

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Lawrence O. Proper, was born to the late Otis W. Proper and Lorraine (Hume) Proper on January 27, 1957 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, Lawrence O. Proper, known as “Larry” to his many friends, attended Roeliff Jansen Central School and graduated in 1975 from Taconic Hills Central School, and in 1977 married his high school sweetheart, Teri S. Miller and with her raised four children in the Town of Copake, and

Whereas, in 1979, Larry was hired as Machine/Equipment Operator by the Town of Copake Highway Department and began a thirty year career with the Copake Highway Department which included two and half years as Deputy Highway Superintendent and eleven and half years as Highway Superintendent, and Larry also served as Member and Treasurer of the Columbia County Association of Town Superintendents, and

Whereas, following his 30 years of employment with the Copake Highway Department, Larry accepted the position of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for the Taconic Hills Central School District where he worked from March 2, 2008 to January 27, 2012, and

Whereas, Larry was elected to the office of Copake Town Clerk in 1985 and held the position from January 1, 1986 until December 31, 1998, at which time he became Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and in November 2011, was re-elected to the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector and served two terms from 2012 through 2020 when he stepped down and again assumed the role as Deputy to support the incoming Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and

Whereas, Larry was a member of the Copake Parks and Recreation Commission and Park Superintendent of the Copake Memorial Park and in 2010 the Town of Copake named the new park building after him, in honor of his years of dedicated service to the Park, and

Whereas, throughout his life, Larry volunteered for the good of the community including joining the Craryville Fire Department at the age of sixteen; the Community Rescue Squad at the age of 18, and the Copake Volunteer Fire Department which he joined at the age of 23 and in which he remained active for his entire life, including holding the office of Vice President, Treasurer, Member of the Five Alarm Caterers, Member of Board of Directors, and Lifetime Member and additionally in 1983, he became Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners and later held the position of Fire Commissioner and Deputy Treasurer, and

Whereas, Larry also volunteered for numerous community efforts including the Taconic Hills Dollars for Scholars Burger/Laverack Annual Alumni Soccer Game & BBQ, the Copake Little League team where he was coach for 10 years, the Roe Jan Youth Soccer Program and the Roe Jan Little League Association, where he served as Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, and

Whereas, the Town of Copake and the entire Roe Jan community was shocked and heartbroken when on November 29, 2021, at the age of 64, this kind good man passed away, leaving his beloved wife of 44 years, three sons, one daughter and three grandchildren, and

Whereas, in the year since his death, all those in Town Government and the people of the Town of Copake have mourned the loss of this beloved public servant and expressed their respect for this man who treated everyone fairly and with kindness and who served the Town of Copake for over four decades, and who loved Copake and dedicated his entire life to the Town of Copake and the people of Copake,

NOW THEREFORE, we the Members of the Copake Town Board do hereby honor **LAWRENCE O. PROPER**, for a life of public service and on behalf of the Town of Copake, now dedicate the Copake Town Clerk’s Office in his memory.

Stanley Gansowski
Councilmember

Richard Wolf
Deputy Supervisor

Terry Sullivan
Councilmember

Jeffrey Judd
Councilmember

Dated: November 10, 2022
Copake, New York

Jeanne E. Mettler
Supervisor