

Public Hearing and Town Board Meeting
via Google Meet
March 10, 2022
7:00PM

Supervisor Mettler states that pursuant to Governor Hochul's Executive Order [(S.50001/A.40001)] we are meeting virtually. The invitation to the meeting has been posted, the public is present. There will be minutes for this meeting and this meeting will be recorded.

Members Present: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, Councilperson Judd, and Councilperson Sullivan.

Present: Town Clerk, Lynn Connolly, Attorney Jonathon Tingley present via Google Meet

Supervisor Mettler states that the monthly meeting will begin at 7:00pm but before that she opens the Public Hearing at 6:50pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing is in regard to our local law entitled "To Establish the Position Of Confidential Administrative Assistant To The Town Supervisor, With The Policy Influencing/Confidential Designation, To Be A Position In The Exempt Class Of The Classified Service And Authorizing The Supervisor Of The Town of Copake to Appoint An Individual Who Has Not Taken The Civil Service Examination To Such Position To Serve At The Pleasure Of The Supervisor."

Supervisor Mettler states that this information has been posted on our website and opens the Public Forum.

Public Forum

Marcia Becker states that she has read the job description and she noticed that grant management is part of the work and wonders if grant writing can be part of the description.

Supervisor Mettler states that if we can find the right person that could write grants, absolutely.

Councilperson Sullivan asks about the term Confidential Administrative Assistant.

Supervisor Mettler states that that is just the term that Civil Service told the town to use.

Councilperson Sullivan states that it mentions bookkeeping skills and what is the difference between our accountant and the new person's role.

Supervisor Mettler states that this position in her view would be a bookkeeper-plus, clerical work in terms of keeping of the personnel files, NYS Retirement, and dealing with the health insurance for all of the retirees.

Councilperson Sullivan asks if this position would take the responsibilities away from our current bookkeeper.

Supervisor Mettler states that this position would replace our accountant doing the bookkeeping.

Supervisor Mettler closes the Public Hearing.

Call to Order

Supervisor Mettler opens the Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve and accept the Minutes as written for the Town Board meeting of February 10, 2022 and for the Special Town Board Meeting of February 22, 2022.

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Announcements

Supervisor Mettler states that the town now has many, many COVID tests and masks available for anyone at the Town Clerk's office. If picking up for an organization, please call ahead.

Supervisor Mettler states that there is a Hazardous Waste Day at the Greenport Highway Garage on May 7, 2022. This will be in the Copake Connection and the town website for information.

Supervisor Mettler announces the passing of Lester Miller. Mr. Miller, known to many as "Sonny", passed away on Sunday, February 27, 2022 at the age of 89. He had worked for Copake Highway Department for ten years when in 1974 he was elected as Highway Superintendent and served that position for 24 years. He was also a Captain of the Community Rescue Squad and a Captain and Commissioner of the Copake Fire Department and mainly, he was a good kind man. What people most said about him was "what a sweet man." The flag in front of Town Hall and the Park was flown at half-staff in honor of Mr. Miller and we will adjourn tonight in memory of this generous, kind, and civic minded man.

Correspondence

From-Supreme Court of the State of NY, Notice of Petition, Article 78

From-BAR Chair, Deborah Cohen, email regarding recommendation to reappoint member

From-Michael Messing, email supporting the Resolution Against Hate and Violence

From- Kim Vossler, email supporting the Resolution Against Hate and Violence and the cleanup of dog mess on Mountain View Road

From-NYS DEC, Notice of Complete Application for Camp Pontiac, LLC

From-Miranda Magagnini, email regarding lowering speed limit on County Route 7A

From-Copake Town Justice, letter regarding Internal Audit

From-Columbia County, Notice for Hazardous Waste Collection Day

From-Diamond Properties, letter regarding Notice of Violation for Waubeeka Family Campground

From- Diamond Properties, FOIL request

From-Signe Adam, email following up regarding short term rentals

From-John Cady, email regarding short term rentals

From- Boy Scouts of America, regarding having a movie night

From-Charter Communications, letter regarding pricing changes

From-Grant Langdon, 16 emails and letters

Supervisor Mettler states that Grant Langdon has written to the Town numerous, numerous emails this month as well as numerous letters and emails in Supervisor Mettler's last ten years on the Town Board. Included in these emails is what Mr. Langdon calls a "Petition". In the Petition he asks for the Town Board to censure Assistant District Attorney Paul Czajka and also to pass a resolution in favor of a county manager at the county level.

Supervisor Mettler asks for Attorney Tingley's advice regarding the towns' obligation regarding such a Petition.

Attorney Tingley states that the Town Board has very limited authority and power which is granted by the state and anytime the Town Board wants to do something it has to find authority in statute to that. Unfortunately, Mr. Langdon's request is not really the proper subject of a Town Board action. It is really not the proper forum for what he is requesting. There may be other avenues available to Mr. Langdon but unfortunately the Town Board is not one of those.

Supervisor Mettler states that she has asked Mr. Tingley to advise the Town Board because she would like this on the record and included in the minutes. Mr. Langdon has written that he is disappointed that the Town Board has not talked about his letters more or responded. Supervisor Mettler states that Mr. Tingley's advice is absolutely consistent with the advice the Town Board had received from the town's previous attorney.

Supervisor Mettler asks the Town Clerk to include the following comment in the minutes for this meeting: "This Town Board empathizes with Mr. Langdon's situation. Some of us even personally remember the time he is talking about and the fear and anxiety that accompanied that period of time but as Town Board Members, there is nothing we can do to ease or approve Mr. Langdon's situation other than to read his letters, which we do, and always treats him with respect, which is what we are doing tonight. Supervisor Mettler stated that she is not calling for a vote on the Petition tonight." She asked if any other Board members wished to comment.

Supervisor Mettler states that she reached out to Mr. Langdon's family. Mr. Langdon lives a great distance from Copake. He is an elderly man and he no longer has a car. Although several days ago she thought a letter to Mr. Langdon would be appropriate, she no longer thinks that is necessary.

Councilperson Wolf adds that when Mr. Langdon came to some of our Town Board meetings in the past, he was told quite respectfully that the Town Board did not have the authority to take the action which Mr. Langdon had wanted.

Supervisor's Report

Tonight I want to talk about infrastructure. But before I do, I need to talk about Copake's most precious asset: The Copake Memorial Clock.

In the past week we have had phone calls and visits to the Town Hall with worried residents asking one question: Are you going to move the Copake Clock? As in "are you going to move it away"? Get rid of it. Answer: Unequivocally, cross my heart, read my lips: NO.

Tonight I am announcing a Public Town Hall meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday April 9, 2022. At this meeting Columbia County DPW Commissioner Ray Jurkowski will be presenting the County's plans for the reconstruction of County Route 7A in the Copake Hamlet.

In 2018, Columbia County made a commitment the reconstruction project and Supervisor Jeff Nayer appointed a Road Advisory Committee. At that time the Committee was working with County Engineer Dean Knox. Construction was targeted for 2022. The cost of the project was budgeted at \$4.5 million to be paid for by Federal, State and County funds. Copake's only financial commitment was to add so called "amenities" such as streetlights and park benches. The project when complete will provide better drainage, increased accessibility to our hamlet businesses, safe sidewalks for pedestrians and safe intersections for motorists.

In 2020 the County hired an engineering firm. But also in 2020 everything was slowed down by the pandemic, and that continued in 2021. And also, very tragically, we lost Dean Knox which was a personal loss to all of us since he was a Copake native.

Commissioner Jurkowski started with Columbia County in January 2022 and he met with the Road Advisory Committee in February. I can tell you unequivocally that the current plan **does not move the clock at all**. What was discussed with the committee in February was whether the clock should be moved a few or up to 10 feet away from the curb to protect it from snowplows or a driver with a trailer who takes the turn too sharp. The committee agreed that moving the clock a very few yards is a possibility and that would be done by experts taking every precaution to safeguard our clock.

Actually, the one unfortunate result of the reconstruction project is that the actual construction is targeted for 2024, which is the Bicentennial of Copake. I was very disappointed to hear this, but I have become convinced that hoping for completion before 2024 is unrealistic. And so, I am suggesting tonight that we postpone the organization of a Bicentennial Committee. In April 2024, we will have a commemoration the 200th Anniversary of the first Town Board meeting, but we will postpone the actual celebration – which will surely include a parade, until our streets are and sidewalks are paved and our downtown is beautiful.

The Hamlet project is a County project. But later on tonight I will propose some Town infrastructure projects and issues. Specifically, I will ask the Board to approve transfers from unallocated funds to Reserve funds. I will propose that we set aside funds to cover our share of the Hamlet reconstruction. We will also set aside funds for future road repairs and for highway equipment. All of this is meant to secure our financial future, assuring that we have funds for foreseeable or even unforeseen circumstances.

