

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at Town Hall on July 16, 2015 at 7:30PM

Present: Ralph Caruso, Supervisor  
Timothy Arone, Robert Hunter, Frank Palermo and Marilyn Prestia, Councilpersons  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Joseph McKay, Attorney for the Town; Pam Gambuti, Animal Control Officer; Robert Blair, Buildings/Grounds Superintendent; Arthur Abbott, Police Lieutenant; Maria Hunter, Village Planning Board; Sandra Capriglione, Village Zoning Board; James DiSalvo, County Legislator

**I. Administrative Business:**

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held June 29, 2015.

**ADOPTED** AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia  
ABSTAIN 1 Palermo

Motion was then offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Arone, to accept the minutes of the preliminary meeting held July 13, 2015.

**ADOPTED** AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
NOES 0

b. Approval of Budget Modification:

Motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to approve a modification to the budget of the Animal Control by increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$1048, A2706 (Animal Control Donations) by \$952 and A3410.430 (TARA) by \$2000.

**ADOPTED** AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Arone, to approve a modification to the budget of the General Fund by increasing A4889 (Federal Aid, Other Culture & Recreation Aid) by \$50,000, A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$42,800 and increasing A1620.495 (Senior Center Roof-CDBGP) by \$50,000, A1620.462 (Repairs/Materials) by \$42,800.

**ADOPTED** AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
NOES 0

c. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Prestia, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to approve Abstract 13 containing Voucher 20151517 – 20151693, and totaling \$359,927.82.

**ADOPTED** AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
NOES 0

d. Appointment of Beautification Committee Executive Board:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to make the following appointments to the Beautification Committee effective immediately:

Maria C Hunter	Chairperson	December 31, 2022
Justin Hunter	Vice Chairperson	December 31, 2021
Desiree Potvin	Secretary/Treasurer	December 31, 2020
Martha Nask	Member #1	December 31, 2019
Joseph Telesca	Member #2	December 31, 2018

	Joseph Ingenito		Member #3	December 31, 2017
	Diane Marrone		Member #4	December 31, 2016
<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia	
	NOES	0		

e. Appointment of Part-Time Animal Control Officer:

This item was tabled.

f. Appointment of Part-Time Custodian:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Prestia, seconded by Councilman Arone, to approve the appointment of Thomas Lakis to the position of part-time Custodial Worker beginning July 25, 2015. The position is for 20 hours per week and is paid \$15.73/hour (pursuant to the UPSEU Exhibit A, Grade 1A). This appointment has been approved by the Orange County Department of Human Resources and the background check was satisfactory.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
	NOES	0	

**II. Old Business:**            *There was no old business to discuss.*

**III. New Business:**

a. Discussion – Control of Cats:

Supervisor Caruso stated he is excited and full of anticipation for this program. He praised Clerk Potvin and ACO Gambuti for their work in researching this issue. Councilman Palermo feels that it is long overdue and appreciates all the work that ACO Gambuti has done. Clerk Potvin explained she has received a significant increase in complaints from residents regarding cats over the past few months. Some of the complaints include the cat colonies being mistreated or multiplying, cats owned by neighbors not be maintained affecting the quality of life and litters of kittens being abandoned. Currently the Animal Control Officer responds to these calls for the Town at no cost. Unfortunately, there are costs to the Town that are cat related that are unavoidable (euthanizing, altering, medical care, shots). Due to these cat situations, the storage building on the same lot as the dog shelter has been retrofitted, completely through donations and by volunteers, to be used to house cats and other animals besides dogs. The Animal Rights Alliance (TARA) is an organization that we can contract with to be able to spay/neuter cats at a set fee of \$50, with a minimum upfront purchase of forty procedures. Earlier a budget modification was approved to allocate for this expense and she was informed by the PBA that they would be contributing at least an additional \$300 to help offset the cost as well. In addition, State legislation has recently been passed by the Senate, and has been referred to the Assembly, that would provide for grant funds for initiatives for the purpose of trapping, altering, vaccinating and returning feral cats to the area from which they were trapped from. At this time, she is requesting that the Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Spay/Neuter Agreement with TARA. Councilman Palermo state he would like to see this item budgeted annually so it is a supported program.

