

A **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt was conducted on **May 22, 2022** with the following elected officials and appointed staff in attendance:

RICHARD H. BECKER	Supervisor
FRANCIS X. FARRELL	Councilmember
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
PATRICIA ROBCKE	Comptroller - ABSENT
MICHAEL PREZIOSI	Director, DOTS
CLAUDIA VAHEY	Human Resources Coordinator
STEPHEN FERREIRA	Director, DES

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & REPORTS

Supervisor Becker spoke about upcoming events in the Town:

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE POSTED ON THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM.

Arbor Day tree planning at the Cortlandt Youth Center, 6/2/22, 2:00 P.M., which is 50th Anniversary of Arbor Day.

Indian Pt. decommissioning meeting to be held on Thursday, 5/19/2022, 7:00 P.M.
Cortlandt Town Hall

Memorial Day ceremony at the Muriel H. Morabito Community Center to be Held on Friday, 5/27/2022, 1:30 p.m.

Veteran's Day picnic at the Charles J. Cook Pool to be held on Wednesday, 6/15/2022, 12:00 P.M.

Summer Concert Series at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park scheduled to begin on 6/16/2022.

Supervisor Becker stated that the Charles J. Cook Pool will be opening up for the summer on 6/4/2022 weekends Only. Beginning on 6/17/2022 the pool will be open daily. The Registration for Town of Cortlandt Day Camp is officially open, and encouraged residents to sign up their campers as soon as possible. There are also many employment opportunities for camp staff, seasonal laborers, lifeguards and more.

Supervisor Becker stated the Town is looking to hire an Art Curator to manage the art work that will be displayed at Town Hall.

The Cortlandt Paramedics/EMS will be leaving their space at the NYP Hudson Valley Hospital Center, and the Town will be leasing property from Northern Westchester Joint Water Works at 74 Locust Ave. to accommodate the paramedics needs, and give them a permanent home.

Supervisor Becker mentioned that there is a 180 foot cell tower proposed by Westchester County, Montrose Fire Tower to be located on Montrose Station Rd. to be used for the emergency services to be able to communicate in the areas of the Town which are known as "dead" spots. The Town requested, and encourage co-location of other commercial cell phone carriers. There is a letter drafted, and going to be sent to Westchester County to dispute this decision, and request that co-location is an option.

Supervisor Becker mentioned that the meeting will be closed this evening in honor of John Felt, who was Director of Planning for the Town of Cortlandt for many years until his retirement. He worked on many projects in the Town including ZORP, Cortlandt Town Center, 1991 Master Plan, and many other projects. He recently passed away and will be surely missed.

ROLL CALL

Laroue Rose Shatzkin, Town Clerk took roll call, and all Town Board members were present.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilperson Cristin Jacoby gave her report
OF NOTE:

Councilperson Jacoby stated that she attended an Earth Day event this past Saturday at the Croton Arboretum which is a beautiful area, and recommended that people should visit this fabulous part of Town.

Councilperson Jacoby thanked everyone who attended the MOD Public Hearing on Monday 5/2/2022. They were glad to hear all opinions and feedback from interested parties. She also noted the Town staff was very impressive with their knowledge of the imposed questions. The Town wants to keep this process as transparent as possible.

Councilperson Jacoby wanted to explain to the public about an item on the Agenda, which is authorizing the purchase of a sizeable amount for material goods to use for a project next year to repair water main infrastructure. They want to order the materials and fleet management ahead of time due to significant supply chain issues. These purchases are not usually made this far ahead of the project beginning. However, it will be necessary so that they are prepared for improvement projects and vehicles that are in good working condition. She thanked Patty Robke, Town Comptroller, Michael Preziosi, Dir. DOTS, and Stephen Ferreira, Dir. DES for their input and knowledge.

