

Town of Copake
Special Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
10:00AM

This meeting is being held "in-person" in Town Hall. The access information for the meeting has been posted and there are members of the public present virtually.

Members Present via Google Meet: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, and Councilperson Sullivan

Virtually: Councilperson Judd

Present: Town Clerk, Lynn Connolly

Supervisor Mettler opens the Special Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Mettler states that there are a couple of items of new business to be discussed before going into Executive Session to conduct interviews.

Supervisor Mettler states that this meeting is being recorded and will be posted within five business days.

Supervisor Mettler states that the first item that she would like to deal with is the recommendation by the Road Advisory Committee for the Town Board to accept a proposal from Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners.

Supervisor Mettler states that a question was raised by Councilperson Sullivan via email if anyone knew this firm or worked with them before?

Tom Goldsworthy of the Roads Advisory Committee states that he has not worked with the in the past but came recommended by folks in Hudson. They are working on two high profile project in Hudson. The first project is Promenade Hill Park at the base of Warren Street which just opened three weeks ago. It was a year and a half long process and they were using DRI funds that came from NYS. They are familiar with NYS rules, public projects, and the way of dealing with local communities as well. The second project they are working on in Hudson is the Seventh Street Park located on Seventh Street and Warren Street. They are doing the design work for that and are pulling together public input for that as well. Mr. Goldsworthy states that Starr Whitehouse is a pretty big firm, headquartered in New York City with offices in Atlanta, Georgia and in Hudson, New York, the latter established in 2020 and the partner who runs the Hudson office is Gail Wittwer-Laird who lives in Hillsdale. She is very familiar with Copake and the county. Stephen Whitehouse who is a managing partner of the firm owns a home in Boston Corners and is very familiar with the area as well. Mr. Goldsworthy mentions that when the Roads Advisory Committee put out the request for proposals this summer they also received a proposal from GPI. GPI is the engineering firm working with the county on the road project but they are dedicated to working on what the county wants them to do and not necessarily what the town wants out of a consultant and so the RAC felt it was better to have somebody who was independent of the county, who is familiar with the town's interest, and would advocate on the town's behalf. Starr Whitehouse gave a

presentation last month with a very detailed proposal and at the RAC meeting last night, they voted unanimously to accept their proposal and recommend them to the Town Board to be hired as consultant to the town.

Supervisor Mettler confirms with Mr. Goldsworthy that the electrical portion of this project is not included in this proposal. Mr. Goldsworthy mentions that Starr Whitehouse does not have an electrical engineer the town would have to hire an electrical engineer or have GPI do it through the county. The portion needed would be the electrical wiring diagrams for installing street lamps.

At this time Councilperson Judd excuses himself from the meeting briefly.

A brief conversation ensued regarding the cost of the GPI proposal of \$120,000 which includes electric.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to authorize the Supervisor to sign the scope of services proposal from Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners PLLC provided that it is reviewed and approved by the town attorney conditioned on the availability of the use of the Capital Reserve Funds.

Four in favor. Councilperson Judd absent. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler states that the next item to be taken care of is the tax certiorari settlement proposal.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve a settlement in the Camp Pontiac Associates LLC vs. Town of Copake Assessment Review matters that would: 1. Reduce the 2021 Assessed Value of tax map parcel #186.-2-38.4 from \$7,500,000 to \$6,750,000, 2. Maintain the 2021 Assessed Value of tax map parcel #186.-2-33 as set forth on the 2021 Assessment Roll, and 3. Maintain the 2022 Assessed Value of tax map parcels #186.-2-38.4 and 186.-2-33 as set forth on the 2022 Assessment Roll with RPTL727.

A brief conversation ensued.

Three in favor. Councilperson Sullivan abstained. Councilperson Judd absent. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting interviews.

Four in favor. Councilperson Judd absent. Motion approved.

The Executive Session will not be recorded and there will be no minutes taken.

At 11:26am, a motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to come out of Executive Session.

All in favor. (Councilperson Judd did not vote.) Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler states that there are still interviews to do but at this time the Town Board will take care of some other business.

Supervisor Mettler has sent the Town Board information regarding a request to do an event at the Park building. Joan McMaster of Copake Falls has made an application to use the park facility, both the

building and the grounds for a United Kennel Club Nosework Match. This is an event in which dogs are competing, sniffing dogs.

Supervisor Mettler has checked this out with the insurance carrier and it is acceptable to them from an insurance standpoint. Supervisor Mettler has also checked with the Park Superintendent, Bill Gregory and Event Planner, Bob Callahan and it is also acceptable with them.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to allow Joan McMaster's group to have the UKC Nosework Match at the Copake Park sometime in January or February 2023.

Four in favor. Councilperson Judd abstained. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler has asked the Town Board to sign off on the abstracts that were prepared for today and those checks will go out. Stipends will be included in this abstract but Supervisor Mettler should have included the Board of Assessment Review. This will be added to the policy manual in December.

The Town Clerk mentions and asks for permission to post and rerun the ads for the Ethics Board and the Zoning Board, Alternate Member.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to post and rerun the ads for the Ethics Committee and ZBA.

All in favor. (Councilperson Judd did not vote.) Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler mentions that the Larry Proper event is this Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 10:00am at the Copake Town Hall.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board has interviewed Bill Gregory for the Park Superintendent position in Executive Session. He was the only person to apply for this position.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to appoint Bill Gregory as Park Superintendent effective January 2023.

All in favor.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to go back into Executive Session for the purposes of conducting interviews.

All in favor. Motion approved.

The Executive Session will not be recorded and there will be no minutes taken.

At 11:48am, a motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to come out of Executive Session.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board is out of Executive Session and the Town Board has completed the scheduled interviews. When the Town Board came out of Executive Session earlier, they did appoint Bill Gregory as Park Superintendent effective January 2023.

In regard to the Bicentennial Committee, it will be put off until Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 10:00am to conclude the interviews and have final discussion.

Councilperson Judd requests time to have a presentation of one or two of the electric vehicle charging organizations.

Supervisor Mettler states that between now and the end of the year they still have interviews, the December Town Board meeting, and suggests doing this presentation in January. Councilperson Judd agrees.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor. (Councilperson Judd did not vote.) Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly