



Town of Tusten Town Board Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 08, 2020
6:30 PM

Present: Supervisor Bernard Johnson
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger
Councilwoman Jill Padua
Councilman Bruce Gettel
Councilmember VACANCY

Others 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

1.2 Pledge of allegiance

1.3 Announcements/ Correspondence

- NYS DOT RE: INTERSECTION CONCERN NYS ROUTE 97 & NYS ROUTE 52 TOWN OF TUSTEN, SULLIVAN COUNTY
- New York State Agricultural District 30- Day Window RE: JP Lang County rd 32, Narrowsburg, NY 12764; Tusten 20.-1-27.3

1.4 Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION # 112-2020

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following resolution was

ADOPTED 3 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger)

RESOLVED that the bills be paid as presented:

August Bills 2020		
Fund Acct	Ck Acct Disburse	Voucher #

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General	\$99,277.22	680-700
		Late Bills 676, 676A
Highway	\$52,932.09	733, 735-745,734
Water	\$40,952.21	701-715
		679, 674
Sewer	\$40,302.10	716-732
		Late Bills: 678, 677, 675
Lighting	\$748.48	751
TOTAL	\$234,212.10	

2 DIVISION REPORTS

Supervisor Bernard Johnson read all the following division reports aloud.

2.1 Highway

- Used 800.2 gal of diesel fuel 765.5 gal was for highway and 34.7 was non highway use.
- Used 216.1 gal of gas 3.4 was highway and 212.7 was non highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Stock piled sand for winter.
- Mowed right of ways along roads.
- Chip sealed Gables Rd, Schalck Rd, Wood oak Drive, Arena Court and Hemlock Lane with Suit-Kote paving.
- Replaced pipes on Blind pond Rd, Perry Pond Rd and Irishtown Rd.
- Ditched Irishtown Rd, Cochection Turnpike, Nober Strunk Rd & Humphrey Rd.
- Helped the towns of Cochection, Delaware, Highland, Forestburgh and Lumberland chip seal.

2.2 Water & Sewer

- Cleaned stones around distribution boxes in sand bed #1.
- Dug up 13 septic tanks for Koberlein to pump out.
- Maintained sand beds by burning weeds, removing sludge, and raking sand.
- Completed monthly drinking water and waste water sampling and reporting.
- Replaced a broken valve for sand bed #2 at the sewer treatment plant.
- Located 9 valves at the sewer treatment plant, cleaned out valve boxes from dirt, and installed risers.

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- Installed 10 valve boxes risers on 2nd Ave and School St and one man hole cover riser.
- Installed a 12" concrete septic tank riser on Erie Ave.
- Exercised generators.
- Fixed broken handbrake on zero turn.
- Replaced stone driveway in tractor shed.
- Mowed at well houses and sewer treatment plant.
- Flushed dead end waterline on Hickory Ln.
- Fixed four septic tank inspection ports.
- Received new Ram 3500 Utility Truck.
- Moved tools and equipment from Ford 250 Pick up to new Ram 3500.
- Preparing Ford F250 pickup for auction.

Financial Report for August 2020

<u>Water Metered Rent</u>	<u>\$9,274.60</u>	
<u>Unmetered Water Sale</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
<u>Service Charge</u>	<u>\$97.80</u>	
<u>Water Penalty</u>	<u>\$62.15</u>	
<u>Total Water Dept</u>		<u>\$9,434.55</u>
<u>Sewer Rent</u>	<u>\$25,120.17</u>	
<u>Service Charge</u>	<u>\$3.00</u>	
<u>Sewer Penalty</u>	<u>\$165.59</u>	
<u>Total Sewer Dept</u>		<u>\$25,288.76</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>		<u>\$34,723.31</u>

Kelly Agar,
Clerk

2.3 Building Department/ Code Enforcement

- Construction Inspections - 17
- Fire & Safety Inspections - 0
- Complaint/Violation Inspections - 0
- Certificate of Occupancy - 2
- Certificate of Compliance - 8

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Building Permits - 10
New Homes - 0
Accessory Building/Garage - 3
Renovation/Alteration/Addition - 1
Camping - 0
Chimney/Fuel - 0
Accessory Building Commercial - 0
New Commercial Construction - 0
Renovation/Alteration - Commercial Construction - 0
Deck - 1
Demolition Permit - 1
Driveway Permit - 0
Electrical - 1
Logging Permits - 0
Mechanical - 1
Permit Renewals - 0
Pool - 0
Roof Replacement - 0
Roof Structure - 0
Septic Permits - 1
Sidewalk - 0
Sign Permit - 1
Solar Permit - 0
Well - 0
Flood Plain Permit - 0
C/O and violation search - 18
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

Monies collected by this office from August 1, 2020, to August 31, 2020, are \$3,020.00.

Respectfully,

Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector

JPC/js

2.4 Assessor

No report received

2.5 Upper Delaware Council - received from Susan Sullivan

The UDC met at the Narrowsburg Union's Delaware Hall, which allowed for social distancing. Some members used the call-in option.

The presentation was given by DEC biologist Kevin Clarke who reported on the Monguap Valley Wildlife Management Area.

National Park Service;

Personnel Changes;

Acting Supt Darren Bosh stated that the search for the position of Community/Land Use Planner has been closed, and an offer being made to their chosen candidate. Darren also expects that the position of Park Superintendent will be filled in October as well, which is when his time here is over.

Additional protection for Historic Bridges; Darren announced that the Tusten Stone Arch Bridge, the Skinners Falls Bridge, and the Hankins Creek Stone Arch Bridge have been added to the UDSRR Outstandingly Remarkable Cultural Values which offers these striations enhanced protection.

Overuse of River Accesses:

NPS data for visitation supports what we already know, which is that we are experiencing huge numbers of additional visitors this year. The data does not include Labor Day. For example, Skinners Falls, 2019 ...11,714 2020 22,610.

Apparently these numbers do not translate into additional funding for trash, policing etc. Bill Rudge from DEC reported that all DEC sites have had the same experience this summer. Their usual strategy is to limit parking, which hasn't been working well this summer. There is a committee working on increasing

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parking at the Mongaup Access in Lumberland since parking along route 97 is hazardous.

UDC

Five Year Strategic Planning Retreat. It Will be held at the Narrowsburg Union on Saturday, October 3, 2020, from 9:00 am to 4:00 PM....I have to work that morning and cannot get there until 2:00 PM, so am looking for someone to represent Tusten in the Morning session. I am on the Steering Committee and will be submitting items for the agenda, based on previous UDC discussions about what is important to us. Anyone who feels strongly about the direction UDC will be taking over the next 5 years should get in touch with me. The event is by invitation only. TAG grants

TAG Grants

Tusten will be awarded \$10,000 for Phase One of the Comprehensive Plan. Jane has submitted an application for 2021 for Phase Two, which is being reviewed tonight 9/8/2020 at the UDC's annual Project Review TAG meeting.

Other Upcoming Events:

FUDR Water, Water everywhere virtual Conference is happening October 14, 2020. For details, get in touch with FUDR

Knotweed Control Presentation; at 7:00 PM at the beginning of the UDC's monthly meeting at the Narrowsburg Union.

2.6 Energy Committee

TEC HORSE Meeting 8/20/2020

In attendance: Brandi Merolla, Jennifer Porter, Scott Porter, Coryanne Mansel, Naomi Holoch, Catherine Lewis.

October 10 is the HORSE shipment date from Seattle. No exact delivery date yet to Tusten.

September 26 the TEC will set up an information tent at **The Union's Farmer's Market**. Flyers will be available to those interested in learning about the HORSE food digester.

Ribbon-cutting for the HORSE will be around Halloween, date to be determined.

Invited to attend will be Senator Jen Metzger, the TEC, participating Tusten restaurants and food merchants, Supervisor Ben Johnson, the press, and more. The DEC wants to send a representative to show their support after awarding us the fully-funded grant for this project.

All attending required to wear masks and to social distance. We will also live-stream on the TEC Facebook page.

TEC designing an invite and writing a press release.

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Sullivan Waste Reduction Alliance meeting 9/2/2020

In attendance: Brandi Merolla, Bill Cutler and Heather Brown of Sullivan County Waste Management, Mary Paige from Ethelbert B. Crawford Library.

