

Town Board Meeting  
via Google Meet  
February 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

**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 Judd and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve and accept the Minutes as written for the Town Board meeting of January 13, 2022.

All in favor. Motion was approved.

**Announcements**

Supervisor Mettler states that the Governor stated yesterday that masks need not be worn in businesses.

Supervisor Mettler states that there was an announcement made from Chairman Matt Murell of the Board of Supervisor's stating that masks no longer be worn in county office buildings. After conferring with the Town Board, the signs were taken down in the Town Hall and the Park building. Individual departments are free to require masks and appointments. The Highway Department will still require masks at this time.

At this time, the Town Hall has not received masks and does not have any but does have a lot of COVID tests available for pick up at the Town Clerk's walk up window Saturday, 9am until 12noon and Monday through Thursday's, 8am until 12noon.

Supervisor Mettler reports that the town has new email accounts for all of the offices in the Town Hall and also for Highway Superintendent Gregory. They will all be up and running by next week. All of the new emails will be posted on the website and they can be used to contact anyone in Town Hall or anyone on the Town Board.

## Correspondence

From-Constance Lopez, email regarding Zebra Mussels at Copake Lake

From-Columbia County Environmental Management Council (EMC), email regarding Town of Copake seat on the EMC

From-Trout Unlimited, email regarding grant

Supervisor Mettler congratulates Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited and Councilperson Gansowski for their efforts for a grant submitted to replace a culvert at the intersection of High Valley and Valley View Road. They were awarded that grant and they will be meeting with Bill Gregory and others to start that work.

Councilperson Gansowski states that the meeting will be held next Tuesday.

From-Columbia County, notice regarding sales tax

From-Signe Adam, email regarding short term rentals

From-Catherine Mikic, email regarding the nomination of her property to NYS Historic Preservation Office

From-NYS Department of Public Service, email regarding Broadband Assessment Program

From-Grant Langdon, several emails

Councilperson Gansowski mentions that he received information from DEC that there are grants available from New York State for towns to buy and maintain forests and for flood litigation that he will forward to the Conservation Advisory Committee.

## Supervisor's Report

Later this evening we will be discussing to changes in personnel in the Town and I would like to report on these issues now.

First- **the position of Park Superintendent.** As you know our Highway Superintendent Bill Gregory served the Town as Park Superintendent for five years. Bill was meticulous in his care of the lawns and athletic fields at the Park and the lawns throughout the Town. Our baseball diamonds were the best in the County. Since last summer, however, when Bill resigned from the position, we have not been able to fill the very large shoes he left behind.

Tonight I am asking the Board to consider dividing the tasks performed by Bill Gregory into two buckets. One would be the administrative tasks- such as handling reservations for the use of the Park, and dealing with tasks such as water testing within the Park Building. I am suggesting that we expand the duties of our custodian Bob Callahan- who has expressed willingness to handle these tasks. In that regard we are lucky to have Bob who is forever loyal to this Town and constantly goes above and beyond the call of duty.

The balance of the Park Superintendent's responsibilities is maintaining lawns all over the Town. There are the lawns and athletic fields at the Copake Memorial Park. Additionally there are Copake properties—which include lawns and gardens-- all over the Town- from the Williams Cemetery on North Mountain Road, to the green in Copake Falls and the Historical Society, to the property around the Copake Memorial Park and the triangle at Folgers Pond. I am suggesting that we put this maintenance work out to bid, that we request proposals from individuals or lawn service companies. I have prepared a RFP and will ask the Board to authorize us to advertise this job immediately so we can get someone on board as soon as possible.

Another item on the Agenda is the creation of a new position in the Town- a **Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor.**

This position would encompass the role of bookkeeper. But in addition to bookkeeping, this person would handle our HR and personnel files, would oversee and coordinate the health care which we provide to retirees, would handle the administration of grants, and much more.

