

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 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 7:30 PM

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS
COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES
COUNCILPERSON NAMASHA SCHELLING

ALSO

PRESENT: TOWN ATTORNEY WILLIAM HARRINGTON
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE

NOT

PRESENT: COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING: Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

II. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye to call for executive sessions at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, and at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The annual PRES Pancake Breakfast, which is open to the entire community, is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- The Recreation Department's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the Pancake Breakfast, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, at the Town Park. In addition to the egg hunt, there will include photos with the Easter Bunny, a bouncy house, a DJ, and food trucks. In the event of inclement weather, the festivities may be rescheduled.
- Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and State Senator Shelley Mayer will host a celebration of women's arts and cultural expressions at Arts Westchester in Mamaroneck from 3:00 to 4:30 pm on Saturday, March 23.

IV. MINUTES

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2024 Town Board meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items

Resident Nick Cianciola, Sr., of 29 Autumn Ridge Road, objected to the format for public comment because it differed from what he had proposed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS – Water/Wastewater Task Force

RESOLUTION 70-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Water/Wastewater Task Force to issue the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Services dated March 5, 2024.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Supervisor – Request to approve engagement letter for legal services

RESOLUTION 71-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the engagement letter with Bleakley, Platt & Schmidt, LLP, dated February 14, 2024, to represent the Town of Pound Ridge in investigation and litigation matters and in other matters falling outside the scope of traditional duties performed by the Town Attorney and Deputy Town Attorney.

B. Town Board

1. Update regarding regulation of cannabis retail business activity

Town Attorney Harrington said he anticipates that the process of circulating proposed zoning code changes will begin in April. He also noted that the applicant for a license to operate a dispensary at 32 Westchester Avenue has commenced a lawsuit against the town challenging the legality of the moratorium on development in the business district. The applicant is also seeking an opinion on the zoning code, to be addressed at the April meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The town is still awaiting word from its representatives in Albany regarding legislation that might reopen the opt-out period.

Supervisor Hansan added that the firm of Hardesty & Hanover, which is already assisting with the preparation of the comprehensive plan, is willing to provide advice regarding zoning code modifications to regulate the time, place, and manner of cannabis retail business activity.

2. Request to approve agreement with Highway Union

RESOLUTION 71-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the collective bargaining agreement between Local 456 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Town of Pound Ridge for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027.

3. Appointment of Johanna O’Keeffe as Town Historian

RESOLUTION 72-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Johanna O’Keeffe as the Town Historian.

C. Maintenance – Request approval for basement repair

RESOLUTION 73-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Maintenance Supervisor to hire American Dry Basement Systems to perform repairs at 7 Old Pound Road at a cost of \$13,940.

D. Police Department – Appointment of Steven Berger and Christopher Kelly

RESOLUTION 74-24

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 appoint Steven Berger and Christopher Kelly as part-time police officers effective [date TBD] at an hourly rate of [rate TBD].

E. Recreation – Request to approve spring basketball clinic program

RESOLUTION 75-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the Recreation Department’s spring basketball skills and drills clinics for boys and girls in grades 2 and 3 and grades 4 and 5, to be held in the PRES gymnasium.

F. Town Clerk

1. Appointment of Gale Wild-Ebers

RESOLUTION 76-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the decision made in executive session to appoint Gale Wild-Ebers as a full-time Office Assistant (Automated Systems) effective April 8, 2024 at the budgeted annual salary of \$48,000.

2. Request to approve special event permit for “Made in New York” market

RESOLUTION 77-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for the Pound Ridge Business Association’s “Made in New York” outdoor market at the Village Green, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, on April 21, 2024.

Business Association President Lisa Miller also mentioned a possible collaboration with the Recreation Department to decorate store windows and lampposts in the business district with butterflies. Councilman Paschkes suggested seeking input from the Building Inspector before formally presenting a plan to the town board, and the matter was tabled.

3. Request to approve special event permit for plant sale

RESOLUTION 78-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for the Pound Ridge Garden Club's plant sale, to be held on May 9 and 10, 2024, at the Village Green.

4. Request to approve special event permit for Proud Days

RESOLUTION 79-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for the Pound Ridge Partnership's Proud Days, to include a Color Run, to be held on June 2, 2024; beautification in the business district, to be held on June 9, 2024; and the Pound Ridge Bake-Off, to be held at the Village Green on June 15, 2024.

5. Request to approve special event permit for library children's programs

RESOLUTION 80-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for the Pound Ridge Library to host Musical Tuesdays, Musical Wednesdays, Music with Kurt Gallagher, and All-Age Storytime at the Village Green on weekday mornings between July 2 and August 9, 2024.

6. Request to approve special event permit for Food Truck Fridays

RESOLUTION 81-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for the Pound Ridge Partnership's Food Truck Fridays, to be held at the Barnwell Center on May 17, June 21, July 19, August 23, and September 13, 2024.

7. Request to approve seasonal special use permits for outdoor seating

RESOLUTION 82-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves seasonal special use permits for outdoor seating at Asia Hamachi, La Familia, DiNardo's, North Star, and the Inn at Pound Ridge.

8. Request to award 2024–25 contract for flower watering

RESOLUTION 83-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby awards the 2024–25 contract for daily watering of flower baskets in the business district at an annual cost of \$22,150 subject to confirmation that the cost does not exceed the budgeted amount.

9. Request to award re-bid of plumbing services

RESOLUTION 84-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby awards the bid for plumbing services to Better Water Well Systems with the following terms:

Labor rate:	\$145.83/hour
Overtime rate:	\$235.57/hour
Material markup:	40%

G. Receiver of Taxes – Request for approval of refund

RESOLUTION 85-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a refund of \$0.63 to Anna Rabinowitz and Martin Rabinowitz, for an overpayment of taxes on parcel 10263-61.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – General

Resident John Nathan, of 155 Upper Shad Road, objected to the format for public comment on the grounds that it would require reserving questions that might arise in the course of the meeting until the end.

Supervisor Hansan responded that in keeping with past practice, attendees may raise their hands to ask questions or make comments at any time during the meeting.

Mr. Cianciola then asked why the Highway Department unionized.

Supervisor Hansan responded that it was the choice of the Highway Department staff to unionize. Town Attorney Harrington noted that the collective bargaining agreement does not provide any benefits already contained in the personnel handbook. Councilman Paschkes pointed out that the decision to unionize has cost Highway Department employees in terms of dues but has not resulted in any additional costs to the town.

IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS – Pay bills

RESOLUTION 86-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to pay the following claims as detailed in Abstract 05-2024:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	A00228–A00306	\$118,428.25
Highway Fund	D00039–D00056	\$38,871.50

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following advance-of-audit claim listed in Abstract 05-2024 is hereby allowed:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	A00307–A00310	\$4,196.10

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
April 5, 2024