

Town Board Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
7:00pm

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, Councilperson Gansowski, Councilperson Judd, and Councilperson Sullivan.

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

Call to Order

At 7:00pm, Supervisor Mettler calls the Town Board meeting to order. Supervisor Mettler opens the Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Mettler mentions that 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.

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Mettler asks for a motion for approval of minutes for the Town Board meeting of November 9, 2023 and the Special Town Board meeting of Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to waive a further reading and accept the Minutes as written for the Town Board meeting of November 9, 2023 and the Special Town Board meeting of November 21, 2023.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Announcements

Supervisor Mettler announces that the first phase of the Church Street lot has been completed. As of today, they are installing the wires for the EV chargers.

Supervisor Mettler mentions that ORES is coming to the Town Hall for public hearings regarding Shepherd's Run which will take place in January. Deputy Supervisor Wolf will address this further.

Supervisor Mettler is happy to announce that we've received the loan of the Copake Iron Works Painting.

Supervisor Mettler states that the First Meeting Place sign that is located at the intersection of Farm Road and Main Street has been restored by Bob Callahan. The Town Board thanks Mr. Callahan for all of his hard work.

Correspondence

From-Daniel Schorr, postcard

From-Mary Bradway, note, thank you

From-Barbara Bunker, email regarding Copake Lake

From-Columbia County Historical Society, letter

From-NYS Department of Transportation, two letters

From-Laberge Group, letter

From-CC Climate Smart Task Force, email

From-Bank of Greene County, email

From-Jon Urban, email

From-CC Planning Board, letter

From-Copake Planning Board, two letters

From-ORES, letters

From-Charter Communications, Notification letter

From-Grant Langdon, several email and letters that are kept on file in the Town Clerk's office

Supervisor's Report

It is four years since I took office. As I sit here tonight, I have two emotions. One is pride- I am enormously proud of what this Board has accomplished. And the other emotion is gratitude. I am thankful to all of the people who have helped me through these four years.

When I came into office people warned that it would be a thankless job. I have not found it to be so. In four years I can count on one hand the number of times I have received an angry or rude call. People have said thank you. And now I want to say thank you, back.

Many people have helped me, but I want to mention a few: **Larry Proper**- without Larry I don't know how we would have gotten through the first year. **Bob Haight** – for your support and advice. **Edgar Masters**- for your good counsel. **Roberta Roll**- for your tireless work- on grant applications and as Editor of the Connection. You are Copake's champion. **Bob Patterson**, our accountant and **Jon Tingley**- our attorney. Thank you both for your expertise and your kindness. And of course a huge thank you to **Bob Callahan**, my friend.

I want to thank all of you in Town Hall. **Lisa DeConti, Liana Jensen, Linda Senk and Lorraine Strohmeier.** You are professional, and cheerful and kind. And of course for the professionalism and dedication of **Assessor Lynn Hotaling, Code Enforcement Officer Erin Reis, and our Judges Hilary Thomas and Glenn Schermerhorn.** And our Administrative Assistant **Gwen Menshenfriend** who has been such a help to me.

The **Highway Department.** For the late nights, and early mornings. For braving snow and sleet and hail and wind-so that the rest of us are safe.

A huge thank you to **Bill Gregory.** The roads in Copake are the best in the County. But Bill's expertise extends beyond maintaining roads. He is an expert in budgeting and planning and running the Highway Department. His employees love and respect him. So do I. Bill is simply one of the best, most decent people I have ever known.

And **Lynn Connolly.** First of all she is a really good Town Clerk. I hear her talking to the people who come to her for death certificates, garbage bags, fishing licenses and dog licenses. She shows respect to everyone who walks in the door. She is patient, she is knowledgeable, she is kind. But I also want to say how much Lynn means to me. I did not know Lynn when I started this position. And I did not know how much I would come to depend on her. Lynn has been an invaluable partner. I rely on her not just for all the actual assistance she gives me, but also for her guidance and her wisdom. And her friendship. Lynn, I could not have done this without you.

And the **Town Board.** In our first year, there were just four of us. First came Hecate, and then came Covid. It was a one-two punch. But in that first year we never had a split vote. We always reached a consensus. In the next year we were joined by Jeffrey Judd, and for the next three years we rarely had split votes, and we never had a proposal that was voted down. And on the rare occasions when we disagreed, we did it civilly- and no one held a grudge.

Thank you to **Jeffrey** for your work on the EV chargers. **Stosh,** for the generators and the LED lights. **Terry** for your work with the park, and in the past year, the example that you set for all of us. In spite of the challenges you faced, you were always engaged in the Town, you were always of good spirits, you were always generous. You were brave, Terry Sullivan. After two terms, this is Terry's last meeting. I would ask for a round of applause and appreciation.

And thank you to my friend **Richard.** Richard was my sounding board. He was always ready to listen, to reflect, to respond. Copake relied on Richard to lead us through this difficult challenge posed by Hecate. I relied on Richard for his willingness to see every side of an issue and for his moral compass. Richard is not just smart, he is thoughtful. Copake is fortunate to have Richard as our next Supervisor and I wish him and his Board every success.

The other emotion that I am feeling right now is pride. I am so proud of this Board.

I posted a list of what this Board achieved on the Town Board webpage. We built a lot of stuff. And we passed laws and updated our policy manual. In spite of all of the projects we pursued, the Town has

more money now than when we took office. I am enormously proud of what this Town Board did, and the way they did it.

Before I close, I want to thank all of you who have spoken up, and written letters and put up signs with regard to Shepherd's Run. You have expressed varying views, but what you share is your concern for Copake. Your civic engagement on this issue has been an inspiration. .

And I want to say something about democracy.

In early 2020 as I was leaving Town Hall at night, I noticed that light on the American flag no longer worked. The flag flew in darkness. And so this Board voted to install a spotlight to shine on the American Flag. For me, that simple gesture spoke volumes. The American flag is a symbol of what this country stands for. It is a symbol of democracy, a symbol of the hope we share that this form of government which we cherish, will continue to thrive.

In this little town, in these 42.1 square miles of land that we call home, democracy thrives. Government works.

Being supervisor of this Town has been one of the greatest adventures and greatest honors of my life.

I cannot end this without thanking the most important person, my Patty. You have been by my side, at my back for this whole extraordinary experience, for the good days and the bad. I could not have done this without you, and I certainly would not have wanted to.

Thank you Patty. Thank you all.

At this time, Deputy Supervisor Wolf states that with the indulgence of the members, on this, the last regular monthly Town Board meeting over which Jeanne is presiding, I'd like to take a few moments to sing her praises.

First and foremost, Jeanne Mettler is a really good person. And she is a really good friend. And no one can question her love for, and dedication to, Copake, her home town. She is very, very smart and has seemingly boundless energy.

That said, Jeanne has been — and continues to be — an outstanding Supervisor. She is a dedicated, determined leader. To demonstrate her effectiveness as a leader, I want to remind us all of some of this Board's many achievements that Jeanne has managed to shepherd through. And what makes these so impressive is that most Board votes were unanimous — thanks to Jeanne's ability, throughout her tenure, to forge consensus among us diverse Board members.

Before listing some of these accomplishments, one thing: I am mindful of the enormous, selfless contributions made by Bill Gregory, Lynn Connolly, other town employees, members of town boards and committees, and all the volunteers who have done so much to help Jeanne, this Board and the Town. You know who you are, and we all thank you.

But I want to talk about Supervisor Mettler. I think it is fair to say that but for Jeanne's leadership and drive several of the achievements I'm going to mention might not have made it across the finish line.

Let's start with Copake Memorial Park. The parking lot was paved, with increased handicapped spots and a pick-up area close to the building entrance. The Memorial Garden was redesigned and restored, and is beautiful. If you haven't seen it yet, it is lovely. And...there now are 4 new Pickleball courts, which are very popular. They sit on the resurfaced ice skating rink, near the tennis courts. And, the Park will feature a new bandshell for the summer music concert series, and other activities. The foundation goes in soon, and the structure will be completed in the spring.

Then, there's the Roads Reconstruction Project. It's scheduled for 2025, but a lot of preparation has been happening to make sure that Hamlet businesses have parking for their customers while the roads are being redone. We've hired and worked with an engineering firm to design parking lots and streetscapes. The expanded Municipal Lot on Church Street is open. A top course will be poured in the spring, with painted parking spaces, some EV chargers, landscaping, and improved lighting. Plans are being developed for the Main Street Lot, between the General Store and Wine Works.

We approved design and construction of a new Cold Storage Building for the Highway Department. Bill will report on its status a bit later.

This building houses the highly-acclaimed, informative Town Hall Historic Exhibit, featuring 24 historic panels and beautiful Nick Fritsch paintings.

We established the position of Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor, and, in addition to our Town Attorney, we now retain separate counsel for land use matters, and for labor relations and employment issues.

We established the Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee and two subcommittees to the Conservation Advisory Committee: a Climate Smart Committee and the new Mohican Allyship: its Mission Statement will be voted upon this evening.

A Historic Marker Project, on the agenda tonight, will provide plaques to Copake buildings constructed during Copake's first century, and will coincide with the Town's Bicentennial year.

Working off the recommendations of an *ad hoc* committee, the Board passed an Affordable Housing Law to address the chronic and growing shortage of affordable housing in Copake and the County. Another *ad hoc* committee proposed a law to regulate short-term rentals. Copake has more STR units than any town in Columbia County. We solicited comments and held a well-attended public hearing and developed a law designed to balance and protect the rights of STR owners and those of their neighbors. We expect to pass this at our end-of-year meeting, with an effective date in 2024, so it is likely to be the final legislative action of the Town Board during Jeanne's tenure.

The Board agreed to opt in — that is, *not* to opt out — of the State’s cannabis law. This means there can be dispensaries in Copake, if and when the State finally issues licenses.

Finally, last and certainly not least, on my list (and believe it or not, this is not even close to a complete list): the Bicentennial. A hard-working Committee has been planning a series of events for Copake’s Bicentennial next year, including a ceremony marking the first Town meeting on April 4th, an original play, a picnic, and a concluding parade and party, complete with fireworks. I have a strong suspicion that Jeanne, who has been the Board’s liaison to the Bicentennial, will stay involved in this.

One final and very important accomplishment isn’t the Board’s — it’s Jeanne’s alone. Without much involvement from the rest of the Board, Jeanne rallied other local towns and State elected officials to press Columbia Memorial Hospital to reopen Rapid Care. We now are confident that the advocacy she has led will result in the reopening of Copake Rapid Care sometime in the first quarter of 2024, and provide urgently needed medical care to the greater Roe Jan area.

For all of this and more, and on behalf of all of us, we salute you, Jeanne. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Solar Update

On October 24th the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”) issued a draft siting permit for Hecate Energy to construct and operate a utility-scale, 267-acre solar energy factory in Craryville. If built, “Shepherd’s Run” would run mostly south of Route 23 along County Route 7, all the way down to Cambridge Road. Its almost 200,000 solar panels, inverters, transmission lines, other equipment, access roads, and laydown yards would be installed mostly on the east side of 7, and a substantial number also would be placed in the large field adjacent to the Taconic Hills School campus, west of 7, between Route 23 and Birch Hill Road.

As I reported at the November Town Board meeting, ORES will be conducting public comment hearings in Copake Town Hall. An Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) will preside over four in-person hearings: two on Tuesday, January 9th, at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM, and two on Wednesday, January 10, also at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM. There also will be two virtual hearings on January 11th.

Regardless of your position regarding the proposed Shepherd’s Run project, I hope you all will take the opportunity to present your comments to ORES.

If you intend to speak at an in-person hearing session, you must pre-register by 10 a.m. on Monday, January 8th. You can register by sending an email to hearings@ores.ny.gov, or by calling (518) 473-4590. Either way, you must provide your first and last name, the organization you represent (if any), and your address, email address and phone number. And, you must reference “Shepherd’s Run public hearings” and the hearing session at which you’d like to speak.

Depending on the number who signs up, the ALJ may limit speakers to three minutes. It may be possible for speakers to present comments at more than one session, but speakers must sign up for each session.

Note that ORES will accept written comments as well. If you do not intend to speak, you do not have to pre-register.

However, if you prefer to attend one of the virtual hearing sessions on January 11th you must pre-register by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10th, regardless of whether you intend to speak. You can register electronically through Webex or by telephone, (518) 473-4590. If you intend to log in through Webex, please contact Councilperson Wolf and he will send you information for the somewhat complicated procedure

All speakers and attendees at the in-person public comment hearing sessions should refrain from shouting out, chanting, or demonstrating. The ALJ has made clear her intention to conduct dignified hearing sessions.

I hope all Copakeans will make every effort to attend one or more sessions.

Finally, I want to clarify a comment I made at the November Board meeting. In discussing the Working Group, I failed to distinguish between members who are ardent supporters of Shepherd's Run and those with a more balanced view of the proposed project. I inadvertently conflated the Working Group with Friends of Columbia Solar. Thanks to Troy Weldy of the Columbia Land Conservancy for pointing this out.

Public Forum

Roberta Roll states that the new parking lot is fabulous. Is there any way to get temporary lighting?

Supervisor Mettler is working on this.

Roberta Roll says a few words about Supervisor Mettler.

Karen Victoria Sander (Vicky) reads a letter from Assemblymember Didi Barrett to Houtan Moaveni the Executive Director of ORES, expressing her concern regarding Hecate and Shepherd's Run.

Lindsay LeBrecht thanks the Town Board for all that they do and have done and wishes Supervisor Mettler all of the best.

Ms. LeBrecht speaks of the DMM site run by ORES. It seems it's been hijacked by a group that is aligned with New Yorkers for clean power and they figured out a way to post comments without actually going to the website and sent this tool out to their mailing list and over the last two weeks, over 225 comments, mostly identical have been posted by people who don't live here. Sara Traberman did write to the judge to bring this issue to her attention. Ms. LeBrecht reads an excerpt of Ms. Traberman's email.

Ms. LeBrecht is appalled but not surprised. She finds this to be a very complicated system and Sensible Solar is helping people the best they can in navigating the sign on process.

Supervisor Mettler called ORES to let them know that constituents were having trouble logging on and a representative of ORES will be coming here and she will be speaking to them about this issue.

Bill Newcomb, Copake resident, states that he is very glad that he voted for Supervisor Mettler and he has told her that several times. Mr. Newcomb states that everyone knows how he feels about Shepherd's Run. This is not a fair fight. This is some underhanded shenanigans and he is appalled. Mr. Newcomb thanks the Town Board for all of their support, also, Sara Traberman, Lindsay LeBrecht, Linda Senk, Steve Futrell, Tom Goldsworthy, and last but not least, Karen (Vicky) Sander.

Bob Haight talks of the Short Term Rental Law and brings up several questions and concerns. In particular, he said Enhanced Short Term Rentals should not be limited to RU districts.

Lindsay LeBrecht speaks of her concerns and questions regarding the Short Term Rental Law.

Department Heads/Committee Reports

Supervisor Mettler introduces Kellie Nardin, Chair of the Bicentennial Committee and Catherine Mikic, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee.

Ms. Nardin, Bicentennial Chair, thanks Supervisor Mettler for all she has done for her and the town and asks the Town Board to appoint Supervisor Mettler to the Bicentennial Committee after her term expires.

Ms. Nardin asks the Town Board to approve the nomination of Heather Thompson who has been volunteering on the Bicentennial Committee.

