

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 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: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN
COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK
COUNCILPERSON CARLA BRAND (via Zoom videoconference)
COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS
COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES

ALSO

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

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 8:11 pm.

II. CALLS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, to call for an executive session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, to call for an executive session on Tuesday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In advance of International Women’s Day, which falls on March 8 this year, Supervisor Hansan recognized seven exceptional Pound Ridge residents for their work on promoting equality for women both globally and locally: Councilperson Alison Boak, Director of the Global Center on Human Trafficking at Montclair State University; actor and producer Ashley Dyke; Ashia Sheikh Dearwester, Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer at Nest; Jennifer Katritos, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Afya Foundation; Re Jin Lee, founder and CEO of Naiana Nami; Leann Sorkin, event producer at the United Nations and co-founder of the Women’s Wolfpack; and Tina McBroom Villaveces, founder and director of Yellow Studio.
- The Recreation Department and the Neighbor 2 Neighbor program invite Pound Ridge seniors to a St. Patrick’s Day luncheon at noon on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Conant Hall.
- The Town has been awarded \$15,000.00 in CEC grant funds that will be used for energy-efficiency improvements at the Town House.

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IV. MINUTES

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 and February 7, 2023 Town Board meetings.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Supervisor

1. Review of resolution in response to Governor Hochul’s New York Housing Compact

RESOLUTION 63-23

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

WHEREAS Governor Hochul’s 2024 Executive Budget includes the “New York Housing Compact”; AND

WHEREAS the “New York Housing Compact” consists of the “New Homes Targets and Fast-Track Approval Act” and the “Transit-Oriented Development Act of 2023” (collectively the “Proposed Acts”); AND

WHEREAS the governor claims that the “New Homes Targets and Fast-Track Approval Act” is necessary in order to forestall restrictive land use practices that allegedly inhibit and limit housing development; AND

WHEREAS the Town of Pound Ridge shares the same affordable housing goals as the governor, having a long history of, and consistently demonstrating, a commitment to providing a wide variety of housing choice and maintaining and strengthening hamlet centers as service and higher-density residential areas; AND

WHEREAS, as proposed, the “New Homes Targets and Fast-Track Approval Act” will amend the General Municipal Law and purports to override the Town of Pound Ridge’s land use regulations as adopted in the town’s zoning code and the town’s comprehensive plan; AND

WHEREAS the “New Homes Targets and Fast-Track Approval Act” requires the town to meet or exceed a residential dwelling growth target or to enact by local law two of five “preferred actions” in order to be considered in “safe harbor” status; AND

WHEREAS all five “preferred actions” require extreme and substantial amendments to the Town of Pound Ridge’s local zoning, including but not limited to elimination of

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restrictions on minimum lot size, height limits, setbacks, and parking; and elimination of environmental review, Planning Board review, and aesthetic review; AND

WHEREAS the aforesaid Proposed Acts ignore the unique and fragile environmental characteristics of the Town of Pound Ridge and the attendant lack of traditional municipal infrastructure such as municipal sewage and water systems present in other New York State municipalities; AND

WHEREAS the Town of Pound Ridge serves as a critical watershed system which protects and provides potable water supply to residents of both New York and Connecticut; AND

WHEREAS the aforesaid Proposed Acts would arguably permit the construction within and destruction of such critical wetlands without any environmental review; AND

WHEREAS the laudable goal of increased affordable housing in New York does not justify or warrant the destruction of sensitive wetlands or the compromise of the potable water supply of New York and Connecticut residents; AND

WHEREAS all of the Town of Pound Ridge's services, including police, volunteer ambulance corps, water, sewer, and the school community, would be grossly impacted by the Proposed Acts; AND

WHEREAS the new amended town law would prohibit municipalities from adopting and enforcing reasonable and appropriate development regulations to ensure that development is compatible with surrounding uses, such as lot coverage, open space, building height, setbacks, floor area ratios, and parking restrictions; AND

WHEREAS the Town of Pound Ridge is a member of the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation ("EOHWC") and has joined in EOHWC's letter to the governor articulating objections to the aforesaid Proposed Acts; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Pound Ridge respectfully requests that the legislature remove the Housing Compact proposal from the fiscal year 2024 budget, and from future budgets, and that it engage local governments in dialogue to address our common goal of increasing the amount of affordable housing in the State of New York; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town of Pound Ridge respectfully opposes the governor's Housing Compact and urges the state legislature to vote against it in order to preserve and protect municipal home rule; local zoning powers; and fragile, critical wetlands that protect the potable water supply of the Town of Pound Ridge and surrounding areas of New York and Connecticut.

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2. Authorization to sign intermunicipal agreement regarding Enhanced 911 Service

RESOLUTION 64-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the intermunicipal agreement with Westchester County regarding implementation and operation of the Enhanced 911 Service for a term commencing October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2027.

B. Police Department – Ratify decision to hire four part-time police officers

RESOLUTION 65-23

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, 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 Joseph Comunale, Chris Leonard, Sky Michaels, and Doug Romeo as part-time police officers at a salary of \$41.52/hour effective immediately.

C. Town Clerk

1. Review of proposed application of aquatic herbicide/algaecide

RESOLUTION 66-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby refers the notice of consent from The Pond and Lake Connection dated February 27, 2023, regarding the proposed application of the aquatic herbicide/algaecide Nautique at 317 Stone Hill Road pond to the Water Control Commission for its review.

2. Review of Special Event Permit application for Earth Day festival

RESOLUTION 67-23

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

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the Special Event Permit application from the Friends of Pound Ridge for the third annual Earth Day Everyday festival on April 22, 2023 from 11:00am to 3:00pm, with a rain date of April 23, 2022; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Friends of Pound Ridge to hang a banner across Westchester Avenue beginning April 1, 2023, to be removed on or about April 23, 2023; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Maintenance Department to install, and to later remove, ten light pole banners promoting the event in the business district.

3. Review of Special Event Permit for Pound Ridge Bake-Off

RESOLUTION 68-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the Special Event Permit application by the Pound Ridge Partnership for the Pound Ridge Bake-Off, to be held May 5, 2023 at the Village Green, on the condition that the Building Inspector approves any electrical installation and any tent larger than 10'x10' prior to the event; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Pound Ridge Partnership to install a banner across Westchester Avenue on April 28, 2023, with the understanding that the banner as well as all street signs around town would be removed on or before Monday, May 8, 2023.

[NOTE: To avoid possible damage to the sod at the Village Green by tent poles prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for May 15, 2023, the Pound Ridge Partnership subsequently requested a date change for the Bake Off to June 3, 2023.]

4. Authorization to solicit Highway materials bids

RESOLUTION 69-23

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

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to solicit 2023-24 materials bids, with the exception of tree work, on behalf of the Highway Department.

A determination regarding bid specifications for tree work was postponed to the March 14, 2023 Town Board meeting.

5. Authorization to solicit bids for Scotts Corners Maintenance

RESOLUTION 70-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to solicit bids for maintenance services in the Scotts Corners business district for the 2023 season.

D. Recreation Department – Request for refunds

RESOLUTION 71-23

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 \$135.00 in basketball fees to Tina Chan, of 135 Old Stone Hill Road, Pound Ridge; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the refund of a \$500 rental deposit for Conant Hall to Kevin McGovern, of 4 Woodland Road, Pound Ridge.

E. Conservation Board – Request for permission to hang banner

RESOLUTION 72-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Conservation Board to hang a banner promoting the Repair Café across Westchester Avenue beginning March 25, 2023, with the banner to be removed on or about March 26, 2023.

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F. Housing Board – Resignation of Sharbari Bose Kamat

RESOLUTION 73-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Sharbari Bose Kamat as a member of the Housing Board.

G. Landmarks and Historic District Commission – Ratify decision to appoint Toni Nagel-Smith

RESOLUTION 74-23

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the decision made in executive session to appoint Toni Nagel-Smith as a member of the Landmarks and Historic District Commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
March 13, 2023