

Town of Pine Plains Town Board Meeting

January 16, 2025

The Town of Pine Plains Town Board convened for a regular schedule meeting at the Town Hall on the above date at 7 pm. Supervisor Brian Walsh, Councilwoman Jeanine Sisco, and Councilman Matthew Zick were present. Councilman Robert Ambrose, and Councilman Kevin Walsh were absent. Also in attendance was Highway Superintendent Carl Baden, PPWIA/Engineer Ray Jurkowski, Officer in Charge John Hughes, Planning Board Chairman Michael Stablie, and CAC Chairwoman Gail Mellow and sixteen members of the public.

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Councilman Zick motioned to accept the December 2024 Town Clerks report, and approve December 11, 2024, Special Meeting, December 16, 2024, Workshop minutes and the December 19, 2024, Town Board minutes, second by Councilwoman Sisco 3-0 Passed.

Zick motioned to pay the following bills for 2024 General Bills 21358-21382, Highway Bills 21383-21389, Water Bills 3339-3341, and Lighting District 21357, 2025 General Bills 21390-21400, and Highway 21401-201406 second by Sisco 3-0 Passed.

Public Comment- Supervisor Walsh read statement- on file. Councilwoman Sisco read statement on file. Keary Hanan Vice President of Library, Hammertown Rd, gave an update on the new sign for the Community Center and the Library. Hanan also asked if the Town would hold an informational seminar with the Department of Homeland Security on how to prepare for emergencies. Stan Hirson, Bean River Rd, discussed concern of the status of the Town website, and wanted to know about funding for Broadband. Supervisor Walsh stated he has reached out to the Regional Director about the funding for Broadband and is waiting for a response.

Public Hearing-Zick motioned to open the Public Hearing for the Local Law Further Extending the Term of Local Law No. 3 of 2023 Which Enacted an Eight Month Moratorium on the Processing and Approval of New Applications for Tier 3 Solar Facilities and Local Law No 1 of 2024 Which Extended Said Moratorium for an Additional Period of Six Months, for a Period of Six Month,” second by Sisco 3-0 Passed. Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky stated the Zoning Review Committee has sent their comments on the Solar Law pertaining to Tier III applications. Replansky will implement them into a Local Law. There were no comments from the public. Sisco motioned to close public hearing, second by Zick 3-0 Passed. Sisco motioned to approve Local Law, second by Zick, Roll Call was taken 3-Aye 0-Nay Passed.

Attorney to the Town- Warren Replansky discussed the “Resolution Commencing the Local Law Adoption process for Local Law No A. of the Year 2025” which the Local Law would determine that the Town Board has the legal right to require the removal of double utility due to safety concerns. This Local Law is a Type II under SEQRA, which does not require environmental review. Zick motioned to schedule a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law A of 2025 for February 20, 2025, at 7:05 pm, second by Sisco 3-0 Passed. Sisco motioned to approve “Resolution Adopting the Pro-Housing Communities Pledge” second by Zick 3-0 Passed. The Pro-Housing pledge will take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, and help the Town receive grants. Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky discussed the Town Board Authority to enact a Local Law to limit the selection of Deputy Supervisor to a Town Board member. Replansky stated a non-Town Board Deputy Supervisor would not be familiar with the current Town issues, cannot participate in a vote or discussions in executive session and only acts in the

absence of the Supervisor. Replansky has reached out to the Attorneys at Association of Towns, this Local Law would change the power of the Supervisor, and the Town Law would violate the Supervisors selection of Deputy Supervisor. Replansky would like to wait until next month to discuss it with the full Board.

Department Reports- Highway- Highway Superintendent Carl Baden read report on file. Zick motioned to approve Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys, seconded by Sisco 3-0 Passed. Zick thanks Baden for shoveling the ice rink.

Building Inspector-Report on file.

PPWIA/Engineer- Ray Jurkowski read report on file.

Police Report- Officer in Charge John Hughes read report on file.

Animal Control- Report on file.

Recreation- Supervisor Walsh said winter Rec Basketball is still happening, and the ice rink has hours. To be found on Facebook.

CAC- Chairwoman Gail Mellow gave a brief update of being registered in the statewide grant program. The CAC has been working on approval for the last 6 months of minutes. Zick would like the CAC to meet with USDA for the culling of the geese.

Old Business- Councilwoman Sisco gave an update on Accessory Dwelling Unit grant with Hudson River Housing. Supervisor Walsh said LaBella will be coming to the Town Hall on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January to take laser measurements of the building and offices. Vikki Soracco, co-chair of the Beautification committee, presented a garbage can for the Town Park and asked for purchase of 2. B. Walsh motioned to purchase garbage cans, second by Sisco 3-0 Passed.

New Business- Sisco motioned to make a tribute to the late Don Bartles at the New Town Hall, seconded by B. Walsh 3-0 passed. Sisco also discussed the Tri-Town Coalition and prioritizing housing support. Sisco would also like to have Choice Word grant writers come to the March workshop meeting. Keary Hanan stated the library would be willing to pay some for the grant writers if the library was able to use their services also.

Zick motioned to adjourn, seconded by Sisco 3-0 Passed.

Supervisor: Brian Walsh

Councilman: Matt Zick

Councilman: Robert Ambrose-ABSENT

Councilwoman: Jeanine Sisco

Councilman: Kevin Walsh -ABSENT