I am also going to ask the Board to consider three more immediate concerns: the repaving and possible expansion of the Municipal lot in the Hamlet, the paving of the Parking lot at the Park building, and finally, the construction of a storage building at the Highway Garage to store and protect our equipment.

We will talk about the merits of these projects in a few moments. But what I want to tell you is that we ended 2021 with a \$600,000 surplus. This surplus is attributable to increase in sales tax, building permits and mortgage tax receipts. So the Town can pay for all or virtually all of the projects we are considering using just that surplus.

Someone is bound to say that we should just put that money in a bank to save it for a rainy day. We have money in banks for a rainy day. If you look at the 2021 AUD you will see that Copake has very healthy reserves, which more than protect us from any unforeseen calamities.

Being fiscally responsible is not just keeping taxes flat. Being fiscally responsible is also investing in the Town and its infrastructure. As taxpayers you entrust us with your tax dollars. It is up to us to budget carefully and prudently, it is up to us to not waste your hard earned money. But it is also up to us to maintain our infrastructure and invest in the future of the Town. That is what we are doing. And if anyone tells you differently, you can tell them that we are not, and by the way, we are not moving the clock, either.

March 2022 Solar update from Councilperson Wolf

On Tuesday, Hecate filed with the State's Office of Renewable Energy Siting ("ORES") an application for a siting permit for the Shepherd's Run — five years after Hecate first approached the Town Board about building a solar facility on the Rasweiller farm in Craryville, along County Route 7, south of State Route 23.

And it's been more than two years since Hecate unveiled its proposal for Shepherd's Run, so named because Hecate envisioned sheep grazing under approximately 200,000 solar panels. In January, 2020, its representatives said they intended to place the panels, inverters, transmission lines, access roads, and possibly battery storage facilities across 500 acres within an 800 acre Project Area, much of it prime farmland. And they made it clear that they had no intention of complying with Copake's zoning regulations or presenting its proposal to the Town's Planning Board for site plan review — because they didn't have to. Instead, Hecate let us know it would apply to the State's Article 10 Siting Board for approval, overriding local laws. The crumbs offered to the Town by the Article 10 process were that two of the seven Siting Board members would be nominated by Copake. "Crumbs" because the other five members were high-ranking State officials who were appointed by the Governor and rubber-stamped their approval of all siting applications.

But this wasn't good enough for the developers. They complained that the Article 10 process was too slow, and towns actually had an opportunity to adjudicate issues and concerns before the Siting Board's administrative law judges. So...the State passed a new law, Section 94-c of the Executive Law, creating a much faster-track to State approval through ORES...and no more Town representation on the site approving body.

At Board meetings and elsewhere, for more than a year we have repeated that we support the State's ambitious climate goals and want to do our fair share to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. But we have been advocating for a solar project that is appropriately-sized for our small, rural town and sited in locations that are effectively shielded from nearby homes.

We urged Hecate to find a way to significantly reduce the project's planned 500 acres "inside the fence". And it did so! But, the proposal still calls for 228 acres inside the fence. It is still too big.

We urged Hecate not to use chain-link fencing around and throughout the project. Instead, we proposed more “wildlife friendly” fencing, akin to that used by some area tree farms. And Hecate agreed!

We urged Hecate not to use saplings and non-native trees for screening. We proposed the use of mature trees, planted in staggered rows to better “hide” the thousands and thousands of solar panels and equipment.

We urged Hecate to provide compensation to project-adjacent homeowners.

We have repeatedly urged Hecate to work with us to develop a project template that respects Home Rule, follows local laws, and thereby preserves rural and small town environments. We’ve said that if Hecate were to become true community partners, we would even “go on the road” with them and advocate for such projects throughout the State. We envisioned a win-win situation — actually a triple-win situation, benefitting Copake, Hecate and New York State’s efforts to reach its climate targets.

As you probably know, supporters and opponents of the Hecate proposal met as a Working Group and made a series of recommendations to improve Shepherd’s Run. Last week, Hecate’s Project Director told The Columbia Paper, “The vast majority of the Working Group’s suggestions were integrated into the Project’s application/design.” (The Columbia Paper, March 3, 2022, p. 3)

We haven’t yet had a chance to review the massive application and exhibits, so it is impossible to assess the accuracy of this claim. But information currently available on the Shepherd’s Run website regarding three important recommendations from both the Town and the Working Group is not encouraging:

Landscaping/screening: During the permitting process, “Hecate will work with the Working Group...to incorporate the Working Group’s design suggestions with Hecate’s schedule, budget and other business objectives.” I read this to mean, “Trust us. We’ll see what we can do — now that we’ve filed our application!”

Compensation to project-adjacent homeowners: “Hecate has created site specific buffers for families that are uniquely impacted. Hecate has also implemented setbacks in accordance with the Copake town law and the 94-c Regulations.” This is NOT compensation. It is cold comfort to these homeowners whose property values — for many, their life savings — will drop significantly when they have to look across the road at solar fields. Only in for-profit corporate-speak could Hecate’s language be interpreted to mean “compensation”.

Do not clear-cut 40 acres of existing forested land: Rather than relocate the panels slated to replace forested land, “Hecate has committed to include approximately 800 trees and 800 scrubs in the Project’s landscaping plan. Hecate will perform a detailed greenhouse gas calculation to show the net benefit of installing the Project and how long it will take to negate the loss...” of the forested area. In other words, Hecate, while it claims to be working to save the planet, is nonetheless willing to lose the carbon-capturing benefits of 40 acres of forested land rather than move the panels or slightly reduce the size (and the profitability) of Shepherd’s Run.

Our solar attorney and environmental engineering firm will review the application carefully to see which, if any, additional improvements to the project Hecate has included in the application.

In the meantime, here’s where things stand.

1. Our solar attorney will apply to ORES for funding available to Copake to proceed with the 94-c process. If granted, these funds will help defray legal and environmental engineering expenses incurred by the Town as we address Hecate's application.

2. Copake continues as lead petitioner (now appellant) in the lawsuit challenging the ORES-promulgated regulations under which Hecate is proceeding. Copake is not paying for this litigation.

3. Supervisor Mettler has written to Governor Hochul urging her to get involved in helping to fashion a win-win solution, and to see for herself, the Working Group's on-line presentation. She wrote, "ORES should not deem the Hecate application complete until Hecate has fully adopted or at a minimum has demonstrated why they cannot adopt each of the proposals." By the way, the ORES Acting Director is appointed by the Governor. You can find the letter on the Town website.

The next step for us is a full review of the application and supporting exhibits.

Department Heads/Committee Reports

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board receives monthly reports from the Highway Department, the Building Department, the Assessor, and the Dog Control Officer and if anyone would like to view them they can contact the Town Clerk.

Public Forum

Linda Senk asks Councilperson Wolf how long we have to review the application process to write letters to move this in a different direction.

Councilperson Wolf states that the process of review by ORES can take quite a while. They need to review the materials and determine whether the application is complete and he believes that is sixty days but he is not positive. Further questions would be directed to Ben Wisniewski but in the meantime, start getting those cards and letters ready to send to ORES.

Lindsey LeBrecht thanks everybody for their hard work on this. Ms. LeBrecht cannot believe how the government can just dictate and have no regard for the people in Copake. There are other places that want that and Copake has made it clear that they don't.

New Business

a. Proposal for Lakeview Road Retaining Wall Repairs-New Estimate

Supervisor Mettler states that at the last meeting the Town Board approved the work that we thought would be completed for \$100,000 but we were shy of about \$15,000.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve the GSI Proposal for the Lakeview Road Retaining Wall Repairs in the amount of \$115,812.90 paid through unallocated funds.

All in favor. Motion approved.

b. 1993 Elgin Pelican Sweeper- To be designated as surplus

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 10 of March 10, 2022**

To Approve the Highway Superintendent's Sale of a 1993 Elgin Pelican Sweeper

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has determined that a certain 1993 Elgin Pelican Sweeper (the "Equipment") owned by the Town is no longer needed by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent seeks Town Board approval to declare such Equipment as surplus and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to dispose of such Equipment by sale at auction; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board declares that the Equipment is surplus equipment that is no longer needed by the Town; and

It is hereby **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Highway Law § 142(5), the Town Board approves the Highway Superintendent's request that he be permitted to sell the Equipment at auction.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #10
Dated March 10, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

c. 2021 AUD

Supervisor Mettler states that the 2021 AUD, which is the Annual Financial Report Update Document, was done by the firm of Robert Patterson. It has been filed with New York State and Supervisor Mettler is acknowledging it and it will be posted on the front page of our website with the other financial documents.

d. Requests for transfers to Reserve Funds

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Judd to authorize our attorney, Jon Tingley to prepare Resolutions to transfer the following amounts of unallocated funds to reserve funds:

1. Capital Improvement-\$750,000 (bringing the reserve to a new balance of \$1,756,521)
1. Equipment-\$150,000 (bringing the reserve to a new balance of \$1,099,788)
2. Road Repair-\$300,000 (bringing the reserve to a new balance of \$600,879)

All in favor. Motion approved.

There was a brief discussion with the Highway Superintendent regarding the equipment and future road repairs.

e. Projects to be considered

1. Municipal Parking Lot

Supervisor Mettler states that the first project that the Town Board needs to think about is to improve the municipal lot, pave the municipal lot which exists behind the old Kirk Kneller building. This lot was used quite a bit as a municipal lot until it fell into disuse. It has not been repaired and is in very poor condition and there are huge dead trees along the edge of the lot. With all of the changes in the hamlet there will be changes in the parking which will be discussed at the April 9, 2022 Public Meeting. In order to be ready to address those issues, it is very important to be proactive in thinking about this municipal lot and what we can do to improve it and possibly expand it which would be a real asset to the town business. A preliminary estimate of this work would cost about \$100,000.

Supervisor Mettler is not asking for approval tonight but wanted to put it out there for discussion.

Councilperson Gansowski asks if this estimate includes the trees as well and it does not.

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that the Highway Department will work with their tree company that they use.

Supervisor Mettler would like the Town Board to review this and it will be readdressed in the future.

2. Parking Lot at Park Building

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that he thinks it was always the towns' intention since the Park building to blacktop that parking lot and it certainly needs to be done and then to add some parking spots as well which would be part of the paving process if the town were to move forward with this project.

Supervisor Mettler states that we are now using that building for the senior lunches and if we could improve that parking lot and maybe add more handicapped spaces closer to the building, it would be good move on the towns' part.

Highway Superintendent Gregory has received a tentative estimate on this work in the amount of \$159,500.

Supervisor Mettler's suggestion to the Town Board would be to do a motion to put this out to bid and asks Highway Superintendent Gregory to do an RFP for this work.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to put this parking lot project out to bid.

All in favor. Motion approved.

3. Cold Storage-Highway Department-Stosh Gansowski

Supervisor Mettler states that this is for an unheated storage unit for the highway department.

Councilperson Gansowski states that he was up at the highway garage looking at the transfer switches for the generators and he happened to be in there when the trucks were back in and it was so crowded you cannot move in that building. Councilperson Gansowski would like the Town Board to ride up to the highway garage around 3:30pm and take a look for themselves at how super crowded it is.

Highway Superintendent Gregory then showed Councilperson Gansowski what the Town of Ancram put up which is a new cold storage building. It is called cold storage because there is no heat but you can place the trucks in there and if they have to work on a truck they can work on it in the heated building.

Talking about infrastructure, Councilperson Gansowski would like to see this for Highway Department and would like to put up a motion to put out an RFP for an engineering firm to see how to build something like this.

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that the Highway Garage was built in 1989. It was probably sufficient then but things have been upgraded in the last thirty years and have added equipment that they didn't have back then and they really are cramped for space in the highway garage and if the Town Board were to go down to Copake where there is additional storage where the records room is and some other stored town stuff, that is even more crowded. There has probably been a need to add storage space for the last ten to fifteen years.

Councilperson Gansowski states that a few years back, Highway Superintendent Gregory showed him a place that Larry Proper had a place cleaned out to put a garage in the future and it is behind the highway garage and some of the excavating is already done.

Highway Superintendent Gregory adds that the space has been already created.

Supervisor Mettler states that she absolutely favors this but there is one more piece of this that she learned from Jon Tingley. If the Town Board chose to, they could just offer this to one firm.

Attorney Tingley explains that engineering services are professional services and if the Town Board has a comfort level with a particular firm or particular engineer and feels that it is

getting the best value through that party for those professional services then the Town Board can just obtain a proposal from that firm and authorize that contract. If the Town Board does not have that they are certainly welcome to request proposals from multiple firms but it is not required because these are professional services.

