

Minutes of the Town Board held on March 17, 2020 at Noon

Present: Frank Palermo, Supervisor
Tyler Etzel, Jacqueline Hernandez and Robert Hunter, Council
Absent: Thomas Burke, Council

Supervisor Palermo stated this special meeting is being held in place of the March 19 regular meeting due to the state of emergency and the declarations that were passed by both the Town and the Village as well as the Governor and County Executive.

I. Public Hearing – Orange County Community Development:

Supervisor Palermo stated the hearing will remain open to the June 4, 2020 meeting. Written comments will be accepted until 4PM on June 4, 2020.

II. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept the minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2020.

ADOPTED	AYES	3	Palermo, Hernandez, Hunter
	ABSTAIN	1	Etzel

b. Approval of Abstracts:

Motion was offered by Councilman Etzel, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to approve Revised Abstract 4 by voiding Voucher 200318 (check #22317). This reduces the total of the abstract to be \$117,482.83.

ADOPTED	AYES	4	Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
	NOES	0	

Motion was then offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Etzel, to approve Abstract 5 containing vouchers 200408 – 200499 and totaling \$206,328.02.

ADOPTED	AYES	4	Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
	NOES	0	

c. Approval of Budget Modifications:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Palermo, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to approve modifications to the 2020 budget as follows:

- Police Fund – increasing B2212 (MW Reimbursement Part-Time SRO's) by \$176,867 and decreasing B2210 (General Services Other Governments) by \$176,867
- Central Data Processing – increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$1085 and A1680.400 (Central Data Processing IT Consultant) by \$1085
- Police Fund – increasing B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$39,872 and B3120.202 (Equipment/Other) by \$39,872.

ADOPTED	AYES	4	Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
	NOES	0	

III. New Business:

a. Appointment to fill Board of Assessment position:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Palermo, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to appoint Warren Greher to the vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review with a term to expire September 30, 2021.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

b. Accept resignation of Elaine Larsson:

Motion was offered by Councilman Etzel, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to accept the resignation of Elaine Larsson from the position of part-time Clerk at the Senior Center effective March 10, 2020.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

c. Accept resignation of Luis Roman:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Palermo, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to accept the resignation of Luis Roman from the position of part-time Custodial at Buildings and Grounds effective February 21, 2020.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

d. Resolution - Oppose Merger of NYS Bridge Authority into the NYS Thruway Authority:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Palermo, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to adopt the following resolution opposing the merger of the New York State Bridge Authority into the New York State Thruway Authority:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Fish Newburgh Beacon Bridge (the "Newburgh Beacon Bridge") spans the Hudson River between the Town of Newburgh and Beacon; and

WHEREAS, the Newburgh Beacon Bridge and other bridges across the River in the Mid-Hudson region operated by the New York State Bridge Authority serve as vital links for the lives and commerce of numerous residents and businesses located in the Town who utilize the bridge crossings of the River on a daily basis or even more frequently; and

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo, in his 2020-21 budget address, has announced legislation to merge the New York State Bridge Authority, which presently operates five bridges across the River, including the Newburgh Beacon Bridge into the New York State Thruway Authority; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would in fact abolish the Bridge Authority when all obligations to the holders of bonds have been paid in full or otherwise fully met and discharged and the Thruway Authority would absorb the Bridge Authority; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that a federal law, passed in 1987, states that tolls collected on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge can only be used to operate, maintain and repair the Bridge Authority's bridges; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge Authority is run efficiently, the bridges are well maintained and boast among the lowest tolls in the nation; and

WHEREAS, although the merger proposal has been justified by claims that it will result in operational efficiencies, a primary reason for the consideration of the merger is the NYS Thruway Authority's announcement of budget deficits which are reported to be growing at an astonishing rate due largely to the costs of the new Mario Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge; and

WHEREAS, in the recent past, the NYS Thruway Authority assumed responsibilities for the maintenance of Interstate 84 and then shed them, for the stated reasons of saving the State money in

Councilman Hunter stated this virus will eventually go away and he urged all to not panic. He feels the way we react now will help in the long run. He asked all to be patient and be understanding.

Supervisor Palermo stated the Town adopted the same declaration as the Village causing all offices to be closed to the public and prohibiting public attendance at meetings. The Senior Center is the Town's designated emergency shelters so efforts are in place if that becomes needed. He asked all not to panic and understand what is going on.

V. Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15PM.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk