



# Town of Tusten

## Town Board Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Zoom ID: 890 1678 4280

May 11, 2021

6:30 PM

### PRESENT

Supervisor Bernard Johnson  
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger  
Councilwoman Jill Padua  
Councilman Alfred Smith  
Councilman Bruce Gettel

### OTHER PRESENT

Crystal Weston, Town Clerk

## 1 OPENING ITEMS

### 1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Supervisor Bernard Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

### 1.2 Pledge of allegiance

Supervisor Bernard Johnson let the Pledge of Allegiance

### 1.3 Guest Speaker

Superintendent to the Sullivan West School District, Mr. Stephen Walker came spoke about the School Budget and encouraged residents to participate in the vote.

### 1.4 Correspondence

Received a Congratulatory letter from Aileen Gunther for the great work from the TEC towards bettering our environment.

### 1.5 Payment of Bills

### **RESOLUTION # 70**

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Councilman Alfred Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following was resolution was

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that the bills be paid as presented:

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<u>Fund Account</u>	<u>Ck Acct Disb.</u>	<u>Vouchers</u>
<b>General</b>	\$38,856.62	340-358; Late Bills 324, 325
<b>Highway</b>	\$53,229.45	326-339
<b>Water</b>	\$12,771.99	359-379
<b>Sewer</b>	\$14,577.96	380-403
<b>Lighting Dist.</b>	\$304.18	359 A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,740.20</b>	

## 2 DIVISION REPORTS – all reports read aloud

### 2.1 Highway

- Used 375.9 gal of diesel fuel 289.1 gal was for highway and 86.8 was non highway use.
- Used 317.2 gal of gas 0 was highway and 317.2 was non highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Started to remove snow removal equipment from some trucks.
- Cut trees on Brook Rd, Ackerman Rd and Luxton Lake Rd.
- Repaired wash outs on a Grassy Swamp Rd and Lake Ridge Rd.
- Swept roads.
- Getting roads ready for paving.

### 2.2 Water & Sewer

- Completed monthly drinking water and waste water sampling and reporting.
- Made adjustments to the chlorinator at the sewer plant, as needed, to maintain Federal and State standards on the effluent wastewater.
- Did water meter readings every Wednesday in the month of April.
- Turned water on to 3 building.
- Repaired 2 broken curb valves.
- Finished rehabilitating sand bed #3, which makes all four sand beds operational again.
- Attended a class provided by NYRWA for sewer education.
- Took 3 final meter readings.
- Completed spring hydrant flushing.
- Adding 2 culvert pipe risers and replaced a lid for one septic tank.
- Completed quarterly sampling for PFOA/PFOS and Dioxane 1-4.
- Repaired town's zero turn mower.

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- Koberlein pumped out sludge from dosing tanks.

### 2.3 Building Department/ Code Enforcement

- Construction Inspections – 21
- Fire & Safety Inspections – 0
- Complaint/Violation Inspections - 0
- Certificate of Occupancy – 0
- Certificate of Compliance – 7
- Building Permits – 17
- New Homes – 0
- Accessory Building/Garage – 3
- Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 1
- Camping - 0
- Chimney/Fuel – 0
- Accessory Building Commercial - 3
- New Commercial Construction – 0
- Renovation/Alteration – Commercial Construction - 0
- Deck – 2
- Commercial Deck - 1
- Demolition Permit - 2
- Driveway Permit – 1
- Electrical – 1
- Logging Permits – 0
- Mechanical - 0
- Permit Renewals – 1
- Plumbing - 0
- Pool – 0
- Roof Replacement – 1
- Roof Structure - 0
- Septic Permits – 0
- Sidewalk - 0
- Sign Permit – 0
- Solar Permit – 0
- Well - 1
- Flood Plain Permit - 0
- C/O and violation search – 9
- Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0
- Complaints Received – 0
- Complaints Closed – 0
- Violations Issued – 0
- Violations Corrected – 0
- Previous Violations Closed/Corrected - 0

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- Stop Work – 0

Building Inspector and Clerk attended training on 4/23/21 1 hr- Safeguards During Construction; 1 hr – Fire Safety During Construction 1; 1 hr Fire Safety During Construction 2; 1 hr NFPA 13D.

Monies collected by this office from April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 are \$4,179.43

Respectfully,  
Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector  
JPC/js

### 2.4 Assessor

The beginning of April was spent with the finishing of the property inspections for the tentative roll. Then through April 19<sup>th</sup> when the data for the tentative roll was submitted, property record cards were updated with building footprint drawings and data gleaned during the inspections from later March and early April. This data was then entered into the computer, valuation changes calculated and also entered into the computer. This does not sound like much – one simple sentence – but it was many hours of work for many days!

Sullivan County Assessors’ meeting was postponed as all assessors were working on the tentative roll. Deeds and bank information for tax mailings as well as multiple address corrections from the tax collector were all brought current for the submission on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Deed volume continues to be higher than normal.

Ken Baim,  
Sole Assessor

### 2.5 Upper Delaware Council UDC Report, May 4, 2021

**DEC Sign at Narrowsburg’s River Access.** Tony Ritter’s photo of a very weathered sign sent to Bill Rudge, our DEC Representative, which he will address.

**Tag Grant criteria;** A small UDC group met with NPS Supt Joe Salvatore regarding TAG grants, and it is likely that the guidelines for TAG grants will reflect expanded descriptions of projects, more in line with past years, and in line

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with River Management Plan, i.e. to include historic and cultural preservation for example.

**NPS/BSA contract.** NPS expects approval of their contract with Boy Scouts of America / TMR. to be received in a week from Regional NPS. Rescinding the prohibition on trailered boat launching is on its way up the chain of command, and this summer, will not be enforced.

**Skidders Falls/Milanville Bridge** The comment period for all those interested in weighing in on the Rehabilitation vs. Replacement of the Skidders Falls/Milanville bridge has been extended to June 1. The UDC has submitted an excellent comment letter in favor of the rehabilitation option. Anyone who is interested in preserving and enhancing the unique 1902 Bridge which is an integral part of one of the most visited and scenic places on the Upper Delaware should contact me [suesul1941@gmail.com](mailto:suesul1941@gmail.com) for links to PennDOT and their consultant.

**UDC First Annual Litter sweep** a huge success, with over 300 people volunteering over the weeklong clean up that extended from Hancock to Pt Jervis. UDC has received a \$500 grant from Sullivan Renaissance and can loan anyone who wishes to pick up trash along the roadways, and river accesses all the stuff you need; vests, gloves, bags, etc. Pick up and return to UDC office on Bridge Street. **Our gratitude also needs to go to our N'Burg Beautification group who has been Litter Plucking since the beginning of that program.**

**UDC Funding;** Congressman Delgado's staff are looking into the flat Federal funding, and there is progress on the NY and PA state levels as well.

### 2.6 Energy Committee

TEC meetings were held on 3/15/21, 3/29/21, 4/12/21. H.O.R.S.E. discussions.

April 22, 2021 is Earth Day. The TEC will present a live ribbon-cutting event on the Tusten Energy Committee Facebook page at noon.

### 2.7 Grants

1. Upper Delaware Council – Comprehensive Plan Part 2

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Nearly finished. Waiting for NPS comments.

2. Little Lake Erie Culvert – Waiting to receive Right of Way approval from one resident.
3. Sullivan Renaissance- We were not awarded the Silver Feather grant for a Riverwalk. We will try again next year.
4. Water infrastructure project – We continue with Delaware Engineering, to monitor for an appropriate funding opportunity.
5. USDA – No word on this grant.
6. Green Infrastructure grant- no word on this grant.

Submitted by:  
Jane Luchsinger

### 3 OLD BUSINESS

#### 3.1 **Comprehensive Plan**

National Park Service has not yet issued a response of the comprehensive plan

#### 3.2 **Lawn Mowing**

##### **RESOLUTION # 71-2021**

##### **HIRE FOR LAWN MOWING POSITION**

On motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

##### **ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that Glenn Swendsen shall be hired for Lawn Care Services effective beginning April 20, 2021 at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

##### **RESOLUTION # 72-2021**

##### **AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION # 71**

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was

##### **ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that Glenn Swendsen shall be hired for Lawn Care Services effective beginning April 20, 2021 at the rate of \$25.00 per hour for the 2021 Season.

#### 3.3 **General Code Estimate**

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### **RESOLUTION # 73-2021**

#### **GENERAL CODE ESTIMATE**

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Alfred Smith, the following resolution was,

**ADOPTED, 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that the estimate from General Code for an amount between \$670.00 & \$770.00 for Supplement No. 2 is hereby accepted & approved for payment.

### **3.4 Budget Transfer**

### **RESOLUTION # 74-221**

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER APPROVAL**

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby approves the transfer of funds as presented:

<b>Increase</b>		
A6989.6	Food Digester	\$12,000.00
<b>Decrease</b>		
A3001	State Aid	\$12,000.00

### **4 PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Comments were heard from the following members of the public:*

- Wanda Gangel
- Star Hesse
- Lisa D'Andrea
- Stephen Staurt

### **5 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 ZBA Training**

### **RESOLUTION # 75-2021**

#### **APPROVAL FOR ZBA TRAINING**

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

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**RESOLVED**, that Peter Manning shall be hired to provide training for the current ZBA members at a rate of \$62.50 per hour for a max of three hours.

### 5.2 Smart Cities Grant

A grant for Wi-Fi for the Main Street, Bridge Street Area. Discussion was held, no decisions made at this time.

### 5.3 Narrowsburg Beautification Plant Swap

#### **RESOLUTION # 76-2021**

##### **PLANT SWAP**

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following resolution was,

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that the Narrowsburg Beautification is hereby authorized to hold their annual Plant Swap on Saturday June 5, 2021 in the municipal parking lot.

### 5.4 Speed Display

Supervisor Bernard Johnson reached out to Sullivan County in regards to the possible need of a speed sign in Tusten. The County will bring out a speed sign to see if there is a need for the town to have one with no cost to the town. There is no exact date at this time.

### 5.5 Delaware Engineering

Delaware Engineering has completed the preliminary engineering report regarding the water improvement project.

#### **RESOLUTION # 77-2021**

##### **SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR DELAWARE ENGINEERING RE: WATER IMPROVEMNET PROJECT**

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED** that a Public Hearing shall be held Tuesday June 8, 2021 prior to the Start of the Town Boards Regular Meeting, for Delaware Engineering to review their findings of the Preliminary Engineering Report they completed regarding the Narrowsburg Water Improvement Project and answer questions regarding said Project.



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### 6 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Comments were heard from the following members of the public:*

- *Star Hesse*

### 7 **CLOSING ITEMS**

#### **7.1 Board Comment**

#### **7.2 Meeting reminder**

Town Board Special Meeting: Agenda Workshop June 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Town Board Regular Meeting June 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm with a Public Hearing at 6:30 PM

#### **7.3 Adjournment**

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the meeting was closed at 7: 45 pm.

Respectively Submitted  
Crystal Weston  
Town Clerk