

**TOWN OF DEERPARK
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
(ZOOM)**

Monday, December 7, 2020

Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, New York 12746

Invocation by Alan Schock (participation is optional)

Attendance:

Supervisor: Gary Spears

Councilmen: Alan Schock, Art Trovei, David Dean, Ken Smith

Attorney: Glen Plotsky

Town Clerk: Flo Santini

Town Engineer: Al Fusco

Planning Board Secretary: Amanda Gorr

Matt Decker from the Orange County Land Trust

Pledge of Allegiance: Art Trovei

Call to Order: 7:32 p.m.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Supervisor Spears requests motion to extend state of emergency through January 5, 2021, due to uptick in COVID in Orange County and guidance from Steve Newhouse and Dr. Gellman.

Motion to approve extension of State of Emergency through January 5, 2021

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by Art Trovei to approve extension of State of Emergency through January 5, 2021.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Ken Smith, Alan Schock, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Presentations/Communications:

Supervisor Spears: With our state of emergency, the Town Hall is actually closed to the public but we are handling everything that needs to be handled, either through phone calls, email, or the dropbox out front. Come by or call/email ahead if you need to stop by and drop something off. We won't be open until we get the clearance to do so by either the county or the state.

Town Clerk: Flo Santini: Good Evening, I sent out flyers all around the area about a holiday house decoration contest that we do every year. We will be doing it from December 14th- December 17th, with winners being announced December 21st. The winners will be invited to stop by Town Hall to pick out their prizes.

We talked about tax collection last week. On these papers it asks about in-person payment. I wrote on it (and this will go on every tax bill) "we ask due to COVID19, that you mail in your payments to the town hall." Then on our website and the BAS we will accept checks, money orders, credits cards, so you do not have to come into the town hall. Please mail them in if possible. Thank you.

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Supervisor Spears: Our next meeting is on December 29th which is our close-out meeting at 3 p.m. where we will audit and sign off at the end of the year. That will take the place of our second meeting of the month. Tonight, we have a presentation from Matt Decker who is with the Orange County Land Trust. He has a presentation on the Watershed Protection Proposal, and that is to do with the Boehmler Park Land Tract that the Town of Deerpark owns.

Matt Decker: I would like to talk about the Boehmler Pond Tract and the permanent preservation of it for public access and watershed protection. I work with the Orange County Land Trust as Director of Conservation and Stewardship. We are a non-profit Organization that covers the entire county in and around Orange County. We protect land through ownership of it, which is land acquisition, and through conservation easements, which is partnering with a private property owner. There is a lot of land we would like to protect in the town of Deerpark. We also protect drinking water. We partnered with the city of Port Jervis to help them understand an opportunity that was available from the state called the Water Quality Improvement Program, which is a grant program. The city was successful in getting that grant. I would like to make a proposal to Boehmler Pond Tract to the city of Port Jervis' watershed lands with a conservation easement that would permanently protect and allow public access on that tract. Proposed purchase price would be \$910,000. This is for about 562 acres. I have all the funding available in order to make this purchase.

Public Comment:

Question 1: How will people get receipts for their tax payments?

Supervisor Spears: Flo will mail out a receipt as soon as she receives payment.

Question 2: Police reform reinvention committee members- how will they be picked?

Supervisor Spears: We use the guidebook to go down through people that the state recommended beyond the committee, and also we accept volunteers.

Question 3: (On the topic of surplus equipment)

Supervisor Spears: The surplus equipment we're going to surplus is stuff that no longer works. The town has already replaced those with new pieces we have now.

Motion to Approve November 16, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Alan Schock 2nd by David Dean to Approve November 16, 2020 Minutes

VOTES: 5 AYES: Ken Smith, Alan Schock, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears: NYS Police Reinvention Committee announced. We went by the guidebook as best as we could to fill this committee, and I will try to contact all of them tomorrow. Those highly recommended are: Gary Spears, Chief Stinder, Stew Rosenwasser, Glen Plotsky, Tom Faggione, Bob Pratt. Volunteers on the committee are Margaret Spring, Adhara Bantz, Bob Seller, Scott Glenn, Michael Witt, Berton Thelander. I will be in contact with each of them tomorrow to set dates and times in order to facilitate a meeting.

