

**DECEMBER 10, 2019
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

A full audio/video recording of this meeting is available at www.townofcortlandt.com

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on December 10, 2019 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 officials and appointed staff in attendance:

LINDA D. PUGLISI	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
DEBRA COSTELLO	Councilmember
RICHARD BECKER	Councilmember
JAMES CREIGHTON	Councilmember

Also present:

THOMAS WOOD	Town Attorney
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM	Assistant Town Attorney
LAROE ROSE SHATZKIN	Town Clerk
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director DOTS
STEPHEN FERREIRA	Director DES
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS

Supervisor Puglisi and Councilmember Becker presented a proclamation to Ms. Beth Dorsa. Ms. Dorsa volunteers as the Director of the food pantry at the Holy Spirit church. She has expanded the food pantry outreach, personally delivers food to the needy, and has worked there for over 10 years.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that last Saturday they had a wonderful Pearl Harbor Day in Croton-on-Hudson, a very moving ceremony. It was the 78th anniversary of this sad day, where we lost 2400 military civilians.

ROLL CALL

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

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The approval of minutes have been adjourned to the January 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the 2019 Budget.
 - a. Close Public Hearing
 - b. Amend Preliminary Budget
 - c. Adopt 2019 Town Budget
 - d. Authorize the Library Budget

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:16 p.m.

Supervisor Puglisi stated that the hard copy of the 2020 budget is online, and available for public review. The budget process is a lengthy one. All department heads, Town Board members are always working on the Town finances for the community and are very proud of their record for over 28 years. On average during the 28 year period, there has only been a 1 percent Town tax increase during the entirety. The tax increase for unincorporated Cortlandt, which is about 75 percent of the Town is a very low .9 percent increase, which equates to \$15 for the year. The two villages, Buchanan and Croton, are going to have a decrease in their Town cases. Recently the Town has received a AA1 bond rating from Moody's.

Patricia Robcke, Comptroller stated that the preliminary budget is online under the Comptroller's Department. There are two amendments to the preliminary budget. They are decreases in expenditures. The budget will be lowered by \$80,000 in employee benefits. The total budget is \$42,381,423.00. The total tax levy for the year is \$21,786,747.00. The overall tax levy increase is approximately \$162,000, which is .75 percent. Of the overall State mandated 2 percent tax cap the Town is only using about ¼ of allowable levy increase. Overall spending increase is under 2 percent, about 1.86 percent. If you live within the Town outside the Villages the tax increase is less than 1 percent, within the Villages there will be a slight decrease, about 1.2 percent. The average assessed value within the Town is about \$15 per year. The Town debt is below 7 million dollars, which is approximately 1 percent of the constitutional debt limit that the State allows to borrow. The Town has also been putting away \$100,000 per year for the impending closure of Indian Point. There have been many capital improvement projects this year ie, mini golf at Charles Cook Pool, over 3 million dollars in paving/resurfacing, vehicle replacement plan/leasing thereof.

Councilmember Becker made a motion to close the Public Hearing, amend Preliminary Budget, adopt 2020 Town Budget as amended, and authorize the Library Budget, seconded by Councilmember Creighton with all voting AYE.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m.

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TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Supervisor Puglisi announced the Veteran's banner project, and for more information contact Diane Carrol in her office. She stated that the Town social media is enhanced, and the Town is now on Instagram, and Twitter. Winter Wonderland will be held Sunday, 12/15/19 due to the predicted rain.

Councilmember Creighton gave his report:

OF NOTE:

Councilmember Creighton thanked all for a fabulous budget. It is crucial to attracting economic development in the Town.

The MOD public hearing was opened last month, and the hearing will continue next month.

Peter Harckam, State Senator provided SAM grants to the Town. In addition to the \$100,000 grant for the Cortlandt Waterfront Park. There will also be a \$100,000 grant for the Town Hall fire safety improvements.

The Town Board will be voting tonight on a Special Permit for Dimension Solar, which is solar project on Croton Ave.

