

White Creek Town Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024

The White Creek Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Major General John Wilson Sprague Building, 28 Mountain View Drive, Cambridge, New York. Supervisor Lance Allen Wang called the meeting to order at 7pm. Members present at the meeting were Supervisor Wang and Town Board Members Gregory Austin, Carey Murphy, Tammy Taber and Gregory Woodcock. Also present: Highway Superintendent Chris Rieben, Budget Officer Laura Manning, Town Assessor Darryl Caputo and CVRS President Robert Wilmot.

Resolution 10-2024 – Local Law #1 of 2024 – Income Levels for Senior Exemption

The first order of business on the agenda was to hold three (3) Public Hearings for the proposed Local Laws before the Board for approval. Supervisor Wang opened the Public Hearing at 7:01pm for the Income Eligibility Levels for Senior Exemptions- Local Law #1 of 2024. There were no comments or questions and the hearing was closed. Gregory Austin made the motion to adopt Local Law #1 of 2024 as presented. Tammy Taber seconded the motion and all other members voted in favor of adopting Local Law #1-2024.

Resolution 11-2024 – Local Law #2 of 2024 – Income levels for Disabilities and Limited Income

Supervisor Wang opened the Public Hearing for the Income Eligibility Levels for Exemptions for those persons with Disabilities and Limited Income at 7:04 pm. There were no comments or questions and the hearing was closed. Gregory Austin made the motion to adopt Local Law #2 of 2024 as presented. Gregory Woodcock seconded the motion and all members voted in favor of said adoption.

Resolution 12-2024 – Local Law #3 of 2024 – A Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.

Supervisor Wang opened the Public Hearing for the tax exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers at 7:06pm. Town Board Members Gregory Woodcock asked about how many people in the Town would benefit with this exemption. Assessor Darryl Caputo stated that fewer than thirty (30) people would be entitled to the exemption. There were no other comments or questions and the hearing was closed. Gregory Woodcock made a motion to adopt Local Law #3 of 2024 as presented. Tammy Taber seconded the motion and all members voted in favor of adoption of Local Law # of 2024. Said Local Laws will be effective March 01, 2024 with the filing with the Secretary of State.

Resolution 13-2024 – Approval of the January 09, 2024 Town Board Minutes

Gregory Woodcock made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 09, 2024 Town Board Meeting as presented. Gregory Austin seconded the motion and all others voted in favor of approval.

New Business

Planning Board Clerk Lisa Austin-Cuddihy informed the Board of a Site Plan Review Application that has been submitted to the Planning Board from Verizon Wireless by Attorney David Brennen. The Planning Board classified the action as a Site Plan Review at the February 7, 2024 meeting. The applicants are proposing to install a cell tower at 1133 State Route 22 a property owned by 17 Mile Pontiac, LLC. The tower will be placed behind the building which is presently used by Dollar General. The Planning Board has forwarded the information to Washington County Planning for their review at their regular monthly meeting on February 27, 2024. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th at 7:15pm.

Old Business

Opening of Bids – Town Hall Repairs

Three bids were received for the Town Hall repairs. Bids were received from Powell Woodcock, TKO and Alex Rich. The bids were opened and reviewed by the Board . It was decided to table the decision as the bids will need to be reviewed by the Building Committee . The three bids were as follows: Powell Woodcock Construction LLC at a price of \$6182.00, TKO Contracting price was \$6100.00 and Alex Rich Handyman, LLC with a price of \$9,750.00.

Resolution 14-2024 -New Flagpole for Town Hall from Service First

The Town Board voted to approve the purchase of a new twenty foot (20) aluminum telescopic flagpole from Service First of Provo, Utah. Gregory Austin made the motion to approve the purchase, motion seconded by Carey Murphy and all others voted in favor.

Donation of Life Vac

Town Board Member/Town Health Officer Gregory Woodcock generously donated a LifeVac kit to be placed at the Town Hall in case of a choking emergency. The LifeVac is a non-powered, non-invasive, single use only airway clearance device developed for resuscitating a victim with an airway obstruction when current choking protocols have been followed without success. CVRS President Robert Wilmot assisted with the demonstration of how the LifeVac is used in an emergency. Supervisor Wang and Board members thanked Town Board member Woodcock for his donation to the Town.

