

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF POUND RIDGE HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE,
COMMENCING AT 8:00 PM**

**PRESENT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN
COUNCILPERSON CARLA BRAND
COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK
COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS
COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES**

ALSO

**PRESENT: DEPUTY SUPERVISOR LES MARON
TOWN ATTORNEY WILLIAM HARRINGTON
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, for an Executive Session immediately following the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Today was the first day of the traffic diversion on High Ridge Road by NYS DOT. All seemed to go well.
- Tomorrow from 12:15 to 1:00 pm PRES first-grade singers will be caroling in Scotts Corners.
- This is our last Town Board meeting of the year. The next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2022, will include the 2022 Organizational Meeting.
- There will be an inauguration at the Town House Saturday, January 1, 2022, at 12:00 noon. Kevin Hansan will be sworn in for a third term as Supervisor. Renée Motola, who was appointed Town Justice earlier this year to fill a vacancy, will be sworn in for her first full term in that position. Diane Briggs and Daniel Paschkes will be sworn in as Councilpersons, she for a second term and he for a sixth. Drifa Segal will be sworn in for her first term as Receiver of Taxes.

MINUTES:

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Pashkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, to approve the minutes of the November 9 and December 7, 2021 Town Board meetings

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NEW BUSINESS:

A. Assessor – Approval to adopt increased veterans tax exemption rates for 2022 tax roll

Assessor Diane Briganti reported that Westchester County has adopted higher maximum exemption amounts for the Alternative Veterans Exemption and is asking that municipalities consider adopting the new maximums for the Town portion of property taxes. The current and proposed maximum exemptions are as follows:

	<u>Current Exemption</u>	<u>Proposed Exemption</u>
War Veteran	\$63,000.00	\$75,000.00
War Combat Veteran	\$42,000.00	\$50,000.00
Disabled Veteran	\$210,000.00	\$250,000.00

Pound Ridge has fifty war veterans, thirty-four war combat veterans, and seven disabled veterans. Note that war combat veterans are eligible for the war veteran exemption plus the war combat exemption, and that disabled veterans are often also entitled to the war veteran and war combat veteran exemptions.

The increased exemption amounts, if approved, would apply to the 2022 Assessment Roll and would not impact taxes until 2023. The change would need to be made by May 1, 2022, and will require passing a local law. Deputy Supervisor Maron will draft language for the Town Board to review at a future meeting, tentatively the first meeting in March of 2022.

B. Planning Board

- **Declare Planning Board lead agency pursuant to SEQRA for library parking lot project**

Resolution 192-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, on the following:

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby declares its support for the Planning Board to be named lead agency pursuant to SEQRA for the Pound Ridge Library parking lot project.

- **Approval to retain land use consultant**

Planning Board Chair Michele Rudolph reported that Land Use Educator Jessica Bacher, of the Pace University Land Use Law Center, made a valuable contribution to Hudsonia's recent presentation on the Natural Resources Inventory. Ms. Rudolph asked that the Board consider hiring Ms. Bacher to assist with the Comprehensive Plan. Board members expressed support for the idea but asked that the Comprehensive Plan Committee, including its chair, submit a formal memo requesting the engagement of Ms. Bacher and specifying a proposed budget and the scope of the engagement.

C. Police – Ratify decision to hire Albert Miano

Resolution 193-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the decision made in Executive Session to hire Albert Miano as a part-time Police Officer.

D. Pound Ridge Partnership – Approve Hanging Flower Baskets

Terri Pike reported that the Pound Ridge Partnership has obtained bids for 74 sixteen-inch hanging baskets to be hung on the streetlights in Scotts Corners, with the low bid coming in at \$42 per basket. The baskets would include a moss liner for improved water retention and a soil additive to help with water retention and would be planted with hardier flower varieties than were used previously.

The Partnership offered to coordinate ordering of materials, as well as installation, removal, and storage of the baskets. The Partnership also offered to pay the \$345 cost of fertilizer and asked that the Town commit a total of \$24,650.00—\$3,150.00 for the purchase of the baskets and \$21,500 for the cost of 14 hours a week of watering for 20 weeks.

Councilperson Paschkes noted that no funds were allocated for this project in the 2022 budget. Councilperson Boak suggested that some funds could come from Parking District funds and that the remainder could come from contingency.

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Councilperson Brand noted that the Parking District budget is limited, and that funds would probably need to come from the maintenance and repairs line, which has been flat since 2019. Supervisor Hansan said that the Board would need to consult with the Director of Finance in order to make an informed decision and that the town should conduct a formal bid process before moving forward.

Resolution 194-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby tables the matter until its January 11, 2022 meeting.

E. Supervisor – Review of T-Mobile Special Use Permit application

Resolution 195-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby refers the T-Mobile Special Use Permit application for the 29 Adams Lane cell tower to the Planning Board for review and recommendations.

F. Recreation

- **Approve refunds**

Resolution 196-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the refund of the following deposits required for the use of Conant Hall:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pound Ridge Garden Club PO Box 136 Pound Ridge, NY 10576	\$500.00

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Natacha Carbajal Evangelista \$500.00
5 Rustling Lane
Bedford, NY 10506

- **Approve purchase of diving boards**

Resolution 197-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the encumbrance of \$12,000.00 from the 2021 budget for the purchase of two diving boards during 2022.

G. Town Clerk – Review Special Use Permit application from Breads N Bakes

Resolution 198-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that that the Town Board hereby approves a Special Use Permit for Jason Bowman to operate a bakery and take-out food establishment at 73 Westchester Avenue.

H. Housing Board – Accept resignation of Marc Weisenfreund

Resolution 199-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Marc Weisenfreund as a member of the Housing Board.

I. Landmarks – Accept resignation of Carol Cioppa

Resolution 200-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts Carol Cioppa’s resignation as Chair of the Landmarks and Historic District Commission.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: Pay Bills

RESOLUTION 201-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Boak, the motion passing 4-0 with Councilperson Brand abstaining:

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the claims listed below.

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	1051–1164	\$147,915.81
Highway Fund	228–249	\$35,721.47
Trust & Agency	104–107	\$205,628.65

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.

RECONVENE AS PARKING DISTRICT: Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 9:24 pm.

Pay Bills:

RESOLUTION 202-21

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 4-0 with Councilperson Brand abstaining:

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RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the claim listed below.

Fund	Claim Number	Total Amount
Parking District Fund	19	\$507.00

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
December 22, 2021