Councilmember Farrell gave his report:

OF NOTE:

Councilmember Farrell thanked all who voted him into office for another term, and looks forward to continuing to work on the Town Board.

The Cortlandt Waterfront Park sea hanger restoration project, and park rehabilitation is something that he looks forward to seeing progress this year.

The mapping of the thousands of acres of open space that the Town has obtained over the years. He is looking forward to developing a program with the Girl Scouts to map these parcels, and make note of all the interesting features that might be contained on them.

He thanked Supervisor Puglisi and Patricia Robcke, Comptroller for their excellent work on the 2020 budget.

Councilmember Costello gave her report:

OF NOTE:

Councilmember Costello congratulated Beth Dorsa for her volunteer work, and mentioned working with her and the Hendrick Hudson Leos Club.

Congratulated and welcomed all the new hires on the agenda, and congratulated the employees that were being promoted on this agenda.

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Councilmember Becker gave his report:

OF NOTE:

Councilmember Becker thanked everyone who voted for him in the November Election, and looks forward to another term.

He also congratulated the new hires and promotions, and mentioned that for the past year he has been serving as the Town Board liaison for the employees.

Supervisor Puglisi mentioned that the swearing in ceremony will be on Sunday, 1/5/20 at 2:00 p.m. at Cortlandt Town Hall, and all are welcome to attend.

2. Public Hearing to consider amending the Law to allow for Alternates in the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - a. Close Public Hearing
 - b. Adopt Negative Declaration
 - c. Adopt Resolution

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:55 p.m.

Thomas Wood, Town Attorney explained that if adopted this Local Law will implement the authorization that allows the Town Board to appoint alternates to the Planning and Zoning Board. These individuals will fill in if any regular member of these boards is absent. They will attend all the meetings, and be familiar with all the cases. They will have full voting rights etc. when serving on the board. This will be a two year term.

Councilmember Creighton made a motion to close the Public Hearing, adopt a Negative Declaration, and adopt a Resolution to adopt the Local Law, seconded by Councilmember Becker . The Board was polled as follows:

Councilmember Costello	Yes
Councilmember Becker	Yes
Supervisor Puglisi	Yes
Councilmember Creighton	Yes
Councilmember Farrell	No

The motion was passed 4-1 vote.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.

HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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REPORTS

Receive and File the following:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

NEW BUSINESS

Receive and File the following:

1. Dangerous Building Evaluation regarding 21 Pump House Road from the Director of Code Enforcement.
2. Letter from Old St. Peter's Church Cemetery regarding vault restoration; refer to Legal and Comptroller.

Councilmember Farrell made a motion to receive and file the above, seconded by Councilmember Costello with all voting AYE.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 322-19 RE: Authorize Amending the 2019 Budget and Close Capital Projects.

RESOLUTION NO. 323-19 RE: Adopt the Town of Cortlandt Capital Improvement Plan 2019-2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 324-19 RE: Accept Joseph Wallace Drive EAST, as a Town Road, AS AMENDED.

RESOLUTION NO. 325-19 RE: Authorize 60 day extensions of various policies of insurance.

RESOLUTION NO. 326-19 RE: Authorize Bond Resolution for Charles J Cook Bath House, subject to Permissive Referendum.

RESOLUTION NO. 327-19 RE: Deny rate increase petition of Jonas Bastys Sewerworks, Inc.

Councilmember Costello made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Becker with all voting AYE.

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Patricia Robcke, Comptroller commented that the resolution regarding the Capital Projects is a blanket resolution. Throughout the year as the Board decides on certain projects, and items that they want use the money for, the Comptroller is authorized to amend the budget at that time. So this is a resolution to cover these budget transfers. The Town is currently operating within a 2 percent margin of the budget, which is really a phenominal accomplishment.

She also commented on the Bond Resolution for the Charles J. Cook Pool Bathhouse. The Town will be using financing to cover this project.

Michael Preziosi, Dir. DOTS gave an update on the project. The bathhouse is down, and the contractors are diligently working on constructing a new one in the same footprint as the existing facility. They will be launching a project webpage soon that will contain a 3D rendering of what the potential bathhouse will look like. It is anticipated that this will be ready prior to the 2020 season.