The administration of the Town government had become far bigger and complex than it was in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but we are still doing the job with the same number of employees that we had then.

The Towns of Kinderhook and Chatham have adopted the law which I will propose tonight, to create the position of Administrative Assistant. It would be my hope to find someone to do this job who would serve across administrations. It is critical to the success of an incoming Supervisor to have the assistance of someone who has served the Town already. In that regard I am forever grateful to Larry Proper, for his extraordinary institutional memory and his generous spirit.

### **February 2022 Solar update from Councilperson Wolf**

As I've been reporting for many, many months, this Town Board has been consistent in its position regarding Hecate's Shepherd's Run proposal. We acknowledge that Copake needs to do its part to address the existential crisis of climate change, but we do not believe that the Town should be required to do more than its fair share.

The Shepherd's Run proposal is still too big for Copake. 228 acres of solar panels, inverters, and related equipment "inside the fence" is 45% of what Hecate originally proposed, but it is still too big. And the proposed location for the industrial-scale solar energy factory is terrible: situated primarily along County Route 7, south of State Route 23, it would stretch along a primary gateway to the Copake hamlet and Copake Lake. It would destroy the rural character of the area, and reduce property values for nearby homeowners, many of whom are lifelong Copakeans. These homeowners should receive just compensation. We've pressed Hecate to move the arrays that would be most visible (particularly those planned for hill inclines east of CR 7), and substantially improve the screening: plant mature trees, not saplings; plant in staggered rows; use berms. We provided Hecate with pictures of fencing that is less of an eyesore, and more animal-friendly than the chain-link fencing Hecate intended to use. Finally, we have urged Hecate to delay filing a siting application with the State's Office of Renewable Energy Siting ("ORES") until it address the Town Board's concerns and recommendations, and those of an *ad hoc* Working Group, which includes Sensible Solar, Friends of Columbia Solar, Scenic Hudson, the Columbia Land Conservancy, two groups from Cornell University, and volunteer landscape architects. We may, or may not, agree with all of the Working Group's recommendations — that remains to be seen. But I, for one, appreciate the Group's hard work and dedication to Copake.

The Working Group presented its findings and recommendations to Hecate two evenings ago. It will present its recommendations and discuss them with the community one week from tonight, Thursday, February 17th, at 6 p.m.

However, in its most recent “Notice of Intent to File an Application”, Hecate announced that it will file on February 18th, eight days from now — and just 10 days after receiving the Working Group’s report.

If Hecate is serious about its stated intention to be a collaborative community partner with Copake, it will hit the pause button, and take the time to modify its Shepherd’s Run proposal to incorporate the Working Group’s recommendations into the siting permit application.

We recently heard from Hecate that it intends to address some of the Town’s concerns: Hecate says it will modify its proposal to substitute animal-friendly fencing for chain link, and it will substantially improve the type and quantity of plantings for screening.

Every month, with the support of my colleagues on the Board, I urge Hecate to work with us, and I do so again tonight. Together we can create a template that can be a model for upstate solar development projects — a model that respects small-town, rural communities even as it helps the State to meet its ambitious energy goals.

To that end, our Assembly Member Didi Barrett, who is part of the *ad hoc* Working Group, wrote an excellent letter to Governor Hochul seeking a balance between climate actions and community preservation. The letter couldn’t have been more timely. Recent questioning of ORES’ Acting Director by our State Senator Daphne Jordan revealed the predisposition of ORES to make determinations that ignore any semblance of balance. Senator Jordan was told that ORES would waive a town’s local laws if they were inconsistent with the State’s climate goals. This means ORES would ignore Copake’s Zoning Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Farmland Protection Plan.

We commend Assembly Member Barrett and Senator Jordan and urge them to continue to advocate in Albany for fairness for Copake.

A couple of other developments:

Even as the siting application process moves along, our attorneys are completing papers soon to be submitted for the appeal in the lawsuit challenging the regulations promulgated by ORES. Copake is a lead petitioner, now appellant, along with five other upstate towns and seven non-profit avian interest groups. No Town funds are being spent on this lawsuit.

On more important item: tonight the Town Board will vote to retain Barton & LoGuidice, environmental engineers, to replace LaBella Associates, whose principal, Kathy Spencer, is retiring.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to retain Barton & LoGuidice, pursuant to their proposal, as environmental engineers for the Town of Copake.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler mentions for the record that the town board has interviewed for this.

## **Department Heads/Committee Reports**

Supervisor Mettler states that the town board has received reports from the Highway Department, Assessor, and the Dog Control Officer.

## **Public Forum**

Lindsey LeBrecht wants to follow up from last month regarding the issue of the Zebra Mussels. The intention was to ask for help. It does not mean that they want the county corner closed up. That was never brought up or mentioned. It does happen to be a vulnerable spot on the lake because there is no monitoring of it. Ms. LeBrecht has seen boats launched there and the motor boat accident that happened years ago was launched from there. The CLCS is moving in other directions to get help to fight this.

## **New Business**

### **a. Proposal for Lakeview Road Retaining Wall Repairs**

Highway Superintendent Gregory proposes to the town board regarding repairing the remaining portion of the retaining wall along Lakeview Road closer to the county road that after inspection is starting to decay and deteriorate. Mr. Gregory had met with the engineers at GSI last fall and met with them again this week and their proposal has been sent to the town board to do the same repairs that was done last year.

Supervisor Mettler mentions the date of the estimate is October 2021 for approximately \$81,000 and asks Superintendent Gregory if this is expected to change and he does. In his inspection of the retaining wall with the engineers it was discussed extending the wall 20ft. in either direction. Superintendent Gregory suspects that it would cost closer to \$100,000.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf that the town board authorize the Highway Superintendent to hire GSI to repair the retaining wall as specified in the preliminary proposal dated October 28, 2021 regarding that the cost is no more than \$100,000 and further direct that the cost of this project shall be paid from the unallocated fund balance.

Councilperson Wolf asks if this is the extent of the problem area or is there more areas that would be susceptible to the same kind of damage because it was constructed the same. Superintendent Gregory states that this would repair pretty much all of the retaining wall and that repairs would begin in April.

All in favor. Motion approved.

### **b. Traffic Signal-Route 23-Craryville-Richard Wolf**

Councilperson Wolf states that this past Friday, he and Supervisor Mettler met with Commissioner of Public Works, Ray Jurkowski to better understand what would be involved in

seeking to get the State Department of Transportation to reconsider its previous decision and to erect a traffic light at the intersection of State Route 23 and County Route 7 in Craryville. Copake had requested a traffic light before the new gas station was constructed and now that the establishment is open, some local residents have complained about increased traffic at and through the intersection. Councilperson Wolf and Supervisor Mettler learned from Mr. Jurkowski that getting a light will be an uphill battle made even more difficult by DOT's decision denying the town's earlier request. A traffic flow study commissioned by the gas station owner was conducted by the Creighton Manning Firm at the beginning of May 2018 and its findings apparently caused DOT to conclude that traffic through the intersection did not justify in installing a light. At the time some criticized the methodology of the study which was conducted midweek and off season. Also, things have changed in the area since May 2018. The gas station is open as is Random Harvest and Bacon's Pizza. Whether circumstances have changed sufficiently to justify a renewed request to DOT remains to be seen and that is what the town will be considering. One possibility would be for the town to fund its own study of the traffic conditions though they were told it would be expensive. If the town took this route it would have to decide when would be the appropriate time to study traffic volume. Does the town wait to see the extent to which the new gas station attracts business and when would a study be most constructive, over the summer when the population swells or on a weekend or during ski season. Councilperson Wolf has a copy of the Creighton Manning study and Mr. Jurkowski has provided Councilperson Wolf and Supervisor Mettler with the relevant sections of the states DOT's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices which sets out the traffic volume parameters which must be met to obtain a traffic light. Councilperson Wolf and Supervisor Mettler will be reviewing all of this and continue to draw on Mr. Jurkowski's expertise as they seek to learn whether a new application would have a reasonable chance of success with DOT. They will also consider other options if that proves not to be the case to control traffic at the intersection such as a flashing light or signage.

Councilperson Wolf thanks Commissioner Jurkowski for generously spending his time with him and Supervisor Mettler and his willingness to continue to advise them going forward.

Councilperson Wolf states that this is going to be a lengthy process.

**c. Obsolete Computer and Electronic Equipment**

Supervisor Mettler states that Columbia County MIS was here to look at the pile of old computers, copiers, etc. and said that it was all obsolete and is of no value. There were two hard drives that were destroyed and taken back to Columbia County MIS. The obsolete equipment will be taken to the appropriate transfer station for disposal.

Supervisor Mettler states that there is a huge microfiche machine that reads our old records. Columbia County MIS has offered to convert these records into a different format. The town will hold onto this piece of equipment until we can explore how this should be converted.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to dispose of the computer equipment that is obsolete and is of no value.

All in favor. Motion approved.

**d. Park Superintendent Position**

Supervisor Metter states that she has drafted a Request for Proposal for an individual or company to maintain the Copake Memorial Park grounds including playing fields and other town properties and secondly, to take care of outside maintenance of other town properties and would like to run an ad as quickly as possible in the Register Star, the Columbia Paper, and the Copake Connection.

A motion was made by Councilperson Judd and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to authorize the town board to put out a request for proposal for the maintenance of Copake Memorial Park and Town of Copake properties for the year 2022.

All in favor. Motion approved.

**e. Zoning Advisory Committee**

Supervisor Mettler states that the “ad hoc” Zoning Advisor Committee, the group that is reviewing our zoning code regarding recommending amendments if necessary to accommodate marijuana dispensaries if the Town decides to allow consumption sites for cannabis. The Town Board had previously appointed Tom Goldsworthy, Bob Haight, and Lindsey LeBrecht. Lindsey LeBrecht had to resign and that position now needs to be filled.

Supervisor Mettler suggests appointing Edgar Masters to fill this position. He has extensive Planning Board experience and he helped with the rewriting of the Zoning Code.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to appoint Edgar Masters as the third member on the Zoning Advisory Committee.

All in favor. Motion approved.

**f. Park Commission Presentation-Bandstand**

Park Chair, Liana Gaston presents to the town board a proposal for a new permanent multipurpose bandstand that would be located between the flagpole and the main building.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding placement, contractors, price, and particulars with Park Chair Gaston and Park Committee member Chris Quinby, the Town Board, Highway Supervisor Gregory and Attorney Tingley.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to authorize the Park Commission to draft a request for proposals for the Town Boards approval for this bandstand.

All in favor. Motion approved.

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

Supervisor Mettler states that this has already been discussed. The law that she is offering has been reviewed by Attorney Tingly.

Supervisor Mettler introduces Local Law No. 1 of 2022 to establish a 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 for such position to serve at the pleasure of the Supervisor.

A Public Hearing will be set for the next Town Board Meeting, Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6:50pm.

**h. Resolutions to Amend the Policy Manual**

Supervisor Mettler states that these will be handled later on the agenda but there are two resolutions which would amend the policy manual:

1. Resolution regarding Resolutions
2. Resolution regarding publishing of Agendas

Supervisor Mettler withdraws a resolution to pay bills on line.

**i. Workplace Violence Training**

Supervisor Mettler states that every year the town has to provide this to employees. Supervisor Mettler has been in touch with Holly Hedgepath from the county who will be providing these services. This will be provided via live stream and will cost \$50 per session and will have to sign a receipt form and give to the Town Clerk. Ms. Hedgepath will also provide a video which a person can watch on their own, but those persons will have to take a quiz at the end if they choose do this.

Supervisor Mettler suggest scheduling two livestreams, one for during the day and one for the evening and one video in case someone cannot attend either of the others.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Judd that the town engage Holly Hedgepath who is an employee of Columbia County to conduct two live stream trainings for workplace violence prevention training and also provide us with a video.

All in favor. Motion approved.

**j. Columbia County Environmental Management Council**

Supervisor Mettler states that the town of Copake has not had a member on this council since the end of 2019. The EMC serves as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisor's with authority granted pursuant to NYS environmental law, article 47. They were involved with the research and groundwork for the County's Climate Smart Communities Pledge, The County Natural Resource Inventory, and they've sponsored the Annual Good Earth Keeping Awards



Ceremony. Supervisor Mettler has looked at their minutes and thinks they sound like an active, smart group of people. Supervisor Mettler asks the town board to think about nominee choices and will advertise this in the Copake Connection and on the Town Website.

**k. Short Term Rentals**

Supervisor Mettler states that she has received an email from Signe Adams that she has shared with the town board regarding short term rentals. Ms. Adams is a full time resident who is very concerned with the town's lack of short term housing rules, policy, and laws.

Ms. Adams was on the call and addressed the Board. Ms. Adams would like to see a cap on the amount of properties which are owned and run as short term rentals. Ms. Adams believes that a concentration of short term rentals prevents true community and some renters are truly terrible neighbors. Ms. Adams lives on Upper Rhoda where they have had issues and knows that this town board is aware of.

Ms. Adams states that on Upper Rhoda there is one family business that owns five houses that are all adjacent to each other and some of the rentals are really terrible neighbors sometimes. It is not really important to focus on the family's business it is the concentration of houses in one area that really take away from the community. This family business is continuing to buy more properties. There are no laws in Copake. There are laws in other towns of some kind or another but not here. Ms. Adams thinks the town needs to pay attention and there are many issues. If a person goes to Europe for months at a time and want to rent out their home, they should be able to. This family business is renting all year, all of the time. This is a big business and if they could they would buy a wedding venue.

Supervisor Mettler states that there is a law that was past several years ago. What the town does not have is any registration, fees, or inspections. Supervisor Mettler has been in touch with Art Basin of Ancram and he has sent Supervisor Mettler a copy of their law.

Supervisor Mettler states that there are many issues and Copake has many of these properties.

Supervisor Mettler has spoken to Councilperson Gansowski and the Code Enforcement Officer about this and has suggested that they sit down and talk about this with Zoning Attorney Dow and look at the surrounding town's laws and get back to the town board at next month's meeting on how the town will proceed.

The Town Board agrees and recommends speaking with Zoning Attorney Dow.

**j. Emergency Call List**

Councilperson Sullivan and Supervisor Mettler discussed the recent storm and power outages. Councilperson Sullivan heard from several people that the town did have at one time an Emergency Call List but has not been updated in quite some time. She would like to start a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" group or some sort of group to get this done and will try to get a formal process in place for that.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Hall was open during the storm and mentions that the town owes a great debt of gratitude to Bob Callahan. This was communicated through FaceBook and the town website.

Supervisor Mettler asks Councilperson Sullivan to tackle this project.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Electric Charging Station-Jeffrey Judd and Edgar Masters, CAC Chair**

Councilperson Judd states that they are waiting for NYSERDA's decision on whether they will be giving grants or not. They have worked on getting information on the Level 3 charging stations. Initial research shows that it would be two to three times the cost of a Level 2 charging station. A Level 3 charger can charge a car in an hour or less. The Level 2 would be approximately eight hours for a full charge. The CAC is working on putting together an RFP. They are also looking into other providers who might do this in this region. Again, the CAC is waiting on NYSERDA's decision to offer grants.

### **b. Request from CLCS-Zebra**

Attorney Tingley states that in his opinion, the Town lacks authority to either contribute to the CLCS to handle that or directly undertake the work to control or eradicate the Zebra mussels.

Councilperson Wolf asks that if the town isn't able to make a contribution to the CLCS can the town board work with Lindsey LeBrecht and the CLCS in assisting them or writing a letter of support because he doesn't think the town is opposed with eradicating the Zebra mussels and the would like to help.

Attorney Tingley states that his research was focused on the town's expenditure of public funds. If not expending public funds, then that does not apply and the town can certainly write a letter of support or make phone calls.

Councilperson Gansowski states that he has received several phone calls once this issue had reached the newspapers on what previously happened when he tried to get the corner of Copake Lake tuned over. There was a great article in the Columbia Paper requesting that possibly the town can take over that corner. Councilperson Gansowski states that maybe he could contact someone in the County to open up the guardrail because people just want to walk through and put their kayaks in, nothing for boats or trailers, just open up the guardrail.

Supervisor Mettler states that the new Commissioner of Public Works is Ray Jurkowski and she will give Councilperson Gansowski his contact information.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions about the lack of access to water in the town and he wants to take care of that.

### **c. Security Cameras-Town Park**

Supervisor Mettler states that this will be tabled until March and asks Councilperson Gansowski to follow up with Bob Callahan regarding this.

**d. Motor Vehicle Storage Permits- Councilperson Gansowski**

Councilperson Gansowski states that there are two businesses that are not in compliance at this time, Performance Auto and Jim's Auto Body. The Code Enforcement Officer has spoken with both of them. Jim's Auto Body has cleaned up quite a bit but has to wait for the ice to thaw in order to remove some building materials that are frozen to the ground. Performance Auto has also cleaned up quite a bit and has promised to have it all done by the weekend.

At this time, Councilperson Gansowski cannot support issuing Vehicle Storage Permits to them until they are in compliance. When they are in compliance, the Vehicle Storage Permits will be brought to the Town Board for a motion to approve.

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

Councilperson Gansowski states that due to the price of the hooking up of the transfer switches and everything else because the generators are due to arrive during February, though he is waiting to see when they will be shipped, he is waiting for another estimate that should come within a day or so. The prices were so high, that he had to get a second bid for electricians and he will get back to the board when it comes in.

**f. Website-Lynn Connolly**

Ms. Connolly states that Supervisor Mettler very recently received an email from a woman who builds websites who is a local resident that created the town of Millerton's business alliance website and is working on the Town of Millerton's website. Ms. Connolly will be in touch with her to gather pricing information and set up times for her and the other two companies for demos of their sites and pricing information and will invite the town board to sit in on them along with the committee members.

**g. Vacancies-BAR, Park Superintendent**

The Town Clerk states that the town received a reappointment letter from Robert Rosegarten for the BAR position that will be forwarded to the Chair of the BAR, Deb Cohen for recommendation to the town board.

The Park Superintendent has already been dealt with tonight.

**Resolutions**

**Town of Copake  
RESOLUTION No. 6 of February 10, 2022  
To Amend the Town of Copake Policy Manual**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake finds it desirable to revise and amend Section IV, subdivision E of the Town of Copake Policy Manual,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake directs that the Town of Copake Policy

Manual be revised and amended as follows:

Section IV, Subdivision E. of the Policy Manual is amended to read as follows:

E. Resolutions. All proposed resolutions to be voted on shall be provided in writing. Resolutions shall be posted on the Town Website and on the Town Bulletin Board and copies shall be available in the Clerks' office upon request. To the extent possible, all Resolutions shall be posted on the Town Website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, if not before.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Resolution # 6</b>	<b>Supervisor Mettler</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Dated February 10, 2022</b>	<b>Councilperson Wolf</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Copake, New York</b>	<b>Councilperson Gansowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Sullivan</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Judd</b>	<b>yes</b>

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Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

**(seal)**

A motion was offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to authorize the above mentioned Resolution.

All in favor. Motion approved.

The following Resolution was offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski:

**Town of Copake**  
**RESOLUTION No. 7 of February 10, 2022**  
**To Amend the Town of Copake Policy Manual**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Copake finds it desirable to revise and amend Section IV, subdivision C of the Town of Copake Policy Manual,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake directs that the Town of Copake Policy Manual be revised and amended as follows:

Section IV, Subdivision C. of the Policy Manual is amended to read as follows:

**Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Minutes**

1. Regular Town Board meetings shall be held monthly on the second Thursday evening of each month except for August, when the meeting shall be held on the second Saturday morning of that month. Special and emergency Town Board meetings may be held as called in compliance with applicable law.

2. The agenda of the regular Town Board meetings shall be established and posted on the Town Website and on the Town Bulletin Board at least five days prior to the scheduled Board meeting. Copies of the Agenda shall be made available in the Clerks' office upon request and shall be made available to the public during the Meeting.

3. Minutes shall be recorded and made available in Town Hall within ten days of the meeting date and posted on the Town website within 10 days of their approval date.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

<b>Resolution # 7</b>	<b>Supervisor Mettler</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Dated February 10, 2022</b>	<b>Councilperson Wolf</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Copake, New York</b>	<b>Councilperson Gansowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Judd</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Sullivan</b>	<b>yes</b>

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Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

All in favor. Motion approved.

The following Resolution was offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Judd

**Town of Copake**  
**RESOLUTION No. 8 OF February 10, 2022**  
**To request and establish a 30 MPH Speed Limit on County Route 7**  
**throughout the Copake Lake Watershed Area**

That we, the members of the Town Board of the Town of Copake do hereby petition the Department of Transportation of the State of New York, pursuant to Section 1622.1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law to establish a lower maximum speed at which vehicles may proceed on County Route 7 in the Town of Copake and more specifically in the Copake Lake Watershed Area, to wit; that the current 55 MPH speed zone which begins on County Route 7 just north of the intersection with Lakeview Road be reduced to a 30 MPH zone which would extend from Lakeview Road to the sign which reads: "Exiting Copake Lake Watershed," so that, for the safety of the many pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers and joggers who travel through the Copake Lake area, all the roads in the Copake Lake Watershed would be a uniform 30 MPH.

**Resolution #8**  
**Dated February 10, 2022**  
**Copake, New York**

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**Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk**

<b>Roll Call Vote.</b>	<b>Supervisor Mettler</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Wolf</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Gansowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Judd</b>	<b>yes</b>
	<b>Councilperson Sullivan</b>	<b>yes</b>

**(seal)**

All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Appointments**

Supervisor Mettler states that the town board has already appointed Edgar Masters earlier in the evening.

### **Budget Transfers/Reclassifications**

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Judd to approve the budget transfers listed on page 10 of the Budget to Actual Report for December 31, 2021 as updated by the town accountant on February 7, 2022 and that page 10 of this report be attached to the February 10, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes.

All in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve the Budget to Actual Report, pages 1 through 10 for December 31, 2021 as updated on February 7, 2022 and agree that it be posted on the town website.

All in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the Budget to Actual Report for January 31, 2022 and agree that it will be posted on the town website.

All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Councilpersons' Reports**

Councilperson Gansowski reports that Trout Unlimited is replacing the bridge/culvert on High Valley Road that has saved the town about \$60,000-\$70,000. There will be minimal side work to be done by the Highway Department that should cost the town very little.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the ZBA had one new case that went to public review.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that after eighteen years, the Casino bridge has been removed. Mr. Casino will now have to restore the brook with all kinds of plantings to bring back shade for the trout. Councilperson Gansowski will be in touch with DEC to follow up.

Supervisor Mettler congratulates Councilperson Gansowski on his huge efforts to have this taken care of.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the Copake Lake property that he has been speaking with the Code Enforcement Office and Attorney Tingley about this property, it is a nuisance and is possibly going to court at the end of this month with the landlord.

Councilperson Gansowski states that he and the Code Enforcement Officer are in touch with Attorney Tingley regarding the violations for the Casino apartment and well as the campgrounds.

Councilperson Wolf reports that CEDAC met on February 2, 2022 and discussed some recent interest in the Roe Jan school property.

Councilperson Wolf reports that the RAC met this morning with the Commissioner of Public Works, Ray Jurkowski that lasted more than two hours who presented a new possible plan for the Hamlet Road Reconstruction Project which calls for a "T" intersection and creation of a pocket park without having to move Copake's iconic clock. The discussed drainage at length and parking remains a huge issue. There will be a meeting to present this plan to the public either in March or April and then possibly a larger meeting in September. The current construction for the project is aiming to take place in April through September 2024. These meetings will be posted and advertised.

Councilperson Sullivan reports that at the next Park Commission meeting will be next week. They have booked all of the bands for the concert series this summer and thanks member Chris Quinby for his efforts. The Park Commission will next be planning for the Easter Egg Hunt, hopefully, without COVID restrictions.

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

### **Public Forum**

Roberta Roll inquires about this year's Copake Clean-up Day.

Ms. Roll mentions that the bandstand is a great idea and is making a plea to the town board to consider that a dance floor and side stage entrance/exits be part of that.

Ms. Roll mentions to Councilperson Sullivan about the creation of the emergency list of contacts and is wondering if this could be part of a town wide email list.

Ms. Roll thanks Councilperson Gansowski for staying on top of the Casino Property.

Lindsey LeBrecht recalls that former Deputy Town Clerk, Vana Hotaling had kept a list for emergencies but the problem lies in when we lose electricity, we lose internet. Consolidated had phone calls on land

lines but Spectrum does not do that. With no internet when the power went out, no one knew that Town Hall was open.

Ms. LeBrecht mentions regarding the stage that it should be handicapped accessible.

Ms. LeBrecht mentions in regard to the County corner at Copake Lake, there had been instances that people filled up the parking on private property and if they were to go to the marinas there are sanitary facilities there. There are no sanitary facilities at the County corner. One of the more serious accidents that happened on the lake was a motorboat that launched off of that corner years ago. The marinas contribute to the lake, the corner does not and when Councilperson Gansowski is looking into this, she asks him to speak to the tax payers for their opinions. They are not saying to keep people out that was never the intention but there is already a problem and doesn't want it to be increased.

Ms. LeBrecht thanks the town board for their consideration and the CLCS will trudge on.

### **Approval of Bills**

Supervisor Mettler states that the bills are now done every other week but it is not necessarily on the night that the town board meets. Supervisor Mettler will think about this for the future and let the town board know.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, March 10, 2022

### **Executive Session**

None

### **Adjournment**

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

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly  
Town Clerk



**Page 10**  
**TOWN OF COPEN**  
**BUDGET TRANSFERS**  
**Dec-21**

TRANSFERS		FROM	TO
K	A13204.470		750.00
	A13204.440	750.00	
L	A13211		750.00
	A13214	750.00	
M	A14101.100		826.94
	A14101.102	826.94	
TRANSFERS			

N	A51324.4624		48.00
	A51324.4626	48.00	
O	A51324.4629		1,095.53
	A51324.4626	1,095.53	

**APPROPRIATION OF EXCESS SALES TAX REVENUE**

P	A13551.150		895.98
	A13551.151		484.00
	A14204.440		3,573.29
	A14404		5,002.97
	A16202.247		5,346.40
	A16204.047		9,832.28
	A16704.411		2,502.66
	A16704.4707		85.52
	A16804.4701		437.72
	A50101		5,951.96
	A75104		288.11
	A75204		199.80
	A86874		1,587.20
A1120		36,187.89	