Assessor Report

Town Assessor Darryl Caputo submitted a monthly report of activities to the Board. Darryl stated that he is very busy assisting residents with the filing of exemptions. The deadline for filing is March 01, 2024.

Town Clerk's Report

Town Clerk Lisa Austin-Cuddihy submitted the monthly report for January 2024 with revenue in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). The town's portion was \$237.16. Lisa also reported on the January tax collection. The town's budget (\$1,080,780.00) has been paid out of the \$2,222,006.77 that was collected in January . The remaining monies (\$1,141,226.77) have been sent to the Washington County Treasurer. So far taxes collected in the month of February is \$66,239.48.

Budget Officer's Report

The monthly operating statement was submitted to the Board.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Chris Rieben submitted a monthly report of activities to the Board. Chris reported that the crew went out ten times on the roads due to snow and ice. Around 980 yards of sand, 50 ton of salt and 2 thousand gallons of brine were used. They have been out mowing and brushing in order to maintain the roads for safety, keeping the growth of brush and limbs back so the sun helps out with keeping the roads bare in the wintertime. A new generator needs to be purchased. Chris found one from Rod's Electric in Rutland for a price of \$2,786.00. The new loader arrived and a check was given to United for the purchase. There is Verizon FiOS internet service at the garage. Chris will be attending the advocacy day in Albany to lobby for CHIPS money on March 6, 2024.

Audit Report – Resolution 15-2024 – Approval of Monthly Bills

After reviewing and signing off on all bills submitted for the month, Gregory Woodcock made a motion to approve all vouchers as presented. Gregory Austin seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

General Account:	15,333.74
Highway Account:	25,918.75
Total Vouchers:	41,252.49

Town Historian Report

Historian Ted Rice submitted a monthly report of activities to the Board.

Justice Court Report

Town Justice Scott Lucey submitted a court report for January 2024 of \$2,390.00

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Wang stated that the application is in for the .gov domain and hopes to get the approval soon.

Resolution 16-2024- Appoint Kara I. Lais as Town Attorney for 2024.

After advertising the position and conducting interviews, it was determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to appoint Kara I. Lais, Esq. of Fitzgerald, Morris, Baker, Firth Law Firm as the attorney for the town for 2024 year. Attorney Lais will be hired at an hourly rate as needed. Gregory Austin made the motion to appoint Kara I Lais as the attorney for the Town. Carey Murphy seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the appointment.

Public Comment

Mr. Perry Young asked what the balance was for the ARPA funds the town had received during Covid. Budget Officer Laura Manning stated that \$152,873.31 is the balance and the town has

two more years to use the funds. Laura also stated that the general account has reserve funds of \$26,000.00 and highway fund has \$64,000.00.

Connie Carle asked how high the new flag pole is going to be. The flag pole will be 20 feet in height.

Ron McEvelly asked for updates on the issue of a lost file and unidentified key that was brought up at the November 2023 meeting. Supervisor Wang stated that there has been no more discussion or questions regarding the matter. Although, the Building Committee could choose to change out the locks on doors. Also, to better understand how the security cameras work , an officer from the Police Department that is fairly familiar with the system will assist in helping to better understand how the backup works. The officer is presently out on family leave.

The Board received an email request from Kathrine Hondrogen in regards to littering on town roads. Ms. Hondrogen urged the Board to consider instituting a littering fine as a means of addressing this problem. The Board tabled this request until the March 12th monthly meeting. Town Board Member Gregory Austin stated that he had reached out to seven different residents to join the Town's Agricultural Committee. He received interest from three residents, one declined and he had not heard from the others. Ron McEvelly wanted to know how the selection was done of those seven residents. Greg stated he focused in on people that make their living from agriculture .

Adjourn – Resolution 17-2024

There being no further business on the agenda, Tammy Taber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carey Murphy and all voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Austin-Cuddihy, White Creek Town Clerk