Motion was then offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to authorize the Supervisor to sign an agreement with The Animal Rights Alliance (TARA) for the provision of spay/neuter services and rabies vaccinations for cats.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
	NOES	0	

EXTRA ITEM – Resolution for Town Justice David Levinson:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, David L Levinson has served as our Town of Woodbury Justice since January 1, 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Levinson has served our community diligently and with dedication to the promotion of justice and fairness throughout his tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, it has come to our attention that the New York State Magistrates Association will be considering a suitable nominee for the designation of Magistrate of the Year.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury hereby unanimously endorses the nomination of Justice David Levinson for the Magistrate of the Year Award. His 37 years of unblemished service, dedication, judicial innovation, court efficiency and his availability to all Police Departments serving our Town all demonstrate his qualification for the Magistrate of the Year Award.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    5            Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
                     NOES    0

**IV. Department Reports:**

a. Supervisor's Report:

Motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Arone, to approve the June 2015 Supervisor's Report with receipts totaling \$178,572.06 and disbursements totaling \$1,321,628.31.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    5            Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia  
                     NOES    0

- b. Town Clerk's Report – June 2015
- c. Parks/Recreation Minutes – June 17, 2015
- d. Animal/Goose Control Report – June 2015
- e. Police/Communications Report – June 2015
- f. Beautification Commission Minutes – July 9, 2015
- g. Library Minutes – June 30, 2015
- h. Budget vs. Actual – June 2015

**V. Board Member Comments:**

Councilman Hunter thanked Assemblyman James Skoufis for his efforts in Albany and asked that he continue to support us with fair annexation laws. Councilman Arone stated the Board members received a letter today from Village Mayor Michael Queenan responding to a letter from Supervisor Caruso about water service to the Country Crossings development. He feels the Board members should have been copied on the letter that was sent by Supervisor Caruso and Councilman Palermo agreed. Councilman Arone then thanked the Fire Department for the fireworks they hosted this past weekend as well as the organizers of the "Touch-a-Truck" and the Parks Department for the annual "Kids Day" event. Councilwoman Prestia concurred. Supervisor Caruso stated he received a card today from Martin/Belle Reilly thanking the police department, especially Officers Scott Sheehan and Joseph Iorio and Sergeant Scott Arrao. The note praised their professionalism and expressed gratitude for their assistance.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was offered by Supervisor Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to enter into an executive session to discuss the work history of particular employee as referenced in a letter distributed to the Board members this evening.

**FAILED**            AYES    2            Caruso, Prestia  
                     NOES    3            Arone, Hunter, Palermo

Councilman Palermo stated the Board has held many meetings to discuss events that may or may not have occurred. He feels Supervisor Caruso should speak to all individuals involved and then an executive session can be held, with the Police Chief, to report findings and all the facts. He feels this would be the best way to proceed on this issue. Supervisor Caruso asked Attorney McKay for his advised. Attorney McKay stated the decision to enter into an executive session would need to be approved by a majority vote of the Board. He has reviewed the letter distributed and feels it would be an appropriate matter for discussion in executive session.

**VI. Public Comment:**

Legislator DiSalvo stated the parallel study by the County of the annexation petition involving the Town of Monroe and the Village of Kiryas Joel is continuing. He noted he had a feeling that the Governor would veto the two annexation bills but stressed that all need to continue to push forward working together on the issue. Councilman Palermo stated the County Executive has indicated he would like the County to take over the installation of the pipeline being done by Kiryas Joel, justifying that the communities it can service (Cornwall, Woodbury, Monroe, etc.,) would then contribute towards the payment cost. He feels that Woodbury is greatly against this and would like to see Legislator DiSalvo vote against the issue if it comes before the Legislature. Supervisor Caruso noted that the Mayors/Supervisors of Southern Orange County have been holding meetings regularly over the last two-three months and all representatives agree that we are united against this issue. Legislator DiSalvo stated he understands and agrees, but noted that not all the Legislators care about what occurs in the southern part of the county.

**VII. Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss or comments received, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Prestia, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10PM.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
	NOES	0	

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk