Ceremony for Jeffrey Quist, a Montrose resident and member of Scout Pack 36. Councilmember Farrell commented that it makes you happy to see young people who really have their act together. Jeffrey had completed many merit badges in his scouting career and is now an Eagle. For his Eagle project he installed Stations of the Cross at St. Christopher's Church.

Councilmember Farrell spoke of a recent news story of Sergeant Bergdahl, captured and held by the Taliban and then released in a controversial exchange of prisoners. The army appointed Kenneth Dohl, a Cortlandt resident who attended Walter Panas High School, to investigate this incident. Councilmember Farrell commented that he was very proud to know a fellow of that rank and distinction is one of our native sons. He also is a graduate of West Point.

Supervisor Puglisi also stated that she was discussing the next phase of DARE with Cliff Gabrielson, DARE officer, who is retired. His son is going to West Point in September.

The **Supervisor** also stated that next year a water spray park will be constructed at the Town Pool. Also, regarding conserving energy, the Town received a grant to have an electric car outlet station at the Town Hall, being the first community to have this distinction.

Jeff Coleman gave information regarding the charging station stating that it is for plug in electric vehicles. Once all details are worked out there will be a sign up and all rules and regulations will be displayed.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Costello moved that the minutes of May 13, 2014 and the June 9, 2014 Special Meeting be approved as presented by Town Clerk Dyckman. Councilmember Becker seconded the motion.

All voted **AYE**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

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HEARING OF CITIZENS, (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Mike Morey
Resident of Peekskill

Thanked the Town for their responsiveness for this matter of speeding on Dimond Avenue. He lived on Dimond when he was young when the street was a cul-de-sac before Cortlandt Estates was built. With the development of Cortlandt Estate has come many challenges, most importantly the traffic that comes off of Rt. 202 onto Dimond becoming a drag strip. More often it is the adults that are going too fast. Mr. Morey stated that the tensions are getting high among the residents of Dimond Ave. and Cortlandt Estates. The speed humps have been helpful but the problem with their location is that they're at the entrance of Cortlandt Estate and then some. On the old part there are no traffic calming devices. Mr. Morey presented a petition from the residents to put in multiple speed humps.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that Jeff Coleman put out the smart machine. Jeff explained the smart machine to the residents and that it will be there as a deterrent to the drivers. A letter will go out to the neighborhood to ask that the residents be cognizant of the children in the neighborhood. The County Police were notified and has assured that speeding patrols will be stepped up. The Supervisor explained the order of procedure for the petition and that the building of the speed bumps will be expedited.

Ruby Horton
18 Dimond Avenue

Stated that the black strip had been torn but replaced so you cannot count from Thursday to Monday. During the day speeders and tractor trailers use Dimond to get to Cortlandt Estates. Ms. Horton asked for "bumps" not "humps" but Jeff Coleman answered that they cannot place bumps on the road because of state law.

The **Supervisor** stated that they hear the residents and will expedite solutions.

HEARING OF CITIZENS, cont.

Ms. Horton asked if the speed limit could be changed? Tom Wood answered that by state law the lowest the Town Board can do is 30 mph unless after traffic study petitions sent to the state Commissioner of Transportation with reasons to be lowered is considered.

Supervisor Puglisi and Ms. Horton discussed how many additional speed humps should be considered and decided at least two should be placed.

Sergeant Ed Devlin
Westchester County Police

Commented that they do hear the residents and over the years they've worked with the Town to address many neighborhoods with this issue. The idea is to change behavior and to slow people down. He stated that they want people to understand the reason they are slowing down and not just because there is a speed limit sign. Sgt. Devin promised to add this to the list of selected speed enforcement to address these concerns.

Supervisor Puglisi added that they will take action and that the most important thing is the safety of our families.

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BID REPORTS

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Councilmember Becker moved that the following reports be received and ordered filed.
Councilmember Freach seconded the motion

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REPORTS

For the month of May, 2014 from the Office for the Aging, Purchasing Department, the Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

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OLD BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

1. Report from DES with respect to traffic safety on Forest Avenue; and authorize a letter be sent to residents and traffic calming measures to be put in place; and refer to DES & DOTS for further evaluation for traffic calming measures.

RESOLUTION NO. 168-14 RE: Authorize Efforts to Address Speeding along Forest Avenue.

2. Report from DES with respect to Croton Park Colony.

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the Following:

1. Letter from Badey and Watson with respect to survey records in storage; and refer to the Legal Department, and DOTS.
2. Letter from Richard Kwasnik regarding property at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Furnace Woods Road; and refer to the Legal Department, DES, DOTS and the Assessor.

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

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RESOLUTIONS

(All resolutions adopted at this meeting are to be found attached to the end of the original document.)

Councilmember Freach moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Farrell.

RESOLUTION NO. 169-14 RE: Appoint a Working Superintendent for DES/Highway.

RESOLUTION NO. 170-14 RE: Appoint a Deputy Director of DOTS.

The following were removed:

1. Appoint a Director for the Youth Center
2. Appoint a Payroll Clerk to fill a vacancy in the Comptroller's Office
3. Appoint an Intermediate Account Clerk to fill a vacancy in the Tax Receiver's Office.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-14 RE: Appoint summer seasonals for the Recreation Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 172-14 RE: Amend the Temporary Service List.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-14 RE: Authorize Human Resources to advertise for laborers for DES.