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that he did speak to the engineering firm who worked on Ancram's cold storage building, CLP Engineering from Hudson, and they indicated to him that if the town was to work with their firm, they would be kind of working off of a template of Ancram's building so that would probably save the town a considerable amount of money on the engineering part of this project.

Attorney Tingley advises the Town Board that there is really no need to make a motion. The Town Board just needs to obtain a proposal and at the next meeting, if the Town Board is comfortable with it, they can act on it.

Councilperson Wolf states that this is very encouraging and what we are ending up with here is the opportunity to fix up the municipal parking lot, fix up the park parking lot and it and build a cold storage building for the Highway Department and basically fund all of this with the surplus from just this past year which is pretty amazing and a good use of the money.

f. Park Superintendent Position

Supervisor Mettler states that Park Superintendent is not really accurate. What the town is doing is instead of having a Park Superintendent the town is going to hire a company to do the maintenance at the Copake Park as well as other the other Copake owned properties throughout the town.

Supervisor Mettler states that the town put out an RFP seeking proposals for the maintenance of the Copake Memorial Park and Town of Copake properties for the year 2022. This was advertised and received one proposal from United Lawn Care, LLC. in the amount of \$11,500.

Supervisor Mettler then introduces Stacey Hartka of United Lawn Care, LLC.

Stacey Hartka shares some information about herself. She is the clerk for the ZBA. She grew up in Copake and her and her husband started their business three years ago. They have three sons who play baseball on the Taconic Hills Little League. Her husband is the manager of a travel baseball league. They know a lot about baseball fields and Ms. Hartka felt like this would be a perfect fit. United Lawn Care, LLC takes care of the Stuyvesant VFW baseball fields as well.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to accept the proposal of United Lawn Care, LLC for the maintenance of Copake Memorial Park and Town of Copake Properties for the year of 2022 in the amount of \$11,500.

All in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to transfer \$11,500 from A7141 which is Personnel to A7144 which is Contractual.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Highway Superintendent Gregory estimates to the Town Board the immediate costs for mulch, clay, and materials to get the park up and running would be around \$4,370.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the expense from Playgrounds Contractual A7144 for up to \$5000 for clay and mulch for the 2022 season.

All in favor. Motion approved.

g. Local Law for creation of the position of Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor

Supervisor Mettler states that we have had a Public Hearing on the Local Law #2 of the year 2022 to Establish the Position Of Confidential Administrative Assistant To The Town Supervisor, With The Policy Influencing/Confidential Designation, To Be A Position In The Exempt Class Of The Classified Service And Authorizing The Supervisor Of The Town of Copake to Appoint An Individual Who Has Not Taken The Civil Service Examination To Such Position To Serve At The Pleasure Of The Supervisor.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to pass the forgoing law to Establish the Position Of Confidential Administrative Assistant To The Town Supervisor, With The Policy Influencing/Confidential Designation, To Be A Position In The Exempt Class Of The Classified Service And Authorizing The Supervisor Of The Town of Copake to Appoint An Individual Who Has Not Taken The Civil Service Examination To Such Position To Serve At The Pleasure Of The Supervisor.

Councilperson Sullivan questions the number of hours of the position.

Supervisor Mettler states that it will definitely be a part time position, between 15-20 hours and the hourly wage will be commensurate with the experience of the person.

Supervisor Mettler makes it clear that this will be a Civil Service Exemption position.

Supervisor Mettler states that she would like to find someone not just for her to be able to work with but someone who would have some commitment so that they could serve across administrations.

Roll Call Vote	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

All in favor. Motion approved.

The Town Board authorizes Supervisor Mettler to advertise for this position.

h. Anti-Hate Resolution

Supervisor Mettler calls on Marcia Becker and Chris Quinby to introduce “A Resolution Against Hate”

Marcia Becker states that many towns in Columbia County have passed the Anti Hate Resolution and her and Chris Quinby would like to sponsor the following resolution to the Town of Copake:

Ms. Becker then reads their introduction to the resolution: In order for hate groups to grow in Columbia County seeds must be planted. Seeds have been found recently. You can find them at hatewatchreports.com but they are not thriving because of the generous spirit of its people and actions of elected officials in Columbia County. To take no action is to be complicit. Therefore, Mr. Quinby and Ms. Becker propose to the Town of Copake join with the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and the towns of Canaan, the village of Chatham, Ghent, New Lebanon, Taghkanic, Ancram, Germantown, Austerlitz, Livingston, Gallatin, Hillsdale, and the city of Hudson to adopt this Anti-Hate Resolution.