**Councilperson Robert Mayes gave his report
OF NOTE:**

Councilperson Mayes stated that he attended by Verplanck Quarry Committee meeting. He feels as though there is great potential for development in this Verplanck area of the Town. He appreciates that there are people from all areas of the Town participating in this process. The infrastructure improvements will be paid mostly by a 3.5 million dollar grant that the Town has received from the Federal government. Some the things we are looking at there are swimming in the quarry, there is a cider brewery/tap room that is interested in the area, and some indoor sports facilities.

Councilperson Mayes stated that he had the privilege to attend the Montrose Fire Department memorial breakfast which is an annual event that recognizes deceased members of the fire department. It was truly an honor at be present at this event.

Councilperson Mayes finished by saying that one of the things that he likes to do as a councilperson is to listen to the residents of the community and it is good to hear what people want to do with their areas of Town.

Supervisor Becker agreed that he is very happy to have so many people in the community involved in different aspects. He mentioned the Downtown Revitalization Committee which are members of the hamlets of Montrose and Verplanck , and the LWRP Committee, Local Waterfront Revitalization Committee, Annville Sewer District, and many more.

**Councilperson James Creighton gave his report
OF NOTE:**

Councilperson Creighton stated that as stated there is so much going on in the Town, and so very many meetings. He mentioned the Indian Pt. meetings, which are critical to residents of the Town. The Board members hope the residents will take time to participate and keep informed. There is a Zoom link for all meetings so that you do not even have to come out if you prefer not to. There are videos on the Town website that can be viewed by anybody interested.

Councilperson Creighton went on to mention the food truck vendors that will be at the Town Hall. He stated that he participated in I Love my Parks Day with Diane Alden and Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct this past weekend. He was inspired to see so many people coming out and working together, and the people putting it together had things run very well. They were so well prepared with everything you may need. He encourages everyone to take advantage of the many local, county, and state parks that are in and around the Town of Cortlandt. He thanked Assemblywoman Galef for assisting the Town of Cortlandt with a property line issue near the “Unique Croton River” area. He hopes all will be resolved before the hiking season ramps up.

Councilperson Creighton said that he was able to participate in some of the conferences with the NYS Federation of Lake Associations annual meeting. He was most interested in lake management challenges specifically harmful alga blooms. There will be a local lakes conference in Kent, NY which is run by Putnam County.

Senator Harckam sponsored a bill, it was S2992 which the Supervisor wrote a letter supporting on behalf of the Town Board that would include Furnace Brook in what the state calls their inland waterways. Ultimately what it allows for all of the grant funding available for our rivers. Supervisor Becker mentioned earlier the LWRP this also allows the lakes and streams along the Hudson River to have that funding available and can tap into the grant funding. So, we expect this to be signed by the governor by next week.

Councilperson Frank Farrell gave his report
OF NOTE:

Councilperson Farrell stated that he had the opportunity to canoe on the Croton River recently and recommended this activity to everyone.

Supervisor Becker mentioned by Westchester County Dept. of Public Safety presented at our work session the communications antenna that they intend to build to better serve our emergency services communication providers. As mentioned this is a County project on County property and they really don't need our permission. He is grateful for County Executive George Latimer and County Bd. of Legislators to be a good neighbor and make the Town aware of the project, and consider our input. The Town Board mentioned co-location of other cellular carriers, which is in the Town laws at this time. Also mentioned was Blue Mt. Park intersection of Montrose Station Rd. and Washington St. and site distance improvement as part of the project. They also indicated that it will be about two years before this project is actually underway.

Councilperson Farrell mentioned that the CCRA participated in the NYS Youth championship in Saratoga, NY this past weekend and did pretty well, about the top third of the pack. They are

grateful to the Town supporting their club. A Hendrick Hudson High School student who is involved in the rowing club has received a scholarship for rowing this year.

Councilperson Farrell echoed Councilperson Jacoby regarding supply chain issues and difficulties with getting materials, and trying to stay ahead of the projects. The Cortlandt Waterfront Park building under construction that is a Town building that the Town allows the Rowing Club to use has been delayed for a long period of time due to COVID and supply chain issues. So, the Town hopes to see this completed in the near future. He is thankful for the Town staff's perseverance with the project.

Councilperson Farrell wanted to mention how clear Lake Meahagh is looking and thanked Steve Ferreira and his department for the work that they have been doing there. Last year they replaced and rebuilt the pumps that run the aerators. Michael Preziosi, Dir. DOTS and his department have been monitoring the water quality and the work that is being done by the vendor who is taking care of the weeds. The lake has never looked better and he is very much appreciative of the hard work by the Town employees.

Councilperson Farrell wanted to mention the passing of Mr. John Felt, who was a long time planner for the Town that he had the privilege to work with over the years. He was a very impressive gentleman, soft spoken, very thoughtful, and always considered what was best for the Town. His expertise in Zoning especially along the Rte. 9A corridor was a great benefit to the Town. He wanted to express his condolences to the family and friends of John Felt.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilperson Mayes made a motion to adopt the minutes for the April 17, 2022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Jacoby with all voting **AYE**.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

HEARING OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

REPORTS

Receive and File the following:

Annual MS4 Report

1st Quarter 2022 DOTS – Code Enforcement Report

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

1. Resolution 65-22/Act 33-22 of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, adding 141 Furnace Woods Road into the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District; Refer to Legal, DOTS, Assessor and Receiver of Taxes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Receive and File the following:

1. State Environmental Quality Review Notice of Intent to become Lead Agency from Stony Point regarding Site Development for proposed Lovett 345kV Substation; refer to Planning.
2. Letter from resident of Trolley Road in Cortlandt requesting Road Closure for a Block Party; Refer to DES.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 158-22 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to execute a License Agreement with the Hendrick Hudson Free Library for new signage.

RESOLUTION REMOVED: ~~Adopt the Standard Workday Reporting Resolution 2022.~~

RESOLUTION NO. 159-22 RE: Authorize the settlement of a Tax Certiorari vs. 8 Sunset Trail LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 160-22 RE: Authorize the settlement of a Tax Certiorari vs Eastview/Southview Realty LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 161-22 RE: Authorize the settlement of a Tax Certiorari vs Skyview/Westview LLC

Agenda Items for DOTS:

RESOLUTION NO. 162-22 RE: Authorize the purchase of water main material for the Croton Park Road Water Main Replacement Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 163-22 RE: Authorization DOTS to design Tollhouse

Parking Lot improvements and obtain survey information as required to complete design.

RESOLUTION NO. 164-22 RE: Authorize Supplemental Consultant Contract with Barton and Loguidice for the design of swimming in the quarry.

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

Agenda Items for DES:

RESOLUTION NO. 165-22 RE: Authorize the purchase of vehicles and equipment.

RESOLUTION NO. 166-22 RE: Appoint Program Coordinator for Nor West.

RESOLUTION NO. 167-22 RE: Appoint two Clerks for the operations at the Tollhouse.

RESOLUTION NO. 168-22 RE: Appoint Summer Seasonals in DES.

RESOLUTION NO. 169-22 RE: Appoint Summer Seasonals in Recreation – Pool and Camp.

RESOLUTION NO. 170-22 RE: Authorize a Leave of Absence under FMLA for an employee in DES – Highway.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-22 RE: Appoint two Seasonals in the Justice Court.

RESOLUTION NO. 172-22 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to retain services for an art curator not to exceed \$5000.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Schedule a Public Hearing to consider a Local Law for Remote Meetings for June 14, 2022.

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

Supervisor Becker wanted to mention Resolution 65-22/Act 33-22 of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, adding 141 Furnace Woods Road into the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District. The County has approved an extension of the sewer district to include Maple Ave. to Rte. 202.

Supervisor Becker also commented on the new design for the parking lot and Tollhouse building. This is to be a visitor's center for those visiting the Town of Cortlandt and contains several

Revolutionary war points, history of the Town of Cortlandt, and is also the trail head walking up to Anthony's nose. We have been working with NYS Parks to design the area.

Supervisor Becker asked Stephen Ferreira, Dir. DES to explain the resolution for purchases of vehicles and equipment.

Stephen Ferreira, Dir. DES stated that every year they go through the fleet of vehicles with a 3 year look ahead to determine their approximate lifespan. This year there is a garbage packer truck, and four snow plow trucks and maintenance equipment that will need to be replaced.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Authorize the Town of Cortlandt to enter into an agreement with NYSDEC regarding Sprout Brook Barrier Removal.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Authorize DOTs to design renovations to Sprout Brook Field.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Authorize the Supervisor to execute a Lease Agreement with Northern Westchester Joint Water Works for a Paramedics Building, subject to Permissive Referendum.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Authorize the Department of Planning and Community Development to apply to the US Dept of Commerce for an EDA Nuclear Closure Communities Grant for the Annsville Sewer Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Appoint Ramsey Salcedo to the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC).

RESOLUTION NO. 173-22 RE: Add two individuals to the Temporary Service Pool list.

Councilperson Mayes 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, Ms. Diane Picciano, Mr. Bernard Vaughey, and Ms. Jackie Conklin appeared before the Board. They all shared concerns about wanting more police presence in Verplanck due to noise violations, speeding cars in the area.

These members of the Verplanck Residents Association handed in a petition with 140 signatures of Verplanck residents regarding the following top 3 issues which they are requesting a written answer as to a reasonable resolution for these issues within the next month. Mr. Warren Smith read the petition and to summarize the top 3 issues are as follows:

- 1.) Excessive speeding on Broadway, both upper and lower Broadway, Riverview Ave., and Hardy St.
- 2.) Illegal assembly in Town parks, and on Town property and Town roadways including but not limited to the area near Steamboat Dock, and Veteran's Memorial Park.
- 3.) Tractor trailers using residential streets to travel to the gypsum plant.

Mr. Smith added that the Verplanck Resident's Association meets monthly every 4th Tuesday of the month, and invited Supervisor Becker and the Board members, and residents to attend. He also added that there were other items brought up at meetings that need to be addressed as well such as late-night parties, and police presence to assist with this.

Ms. Diane Picciano reiterated the need for police presence in Verplanck, and gave some specific details of traffic issues which are affecting the safety and quality of life of the residents.

Mr. Bernard Vaughey went into great detail explaining how, where, and when the tractor trailers from the gypsum plant were using Verplanck residential streets to navigate to and from the plant. He noted the damage this can do to the infrastructure of the roads and the danger of them parking their loaded trucks on Town and church property on the gas line.

Mr. Bernard Vaughey wanted to thank Supervisor Becker and the Town Board for the Veteran's Banners throughout the Town. He also wanted to mention how the Broadway streetscape is coming along very nicely. Lastly, he mentioned the passing of Ernestine Slaving, 102 years old. A long time Verplanck resident and former employee of the Town of Cortlandt.

Supervisor Becker responded that he would be happy to and will reach out to the management at the gypsum plant, and he will be notifying the Westchester Co. Police and NYS Police. Furthermore, he stated that the Town has added a Park Ranger, and a Westchester County Police Community Resource Officer. He will discuss further with the Town Board, and see if they might add an extra police detail in Verplanck for the spring through early fall. Hopefully, this will make a difference with these issues.

Mr. Bernard Vaughey questioned Item #1 under New Business regarding a site development plant across the river, and will it be affecting the viewscape.

Supervisor Becker explained that this was a small project going on across the river with a utility pole and there would be no visual impact to the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. in honor of John Felt, longtime Planner for the Town of Cortlandt, and in memory of Ernestine Slaving, 102 years old, Verplanck resident who worked for the Town many years ago.

NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 14, 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