Discussion: Supervisor Puglisi commented that after lengthy interviews, they have chosen two exemplary gentlemen for Superintendent of DES and Deputy Director of DOTS.

All voted **AYE**

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

Councilmember Farrell moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Costello.

RESOLUTION NO. 174-14 RE: Authorize a Leave of Absence with respect to an employee in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-14 RE: Authorize a Leave of Absence with respect to an employee in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 176-14 RE: Authorize an intermittent leave of Absence for a DES Employee under FMLA

RESOLUTION NO. 177-14 RE: Authorize an intermittent leave of Absence for a DES Employee under FMLA

RESOLUTION NO. 178-14 RE: Appoint Julie Murphy for a part time position at the Youth Center to fill a vacancy.

RESOLUTION NO. 179-14 RE: Authorize an upgrade with respect to Janice LaFave in the Recreation Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 180-14 RE: Appoint a DES seasonal.

RESOLUTION NO. 181-14 RE: Appoint Shannon O'Connor as an Intern to work at the Community Center; and Authorize an Agreement with SUNY,

RESOLUTION NO. 182-14 RE: Authorize RFP's with respect to MSW services for the Senior Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 183-14 RE: Adopt the July 15, 2014 In-Rem Sale Auction list.

RESOLUTION NO. 184-14 RE: Authorize the purchase of a vehicle for DOTS/Fire Inspector.

RESOLUTION NO. 185-14 RE: Authorize the Town to participate in the bidding process with respect to property for sale by Con Edison.

RESOLUTION NO. 186-14 RE: Authorize a contract with respect to the purchase and installation of guide rails.

RESOLUTION NO. 187-14 RE: Authorize a Tax Certioraris settlement with respect to Brian F. Cook Realty Corp.

RESOLUTION NO. 188-14 RE: Authorize a Tax Certioraris settlement with respect to Baker Capital.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO. 189-14 RE: Authorize the closing of certain streets with respect to the Mt. Carmel Feast scheduled for July 16th thru July 20th (rain date July 21st)

RESOLUTION NO. 190-14 RE: : Authorize a Fireworks Permit for July 19th and 20th with respect to the Mt. Carmel Feast scheduled for July 16th thru July 20th (rain date July 21st)

RESOLUTION NO. 191-14 RE: Authorize a “load only” Fireworks Permit with respect to a City of Peekskill Fire Department event on July 4, 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. 192-14 RE: Amend the V&T Code and authorize the installation of “No Parking” signs along Southgate Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 193-14 RE: Authorize the replacement of a failed storm drain on Alpine Drive and Varian Way.

RESOLUTION NO. 194-14 RE: Authorize funds in the amount of \$5,000 with respect to Old St. Peter’s Church upon receipt of a plan and proposal.

Discussion: The **Supervisor** that, as mentioned before, they are in opposition to the new private company’s energy projects that will impact our community. The Town Board has agreed place a bid on the Con Edison.

Tom Wood explained the two tax certioraris, one for 2000 and the other for 20,000.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that the annual Mt. Carmel Feast is being held and that it is a family event with a parade.

All voted **AYE**

Councilmember Costello moved that the following resolutions be adopted, seconded by Councilmember Becker

RESOLUTION NO. 195-14 RE: Resolution in Opposition of Cooling Towers.

The following was removed:

1. Resolution to consider setting the sewer rates for the Valeria Sewerage Corp.

RESOLUTION NO. 196-14 RE: Authorize a shared equipment agreement with the City of Peekskill

RESOLUTION NO. 197-14 RE: Award a Contract for HVAC Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 198-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to Solicit bids for drainage improvements on Rancho Drive off Locust Avenue.

RESOLUTIONS, (cont.)

RESOLUTION NO. 199-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to solicit proposals for drainage improvements at Washington Acres.

RESOLUTION NO. 200-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to evaluate drainage issues on Dickerson Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 201-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to solicit proposals to rebuild a drainage swale in Verplanck to improve capacity.

RESOLUTION NO. 202-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to award the Verplanck Waterfront Park site clean-up (former Martin house area).

RESOLUTION NO. 203-14 RE: Authorize DOTS to establish an IMA with the Continental Village Park District and the three municipalities regarding the Cortlandt Lake Dam.

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Becker moved that the following correspondence be received and ordered filed and the resolutions be adopted. Councilmember Freach seconded the motion.

Received and File the following:

1. Schedule a Special Town Board Meeting for June 23, 2014 for the purpose of appointing a Youth Center Director.

RESOLUTION NO. 204-14 RE: Schedule a Special Town Board Meeting for June 23, 2014 to appoint a Youth Center Director.

2. Petition from residents of Dimond Avenue and refer to DES, DOTS and the Traffic Safety Committee.

Discussion: None

All voted **AYE**

BUDGET TRANSFERS
NONE

June 17, 2014

Town Board Meeting

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

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REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

none

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SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. on a motion by Councilmember Freach, seconded by Councilmember Farrell.

All voted **AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

JO-ANN DYCKMAN
Town Clerk