



Pursuant to NYS Executive Order 202/2020 issued by the Governor, the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt is holding meetings virtually via a platform known as Zoom. The public can observe the meetings in real time and they are recorded as usual and posted on the Town Website.

*A full audio/video recording of this meeting is available at [www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)*

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on November 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The following elected officials and appointed staff were in attendance:

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

Also present:

TOM WOOD	Town Attorney
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM	Deputy Town Attorney
LAROUÉ ROSE SHATZKIN	Town Clerk
CHRISTINE B. COTHREN	Deputy Town Clerk - ABSENT
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
STEPHEN FERREIRA	Director, DES
TINA TOBACK	Senior Office Assistant

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

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

### **SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS**

Supervisor Puglisi commented on Veteran's Day which is November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Town loves the Veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect our precious freedoms. The community will never forget the Veterans or those who currently serve. A video has been put together with statements from Willie Nesario and others. The Town's Cameraman, Allen George, has done a beautiful video collage of Veteran's memorials throughout the town, and previous Veteran's Ceremonies. It is available on the website.



The Supervisor commented that the Budget was presented at the last special meeting and workshops on the proposed budget will begin shortly. The tax levy remains the same and a presentation that the Supervisor and Comptroller made is also available on the website with all the particulars of the budget. A Public Hearing will be held in December and the budget must be voted on by December 20<sup>th</sup>. All of the meetings associated with the budget are open meetings available for the public to observe.

There will be a new business coming into a vacant storefront where Payless Shoe Store used to be, selling ice cream, beer and hotdogs. The old Shoprite will be backfilled with another grocery store that originated in Europe. Their press release will come out soon.

There are meetings with various neighborhoods including the Verplanck Resident's Association, to discuss vacant and under-utilized properties. A similar meeting with Montrose Matters is forthcoming and a consultant has been hired to look at the area.

Meetings regarding Indian Point are ongoing and the Supervisor has reached out to Holtec to ask them to participate in the next meeting, since they will likely be the company in charge of decommissioning. The group, which includes about 20 various people from the community will be overseeing the decommissioning and sharing information with the public.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **TOWN BOARD REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Farrell gave his report**

#### **OF NOTE:**

Councilman Farrell shared about an ongoing project between the Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Buchanan to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. This is a document that will guide future decision-making, with respect to development and activities along the waterfront. There is a survey that has been created by our consultants, staff, and citizens, and the community is encouraged to take the survey. The "waterfront" is a much larger area than one might think. It extends north of Annsville Circle, and as far inland as College Hill Road and Furnace Dock Road. There is an opportunity to focus on the different Study Areas including Montrose, Crugers, Verplanck, Annsville, and Buchanan, and for participants to freely share their ideas. This document will guide officials for years to come. In addition to being helpful with planning, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program can also help forestall undesirable installations like the Hudson River Anchorages that were proposed. The survey is available on the Planning Page for the Town of Cortlandt. There have been about 500 replies to the survey so far. Trails, mixed recreational uses, and "connections" seem to be generating the most interest so far.

Councilman Farrell closed by thanking our veterans and wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.



### **Councilmember Carter gave her report**

#### **OF NOTE:**

Councilmember Carter opened by thanking veteran Councilman Frank Farrell for his service.

Councilmember Carter mentioned that there was record turnout at the election and that it was wonderful to see so many people participating in Democracy.

Councilmember Carter went on to mention several items on the agenda including some interns who are returning to work again at the Town.

### **Councilmember Creighton gave his report**

#### **NOTE:**

Councilmember Creighton shared that November is National Adoption Month and there are a lot of children, from babies up to teenagers in need of foster homes in Westchester and Putnam Counties, and not enough families who are fostering. Anybody can make a difference in the life of a child. Westchester County is looking for qualified foster parents and vulnerable children are all around us. There are currently about 200 families that are part of the network and more are needed. Call 211 or reach out to the Councilman for more information.

The Town has been working to gather a group of people to move forward on the police plan originally drafted by the Supervisor. The plan is to submit comments to Westchester County and to New York State. The committee will be appointed shortly.

In April of 2021 the last of Indian Point's plants will be closing and decommissioning will begin soon. There is a lot of information out there for the public to absorb. Friday, November 20, from 2-3:30 pm will be a regional decommissioning forum that the public can join via Zoom. It will be run by Cleawater along with a number of other groups. The Forum should give a good update.

The Coronavirus is spiking and the news of a vaccine is very promising, but our neighborhoods need to continue to be extra cautious. Covid fatigue is real and everyone needs to continue socially distancing, wearing masks, and washing their hands.

Councilmember Creighton closed by remarking that although we cannot gather in person to commemorate Veteran's Day, we do not forget those who have served and are serving.

### **Councilmember Becker gave his report**

#### **NOTE:**

Councilmember Becker opened by saying the Town's Veteran event is always so heartwarming and it will be missed this year.



Regarding Covid, Councilmember Becker shared that after two weeks without a single case, there are currently 12 Covid cases being tended to in Phelps Hospital, two of which are in the intensive care unit. Everyone must make their own decisions for Thanksgiving but thoughtfulness is important.

There are some text amendments to the Zoning Code on the agenda this evening, which seem boring, but these issues come up every day. These amendments will simply approval processes for homeowners. The Building Department will also have some authority to expedite approval for some items on non-conforming lots as well, without having to go through a larger process. These amendments should reduce the burden on the Zoning and Planning Boards and simplify things for residents.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approve the Minutes for the September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting, the October 19, 2020 Special Meeting, and the October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Councilwoman Carter made a motion to approve the above Minutes, seconded by Councilman Becker with all voting **AYE**.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:32 PM.

1. Public Hearing to consider Zoning Text Amendments
  - a. Close Public Hearing

**RESOLUTION NO. 268-20 RE:** Adopt a Negative Declaration

**RESOLUTION NO. 269-20 RE:** Adopt Resolution

Town Attorney Tom Wood elaborated that in addition to Councilman Becker's comments regarding single family homes, this local law also amends the zoning ordinance to allow some items to be dealt with administratively, including lot-line adjustments that do not create a new lot, new tenants in previously approved commercial uses. The intent is to modernize some of our processes and make them more business friendly, as well as improve the ease of use for residents.

Councilmember Becker made a motion to Close the Public Hearing, Adopt a Negative Declaration, and adopt a Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Creighton with all voting **AYE**.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:34 PM.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**



## **REPORTS**

### **Receive and File the following:**

For the month of October from the Office of the Aging, Receiver of Taxes and the Office of the Town Clerk.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Receive and File the following:**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Receive and File the following:**

1. 2020-2024 Draft Capital Improvement Program
2. Letter from Custom Insurance Programs LLC regarding donation of property on Mt. Airy Road; Refer to Legal and DOTS.
3. Letter from Rev. Oonnoony of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Christopher and Saint Patrick requesting assistance with the expansion of a proposed Veteran's Memorial. (See Resolutions)
4. Letter from Police Officer Richard Lepore requesting a three-way stop at the corner of Pine Road and Lincoln Avenue at Lincoln Titus Elementary School. (See Resolutions)
5. Letter from Residents regarding intersection of Kingsferry Road and Hunt Ave; Refer to DES.

Councilman Creighton made a motion to receive and file the above, seconded by Councilman Farrell with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Puglisi commented on the Capital Improvement Program and its importance to the Town. The program was started during the Supervisor's Administration, in the early 90s and is a 5-year capital plan that includes any item or vehicle over fifty thousand dollars. It will be received and filed at this meeting and voted on next month.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 270-20 RE:** Adopt Town Board Meeting Dates for 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 271-20 RE:** Authorize the Supervisor to execute an IMA with Westchester County for Mutual Aid and Rapid response.



**RESOLUTION NO. 272-20 RE:** Authorize the Supervisor to execute an Occupancy License and Access Agreement with New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

**RESOLUTION NO. 273-20 RE:** Authorize the Supervisor to execute a contract with Auctions International, Inc. for excess equipment.

