

Public Hearing/Town Board Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
6:45pm

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: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, and Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Judd joins the meeting virtually but cannot vote because his camera is not on.

Councilperson Sullivan arrives during the Announcements.

Present: Town Clerk Lynn Connolly, Attorney Jon Tingley (*virtually*).

Public Hearing

Supervisor Mettler opens the Public Hearing at 6:45pm and reads the Public Notice regarding the 2024 Preliminary Budget. This Public Hearing is being held for the purpose of receiving public comment. The 2024 Preliminary Budget has been distributed and posted.

Supervisor Mettler states that the 2024 Preliminary Budget has been distributed to the Town Board and has been posted publically and opens the Public Hearing for comment.

Supervisor Mettler notes that both the Public Hearing and the Town Board Meeting are being conducted in person and are also accessible through Google Meet via the town Owl such as the public that is meeting remotely can see the Town Board. The access information to the Google Meet has been publicized.

Supervisor Mettler asks if there is anyone in the room or online that would like to comment which no one does.

Supervisor Mettler, as Budget Officer, makes a few comments regarding the budget.

Again, Supervisor Mettler asks if there is anyone in the room or online that would like to comment which no one does.

Supervisor Mettler closes the Public Hearing on the 2024 Preliminary Budget and states that this will be discussed further in the meeting.

Call to Order

At 7:00pm, Supervisor Mettler calls the Town Board meeting to order and opens the Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting is being held in person in Town Hall but we are allowing remote access. This meeting is being recorded and the recording will be posted online within five business days.

Supervisor Mettler mentions that she is expecting at least one more Town Board member to join the meeting. Councilperson Sullivan is delayed. Councilperson Judd is on the meeting virtually. Supervisor Mettler asks Attorney Tingley to advise the on joining virtually under extraordinary circumstance in which he does. Councilperson Judd can participate in the meeting virtually but cannot vote because his camera is not on.

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Mettler asks for a motion for approval of minutes for the Town Board Meeting of September 14, 2023, and for the Special Town Board Meeting of October 3, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to waive a further reading and accept the Minutes as written for the Town Board Meeting of September 14, 2023 and the Special Town Board meeting of October 3, 2023.

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Announcements

Supervisor Mettler announces that the speed limit on Orphan Farm Road has been reduced to 35mph. Columbia County Solid Waste is now collecting food scraps. Tags for garbage that have been purchased earlier this year that have not been used will only be taken by the transfer station until December 31, 2023. Columbia County Hazardous Waste Day is Sunday, October 29, 2023, 8:00am until Noon. Election Day is November 7, 2023. The Office for the Aging is holding and Adult Fall Prevention Outreach Course on November 9, 2023 at 11:00am. Congressman Mark Molinaro's office will be holding a mobile office at the Town Hall on Thursday, October 19, 2023, 12:00pm until 2:00pm.

Correspondence

From-Grant Langdon numerous emails and letters that will be preserved in the Town Clerk's office. Supervisor Mettler received a call from Mr. Langdon. Mr. Langdon has given the town ten copies of a book which he has written called *The Copake I Loved* and wanted Supervisor Mettler to sell them which she will not but has offered them to the Town Board and anyone else who is interested in them.

From-NYS Office of the State Comptroller, email regarding State Aid

From- NYS Office of the State Comptroller, email regarding Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

From-Mike Tucker, Columbia Economic Development's Broadband Update, email regarding Broadband Update

From-Jackson Bull, email regarding RFP for Public Charging Station Installation

From-Stacey Hartka, ZBA Clerk, letter of resignation-Supervisor Mettler states that this is unfortunate for us. Ms. Hartka has been the ZBA Secretary for three years. Councilperson Gansowski states that Ms. Hartka is a wonderful person and she really upgraded the ZBA department with her knowledge of

technology and notes. Ms. Hartka has been phenomenal and this is a loss for the town of Copake. The Town Board accepted Ms. Hartka's resignation, with regret.

From-Charter Communications, two letters regarding channel status

Supervisor's Report-Supervisor Mettler

I want to tell you about some good news in Copake.

First, Roberta and I have spent the past two days talking to businesspeople in Copake. Some are young farmers, some are established business owners and some are young enthusiastic entrepreneurs. All are people love who Copake, who want to make a living here, who want to raise a family here, who want to make a difference here. All are featured in the very exciting Grant application which Copake filed at the end of September. I urge you to go to our website and read it. It is very impressive and we must thank Roberta for her tireless work on this grant application and also Margaret Irwin of River Street Planning + Development for their expertise and their belief in Copake. They have written a very convincing application.

NY Forward is a grant program targeted at revitalizing small towns and rural communities. NY Forward Grants may be awarded in the amount of \$4.5 million or in the smaller amount of \$2.25 million. This is a fairly new program this is only the second round. This is the second time we have applied. In this program the applicants can be not-for-profits- such as the Copake grange, and businesses.

On Monday at noon we will be visited by as many as 10 people from Empire State Development. We will tour Copake and introduce them to the applicants. Once again we are very hopeful that we may be successful, but win or lose- we have discovered a lot of new faces and new businesses in Copake. Again I invite you to look at the Grant Application.

Second- Last week Eric Clark of Clark's Outdoor Services finished the Memorial Garden in the Copake Memorial Park Mr. Clark was assisted by James Smith. It is stunning. I urge you to go there and sit on a bench and enjoy it. It is a peaceful beautiful spot. Our thanks to Eric and James.

Solar Update-Councilperson Wolf

Last month I reported that on August 25th the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting ("ORES") had concluded that Hecate Energy's application to site a 60 megawatt utility-scale solar factory in Craryville was "complete". This meant ORES had 60 days to either issue a draft siting permit or to deny Hecate permission to build Shepherd's Run on 267 acres of mostly prime agricultural land. So, before the end of October, we should know whether Hecate will be allowed to build a second substation, and install almost 200,000 solar panels, transmission lines, inverters, and other equipment, lay-down areas, and access roads along County Route 7 from State Route 23 south to Cambridge Road.

I checked the DMM Shepherd's Run website a couple of hours ago. ORES has not yet issued a decision.

Hecate has targeted Copake since 2017. By the time they met with Supervisor Mettler, Planning Board Chair Bob Haight and me on January 23, 2020, the developer had already entered into options to

lease land from several mostly absentee landowners just south of the substation on Route 23. They had already entered into a contract with NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Authority) to receive \$42 million in renewable energy credits to build and operate Shepherd's Run. And just one week after our meeting, Hecate unveiled its Public Involvement Program Plan (24 pages, plus maps, extensive contact lists, and other information), and claimed it would work with us as a "community partner." However, except for attorney-attorney matters, communications with Hecate have been sporadic at best.

Most recently, we had not heard from Hecate since last January, until we met with Hecate's new Project Manager and Project Analyst on September 7th. We told them that should ORES grant Hecate a siting permit — a very big "if" — Hecate should construct the 300-acre "Green Space" proposed by the *ad hoc* Working Group. I told them — as I've repeatedly said at Town Board meetings — that with hiking, bicycling and nature trails, the Green Space could make Shepherd's Run (if built) "a tourist attraction rather than an eyesore", and would effectively screen the facility from the most vulnerable homes across County Route 7. The representatives assured us that they would bring this recommendation back to Hecate's decision-makers, and that they also would provide us with a list of measures Hecate had already agreed to implement. However, no list has been forthcoming.

I think Hecate's infrequent communications with Copake are attributable to two factors: (1) This Town Board has been unanimous in reflecting the views of the vast majority of Copakeans and, Hecate just doesn't want to hear what we've been saying all along: the proposed project is too big for our small town and is very poorly sited. (2) Hecate is convinced it doesn't have to deal with us. It need not worry about what Copake thinks, only what ORES thinks. After all, what governs the siting process are not Copake's local laws, but rather the ORES regulations, which were written by Hecate's energy consultant and unsurprisingly heavily favor developers over small, rural towns like Copake (euphemistically referred to as "host communities").

And an update: In the lawsuit challenging the ORES regulations, the Appellate Division Third Department justices denied the plaintiffs' request to reargue the case. The attorneys representing Copake and other upstate rural towns and non-profits are considering possible next steps. Keep in mind: this litigation has not been funded with any Copake tax dollars.

Should ORES decide to grant Hecate a siting permit, we will continue to vigorously work to protect Copake's interests, and to press the developer to be the "community partner" it claims to be. At a very bare minimum, this means: properly screening the facility, by planting large, mature trees rather than saplings; avoiding the planned clear-cutting of 40 acres of trees and shrubs; providing appropriate training for all area fire companies; and, compensating adjacent homeowners.

We will continue to report on developments as they occur.

A brief conversation ensued.

Department Heads/Committee Reports

Bob Haight, Chair of the Planning Board mentions that they received an application and some prints for a major subdivision on Copake Valley Farm, aka, the Casino property that they will be hearing about at their November Planning Board Meeting.

Public Forum

Lindsay LeBrecht mentions that there was a comment that was made that possibly Hecate doesn't believe that there's a lot of people that are against this proposed project and some of the neighbors from it and people from the community who are very strongly against this project and in fact, in her opinion if ORES does in fact approve it, it just means it was nothing but smoke and mirrors for this whole process anyway. It hasn't been met with any fairness right from the beginning and Ms. LeBrecht thanks the town again for all that they are doing. The school is right there, the watershed, the historical value, and the Audubon. We can go on and on. This is just the wrong place. Personally, Ms. LeBrecht wants everybody to go home and think about where they could have saved today on energy usage.

Linda Senk reads comments from Harry Ehrlich.

Linda Senk feels that living in Copake and being here and being involved in this project since the get go, it is just too big for our little community and she doesn't understand why Hecate won't answer our questions regarding Shepherd's Run, it falls on deaf ears.

Dan Haas, resident and member of Friends of Columbia Solar and he has been working to support the project for the last several years. He doesn't want to go into all of the many reasons that he supports the project but disagrees with what was just said because he is on the record in many ways. Mr. Haas just wanted to stand up and say that it is not true that there is no support for the project as he has found and he has spent a lot of time at the farmer's market and found the same support. Mr. Haas adds that a great majority of the community does not know a lot about the project or are on the fence. He thinks most people are still open to it. He hopes that a draft permit is issued.

Roberta Roll thanks Mr. Haight of the Casino property update and wonders about the other aspects of that property specifically the greenhouse.

Mr. Haight states that as far as the Planning Board is concerned it is still a greenhouse.

A brief conversation regarding the greenhouse and buildings on the Casino property ensued.

Bill Newcomb, resident, is strongly against the Hecate project and voices his opinion to the Town Board.

Gray Davis, resident of Craryville, who has a place on Lakeview Road within a very short distance of where this over scaled industrial solar farm is being proposed. Mr. Davis has been up here for 26 years and the reason why he moved up here was because of this beautiful, rural charm and to think that this industrial scale solar farm is going to be placed here is just unconscionable and we have zoning laws in place to protect our investments, yet you are able to maneuver around them and it is frustrating. When this was first proposed, it was a 60 megawatt solar farm. It hasn't changed from that from the very beginning and Mr. Davis finds it disingenuous that Hecate says that they are working with the community yet, it's still the scale. Hecate also talks about on their website of how they've reduced the area when they remove the panels from Center Hill Road to County Route 7 they very clearly say that you've removed those because they were in a highly visible area. What they don't say is that you relocated them to the corner of Birch Hill Road and County Route 7 which is prime farmland in another highly visible area. Mr. Davis mentions that he thinks over 4,000 to 5,000 people in the community that have signed a petition that is against this. Every Supervisor in Columbia County is opposed to this and Mr. Davis doesn't understand they can keep saying that Hecate wants to be a good neighbor when they

keep hearing all of this feedback and nothing changes. Mr. Davis thinks it is the wrong place, and ORES states where it should be built-in industrial and sort of brownfield areas and this is certainly not that location. It is very poorly cited.

New Business

a. Cold Storage Building- Update Highway Superintendent Gregory

Highway Superintendent Gregory updates the Town Board of the progression on the cold storage building. Clune Electrical has been in and they have been working for the last several weeks. They are at the point that they are waiting for NYSEG which will be a bit of a hold up. Highway Superintendent Gregory has spoken to Wes Coon and they are still waiting on the delivery of the overhead doors which will happen between now and the end of the month.

Supervisor Mettler mentions an update from the last meeting, she did contact NYSEG to see whether NYSEG could wait to be paid until after they finish the work and the answer is no, with no exceptions. The town has paid the bill.

Supervisor Mettler mentions that one other thing has come up with regard to this project is that the Town Board put \$300,000 into a line last year for this year to cover the cost of the cold storage building and once the pandemic was over, all of the prices had gone up and we are going to be over budget. The Town Board acknowledged this last spring and said that when that time comes we will go to our capital improvement reserve fund. At this point, however, we are able to pay these bills by transferring money from other lines within the budget, without having to go into the Reserve. Supervisor Mettler has spoken with Bob Patterson and Attorney Tingley to figure out how this should be handled and it will be handled with a resolution.

b. Band Shell Update-Highway Superintendent Gregory

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that he has spoken with Wes Coon and it is anticipated to be on schedule to receive the plans and the footing prints and to be able to get the footings, the foundation, and the floor done before the end of the year.

c. Memorial Garden Update-Highway Superintendent Gregory

Highway Superintendent Gregory states that he thinks the Memorial Garden looks fantastic. He is incredibly happy with the work that Eric and James did. This project is complete.

Supervisor Mettler thanks Park Superintendent Gregory for all of his efforts and hard work in getting this project done.

d. 1998 Vermeer 1230A Brush Chipper

Highway Superintendent Gregory reports that the Highway Department received their new chipper last month that was approved by the Town Board and requests permission from the Town Board to surplus the 1998 Vermeer 1230A Brush Chipper which they do in form of a resolution.

TOWN OF COPENHAGEN RESOLUTION Number 32 of October 12, 2023

**To Approve the Highway Superintendent's Sale of
1998 Vermeer 1230A Brush Chipper**

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has determined that a certain 1998 Vermeer 1230A Brush Chipper (Vehicle Identification No. 1VRN15170W1002135) (the "Equipment") owned by the Town will 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 No. 32
Dated October 12, 2023
Copake, New York

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

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

October 12, 2023

e. **Request to Make Grant Application-Partners for Climate Action-Dan Haas**

Dan Haas states that the Partners for Climate Action has a new grant program called Building Decarbonization Grants that offers up to \$100,000. His questions for the Town Board are if they are in favor of going ahead with applying for the grant because he would do that on behalf of the town. Mr. Haas is looking specifically at the energy audit that was done and he thinks they should be able to use the energy audit as and aid to getting the grant. This is an envelope project of new windows and installation. This is for the Town Hall building only.

A brief conversation ensued.

The consensus of the Town Board is to maybe do the lighting in the building so that it is not such an ambitious, costly project. Supervisor Mettler suggests to Mr. Haas to speak again with the Conservation Advisory Committee and liaison Jeffrey Judd and come back to the Town Board at the November 9, 2023 Town Board Meeting and to also send the Town Board something in writing prior to the November 9, 2023 Town Board meeting.

f. **Community Rescue Squad 2024 Budget and County Chargeback**

Supervisor Mettler states that she will be meeting with the Community Rescue Squad on Monday, October 16th to learn of their budget. We have been advised of the figure they are seeking from Copake which is \$304,179. We have been asked by PJ Keeler to sign a Charge Back Agreement but Supervisor Mettler is going to table that until the November meeting so she can advise the Town Board of the details.

g. **Church Street Parking Lot-Supervisor Mettler**

Supervisor Mettler states that the contracts have been reviewed by Attorney Tingley and Supervisor Mettler is assuming they will be available to be signed early next week. Ryan Weitz is setting up a preconstruction meeting next week. It is suggested that Supervisor Mettler, Deputy Supervisor Wolf, Bob Haight, Bill Gregory, and Colarusso & Son attend this meeting.

h. **2024 Preliminary Budget**

TOWN OF COPEN
RESOLUTION
Number 35 of October 12, 2023

**To Adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget as the Annual Budget
for the Town of Copake for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2024**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake accepted the 2024 Tentative Budget as the 2024 Preliminary Budget on September 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Law § 108, the public hearing was held on October 12, 2023, where comments by the public both in favor and against the 2024 Preliminary Budget, as compiled, and both for and against specific items in that budget were allowed by the Town Board; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake hereby adopts the 2024 Preliminary Budget as the Annual Budget for the Town of Copake for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, with the following modification(s): the 2024 Budget Summary By Fund and Special District shall be in the form as dated October 10, 2023, so as to include the 2024 Appropriations for all special districts, fire district, library and Community Rescue Squad.

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

Resolution No. 35

Dated October 12, 2023

Copake, New York

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

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

October 12, 2023

i. Advertising for vacancies

Town Clerk Lynn Connolly informs the Town Board of the expired terms and vacancies of the Board of Assessment Review, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. These positions must be advertised even if a member would like to reapply.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to advertise for the above mentioned positions.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

j. Columbia County Planning Board Nomination

Supervisor Mettler mentions that she has received a memo from Patrice Perry of the Columbia County Planning Board. The CC Planning Board is comprised of nine members representing eight regions. The towns of Ancram, Copake, and Hillsdale are currently represented by Steve Savarese. We are Region 8. This is a three year term that expires December 31, 2023. Mr. Savarese has expressed interest in continuing on. The Town Board of Hillsdale has nominated Mr. Savarese and Supervisor Art Bassin of Ancram will present this at their next Town Board meeting as well.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to nominate Steve Savarese to the Columbia County Planning Board.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

k. Request of Ryan Weitz

Supervisor Mettler states that she has sent the Town Board memo regarding exploring the options of creating a paved parking lot between the General Store and Wine Works. This property is also owned by the Church Street Deli. Before we can get any further on this, we need to have possibly three septic systems, possibly one. In August, Supervisor Mettler came to the Town Board per Ryan Weitz's suggestion, and asked them to authorize spending up to \$2,000. At that time, Doug Weaver of Superior Sanitation had quoted the work of costing as much as \$3,800 but our engineer had suggested that maybe if Highway Superintendent Gregory used some highway equipment for some of the excavation, that we could save some money.

This was not satisfactory to the vendor and Supervisor Metter is asking the Town Board on Mr. Weitz's suggestion to approve up to \$4000 to inspect the septic systems at the Main Street lot.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to authorize Barton & Loguidice to engage Doug Weaver of Superior Sanitation up to \$4,000 to inspect the septic system(s) at the Main Street lots.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

I. Visa Bill

Supervisor Mettler asks the Town Board to initial the Visa bill so that it could be paid next week. The Town Board agrees.

Old Business

a. Update on Copake Rapid Care

Supervisor Mettler mentions that she received a call from Kirk Kneller, President of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. He has met with their Foundation and they approved donor designated fund. CMH has identified an employee to assign to Copake and they are bringing back a couple of the previous employees. Mr. Kneller thinks it will open by January 1, 2024.

b. NY Forward

This has already been discussed.

c. Short Term Rentals

Councilperson Wolf reports that they are still waiting for research from Ken Dow. As soon as they get that, they will be in touch with the Town Board.

d. Welcome to Copake Gateway Signs

Councilperson Wolf reports that the four Welcome to Copake Gateway Signs have been place and one of the signs was inadvertently mislocated and needs to be moved. The installer has agreed to return but will need to install new posts. Councilperson Wolf asks for the Town Board's approval for the reinstallation of the one sign that will not exceed \$500.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to authorize expenditure of \$500 for the reinstallation of one of the Welcome to Copake Gateway signs.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

e. Pickleball Tournament

Councilperson Wolf reports that there is no new date for Picklemania. CEDAC will propose a new date sometime in 2024. Councilperson Wolf urged them to do this promptly.

Resolutions

**Town of Copake
RESOLUTION
Number 31 of October 12, 2023**

To Amend the Town of Copake Policy Manual regarding Retiree's Benefits

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake finds it desirable to revise and amend Section VI, (C)(1) (f) 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:

The first paragraph of Section VI, Subdivision C. Paragraph 1(f) of the Policy Manual is amended to read as follows:

Retired Personnel. After twenty-five years of service with the Town, the Town will pay 75% of the health insurance premium of the employee and family; after thirty years of service, the Town will pay 90% of the cost of this coverage. In addition to paying for a percentage of the health insurance premium, for retired employees who are entitled to the foregoing coverage, the Town shall also pay for dental insurance for the employee and family in a plan of the Town's choosing pursuant to the same percentages as health insurance. Further, in lieu of a vision plan, the Town shall reimburse for each retiree and family member covered under the health insurance plan, up to \$150 per year per individual towards the cost of eye exams, glasses or contacts upon submission of paid receipts in pursuant to Town policy. For purposes of this paragraph, time served shall include time employed on a 40-hour per week basis and time served in the position of Town Clerk or Highway Superintendent. If an employee has unused sick time on the date of his retirement, the value of the sick time based upon their then rate of pay will be calculated and credited to the retiree and shall be applied towards his/her share of the cost of the health insurance premium. If the Town chooses a high deductible health insurance plan the Town will provide the retiree with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), a contribution equal to the annual minimum of 50% of the maximum out of pocket for the plan, not to exceed \$1800 for single and \$3600 for 2 person/family. **(Amended October 12, 2023)**

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

Resolution #31

Dated October 12, 2023
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.

Supervisor Mettler
Councilperson Wolf

yes
yes

Councilperson Gansowski	yes
Councilperson Judd	
Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

October 12, 2023

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 33 of October 12, 2023
Supporting Operation Green Light for Active Military Service Members in Transition to Civilian Life
(Veteran Status)**

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Copake have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, New York State Veteran Population has decreased by 44% over the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve their community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, church groups, civil service; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20% increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44% to 72% of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake appreciates the sacrifices our United State Military Personnel made while defending freedom and believes specific recognition should be accorded them in appreciation of their service and to demonstrate the honor and support they have earned; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Military Service, the Town of Copake hereby declares November 4, 2023 through Veterans Day, November 11, 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the Town of Copake will display a green light in the Town Hall from Saturday, November 4, 2023 through Saturday, November 11, 2023 and encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those whose immeasurable sacrifices helped to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

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

Resolution # 33
Dated October 12, 2023
Copake, New York

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

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

October 12, 2023

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 34 of October 12, 2023**

To Make a Budget Transfer in the A Fund in the 2023 Budget

WHEREAS, in furtherance of payment for the construction of the Cold Storage Building at the Highway Department, appropriations for A5132.2 (Garage Capital Outlay) in the adopted 2023 Final Budget must be increased by \$52,250.00; and

WHEREAS, A1620.2 (Operation of Plant Equipment) has a sufficient unexpended balance in the adopted 2023 Final Budget to finance the increase in such appropriation; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake hereby authorizes and directs a budget transfer in the adopted 2023 Final Budget as follows:

Decrease A1620.2 (Operation of Plant Equipment) by \$52,250.00
Increase A5132.2 (Garage Capital Outlay) by \$52,250.00.

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 No. 34

Dated October 12, 2023
Copake, New York

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

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

October 12, 2023

Appointments

None

Budget

- a. **Preliminary Budget to Actual Report-September 30, 2023**
- b. **Agreement to post Budget to Actual Report**

This has been tabled until the November Town Board Meeting.

A brief conversation ensued.

Councilpersons' Reports

Councilperson Sullivan mentions that Trunk or Treat is on October 28, 2023. Supervisor Mettler asks for a flyer for the Copake Connection going out on October 15th. There was no quorum for this month's meeting.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the ZBA is busy. Councilperson Gansowski mentions that Chair Strom is switching some member's positions. Attorney Tingley advises that these positions are Town Board appointed and should be appointed by the Town Board. Supervisor Mettler requests a list of these recommended appointments and it will be handled at the next meeting. Attorney Tingley mentions to record these appointment terms.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions that he is still working with Erin Reis on cleaning up Copake.

Councilperson Wolf reports that CEDAC met and he mentions again about creating an area wide calendar to fold in the other towns and Tom Goldsworthy also raised the question of how CEDAC may assist administratively on if the NY Forward grand comes through. The Road Advisory Committee hasn't met but they will be meeting with Barton and Loguidice next week.

Public Forum

Lindsay LeBrecht asks about the flags in the hallway.

Approval of Bills

None

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 7:00pm

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

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

All in favor. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly
Town Clerk