

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on **April 19, 2022** with the following elected officials and appointed staff in attendance:

RICHARD H. BECKER	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember - ABSENT
CRISTIN JACOBY	Councilmember
ROBERT MAYES	Councilmember
JAMES CREIGHTON	Councilmember

Also present:

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

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS

Supervisor Becker spoke about Spring, and the Town of Cortlandt Recreation Brochure. He urged all residents to sign up for Town Summer Camps found in the brochure and on the website. Opening day ceremonies for the CNLL, CALL, and Girls Softball will be Saturday, 4/23/22. The fields are spruced up and ready thanks to Town staff.

Monday, 5/2/22, 7:00 p.m. is the MOD (Medical Oriented District) public hearing. This is mainly to hear the public's comments on the proposal.

Supervisor's weekly email gave an update on Westchester power, and sustainable power. He went on to explain about the program and possibility of opting in to. There is more information

regarding this on the Town website. Residents will be receiving post cards asking for their opinion. This will be addressed at a future meeting.

ROLL CALL

Laroue Rose Shatzkin, Town Clerk took roll call, and all Town Board members were present with the exception of Frank Farrell, who was absent.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilperson Cristin Jacoby gave her report

OF NOTE:

Councilperson Jacoby wanted to thank Councilman Farrell for arranging a meeting in regard to the parks in the Town and making them more accessible to disabled people. They met with Ken Sherman, and John Palmietto of the Recreation Department and Chris Kehoe, Planning Director. They will continue to explore options and research so that they can best serve all the residents of the Town of Cortlandt.

She thanked Patty Robcke, Comptroller, and Claudia Vahey, Dir. Of Human Resources for meeting with her and Councilman Mayes. It has been very helpful it helping them understand how the finances of the Town work.

Councilperson Jacoby wanted to mention a local event held by a local teen, Sarah Nabby. It will be held on 5/1/22 for all local teens. It focuses on mental health awareness for teenagers. There is information on their website www.nostigmateen.com, and also in Supervisor Becker's weekly newsletter. This will be a very informative event and it is great to have someone open up a forum to speak about this very important topic.

She congratulated the Croton Arboretum for receiving a grant for \$2500 to plant trees in the Town, Croton-on-Hudson area. This was a great honor as it was an international grant. The Arberitum will be having an Earth Day event this coming Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Councilperson James Creighton gave his report

OF NOTE:

Councilperson Creighton also spoke in depth about the Westchester sustainable energy and the many pluses and minus' of opting in/out. He is in favor of this program, and thinks it is a great opportunity to start leaning toward going Green. He encouraged residents to explore this option. He also reiterated that you can always opt out if you do not want to participate.

Opening Day ceremonies for Little League and Girls Softball will be held Saturday 4/22/22. He is looking forward to a fun day celebrating their grand opening.

Earth Day Hike for the Town of Cortlandt in on 4/22/22. There is more information on the Town website and Facebook page.

Cortlandt Community Rowing Association is getting ready for the season.

I Love My Park Day will be held on 5/14/22. If anyone is interested in participating in the clean up it will take place in the morning on Quaker Bridge Rd. It is a great opportunity for a learning experience if you have some time to join in the opportunity.

Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce breakfast was held on..... for the first time in two years. It was a great experience to have everyone back in person. Supervisor Becker did a great job in organizing the event. George Oros will be reappointed this evening as an Economic Consultant for the Town. He has done a phenomenal job for the Town this year promoting economic development here in the Town.

Councilperson Frank Farrell gave his report
OF NOTE:

Councilperson Robert Mayes gave his report
OF NOTE:

Councilperson Mayes stated that a month ago he met with Senator Harckam, Senator Mayer, and Councilman Creighton at the Cortlandt Waterfront for the signing the NYS 250th Commemoration Act. This act kick starts the planning for the 250th celebration of Earth Day in our nation. They picked Cortlandt because of all of the history in that area of the Town. The Revolutionary Westchester was there and it was a very entertaining event.

He stated that he was thankful to be able to visit the DES headquarters on Roa Hook Rd. It gave him a better understanding of how things work, and meet and speak with the people doing the work. It is helpful in recognizing things that are needed from the department, and how they can benefit the Town.

He also attended the Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. It was really a great event. The Town has taken great strides to encourage business and economic growth in the Town. This was a great opportunity to share with our local business community the things that the Town is doing to help growth and support of local businesses.

Councilperson Mayes has been pleased to meet with and speak to residents in the Town. He wants the residents to feel comfortable being able to speak about their concerns, thoughts, and ideas on how to make Cortlandt a better place. We work for the people in this community and he

wants to know he plans on being accessible to the people in Town. He mentioned that his contact information is on the Town website, and he would be happy to hear what people have to input.

He also mentioned Earth Day and its' importance. If everyone does a little part to take care, it truly makes a difference.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilwoman Jacoby made a motion to adopt the minutes for the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting and the March 15, 20022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilman Mayes with all voting **AYE**.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing to consider amending Local Law 1 of 2021 and adopt the updated the New York State Stretch Code.
 - a. Close Public Hearing
 - b. Adopt Negative Declaration
 - c. Adopt Resolution

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:35 p.m.

Supervisor Becker stated that in 2020 NYS had published its' recommendations for its' NYStretch Energy Code. There are now revisions that need to be made to the Code to keep it updated with the NYS recommendations. Most communities in Westchester have also adopted a Local Law in regard to this.

Michael Cunningham, Deputy Town Attorney stated that this is just another overlay of protection that would help impose some environmental energy standards. Most other Town and Cities in Westchester have also adopted a Local Law regarding this. Our Town is also a climate smart community, and this will open up opportunity to apply for grant money.

Mr. Warren Smith appeared before the Board. He reiterated that this is just bringing the Local Law from 2021. He wanted to know if there was a cost analysis done as to how it might affect our businesses?

Michael Cunningham, Deputy Town Attorney answered that NYSERDA has done some studies on this but which showed certain things will be deemed more expensive, but a 10% energy savings so it would just about equal out.

Mr. Smith stated that he knows when the Local Law was passed last year, it was stated that it would take about 10 years for anyone to feel a difference.

Councilman Creighton stated that this is just correcting a technical issue our Local Law to be uniform with what NYS has already passed It is basically the same as what was passed before. It should not have a negative effect on businesses.

Councilman Mayes made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing in order to confirm and review the language provided by NYS, seconded by Councilman Creighton with all voting **AYE**.

HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

REPORTS

Receive and File the following:

For the month of March 2022 from the Office of the Aging, Purchasing Department, Receiver of Taxes and the Town Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

NEW BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

1. Letter from Lake Mohegan Fire Dept. requesting assistance with their 100th Anniversary Celebration/Convention Parade, and parade permit application; Refer to DES.
2. H.R. 4677, Establishing the New York-New Jersey Watershed Restoration and Grant Programs; Refer to Legal and DOTS.
3. Letter from Ghost Productions Inc. to film in the Town of Cortlandt for three consecutive days in May 2022.
4. Letter from Montrose Improvement District requesting appointment of Interim District Commissioner.
5. Proposal from Road Knights Auto Club regarding Car Show event at the Cortlandt Waterfront. Refer to Legal, DOTS and DES.

Councilperson Creighton made a motion to draft a letter in support of Item #2, Establishing NY-NJ Watershed Restoration and Grant programs seconded by Supervisor Becker with all voting **AYE**.

Councilperson Creighton made a motion to Receive and File the above correspondence, seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting **AYE**.

Supervisor Becker commented about the filming permits issued. It does bring income to our Town, and gets our name out there as a positive attraction to do business.

Supervisor Becker commented on the Lake Mohegan Fire Department and their 100th Anniversary Parade on 9/17/22. The Town is happy to support the fire department, and will let them utilize some property owned by the Town to accommodate parking the visiting fire companies.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 124-22 RE: Authorize the conveyance of SBL 44.19-1-4 to adjoining property owners, subject to Permissive Referendum.

RESOLUTION NO. 125-22 RE: Reappoint George Oros as an Economic Development Consultant for the term of one year.

RESOLUTION NO. 126-22 RE: Authorize the renewal of Cyber Insurance Policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 127-22 RE: Authorize partial refund to Acadia Cortlandt Crossing LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 128-22 RE: Authorize Town Supervisor to execute agreements for artwork in Town Hall.

RESOLUTION NO. 129-22 RE: Authorize a License Agreement with the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association for property located in Verplanck.

RESOLUTION NO. 130-22 RE: Deny Sewer Rate Petition for Jonas Bastys, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 131-22 RE: Name Town Hall for Linda D. Puglisi and schedule a naming ceremony for Sunday, May 1st, at 3pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 132-22 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to execute license agreements upon meeting conditions with Food Truck Vendors for Town-owned properties.