Supervisor Spears reads the resignation from one a part-time police officer, Roger Morgan who is moving to Tennessee.

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Motion to accept the resignation from Roger Morgan

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by Art Trovei to accept the resignation from Roger Morgan

VOTE: 5 AYES: Ken Smith, Alan Schock, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears: We have to surplus some equipment out from the historian's office and from the building department.

Motion to surplus items out

Motion by Al Schock 2nd by Ken Smith to surplus items out

VOTE: 5 AYES: Ken Smith, Alan Schock, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears: We have an appointment due up for the BAR and the ZBA. I have not gotten to interview each and every one of the applicants.

Motion to table this motion

Motion by Art Trovei 2nd by David Dean to table this motion

VOTE: 5 AYES: Ken Smith, Alan Schock, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears: I discussed with Steve Newhouse and Dr. Gellman about the virus and how we would handle emergencies in the highway department if we had snow or ice storms. There was a conference call in which we came to the conclusion that they are essential workers and need to be available if we need them. Due to this, those working for the highway department may now be considered as first responders, so that we may handle emergent situations thrown at us this winter season.

Motion to designate and recognize employees of the Town of Deerpark Highway Department as first responders for Resolution 12

Motion by Art Trovei 2nd by Al Schock to designate and recognize employees of the Town of Deerpark Highway Department as first responders for Resolution 12

VOTE: 5 AYES: (Roll Call): Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears: We have some new part-time employees that will be joining us in replacement of people that have left. I am looking for approval to hire a new clerk to the Assessors Office, Amy Smith, a new clerk to the Town of Deerpark's Office, Grace Pittari, a new clerk to the Town of Deerpark clerk's office, Grace Schock, and a tax collector, Danielle Osowick, all of which are starting at the town's starting rate.

Motion to approve the hiring of these employees

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by Art Trovei to approve the hiring of these employees

VOTE FOR AMY SMITH: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

VOTE FOR GRACE PITTARI: 5 AYES: (Roll Call): Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

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MOTION CARRIED

Motion to approve hiring of Grace Schock

Motion by Art Trovei 2nd by Ken Smith to approve hiring of Grace Schock

VOTE FOR GRACE SCHOCK: 4 AYES: (Roll Call): David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears
1 ABSTAIN: Alan Schock

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to approve hiring of Danielle Osowick

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by David Dean to approve hiring of Danielle Osowick

VOTE FOR DANIELLE OSOWICK: 5 AYES: (Roll Call): David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Question: Councilman Schock what is your relationship of Grace Schock?

Councilman Schock: My brother's daughter

Supervisor Spears: I have a request from a part-time officer Christine Kohlberger to take a leave of absence, addressed to Chief Stinder due to pregnancy. Leave of absence will take place from December 8, 2020 through August 2021.

Motion to grant leave of absence

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by Councilman Schock to grant leave of absence

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Question: what is the relationship between new hire Danielle Osowick and Judge Osowick?

Flo Santini: She is Judge Osowick's daughter-in-law.

Appropriations, Budget, and Payment of Bills, Budget Officer Report

Bills-

General Funds Abstract #21	\$401,877.11
Highway Abstract #21	\$63,536.49
Engineering Abstract #12	\$344.00
Total	\$465,757.60

Motion to pay the Bills

Motion by Ken Smith 2nd by Al Schock to pay the Bills

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Closing:

Supervisor Spears: We suffered the loss of our previous tax collector, Jane Garvey. Sorry to see her gone, please keep her family in your prayers.

Closing thoughts:

Councilman Trovei: Like everybody else, we're tired of this thing and I hope things change soon with this virus. Jane was a great loss; she's been a wonderful lady. I've known her for many years. Her and her family have served the town for a long time. Our condolences to the family, and I hope they get through this okay. Our respect to her and her family.

Councilman Schock: I would like to thank Matt for his presentation, it's something to look into. Again, our condolences to the Garvey family. Pray for our country.

Councilman Dean: I am excited about the watershed protection proposal, that could help us out. My heart goes out to the Garvey family. Mr. Supervisor you're doing a great job.

Councilman Smith: Condolences to Jane's family. The land acquisition sale sounds very interesting.

Supervisor Spears: Condolences to Garvey family. I also think this watershed protection program is a great opportunity.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Art Trovei 2nd by David Dean to Adjourn

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED