

**TOWN OF DEERPARK
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

October 7, 2024

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

Invocation: Al Schock

Pledge of Allegiance: Christa Hoovler

Call to Order: 7:32 PM

Attendance:

Supervisor: Gary Spears

Councilpersons: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler

Town Clerk: Flo Santini

Attorney: Glen Plotsky

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

None

Presentations/Communications:

Supervisor Spears states that there are cleanup permits available in the Town Clerk's Office and they can be used during the month of October.

Supervisor Spears schedules 2025 Budget Public Hearing for Thursday November 7, 2024 at 7pm.

Motion to set Public Hearing for 2025 Budget on Thursday November 7, 2024 at 7pm

Motion by Al Schock 2nd by Arthur Trovei

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears reads statements regarding an ethics complaint as well as email correspondence between Grace Woodard and himself. (Attached to Minutes)

Public Comments:

Discussion between Supervisor Spears and members of the audience in regard to the ethics policy, the complaint and the petition. Supervisor Spears reiterates that there will not be any discussion on ethics until the Orange County Board of Ethics has completed their review and responded to the Town.

Grace Woodard, co-leader of the Deerpark Rural Alliance, discusses the fraudulent complaint and states that this complaint was not sent by the Deerpark Rural Alliance. Discusses her concerns for this situation.

Department Head Report:

Police Chief Sztynдор gives report for Police Department. [Attached to Minutes]

Highway Superintendent, Ray Cirulli gives report for Highway Department [Attached to Minutes]

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Town Clerk, Flo Santini announces Mobile DMV will be at the Deerpark Senior Center Wednesday, October 30, 2024. Discusses UDC Tag Grant for updated brochures and states the Town of Deerpark was awarded \$3000 for this endeavor. Discusses grant for AED's and river rescue gear through NYS Senator James Skoufis's office.

Motion to hire Kathryn Strysko as Part Time Clerk in the Town Clerk's office

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2nd by Robert Whitney

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears
MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Approve September 16, 2024 Minutes

Motion by Al Schock 2nd by Art Trovei

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears
MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

Motion to Accept Email Vote to Hire Martin Howard as DCO who also works as the DCO in Town of Minisink

Motion by Robert Whitney 2nd by Christa Hoovler

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears
MOTION CARRIED

Presentation of the 2025 Tentative Budget

Town Clerk, Flo Santini presents 2025 Tentative Budget to the Councilmembers for review. Supervisor Spears will prepare 2025 Preliminary Budget and give to Town Clerk by October 21, 2024 for Town Board Meeting on Monday October 21, 2024. As of right now, Supervisor Spears is proposing a 1.08% increase to taxes.

Supervisor Spears reads letter from Town Prosecutor, John E. Bach requesting an increase in his fee from \$300 to \$500 beginning January 1, 2025. Town Justices have stated they will decrease the use of Town Prosecutor from 3 dates to 2 dates per month.

Motion to Increase Town Prosecutor fee from \$300 to \$500 per court session

Motion by Al Schock 2nd by Arthur Trovei

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears
MOTION CARRIED

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Bills to pay:

October 7, 2024

General Fund Abstract #15	\$224,368.63
Highway Fund Abstract #15	\$756,041.31
Special Revenue Reserve Abstract #6	\$1,419.38
Street Lighting Abstract #6	\$321.04
Engineering Abstract #6	\$1,959.00
 Total	 \$984,109.36

Motion to Pay the Bills

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2nd by Robert Whitney

VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Closing Comments:

Art Trovei- Shares thoughts on the PJ Hall of Fame Dinner, says that he is grateful and proud of his father whom was inducted and explained how wonderful the event was.

Al Schock- Pray for our southern neighbors

Rob Whitney- Compliments the paving job on Peenpack Trl.

Christa Hoovler- Thoughts are down south.

Gary Spears- Thanks Chief, Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk. Agrees with Art Trovei and shares thoughts of the PJ Hall of Fame. Thanks the attendees for coming out tonight

Supervisor Spears allows attendee to discuss Supply Drive for North Carolina. Details will be on the website.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15pm

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2nd by Robert Whitney

VOTE: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Flo Santini

Florence T. Santini, Town Clerk

Statement from the Supervisor- 1

Myself and the Town Board have received an Ethics Complaint. The complaint has been turned over to the Orange County Board of Ethics. This has been done to ensure that the process has no bias towards either party.

The Town Board will wait on their decision, recommendations or any actions that they provide to the Town of Deerpark.

We will not be addressing any discussion on the current Ethics Law at tonight's meeting as the complaint was filed under that law still in effect.

When we receive the final determination from the Orange County Board of Ethics, we will reopen the Ethics discussion.

Statement from the Supervisor-2

We have now been informed that the complaint that was filed was fraudulent. It was signed as being submitted by the Deerpark Rual Alliance fraudulently, as it was not.

On Saturday I received an email from Grace Woodward of the Deerpark Rual Alliance which I shall read followed by my reply to her.

This morning, I notified the Orange County Board of Ethics through their Secretary, addressed to the Chairman of this new information.

Tomorrow I will notify the Orange County District Attorney, the NYS Comptroller and the NYS Attorney General of this fraud. I will ask for an investigation into the person or persons who committed it.



Outlook

Re: Please distribute re: packet and complaint

From Gary Spears <gspears@townofdeerparkny.gov>

Date Sat 10/5/2024 9:58 AM

To Grace Woodard <gfwoodard@gmail.com>; Flo Santini <fsantini@townofdeerpark.org>; Gary Spears Town of Deerpark Supervisor <gspears@townofdeerpark.org>; Christa Hoovler <choovler@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Danielle Glynn <dglynn@townofdeerpark.org>; Art Trovei <atrovei@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Robert Whitney <rwhitney@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Alan Schock <aschock@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Glen Plotsky <gplotsky@portjervislawyers.com>

Cc Alex Scilla - NYenvironcom <director@nyenvironcom.org>

Good Morning Grace,

Thank you for this information.

I have been in contact with the Orange County Board of Ethics on the complaint that was filed. I asked the Orange County Board of Ethics to handle this complaint in its entirety. I wanted remove the Town of Deerpark, the Town board and myself from any involvement in the investigation or the outcome.

On Monday morning I will forward your email to the secretary and the chairman of the Orange County Board of Ethics for their review and records.

Gary Spears

Town of Deerpark Supervisor

From: Grace Woodard <gfwoodard@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 5, 2024 9:10 AM

To: Flo Santini <fsantini@townofdeerpark.org>; Gary Spears Town of Deerpark Supervisor <gspears@townofdeerpark.org>; Christa Hoovler <choovler@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Danielle Glynn <dglynn@townofdeerpark.org>; Art Trovei <atrovei@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Robert Whitney <rwhitney@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Alan Schock <aschock@townofdeerparkny.gov>; Glen Plotsky <gplotsky@portjervislawyers.com>

Cc: Alex Scilla - NYenvironcom <director@nyenvironcom.org>

Subject: Please distribute re: packet and complaint

Dear Town of Deerpark Officials:

We have learned that a complaint was filed related to Arthur Trovei and his actions as a

Town of Deerpark Board Member.on Sept 23rd, 2024, signed only as 'Deerpark Rural Alliance', without any individual name or contact.

Please be aware that Deerpark Rural Alliance,as an organization, never drafted,compiled or submitted this complaint, and does not have a position on its contents.

Neither I nor to the best of my knowledge any other member of the DRA leadership or NYenvironcom directors (as legal representative of DRA) had any advance knowledge of it, and completely and absolutely disavow this complaint.

Thank you for your attention.

If you have any further questions or require further information, please contact our legal counsel.

Respectfully,

Grace Woodard Deerpark Rural Alliance
646 644 3726
gfwoodard@gmail.com

Al Scilla
Founder/director NYenvironcom
347 867 5404
director@nyenvironcom.org.

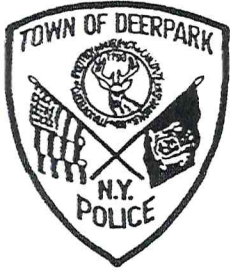
David K. Gordon

Gordon & Svenson LLP

42 Catharine Street, Suite C-106

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

(845) 470-2027



POLICE DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF DEERPARK

231 Route 209, Box 621, Huguenot, Orange County, New York 12746

Emergency: (845) 856-4333

Police Chief Richard J Sztynдор

Non-Emergency: (845) 858-4529

Fax: (845) 856-5512

www.townofdeerpark.org

Email: chiefsztynдор@townofdeerparkny.gov

Town Board Meeting – September 2024

1. CALLS FOR SERVICE

- 233 calls for service
- 15 MVAs
- 10 Arrests
- 71 UTTs issued
- 2 Parking Summons issued

2. COMMUNITY POLICING

- On September 27th we held a Child Car Seat Event at HBE- It was a success
- Attended the 9/11 Ceremony

3. MISCELLANIOUS

- We provided officers for the Moon Festival to do traffic & security
- Thank you to the Town Highway Department for their assistance



TOWN OF DEERPARK HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Raymond Cirulli, Highway Superintendent

September 2024 monthly report

During one of my monthly reports, I mentioned I applied for an Orange County Legislature grant through our Legislator Tom Faggione. I'm happy to report we received the grant which totaled \$4835.14. The money was used for (10) new garbage can lid and (6) new picnic tables from Greys Woodworks. The picnic tables have been stained and will go under the pavilion at HSP. In addition, I ordered (6) more to replace the dilapidated tables at the Sparrowbush Park.

The water system at the barn has been completed by the contractor. On recent hire James Wilson is a 2b NYS certified water operator so we can handle the testing in house.

Shoulders have been installed on all the roads we paved. We also added some black top ditches on Peenpack where erosion has been an issue in the past. This should help maintain the integrity of our shoulders and direct the water into the culverts.

We did some landscaping around town hall in preparation for the 911 ceremony along with set up and tear down.

Additional street signs were replaced with the updated version. This will continue as time permits.

The price of asphalt dropped for the month of October by over \$3 a ton so we are paving a few smaller roads ourselves. We completed all the infrastructure work on Paradise Road and paving began last week. I'll update you on the progress in November's report.

We handled (2) emergency situations which resulted in call ins for the month.

We also assisted the PD with set up and tear down for traffic control at the Moon Festival.

I am still actively looking for a replacement for our aged out tandem/wing. I began to bid on a 2020 Freightliner on Thursday but the municipality selling it extended the auction 15 more days due to a cancelled town board meeting. The auction ends on 10/17 so I intend to bid on that date.

I also received pricing for loaders to replace our 1993 JD. Once the board feels we have funding, we can discuss the matter further.