

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

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REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-March 7, 2019

Supervisor Johnson called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Johnson led the board and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members present.

Arthur Johnson-Supervisor
Steve Streicher-Councilman
Duane Bogardus-Councilman
John Lant-Deputy Supervisor
John McEachron-Councilman

Also present was Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper, P. E., Comptroller, Maria Moran, CPA and Mark Schachner, Town Counsel.

Public Comment Session

Tom Murphy of 1 Hearthstone Drive said he is a retired New York City Police Department Detective in the Counter-Terrorism Unit and presently works as a school resource officer for Queensbury School District. He said the Parkland School shooting was the #1 reported story in 2018 according to the Associated Press and was the worst year for school shootings. There were 24 school shootings with injuries and death. 114 people were killed or injured. 28 students were killed along with 7 school employees and 79 people injured. The School Ground Monitor's Program has been in effect for 30 years. Since the inception of the Grounds Monitor's Program no student of color was menaced or threatened by the monitor, no service weapon discharged and no monitor detained or issue discipline to any students. Most students and staff members did not know monitors were armed. Over 1,000 citizens attended school board meetings, 300 citizens spoke at the meetings about disarming the Ground's Monitors with 80% in favor of reauthorizing the program and also increasing the SRO program. A school

safety poll conducted by the Saratoga Springs School District, 80% responded increasing school security. Over 1,500 signed petitions opposed the disarming of armed monitors were given to the school superintendent. Three towns passed resolutions, Town of Greenfield, Town of Wilton and City of Saratoga Springs, in response to the decision to remove the firearms from the School Ground Monitors. The politicians are hearing from the voters and the voters are not happy. The Saratoga Springs Assistant Chief of Police, the School Resource Officer for the district, and the Director of School Security for the district stated "The students are less safe now since the disarming of the grounds monitors". Mr. Murphy said he recently found out at a board meeting the SRO's assigned to the high school, when they are off, training or out sick, there is no one to cover for them. The district has not coordinated coverage with the police department to have replacements for the SRO or armed monitor. The district needs to do more, increasing mental health programs for our students, he said he is in the schools every day and we need to expand the mental health program. They also need to expand the SRO program to all Saratoga Springs Schools. Rearming qualified Grounds Monitors and make sure every school has a full time Ground Monitor, armed and unarmed. Mr. Murphy said he was recently at a meeting for local SRO's throughout the capital district. Hadley Luzerne School District, which has 721 students, has two full time SRO's. Saratoga Springs School District, with a student population of 6,400 kids, has two SRO's. We can do better and we must.

Joe Moran of 63 Sheffield Drive said he is a retired NYPD Sargent and a Forensic Sargent during the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. He said he was a Community Policing Sargent and Police Officer and covered should in New York City. We had ancillary support from other precincts and task forces within the city. We had police in every school. Mayor Giuliani had the police commissioner approve off duty and retired police officers to provide security with each and every public school within New York City due to guns being confiscated, shootings within the schools, knifings, drugs and all other quality of life conditions within the schools. The officers were also indemnified if they were acting within the proficiency of their duties. We should not go against logic and common sense when we already had armed active and retired police officers in the school for 30 years without ever an incident. It is like having an ancillary police department within the school. If there is an incident in the school and call the police it will take several minutes to respond. Why would you want to do that when you already have a police force within the school? They were also exposed. For 30 years no one knew they were armed. It's almost like exposing an Air Marshall on a plane, the passengers know and then the terrorists know who to go after first. Mr. Moran said he came from a military family with many of his uncles serving in Korean and Viet Nam. They were combat veterans who became police officers. He said his uncle survived being shot on duty and retired successfully once said "If you are licensed and privileged to carry a weapon, you carry that weapon, not only for yourself but for your family, public safety and the city for which you reside in. It is your obligation and commitment to protect the public on or off duty". These police officers are trained several times a year. They are already active duty within the Sheriff's Department and the Saratoga Springs Police Department. They are not retired, they are working in an off duty capacity. He said he didn't understand why it is a problem having these professionals armed instead of calling for police and waiting for response while there is a shootout. If there is concern about friendly fire, it can happen in any shooting, even when the police respond.

