



Town of Tusten Town Board Meeting

Regular Meeting Agenda
Meeting ID #890 1678 4280
October 13, 2020
6:30 PM

OPENING ITEMS

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of allegiance

Announcements

Correspondence

- Resignation Letter Richards
- Resignation Letter Cammacho

Payment of Bills

September 2020 Report		
Fund Account	Ck Account Disbursement	Voucher #'s
General	0	
Highway	0	
Water	0	
Sewer	0	
Light Dist	0	
TOTAL	0	-

DIVISION REPORTS

Highway

- Used 951.8 gal of diesel fuel; 928.8 gal was for highway and 23 gal was non-highway use.
- Used 216.2 gal of gas; 6.1 was highway and 210.1 was non-highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Stockpiled sand for winter.
- Mowed right of ways along roads.
- Paved parts of Cohecton Turnpike and Irish Town road.
- Replaced pipes on Blindpond Rd, Hankins Rd, and Irishtown Rd.

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- Ditched Irishtown Rd, Perry Pond Rd, and Grassy Swamp Rd.
- Cut trees on flats.

Water & Sewer

- Took lead and copper drinking water samples with the help of residents around town
- Took synthetic organic and primary in-organic drinking water samples at wells
- Inspected 21 septic tanks, repaired and replaced several broken inspection ports
- Fixed a broken curb valve box on Oak St
- Fixed a water leak inside Well #1
- Took 3 final meter readings
- Marked out water and sewer lines for 5 NY Dig Safe tickets
- Repaired broken corporation stop valve for a service line on 3rd Ave
- Maintained sand beds by burning weeds, removing sludge, and raking sand
- Completed monthly drinking water and waste water sampling and reporting
- Mowed at wells, sewer plant, and land fill
- Added sodium bicarbonate to dosing tanks at the sewer plant for alkalinity adjustment
- Chlorinated sand bed #2 to kill bacterial growth on the bottom of the bed

Building Department/ Code Enforcement

- Construction Inspections - 26
- Fire & Safety Inspections - 2
- Complaint/Violation Inspections - 0
- Certificate of Occupancy - 6
- Certificate of Compliance - 6
- Building Permits - 13
- New Homes - 0
- Accessory Building/Garage - 2
- Renovation/Alteration/Addition - 0
- Camping - 1
- Chimney/Fuel - 0
- Accessory Building Commercial - 0
- New Commercial Construction - 0
- Renovation/Alteration - Commercial Construction - 2
- Deck - 2
- Demolition Permit - 0
- Driveway Permit - 1

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- Electrical - 1
- Logging Permits - 1
- Mechanical - 0
- Permit Renewals - 0
- Pool - 0
- Roof Replacement - 2
- Roof Structure - 0
- Septic Permits - 0
- Sidewalk - 0
- Sign Permit - 0
- Solar Permit - 1
- Well - 0
- Flood Plain Permit - 0
- C/O and violation search - 16
- Dangerous and Unsafe Building - 0
- Complaints Received - 0
- Complaints Closed - 0
- Violations Issued - 0
- Violations Corrected - 0
- Previous Violations Closed/Corrected - 0
- Stop Work - 0

Building Inspector and Clerk attended webinar training on 9/8/20 on NEC Code Changes; 9/10/20 on Top 10 Things You Really Need to Know - Energy Code 2020 and Prescriptive Building Envelope; 9/11/2020 2020 Advanced In-Service Part 1 and 2020 Advanced In-Service Part 2 and on 9/15/20 Building Inspector Took Mandated Test and passed and on 9/17/20 Clerk Took Stated Mandated Test and Passed.

Monies collected by this office from September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 are \$4,165.20.

Respectfully,

Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector

JPC/js

Assessor

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During the month of September, calls picked up from the mailing of the school tax bills. Most were for bills not received and questions on how to pay them. Many were able to use taxlookup.net and print off their own copy. Doreen Hanson seems to be extremely good at returning calls and solving the problem when taxpayers leave her a message. She also directly contacted me on some of her questions. Additionally, several calls were received for newly constructed properties and the status of the assessment on them so taxes could be estimated for the new owner and escrow accounts.

I attended the Sullivan County Assessor's Association meeting held at an outdoor pavilion to permit social distancing. No particularly hot topics were discussed, but many technical tidbits were mentioned and it was good to get perspectives from Chris Knapp who has become the new director of Real Property Tax Services for Sullivan County. Small Claims hearings were mentioned and most towns have a few from Adventine Properties and the problems we all face of dealing with James Burns the proprietor of Adventine and the poor quality of the evidence presented with them. So far no town has received a court date for any claim (thanks to COVID 19). Normally the hearings were scheduled to be completed in August.

We received four small claims tax cases for this year. One is invalid as it is for vacant land and was tagged onto the one for the residence filed by an owner. The other two were filed by Adventine Properties. These claims will require much time and effort to refute. In past years it has been possible to support the assessment and win the cases. I can only hope and work diligently to be successful this year too.

Ken Baim

Sole Assessor

Upper Delaware Council

Energy Committee

Tusten Energy Committee October Report 2020

NYPA LED Streetlight Construction Kick-off Meeting

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9/10/2020 In attendance: Brandi Merolla, Ben Johnson, Chuck Hermann (NYPA), Peter Frangie (Guth DeConzo), Doug Winston (D&M Electrical).

Final meeting to discuss and confirm Tusten's LED Streetlight material and work order.

We have ordered 113 lights, 6 decorative pendants for Main Street, 107 Cobra-head fixtures for all other poles at 2700K brightness for all lights.

The installation crew will consist of 2-5 workers and will take less than 2 weeks to install. They will begin the install within 8 weeks. Safety is their primary concern. They will follow all CDC requirements.

Ben was designated their *point of contact* for any issues that could arise for installation and in the future.

All trash from the job will be sorted out, documented, recycled or disposed of to code.

Installers will cut the wire to the light, put the fixture up and add a fuse. Before finishing the install of each light, the wiring will be assessed and replaced if brittle or faulty. This cost has been built into the job.

Then the armature will be assessed and replaced if bent or faulty. Nodes will be added to each fixture with a tag with pole number. This cost has been built into the job.

Once the lights are installed, NYPA will update the NYSEG registry for our 113 LED Streetlights. We will be trained in dimming lights if we'd like to do so. Dimming can be applied to any or all lights to save energy, reduce light pollution and extend the life of the bulbs which have a 25-year life.

In the near future, WiFi, cameras and other Smart Cities nodes will be discussed at an aggregation meeting with other towns in a Phase 2 of installation. Tusten qualifies for a \$20,000 grant for Smart Cities nodes.

TEC Meeting 9/30/2020

In attendance: Brandi Merolla, Jennifer Porter, CoryAnne Mansell (CET).

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Because of the pandemic, delivery of the HORSE food scrap digester is still undetermined but will probably ship in November from Seattle.

In the meantime, Cory's team at Center for EcoTechnology has virtually trained 7 Tusten food merchants who have signed up to collect their food scraps. Their enthusiasm has been inspiring!

Brandi has been picking up food-grade buckets donated by Weis Market's for food scrap collection to be distributed to participating food merchants. The buckets are 4 and 5 gallons with lids and handles and a custom-made sticker.

Soft Plastic Collection

Our 3rd TREX recycled bench will be delivered soon to the library. And our soft plastic collection total to date since August 2019 is 5,415 pounds.

Brandi Merolla

TEC Chair 10/13/2020

Grants

October Grants Report - Activity for September 2020

UDC 2019-20 grants- We have received \$900 for the 2019 zoning re-write project and we received \$10,000 for the 2019 Part 1 Comprehensive Plan project.

UDC 2020-21 grant- We have been awarded \$9,000 for Part 2 of the Comprehensive Plan project.

Bridge NY grant - culvert work continues. Much of the recent time has been spent on the ROW (right of way) work to establish ownership of properties needed for temporary bridge.

Homeland Security and Emergency Service grant - We submitted a detailed Letter of Intent for a \$950,000 project to upgrade the three wells in the water district. We are thankful to Freda Eisenberg, Director of Sullivan County Planning for reviewing the letter prior to submission. However, in

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the end our request was determined ineligible because “generators are not an eligible activity” and the wells are not insured with FEMA.

Future possible grants- the town is working with the Flats Neighborhood Watch group. To this end we are seeking funding for cameras to be located at specific strategic locations on the Flats.

Submitted by: Jane Luchsinger, Deputy Supervisor

OLD BUSINESS

1. Set Budget Workshop
2. Set Budget Public Hearing for November 10, 2020
3. Set Dog License Fees:
 - a. Daily Impound Fee \$25.00/Day
 - b. \$2.50/month late license renewal

PUBLIC COMMENT

10 minutes will be given for public comment. Please keep your comments directed to the board, comments should pertain to agenda items only. All other comments or questions may be taken up with individual board members after the meeting or at another time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Ken Klein as Attorney to the Town of Tusten
2. Appoint Court Officers
3. Approve NWS to auction Town truck with the Vin #
4. Approve Road Closure on October 31, 2020 from the intersection of 2nd Av & 3rd street around through the intersection at 2nd Ave & 4th Ave to end at the intersection of 4th Ave & 3rd St.
5. Approve Road Closure on Friday October 30, 2020 Main Street
6. Set Halloween Curfew that a Halloween curfew be in effect from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on October 30th & October 31st, 2020. This is in effect for minors, under 18 years of age unaccompanied by an adult.
7. Set Winter restrictions – snow & ice removal.
8. Accept resignation of Court Officer Richards & Court Officer Commacho

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CLOSING ITEMS

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Board Comment
Meeting reminder
Adjournment