

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023 MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF POUND RIDGE HELD AT 179 WESTCHESTER AVENUE, POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK, AND VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE, COMMENCING AT 8:00 PM

PRESENT: COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK
COUNCILPERSON CARLA BRAND
COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS
COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES

ALSO

PRESENT: TOWN ATTORNEY WILLIAM HARRINGTON (via Zoom videoconference)
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE

NOT

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR LES MARON

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Councilperson Paschkes called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

II. MINUTES

Board action on the minutes of the January 10, 2023 and February 7, 2023 Town Board meetings was tabled until the March 7, 2023 meeting.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, to open a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town Code with regard to the exemptions for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, to close the public hearing.

RESOLUTION 50-23

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

WHEREAS the New York State Legislature passed and the Governor signed an Amendment to the existing law regarding partial exemptions for real estate tax assessments for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities raising the income limits for qualifying property owners to a maximum of \$50,000 for a fifty percent (50%) exemption, provided that each municipality exercises the option to increase the levels up to the maximum; AND

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WHEREAS the Westchester County Board of Legislators adopted this new law and added a sliding scale regarding the exemptions up to a maximum of \$58,400 in annual income, and allowing residents to include all unreimbursed medical expenses to reduce their gross income for the purposes of this exemption; AND

WHEREAS the Town of Pound Ridge, has reviewed these legislations and determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of the Town to implement a local law incorporating these changes to its own Town Code, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town shall approve and enact a local law, the text of which is annexed hereto; setting the annual income limits under Town Law Section 9-1 and 9-1.2 as follows:

Proposed Scale		% of AV Exempt	Current Scale		% of AV Exempt
Less than \$50,000.00		50%	Less than \$29,000.00		50%
\$50,000.01	\$50,999.99	45%	\$29,000.01	\$29,999.99	45%
\$51,000.00	\$51,999.99	40%	\$30,000.00	\$30,999.99	40%
\$52,000.00	\$52,999.99	35%	\$31,000.00	\$31,999.99	35%
\$53,000.00	\$53,899.99	30%	\$32,000.00	\$32,899.99	30%
\$53,900.00	\$54,799.99	25%	\$32,900.00	\$33,799.99	25%
\$54,800.00	\$55,699.99	20%	\$33,800.00	\$34,699.99	20%
\$55,700.00	\$56,599.99	15%	\$34,700.00	\$35,599.99	15%
\$56,600.00	\$57,499.99	10%	\$35,600.00	\$36,499.99	10%
\$57,500.00	\$58,399.99	5%	\$36,500.00	\$37,399.99	5%

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this local law shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable for the 2023 tentative assessment roll provided the application is submitted on or before May 1, 2023 and each successive year thereafter.

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, to open a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town Code with regard to the real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

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Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, to close the public hearing.

RESOLUTION 51-23

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 3-0 with Councilperson Paschkes abstaining, on the following:

WHEREAS the Town Board has reviewed and considered its existing Town Code provisions providing certain tax benefits to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to continue the quality of care provided to the Town by these volunteers and maintain a sufficient level of participation in the Town;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Code Section 92-1.3 shall be amended as follows and shall now read:

Sec. 92-1.3 Volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance corps members exemption.

A. Volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance corps members shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10% of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes with the following qualifications and restrictions:

- (1) The volunteer resides in the Town which is served by such volunteer fire company or voluntary ambulance service;
- (2) The property is the primary residence of the applicant; **and**
- (3) The applicant has been certified as an enrolled member of the voluntary fire company or voluntary ambulance service for at least **two** years.

B. Application for such exemption shall be filed annually with the Assessor on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the state board;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town code provision shall include the rights and benefits for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers as set forth under State law RPT Sections, 466, 466 (a-g); and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that this local law shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable for the 2023 tentative assessment roll provided the application is submitted on or before May 1, 2023 and each successive year thereafter.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Maintenance Department – Town Park pump house upgrades

RESOLUTION 52-23

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Brand, the motion passing 3-0 with Councilperson Boak abstaining, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the replacement of mechanical equipment in the Town Park pump house at a cost of \$35,178.80, to be paid with American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation Department – Appointment of Andrea Russo

RESOLUTION 53-23

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 3-0 with Councilperson Boak abstaining, on the following:

RESOLVED, that that Town Board hereby approves the hiring of Andrea Russo as Recreation Supervisor effective March 6, 2023, at an annual salary of \$90,000.00.

VI. OLD BUSINESS (continued)

B. Conservation Board – Approval for CEC Energy grant applications

RESOLUTION 54-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Conservation Board to submit applications subject to final review by the Town Attorney, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the letter required for the application on behalf of the Town Board and the Town of Pound Ridge.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Finance Department – Update on 2021 and 2022 financials

Director of Finance Steven Conti provided a preliminary analysis of 2021 and 2022 financial statements, updating his October 2022 presentation to include year-end information.

C. Supervisor – Reassignment of Association of Towns voting delegate

RESOLUTION 55-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Diane Briggs as voting delegate to the Association of Towns 2023 Annual Meeting.

D. Town Clerk

1. Bid award for marketing of town property

RESOLUTION 56-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby awards the bid to market the town-owned property at 7 Old Pound Road to Mary Anne Condon, of Ginnel Real Estate, subject to review of the contract by the Town Attorney.

2. Ratification of decisions to hire Ann Powers and Josh Batchelder

RESOLUTION 57-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the decision made in Executive Session to appoint Ann Powers to a full-time position, in which half her time will be devoted to functioning as Deputy Receiver of Taxes and half her time will be devoted to functioning as Deputy Town Clerk, effective March 1, 2023, at an annual salary of \$65,000.00; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the decision made in Executive Session to appoint Joshua Batchelder to a full-time administrative support position, which would be located at the front desk, effective February 23, 2023, at an annual salary of \$48,000.00.

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E. Planning Board – Return of unused escrow

RESOLUTION 58-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the return of an unused Planning Board escrow in the amount of \$922.00 to Bruce Kramer and Ellen Grogan, of 45 Donbrook Road, Pound Ridge; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorizes the return of an unused Planning Board escrow in the amount of \$2,105.00 to Riverside Design and Build, c/o Marc Vandenhoeck and Michele Rudolph, 75 Old Mill River Road, Pound Ridge.

F. Receiver of Taxes – Approval for refund

RESOLUTION 59-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the refund of an overpayment of \$808.26 for the parcel known as Block 9452 Lot 37 to John Burnham.

G. Garden Club – Request for Highway Department assistance with holiday swags

RESOLUTION 60-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Highway Department to assist the Garden Club by hanging holiday swags on town street signs.

H. Liaison Reports

Councilperson Boak reported that the Human Rights Advisory Committee held a very successful event at the Library in recognition of Black History Month and that it is planning a Juneteenth celebration.

Councilperson Briggs noted that the Recreation Commission is very excited to welcome Andrea Russo as Recreation Supervisor next month.

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I. FINANCIAL MATTERS – Pay bills

RESOLUTION 62-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 3-0 with Councilperson Brand abstaining, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the following claims:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	4–119	\$233,171.46
Highway Fund	1–22	\$34,311.95
Trust & Agency	1–14	\$12,192.00

J. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Paschkes adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

K. RECONVENE AS PARKING DISTRICT: Councilperson Paschkes called the meeting to order at 8:49 pm.

L. ADJOURNMENT: There being no business to come before the Board, Councilperson Paschkes adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
March 5, 2023
Amended April 4, 2023