Joanne Klepetar of 101 Parkhurst Road said she wasn't sure what the prior comments have to do with the Wilton Town Board, the resolution was already passed opposing the gun carrying. She said she has some issue with illegal signage in the Town of Wilton. There are two, one on Smith Bridge Road

advertising apartments in the Cider Mill area. It's a permanent sign which has been there for at least two and a half years. The second, The Gordon Building has feather flags at the entrance. She said she didn't know if they were legal or not but it should be addressed before Route 9 starts looking trashy like Moreau, South Glens Falls and Clifton Park. The last item, we need to put the position of town planner back into the budget. There was a meeting about seven years ago when the vote was taken to get rid of the position, two very big developers, Mike Dennis and Frank Parillo spoke about keeping the position. It needs to be looked at over and over again.

Eric Rosenberg of 16 Craw Lane said he wanted to talk about the gun advocacy resolution that was passed two meetings ago. He said he was not going to speak to the decision itself but to the process. Everybody should know the town board has nothing to do with whether or not there will be guns in the school or not. He said it is gun advocacy because if it was really about school safety you would've heard other people speak. You would've heard other opinions. The bigger concern is when the board met outside of a public meeting, you all must've talked about it outside of the public meeting because everyone was in agreement well in advance because there was a resolution planned. **Councilman McEachron** said not to accuse him of something that was not done. **Mr. Rosenberg** said it was obviously decided in advance and when the board did that, they broke the law and violated their ethical obligations because it was a done deal when you got here. **Councilman McEachron** said it was voted on, one at a time. **Mr. Rosenberg** said it was but it was obviously discussed outside of the meeting. **Councilman Streicher** said he didn't know what he was talking about.

Mr. Rosenberg said at the last meeting Supervisor Johnson mumble under his breath. When people said having a town planner is not the same as having an outside planner and Supervisor Johnson said yes, it is. At least have the courtesy to the people of the Town of Wilton, the real reason because how many hundreds of thousands of dollars or perhaps millions of dollars in grants, do we not apply for because we don't have a full time planner. Mr. Riper does a good job being the engineer but he has plenty to do there. It is not the same. The annual development report, probably put together by the planner, the last one on the website is 2016. We are years behind. They are listed on the page for the Planning Department. We have an Open Space Plan, a Comprehensive Plan, Exit 16 Linkage Study, and Blueprint for Economic Growth. Who is looking at those, who is implementing those? Nobody I'm sure. He said he hasn't gotten his FOIL responses back but he said he is sure it is going to show nobody is doing the planning job. The Hamlet, there have been a couple of meetings with that developer and there is still nobody looking at the details like where should we put the crossers. Nobody is doing the planning job. It's time to come clean to the people of Wilton and explain why you are not or hire a planner and stop keeping Wilton stuck in the past.

Approve Pending Minutes

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2019 meeting, as typed.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher, duly put

to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Camp Saratoga Delegan Pond Fishing Program

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

Camp Saratoga Delegan Pond, Scout Pond, Fishing Program

The Town of Wilton Town Board, owners of property known as Camp Saratoga will stock Scout Pond for resident fishing.

1. The stocking program is for the **Town of Wilton's handicapped residents and youths under age 16 only.**
2. April 1st to October 15th, will be reserved for fishing by Town of Wilton resident **youths age 16 or under and handicapped individuals** and may be assisted by an immediate adult family member.
3. Fishing limit is 2 per day.
4. **No** live bait is permitted (worms and lures permitted).

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

WWPP Quarterly Report

Margo Olson of WWPP said their mission is based on conservation, environmental education and outdoor recreation so the quarterly report is in those categories so you can see the initiatives going on in each of them. It is winter here and our focus is less on conservation though there is planning for the spring. We focus on outdoor recreation, especially at Camp Saratoga. Most of the grooming was done by our interns and appreciate the support the town gives us and the operating grants. We use some of the operating grant to support equipment and maintenance to enable us to groom the 4.5 miles of trails for cross country skiers and snowshoe activities. Saratoga Striders is a running club who has a 5K race in the summer and a snowshoe race in the winter. We did cancel our moonlight ski and snowshoe this

year. We can't predict the weather and we didn't have enough snow. Our interns have been busy with afterschool programs with Franklin Community Center with their Project Lift, the Gavin Park Afterschool Program, Malta Community Center Afterschool Program, as well as in school programs. Tonight, there is a Girl Scout Troop doing an Owl Prowl and on Monday there will be a Boy Scout Troup. These are year round events. **Supervisor Johnson** thanked Ms. Olson for a job well done. **Ms. Olson** thanked the Town of Wilton for keeping the parking lots clear and all of their maintenance work.

Clarification and Ratification of Local Law #1 of 2008

Supervisor Johnson said there is clarification and ratification of Local Law #1 of 2008 regarding Palmertown Ridge PUDD. The board can set a public hearing for next month to review the clarification prepared by counsel.

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing for 7:00 p.m., April 4, 2019 for the clarification and ratification of LL #1 of 2008, Palmertown Ridge PUDD.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Reappointments

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, approve the reappointment of Erin Armstrong to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three year term, 3/4/2019-3/3/2022.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Appointments

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
approve the appointment of Karen Strack
James to the Historical Preservation board
for a term, 3/7/2019-12/31/2020.

The adoption of the resolution was
seconded by Deputy Supervisor Lant, duly
put to a vote, all in favor. The motion
passed 5-0.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
approve the appointment of Jeanine
Woutersz to Chairperson of the Historical
Preservation.

The adoption of the resolution was
seconded by Deputy Supervisor Lant, duly
put to a vote, all in favor. The motion
passed 5-0.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Lant the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
approve the appointment Michael Dobis as
Chairman of the Wilton Planning Board for
a term of 3/7/2019-12/31/2019.

The adoption of the resolution was
seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put
to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-
0.

Committee Reports

Deputy Supervisor Lant said a few months ago we discussed a hazardous waste pickup. He said he spoke to Sheriff Zurlo about a drug disposal day. They will bring in the personnel and the equipment. Dates were discussed and it was decided April 27, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall.

Councilman Bogardus said the court rehabilitation project is moving forward. There is a 90% completed conceptual drawing. We are still on track to go out to bid towards the end of the month. Gavin Park pavilions projects will start once the weather gets better. We will be meeting with the Highway Superintendent, Highway Foremen and Mr. Riper for the salt screen project. There will also be an air conditioning project at Gavin Park.

Supervisor Johnson noted John Ariel of Ariel's Farm received the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Saratoga Soil and Water and Farm Bureau. We would like to recognize John and his family for generations of agricultural work in the town.

Supervisor Johnson said April 9, 2019 is Yellow Ribbon Day. The Saratoga County Clerk's Office has partnered with Blue Star Mothers to collect donations for Freedom Boxes which are sent to deployed troops. The Town of Wilton will have a box in Town Hall. There is a list of items needed on the back of the flyer.

Comptroller's Report

1.) 2019 Budget Transfers and Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2019 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 3/7/2019 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Lant duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

2.) 2019 Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Lant, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2019 budget transfers requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 3/7/2019 Report (attached) to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

3.) Wilton Emergency Squad-Penfle Service Award Program

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the audit and review of the 2018 PENFLEX Service Award Program points listing of all volunteer ambulance workers at the Wilton Emergency Squad.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Lant, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

4.) Personnel

a.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Streicher, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, accept the resignation of Dave Coffinger, Highway Department, with deep regret.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Supervisor Johnson congratulated Mr. Coffinger for being appointed to Highway Superintendent in the Town of Northumberland.

b.

On a motion introduced by Councilman McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the hiring of Michael Laubach to the vacant part-time Maintenance position at a starting base rate of \$15.37 per hour, beginning March 12, 2019, contingent upon passing all screening requirements.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Streicher duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

c.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Lant, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Tina Weber to the vacant Assessor's position for a term of 03/19/2019-09/30/2019.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

d.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor Lant, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve overnight travel to the New York State Town Clerk's Association meeting held in Syracuse, New York, May 5-8, 2019 for Susan Baldwin.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman McEachron, duly

put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Executive Session

Supervisor Johnson said there will be an Executive Session.

Councilman McEachron made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. for Executive Session to discuss the appointment, demotion or promotion of a particular individual. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Streicher** with all board members in favor. The motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Streicher made a motion to reconvene at 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Bogardus** with all board members in favor.

On a motion introduced by **Councilman McEachron** and seconded by **Councilman Bogardus**, all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

Supervisor, Arthur Johnson

Councilman, Steve Streicher

Deputy Supervisor, John Lant

Councilman, John McEachron

Councilman Duane Bogardus