Catherine Mikic, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee also thanks Supervisor Mettler for everything that she has done.

Ms. Mikic discusses the Historic Marker's Project that the Historic Preservation Committee has put together and asks the Town Board for fee of services to design a professional map.

A motion was made by Councilperson Judd and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve the expenditure of \$5000 to Alex Knowlton for the design of a historic marker map provided that the proposal meets with the approval from the Town Attorney.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler received an email from Ann Cooper from the Columbia County Board of Tourism offering the town another \$1000 and asks for the Town Boards approval which she receives.

New Business

a. Cold Storage Building- Update Highway Superintendent Bill Gregory

Highway Superintendent Gregory reports that the Cold Storage Building is basically done and they are just waiting on NYSEG.

b. Band Shell-Update Park Superintendent Bill Gregory

Highway Superintendent Gregory updates the Town Board of the progression of the band shell and mentions that an agreement has been made on the location and placement of it. Wes Coons has finally received the blueprints and plans. The delivery of the structure is scheduled for February 1, 2024.

c. Request from Hempire Inc DBA Empire Farm 1830 for Municipal Approval of Change in Schedule for Cannabis Showcase

This has been stricken from the Agenda. NYS has not yet extended the Cannabis showcase to 2024.

d. Nomination of Copake representative on Columbia County Climate Smart Community Task Force

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to nominate Cara Boyle to serve on the Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force.

All in favor. Motion approved.

e. Mohican Allyship Mission Statement

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to adopt the Mohican Allyship Mission Statement.

All in favor. Motion approved.

f. Columbia Greene Humane Society Contract fo 2024

Supervisor Mettler mentions that the Columbia Greene Humane Society has raised their rates which means that our rates increase automatically.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Judd to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with the Columbia Greene Humane Society for 2024.

All in favor. Motion approved.

g. Robert Patterson 2024 Letters of Engagement

This will be handled at the End of Year Meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2023.

h. PFL Payments

Supervisor Mettler states that Gwen Menshenfriend and Bob Patterson discovered that ADP was incorrectly making deductions for NY PFL. Town owes for the NY PFL deductions for the calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The total amount is \$1,797.73, and the amounts range from \$0.31 to \$265.45. (We did find a previous error regarding disability deductions which was in 2022. This is something different.)

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Judd that the town would reimburse various employees who are named here for the reimbursement of the deduction.

All in favor. Motion approved.

i. Eagle Scout Commendation

Supervisor Mettler states that we have distributed a Resolution to honor Copake resident Karl Weingaertner who is a member of Troop 752 in Hillsdale. This troop includes kids from the Taconic Hills School area. We will adopt this Resolution later on tonight. Supervisor Mettler states that we have a plaque in the long hallway honoring Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 130. That troop no longer exists and Supervisor Mettler is asking for a motion to purchase a new plaque on which will post the names of Copake residents from Troop 752 who has obtained the status of Eagle Scout.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to purchase a new plaque on which will post the names of Copake residents from Troop 752 who has obtained the status of Eagle Scout.

All in favor. Motion approved.

j. Acceptance of Gift of Watercolor

A motion was made by Councilperson Judd and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to accept the watercolor painting by Janet Brattesani that will hang in the Town Clerk's Office.

All in favor. Motion approved.

k. Bank of Greene County-Grant for 2024

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan that the town apply for a grant from the Bank of Greene County for the benefit of the Summer Camp.

All in favor. Motion approved.

l. Schedule 2024 Organizational Meeting

Deputy Supervisor Wolf and the Town Board agree to schedule the 2024 Organizational Meeting for Tuesday, January 3, 2024 at 9:30am.

m. Sound System for Courtroom

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to authorize the Supervisor to approve an estimate of \$696.41 and \$900 for installation from MIS.

Motion approved.

Old Business

a. Ice Machine at Park Building

Supervisor Mettler suggests that this is something which Bob Callahan can look into for 2024.

b. Update on Copake Rapid Care

Supervisor Mettler states that CMH has stepped up to both commit to the reopening and raise money. If you did not receive their fund raising letter and wish to contribute, please be in touch

and I can pass your name along. Supervisor Mettler feels confident that the facility will reopen and we look forward to that day.

c. Update on NY Forward

Supervisor Mettler mentions that no announcement has yet to be made.

Resolutions

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 41 of December 14, 2023**

Resolution Exempting Certain Referrals Mandated by General Municipal Law Section 239-m

WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law Section 239-m requires that certain planning and zoning actions be referred to the County Planning Board before final action is taken by the city, town or village having jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, many of these mandated referrals have no identifiable countywide or inter community impact, and

WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law, Section 239-m-3-c, allows for the municipality having jurisdiction and the County Planning Board to enter into an agreement that exempts certain actions from mandatory referral, and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Planning Board has determined that the following actions will not have an identified countywide or inter-community impact:

1. Any area variance seeking relief from a frontyard, sideyard, or rearyard setback on an existing or prior approved parcel
2. Any variance, site plan review or special permit for an oversized sign, for additional signage in excess of what is permitted in a specific zone or any sign that exceeds the maximum allowed height.
3. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the conversion of a single family residence into a two family residence, providing provisions are included in the local ordinance for Health Department approval of any on-lot system serving such conversion.
4. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for any temporary use established pursuant to the provisions of the local ordinance.
5. Any variance required for any fence including height, setback, materials or construction methods, except that no fence required by the N.Y.S. Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code shall be the subject of any variance considered by the local Zoning Board of Appeals.
6. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit or variance required pursuant to a Historic

District Review of an existing or new structure.

7. Any area variance required for the creation of an undersized parcel via the sub division process, providing the Health Department has approved the on-lot well and septic system locations.
8. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the expansion of an existing business or commercial use providing the expansion is located in the side or rear yard of the parcel and that the expansion does not exceed 50% of the existing building size.
9. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required to establish a permitted home occupation within an existing residence or accessory structure.
10. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the replacement of an existing mobile home with another.
11. Any area variance, site plan review or special permit required for the erection of any permitted accessory structure or use within the required side or rearyards of an existing parcel.
12. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required to establish more than one residence on a single parcel providing that each residence is located in a manner that would allow for a theoretical sub-division at a future date.
13. Any variance, site plan review or special permit for a mining operation of a scale that would not require a Mined Land Reclamation Permit from N.Y.S.D.E.C.
14. Any action by a local municipal board that would establish a temporary developmental moratorium providing the length of the moratorium does not exceed three (3) months.
15. Any area variance, site plan review or special permit required for the installation of any type of radio communication antenna, but not including cellular or digital telephone towers or other personal wireless communications facilities.
16. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the installation of any requirements pursuant to the American Disabilities Act.
17. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the creation of a pond, provided no N.Y.S.D.E.C. permit is required due to the limited size and/or location of the pond.
18. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required for the establishment of a residential use on the second floor of a structure whose ground floor is occupied by a business or commercial use.
19. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required to establish a dwelling unit

that is smaller in size than allowed by the local zoning ordinance.

20. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required to establish a second or subsequent business entity, not exceeding 10,000 square feet, operated by the owners of and located on an active farm operation.
21. Any variance, site plan review or special permit required to establish a residential solar energy system that provides energy for the use of the property.
22. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, or Area Variance required for a building integrated solar energy system proposed for an existing structure, provided the Local Fire Chief review is required.
23. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, or Area Variance required to establish a single-family, duplex or two-family residential dwelling in a single structure.
24. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit or Area Variance required to establish a short term rental use in an existing structure, or accessory structure.
25. Any abbreviated, and/or expedited Site Plan Review.
26. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, or Area Variance required to establish a Home Occupation in an existing primary or accessory structure.
27. Any Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, or Area Variance required to install an electric vehicle charging device for single-family or multi-family-residential use of four (4) units or fewer, housed in the one (1) structure

Now therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake, does hereby concur that the aforementioned exemptions do not have an identified countywide or inter-community impact and agree that such actions shall no longer be referred to the Columbia County Planning Board for review and recommendation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake, hereby reserves the right to request a review and recommendation on any of the aforementioned exempt actions, if in their opinion such review and recommendation are warranted due to the specific circumstances of the requested action.

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. 41
Dated December 14, 2023
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)

December 14, 2023

**TOWN OF COPENNY
RESOLUTION
Number 42 of December 14, 2023**

A Resolution Commending Karl Weingaertner for Having Achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2021, **KARL WEINGAERTNER**, a resident of Copake and a member of Boy Scout Troop 752 in Hillsdale New York attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and

WHEREAS, recognition of his achievement was delayed by the pandemic, but **KARL WEINGAERTNER**, was recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 10, 2023, and

WHEREAS, **KARL WEINGAERTNER'S** Eagle Scout project was constructing wooden benches which were placed around the Roe Jan Park on State Route 22 in Hillsdale, and

WHEREAS, **KARL WEINGAERTNER** obtained the funds to build these benches through donations of lumber from Herrington's in Hillsdale and led his troop of scouts and adults in constructing the benches, and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this prestigious rank,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that we the Members of the Copake Town Board, do hereby recognize and commend **KARL WEINGARTNER** for his commitment, he perseverance, and his dedication, and congratulate him upon his attainment of this esteemed rank, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the name of **KARL WEINGAERTNER** shall be inscribed upon a plaque hanging in the Copake Town Hall which honors scouts who have also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

Resolution No. 42

Dated December 14, 2023

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)

Appointments

The Board of Assessment review has made the following recommendations: Alden Warner and the reappointment of Maureen McGoldrick.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessment Review to appoint Alden Warner and Maureen McGoldrick to the Board of Assessment Review.

All in favor. Motion approved.

The Town Clerk will send letters and notify the new BAR members.

Budget

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve and post the budget to actual report for November 30, 2023.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilpersons' Reports

Councilperson Gansowski reports Knit Club brought in \$5000 on their Christmas sale in addition to their \$6000 on their other sale, all of which goes to the Copake area, the Food Bank and the Backpack Program. That is great job and we should all support the Knit Club.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions that he has been working on the Farm Road electric issue since last year and will continue to do so.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the ZBA had a normal meeting but they are still looking for a secretary. Supervisor Mettler suggests a display ad and also by word of mouth.

Councilperson Gansowski states that he heard everyone talk of Supervisor Mettler tonight but the one word he did not hear was the word, communicate and he thinks that is the one thing she did really, really, well. Councilperson Gansowski thinks they had a great Town Board and thinks Councilperson Sullivan is a fighter.

Councilperson Sullivan states ditto to everything everyone else said about Supervisor Mettler this evening. It has been an absolute pleasure working with the entire Town Board these last four years and Supervisor Mettler is exemplary model and leader.

Councilperson Sullivan mentions that the Park Commission met the other day and they had an amazing Holiday Light Parade and thanks the Park members for all of their hard work.

Councilperson Sullivan reads a letter from Park Commission from Deputy Chair, Stephanie Poucher regarding the placement of the bandshell.

Councilperson Wolf reports that CEDAC did meet but he had technical difficulties and could not attend.

Councilperson Judd reports that the CAC met last Saturday and they are working on several items. The Climate Smart Task Force is going for the Bronze Certification by the end of the year.

Public Forum

Diana Jameson has concerns of the bandshell.

Bill Jameson has concerns of the candy that is thrown when the town has a parade and also of his concerns of the placement of the bandshell.

Highway Supervisor Gregory will speak with Mr. and Mrs. Jameson regarding this issue.

Approval of Bills

None

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:00pm

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

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

All in favor. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly
Town Clerk