**Town of Copake
RESOLUTION No. 9 of March 10, 2022
A RESOLUTION AGAINST HATE**

WHEREAS, recently as a nation we have witnessed an increase in violence based upon a person’s religion, race, gender identities, sexual orientation, nationalities, economic status, and political affiliation; and

WHEREAS, here in the United States communities that have been built with the guidance, assistance and leadership that is inclusive of all races, religions, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic status and political affiliation are more successful; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake continues to maintain that all people of our community have the right to feel safe and be treated equally and with respect and dignity regardless of their race, religion, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status and political affiliation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Copake on behalf of its constituents members, do hereby state that the Town reaffirms our commitment to a status of inclusion for all races, religions, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientation, economic status and political affiliations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that on behalf of all the residents of the Town of Copake we maintain our position that violence of any kind is unacceptable and condemn any act of aggression, hostility or violence against any member of our community based upon race, religion, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status or political affiliation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall attach a certified copy of this Resolution to the Minutes of this meeting and shall post it on the Copake Town Website.

Councilperson Sullivan thinks it is sad that this has to put into writing to tell people how to behave and it is a sorry state that we actually have to do something like this and has mixed feelings about this and who gets to determine what the parameters are to determine a hateful act?

Supervisor Mettler then reads the Resolution Against Hate.

The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution # 9

Dated March 10, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote

Supervisor Mettler	yes
Councilperson Wolf	yes
Councilperson Gansowski	yes
Councilperson Judd	yes
Councilperson Sullivan	abstained

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

Four in favor. Councilperson Sullivan abstained.

Councilperson Wolf strongly suggests that Councilperson Sullivan rereads the resolution.

Supervisor Mettler thanks Marcia Becker and Chris Quinby for bringing this to the Town Board.

i. Workplace Violence Training

Supervisor Mettler states that the first Workplace Violence Training will be held via Google Meet video-conference on March 22, 2022 at 9:00am and the second training will be held via Google Meet on March 31, 2022 at 6:00pm. Holly Hedgepath is the host of this training. The information to join this training is posted on the town website. There is a prerecorded version of this training for anyone who cannot join either of these two sessions with a test to take at the

end. All employees that participate in this training will have to fill out an acknowledgement form to be given to the Town Clerk for their employee file.

Supervisor Mettler puts the question to the Town Board whether or not this should be considered as part of ZBA's training hours and a brief conversation ensued.

j. Emergency Call down list

Councilperson Sullivan did start some preliminary work and has an updated list of all of the residents in Copake and wants to form some kind of committee but has not yet reached out to the fire department but will and will get back to the Town Board next month.

k. CEDAC

Supervisor Mettler states that Kevin Davis has resigned as a member of the Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to accept the resignation of Kevin Davis from the Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee.

All in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to authorize to advertise for this position.

All in favor. Motion approved.

i. Boy Scouts April 2nd movie night and sleepover The Town Board agrees

Supervisor Mettler states that the Boy Scouts would like to have a movie/sleepover night at the Town Park Building on April 2, 2022.

The Town Board agrees.

Old Business

a. Electric Charging Station-Jeffrey Judd

Councilperson Judd is meeting with Mr. Masters and others on Saturday. He has made contact with enough providers and they now have more than three proposals for the RFP. They are moving forward and will get back to the Town Board next month.

b. Security Cameras-Town Park

Councilperson Gansowski states that he has received three proposals to bid on the contract, S&F Technologies out of Hudson, CRC Cabling out of Rensselaer, and FSS Inc. out of Latham. Councilperson Gansowski recommends to the Town Board the S&F Technologies proposal of \$9,217.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Supervisor Mettler to accept the proposal of S&F Technologies of \$9,217 for security cameras.

All in favor. Motion approved.

c. Update on Park Bandstand

Councilperson Sullivan states that the Park Commission is at a standstill at the moment. They are looking for an architect. Supervisor Mettler mentions that she spoke with the Code Enforcement Officer and asked if an architectural drawing was necessary and was told it was not. A contractor with required insurance can submit plans and that would be good enough for her. Supervisor Mettler suggests to getting an RFP to the Town Board in order to get this going. Councilperson Sullivan will report back to the Park Commission and then come back to the Town Board with an RFP.

d. Update on Zoning Advisory Committee

Supervisor Mettler states that she has been in touch with Bob Haight who has met with Tom Goldsworthy. They have come up with recommendations and have forwarded the recommendations to Ken Dow. Ken Dow will draft revisions to the law for the Town Board's consideration. Supervisor Mettler is hoping that the Town Board has these by the next meeting in April.

e. Generator for Town Hall and Park Building-Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Gansowski states that the generators were finally shipped from Wisconsin and at present are in Newburgh, NY. They sent back the transfer switches to get cheaper ones and the town will be credited for that. The two gas tanks were put in. They were already paid for. One was \$5,100 and the other was \$5,074.

Councilperson Gansowski states that a bigger cost that was not anticipated was to wire the transfer switches but it is very difficult because of the solar on the roof as to not burn out the solar panels. Councilperson Gansowski tried to get four quotes on this. Stickles Electric and Bill Giulian declined. He did receive a quote from Jerry Jennings Electrical Contractor, Inc. of Stuyvesant for \$61,950 and Veith Electric, LLC. of Poughkeepsie for \$35,400. Councilperson Gansowski recommends to the Town Board to use Veith Electric, LLC for this project.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Supervisor Mettler to accept the proposal of Veith Electric, LLC for \$35,400 to do the above mentioned work with the transfer switches.

All in favor. Motion approved.

f. Website-Lynn Connolly

Ms. Connolly reports that she has coordinated with the committee members to schedule a video-conference for Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5pm for the demo/interviews of the three potential website companies which are Town Web Design, Revize Government Websites, and Thorunn Krisjansdottir (local Ancramdale resident.) The Website Committee will invite the Town Board to join in on this meeting.

g. Traffic Signal-Rte. 23-Craryville-Richard Wolf

Councilperson Wolf will report back to the Town Board at the next meeting.

h. Columbia County Environmental Management Council

Supervisor Mettler states that she had reached out to someone but they could not commit. She will continue to search for someone and advises the Town Board to do the same thing.

i. Short Term Rentals

Supervisor Mettler states that she met with the Code Enforcement Officer, Erin Reis and Councilperson Gansowski to discuss this. This will not be a quick process and they will reach out to the surrounding towns and Ken Dow for their input and will get back to the Town Board in the near future.

j. Motor Vehicle Storage Permits- Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Gansowski states that Performance Auto has complied to the Town's code and he is now all set. There is still one left that is Jim's Auto Body and he was given a month's extension.

Resolutions

Done

Appointments

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board received a recommendation from Deb Cohen, Chair of the Board of Assessment Review to reappoint Robert Rosegarten to the Board of Assessment Review.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to appoint Robert Rosegarten to the Board of Assessment Review.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Budget Transfers/Reclassifications

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board has received the Preliminary Budget to Actual Report.

A motion was made by Councilperson Judd and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the February Preliminary Budget to Actual Report and request that it be posted on the town website.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilpersons' Reports

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the ZBA only had a couple of people. One was a complaint that was taken care of and the other was regarding a FOIL and how they are notified regarding abutters.

Councilperson Wolf reports that the RAC will be meeting on March 16, 2022 where they will announce the public meeting that will be on April 9, 2022.

Councilperson Wolf reports that CEDAC met yesterday and they are discussing three major issues, the Cannabis Advisory Committee, the Roe Jan School, and the short term rental issue.

Councilperson Judd reports that the Planning Board has not met since December.

Councilperson Judd reports that the Conservation Advisory Committee has a new member, Ned Shnier and they are moving forward.

Councilperson Sullivan reports that the next Park Commission meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2022 and they will hold the Easter Egg Hunt on April 17, 2022 and all of the bands are scheduled for the Summer Concert Series.

Public Forum

Robert Roll reiterates her comments from the last meeting to consider having a multiuse structure not only musical performances but for theater and dance as well that needs special flooring consideration.

The Grange is sponsoring Pick-Up day on April 9, 2022.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions a short story of what kind of neighbor Sonny Miller was.

Approval of Bills

Supervisor Mettler states that the bills have been audited, signed, and sent out.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Supervisor Mettler mentions that Mr. Miller came in to see her one day and said, "They say you are a Democrat but I think you are doing a good job."

Supervisor Mettler asks for a moment of silence in memory of Lester "Sonny" Miller.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf that the Town Board meeting be adjourned.

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly
Town Clerk