RESOLUTION NO. 328-19 RE: Authorize a Stipulation of Settlement in Town of Cortlandt vs. Sheldon Gardner.

RESOLUTION NO. 329-19 RE: Authorize new 5 year agreement with Westchester County for Police Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 330-19 RE: Authorize release on restrictions on property use on Town owned property in Waterbury Manor.

RESOLUTION NO. 331-19 RE: Grant a Special Permit for Dimension Solar on Croton Avenue as recommended by the Planning Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 332-19 RE: Approve a new Paramedic Vehicle from a State Senator Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 333-19 RE: Appoint the Town Attorney for 2020-2021 and authorize employment agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 334-19 RE: Appoint the Town Comptroller for 2020-2021 and authorize employment agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 335-19 RE: Re-appoint Thomas Bianchi to the Planning Board, and Re-appoint Loretta Taylor as Chairwoman and Thomas Bianchi as Vice Chairman.

RESOLUTION NO. 336-19 RE: Re-appoint David Douglas as Chairman and Wai Man Chin as Vice Chairman to the ZBA.

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RESOLUTION NO. 337-19 RE: Re-appoint Tino Martin and Peter Ruvolo to the PRC Advisory Board and Appoint Michael Huvane as Chairman and Tino Martin as Vice Chairman.

RESOLUTION NO. 338-19 RE: Appoint German Cruz as a Senior Account Clerk in the Tax Office.

RESOLUTION NO. 339-19 RE: Appoint Catherine Brosnan as an ASSISTANT Civil Engineer in the DOTS Engineering Division, AS AMENDED.

RESOLUTION NO. 340-19 RE: Appoint Ana George as a Court Clerk II in the Justice Court.

RESOLUTION NO. 341-19 RE: Appoint Andrea Lamberti to the title of MEO in DES

RESOLUTION NO. 342-19 RE: Appoint James Rodacaj to the title of Automotive Mechanic in DES

RESOLUTION NO. 343-19 RE: Appoint Wayne Smith as a seasonal Winter Intern for the Comptroller/Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION NO. 344-19 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for January 14th, 2020 to consider an increase of improvements for the Furnace Woods Sewer District.

Councilmember Becker made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Farrell with all voting AYE.

Supervisor Puglisi mentioned how pleased she is to once again to have another 5 year agreement with the Westchester County Police. They do a really wonderful job, and we are very fortunate to have them as well as the NYS Police.

The new hires and promoted employees all stood up and were recognized, and congratulated.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 345-19 RE: Authorize the Director of DOTS to execute consultant contract for Steel Design and Fabrication for Sea Plane Hangar Reconstruction.

RESOLUTION NO. 346-19 RE: Authorize the Director of DOTS to solicit requests for qualifications for consultant services.

RESOLUTION NO. 347-19 RE: Authorize payment to Robert Half Account Temps for services rendered.

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RESOLUTION NO. 348-19 RE: Appoint two seasonal workers in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 349-19 RE: Appoint Substitute Nutrition Driver at the Community Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 350-19 RE: Schedule a Dangerous Building Proceeding for February 11, 2020 to consider evidence that 21 Pumphouse Road is a Dangerous Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 351-19 RE: Schedule a Special Town Board Meeting for January 13, 2020 to vote on all agenda items except for Public Hearings.

Councilmember Creighton made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilmember Farrell with all voting AYE.

Councilmember Farrell commented on the Sea Plane Hangar reconstruction project. This is just part of the development of the Cortlandt Waterfront Park. They are hoping to have a Discovery Center there. The Cortlandt Rowing Association has also obtained a \$50,000 grant from the NYS DEC, and Senator Harckam has also pledged \$100,000 to this project.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Costello made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilmember Becker with all voting AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

**January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm and
January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Web Site address: www.townofcortlandt.com**

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Respectfully submitted,

Christine B. Cothren
Deputy Town Clerk