RESOLUTION NO. 133-22 RE: Authorize a service contract for grass cutting.

RESOLUTION NO. 134-22 RE: Authorize filming by Ghost Productions in the Town of Cortlandt contingent upon contract parameters.

RESOLUTION NO. 135-22 RE: Authorize filming by Big Indie Pictures/Kilter Films in the Town of Cortlandt contingent upon contract parameters.

RESOLUTION NO. 136-22 RE: Authorize the temporary closure of Buttonwood Ave for a neighborhood block party on August 6, 2022, with a rain date of August 7, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 137-22 RE: Accept the 2021 Member List of Volunteer Ambulance Workers for the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Award Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 138-22 RE: Amend Resolution 121-22 and authorize Rain Date for I Love My Park Day on May 14th, 2022.

Agenda Items for DOTS:

RESOLUTION NO. 139-22 RE: Authorize DOTS to Bid TE Contract 2022.02 Annual Paving Contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 140-22 RE: Authorize Planning and Community Development to Apply for grants for the Montrose Business District Sewers.

RESOLUTION NO. 141-22 RE: Forward letter petitioning to have parcel on Oregon Road incorporated into Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District to Westchester County for their consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 142-22 RE: Authorize DOTS to assist with the removal of a fish barrier along Sprout Brook, to be funded by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Agenda Items for DES:

RESOLUTION NO. 143-22 RE: Authorize the Director of DES to acquire GPS units with installation for DES Fleet Vehicles.

RESOLUTION NO. 144-22 RE: Authorize roof replacement for the purchasing building located at 1 Heady Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 145-22 RE: Authorize roof replacement for the Storage Garage located at 29 Sprout Brook.

RESOLUTION NO. 146-22 RE: Authorize the purchase of an asphalt milling attachment for the DES backhoe.

RESOLUTION NO. 147-22 RE: Authorize the purchase of an asphalt milling attachment for the DES skid steer machine.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-22 RE: Authorize a salary adjustment for Deputy Comptroller,

George Njarakunnel.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-22 RE: Authorize a salary adjustment for Deputy Director of Recreation, Ken Sherman.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-22 RE: Authorize a salary adjustment for Director of DES, Steve Ferreira.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-22 RE: Appoint Seasonal Workers in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-22 RE: Extend a Leave of Absence under FMLA for an employee in DES – Water.

RESOLUTION NO. 153-22 RE: Schedule Public Hearing to amend Chapter 255 of the Town Code (Solar Energy Systems) for June 14, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 154-22 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing for Omnibus Zoning Code Amendments for June 14, 2022.

Supervisor Becker commented that the Town Hall will be serving the public with an art gallery throughout the halls and in the Nyberg Meeting Room. All are encouraged to participate. The art will be shown for a period of 3 months, and replaced with new each quarter.

Supervisor Becker commented on the denial of the Jonas Bastys sewer rate increase. This is a dysfunctional sewer plant and the Town requested from them specific information and what needs to be done to update and make the sewer plant functional. We did not receive a response from them, therefore they are denying that request at this time.

Stephen Ferreira, Dir. DES commented on the resolutions regarding the asphalt milling equipment that the Town needs to purchase. There are extensive pot hole repairs going on through the Town at this time. This equipment will enable them to make the pothole repair better, and will last longer. It will also enable the Town the ability to make the repairs more durable and permanent .

Supervisor Becker commented on the Public Hearing that will take place June 14, 2022 and summarized that it will enable the Town to make determination as to where it would be best to place solar panels, solar farms, and some guidelines to follow in their placement. He stated that they wanted to make sure the placement of solar farms are helping the community not hurting it. Councilperson Creighton is very involved with solar energy and is part of the Solar Committee.

Councilperson Jacoby made a motion to adopt the above Resolutions, seconded by Councilperson Mayes with all voting **AYE**.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 155-22 RE: Appoint Jennifer Glasheen as Purchasing Director.

RESOLUTION NO. 156-22 RE: Authorize transitional services in the Purchasing Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-22 RE: Authorize the settlement of index number 65289/2021.

Councilperson Creighton made a motion to adopt the above resolutions, seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting **AYE**.

BUDGET TRANSFERS – NONE

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

REPORTS FROM STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS

Mr. Warren Smith appeared before the Board. He commented on the issue of traffic concerns throughout the Town ie..speeding, vehicles doing donuts etc. and has met with Westchester County Police CRO, and was very impressed by the quick response.

Supervisor Becker agreed, and thanked Mr. Smith for the positive feedback.

Mr. Warren Smith asked about the construction of the sidewalks in Verplanck on Broadway, and was wondering if the work would be completed by July 9th? Cardinal Dolan will be coming to St. Patrick's Church to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Festival.

Michael Preziosi stated he feels as though the sidewalks should be complete by then, and Broadway is scheduled as part of the Town repaving project. After the repaving bid is awarded he will try to expedite the repaving on Broadway, Verplanck.

Mr. Smith stated in regard to Sustainable Westchester. He knows each Town resident will receive a card surveying their thoughts on opting in/out of this program. He wanted to know if there would be a posting on the Town website, or perhaps a hearing regarding this subject?

Supervisor Becker stated they he would definitely see if he can put some additional information on the website. Leo Wegman, from Sustainable Westchester will be attending the Work Session on Monday 5/23/2022 to give us some more information regarding this important subject.

Councilperson Creighton also commented that Sustainable Westchester showed that during this electric spike that these customers experience little or no increase in their bills. So we want to explore other resources, and hoping that there will be a better deal if areas in Westchester come together and unite in their decisions.

Councilperson Jacoby stated that they will be looking forward to Mr. Wegman's presentation. She looks forward to seeing statistics from other Towns and Cities that have opted in to the program.

Councilperson Mayes stated that if the Town chooses to participate in this program essentially there will be no way to loose when opting in. It just increases choices for Town residents.

Mr. Vaughey appeared before the Board. He wanted to agree with Warren on his comments. There are over 80 companies that participate in the program. The rates vary from 5 cents to 23 cents per kilowatt. People should also speak out to the public service commission regarding the Con Edison rates. Con Ed gets 2/3 to deliver electric no matter who your supplier is. Their rate is guaranteed.

Mr. Vaughey asked about the filming at the quarry and other locations in the Town?

Ms. Laroue Shatzkin, Town Clerk stated there are two applicants wanting to film at the quarry, and utilize some other locations in the Town for parking, such as St. Patrick's Church Parking lot. There are other applicants looking to utilize some property for staging space. There is an additional film company which is currently filming on private property in the Town.

Mr. Vaughey wanted to make sure the Town will be notifying the residents of this activity. He also wanted to comment on the Road Knights/Let it Shine car show. They have taken over a good part of the waterfront for their Sunday morning market, and just wanted to make sure the Road Knights would be respectful of sharing space at the waterfront .

Supervisor Becker agreed, and stated that the Town parks department will be in charge of setting up the site for the Road Knights, which is a onetime occurrence at this time. Let it Shine will continue and was agreeable to this request.

Mr. Thomas Wood, Town Attorney stated that the Town Clerk may want to mention about filming, and the revenue it will bring in for the Town.

Ms. Laroue Shatzkin, Town Clerk stated that there is a fee schedule for filming which ranges from \$500 on private property, and minimum of \$800 per day on Town property. A large operation such as the two on the agenda, which will be at least a \$1000 per day. So this is a very

exciting opportunity for the Town, and will hopefully become a new source of revenue for the Town.

Mr. Chris Vargo appeared before the Board. He thanked the Town and the VRA for addressing some negative matters in the Town, and thanked Dr. Becker for doing such a thorough job. He asked how he would get a copy of this agreement.

Michael Cunningham, Deputy Town Attorney responded that a copy of any Town agreements including this one would be available with a FOIL request.

Mr. Vargo asked about the license agreements with the various food trucks at Town locations.

Supervisor Becker answered stated that there are not many choices for getting lunch out of Town Hall in the general vicinity of Town Hall and surrounding business. Councilperson Creighton has also helped coordinate this plan. They plan on housing at about 2 food trucks per day. It does not effect the Town negatively or financially.

Mr. Vargo wanted to make sure there is something in the license agreement about garbage removal. He is concerned about the area in Verplanck having more litter due to the food truck parking there. There is already a garbage problem with the current garbage cans. Perhaps they can get cans that have locking lids.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilperson Creighton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Town Hall Web Site address: www.townofcortlandt.com

Respectfully submitted,

Laroue Rose Shatzkin
Town Clerk

Christine B. Cothren
Deputy Town Clerk