**RESOLUTION NO. 274-20 RE:** Authorize Amending the 2020 Budget and Close Capital Projects.

**RESOLUTION NO. 275-20 RE:** Update Town Depositories to Include Orange Bank & Trust.

**RESOLUTION NO. 276-20 RE:** Authorize the extension of expiring Boiler, Crime and Cyber Policies to February 28, 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 277-20 RE:** Recognize the celebration of Juneteenth.

**RESOLUTION NO. 278-20 RE:** Authorize \$1000. to assist in the construction of a proposed Veteran's Memorial at the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Christopher and Saint Patrick.

**RESOLUTION NO. 279-20 RE:** Oppose the construction of the proposed Danskammer Power Plant on the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Councilman Farrell made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilwoman Carter with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Puglisi mentioned that the Town is following New York State and Westchester County in recognizing Juneteenth, an important day in our history.

Comptroller Patty Robcke commented on amending the budget and closing capital projects, and was please to share that Covid reduced spending and this allows for transfers among departmental line items.

Items for DOTS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 280-20 RE:** Authorize amendment of Supplemental Agreement with WSP (formerly Lousi Bergen) for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for West Brook Drive – Right Turn Lane – NYSDOT Pin 8390.96

**RESOLUTION NO. 281-20 RE:** Direct DOTS to prepare a preliminary map, plan and report for a Cortlandt Boulevard East Sewer Improvement Area and to survey the Properties.

Items for DES:



**RESOLUTION NO. 282-20 RE:** Authorize an Agreement for operation of the Roa Hook Water Supply.

**RESOLUTION NO. 283-20 RE:** Authorize a three-way stop at the corner of Pine Road and Lincoln Avenue.

**RESOLUTION NO. 284-20 RE:** Appoint Donna D’Agostino to the title of Staff Assistant – Finance and Administration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 285-20 RE:** Appoint Wayne Smith as an Intern for the Winter Season to work in the Office of the Comptroller and the Office of the Town Clerk.

**RESOLUTION NO. 286-20 RE:** Appoint Amaavi Miriyagalla as an intern for the Winter Season to the Community Center.

**RESOLUTION NO. 287-20 RE:** Amend Resolution 265-20 authorizing a Leave of Absence for an employee in the Recreation Department

**RESOLUTION NO. 288-20 RE:** Amend Resolution 233-20 authorizing a Leave of Absence for an employee in DES.

**RESOLUTION NO. 289-20 RE:** Schedule a Public Hearing on the Proposed Benefit Unit Assessment Roll for December 7, 2020.

Councilwoman Carter made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilman Becker with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Puglisi commented that Donna D’Agostino has worked for the Town for 20 years and thanked her for her years of service.

Councilmember Creighton thanked Police Officer Richard Lepore for his initiative in reaching out to the Town for a common-sense fix to keep school children safer at Lincoln Titus.

Attorney Tom Wood extrapolated upon the scheduling of a Public Hearing for Benefit Unit Assessment Rolls and explained that three new sewer districts have been created in the town – two around Route 6, Cortlandt Town Center area, and the third being the Town’s Purchase of the Dickerson Pond Sewer Treatment Plant. Next year the Town will be billing for the first time, so a system must be developed, and the engineers have come up with a method whereby a single benefit unit is applied to a single-family home. Every year, the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing at which residents and business owners can contest their assigned Benefit Units.



## **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 290-20 RE:** Authorize an IMA with Westchester County for the disposal of residential food scraps.

**RESOLUTION NO. 291-20 RE:** Direct DOTS to prepare a preliminary map, plan and report for a proposed sanitary sewer district along Roa Hook Road / Route 9 and Albany Post Road / Route 9A and prepare initial notice to properties.

Councilman Becker moved to adopt the above, seconded by Councilman Creighton. All voted AYE.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS** - NONE

### **REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

### **REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Councilman Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilwoman Carter with all voting **AYE**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING**

November 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm  
[www.townofcortlandt.com](http://www.townofcortlandt.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Laroue Rose Shatzkin  
Town Clerk