Brandi gave a comprehensive summary of the Tusten HORSE project as well as the Tusten LED Streetlight project.

The New York State Plastic Bag Ban was upheld and made even more specific. The county is seeing a great reduction of plastic in trees, waterways, and on land.

Brandi gave a summary of the TREX soft plastic recycling program. Monticello is now part of the TREX initiative following Tusten's success.

Bill Cutler spoke about recycling, transfer stations, sorting, and the differences in plastics. Because we have a huge influx of new residents since the pandemic began, Bill wants the county and towns to educate newcomers about proper waste disposal including medication drop-offs.

Heather Brown has seen a drastic reduction in state monies for waste management due to COVID, but she is applying for as many grants as she can, forging forward.

TEC HORSE Meeting 9/3/2020

In attendance:

Brandi Merolla, Jennifer Porter, Scott Porter, Coryanne Mansel, Star Hesse, Naomi Holoch, Catherine Lewis.

Ben is having 2 railroad ties made by Kevin Freda to support the HORSE on the ground. He's also spoken with electricians to connect the HORSE to the existing electric panel.

Participating Tusten businesses being trained in food scrap collection are:

The Blue Fox, Gerard's, The Laundrette, Pete's Market, The Heron, 2 Queens, The Food Pantry.

Brandi has picked up 40+ food grade buckets for collection to be given to food merchants. They have been donated by Weis Market in Honesdale. She has adhered stickers on the buckets labeling them as food scrap collection vessels for the HORSE.

Our end product of Probiotic Plant food is of interest to several local parties to purchase in the future.

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LED Streetlights

After 8 years, Tusten is very close to realizing all-new, town-owned LED streetlights throughout the town. Ben, Brandi, and NYPA will be having a final design meeting to confirm all lighting decisions for Tusten's streetlights on Sept 10. Following that meeting, all materials including fixtures and bulbs will be ordered. Delivery time should be 10 weeks and installation will take 1 week to complete.

TREX Soft Plastic Waste

Tusten collected 500 pounds in August yielding a 3rd free bench from TREX. This bench will go in front of the library.

To date, after 1 year, Tusten has collected 4,988 pounds!

Brandi Merolla

Chair Tusten Energy Committee

9/7/2020

2.7 Zoning Re-Write Committee

No report received.

2.8 Grants

Little Lake Erie Culvert

Moving along, working on securing proper "right of way" on properties that will be used for the temporary bridge.

Water PER with Delaware Engineering

An archeological survey is in the process of being conducted. The next step will be to schedule a public hearing. The usual NYS grant cycle has not been announced at this time. Speculation is that current NY financials do not support the usual grant programs. In the meantime, we continue to seek alternative funding sources for our upgrade project.

Sullivan Renaissance

We were not awarded the Golden Feather grant. There was only one Golden Feather recipient...the Town of Fallsburg won the grant.

Upper Delaware Council

The final reports for the 2019/2020 Zoning re-write and the Comprehensive plan were submitted on time. The 2021 grant request for Part 2 of the Comprehensive Plan was also submitted.

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3 OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Narrowsburg Water Improvement Project - Public Hearing

The Public hearing was cancelled and will need to be set at a later date, an Archaeological dig needs to happen first.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment received from the following (see audio/transcript for further information)

Iris Helfeld
Michael Farell
Juliette

Deputy Supervisor Entered the Meeting at 7:10 PM

5 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Set Budget Workshop -

Shall be held Tuesday October 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the regularly scheduled Town Board Special Meeting, in person at the Tusten Town Community Hall, 210, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

5.2 Fall Municipal Cleanup

In accordance with the Municipal Agreement between the County of Sullivan and the Town of Tusten our allotment for 2020 was 25 ton, to date we have used only 21.45. This leaves the Town of Tusten 3.55 ton available for the Fall of 2020.

THEREFORE, Town of Tusten will NOT be holding a Fall Cleanup Day

5.3 911 Memorial Dedication Service

Friday September 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM Dedication Ceremony at the Veterans Park

5.4 Review Quotes for Paint & Gutters

5.5 Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1)

RESOLUTION #113-2020

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ACCEPT DISPOSITION SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK GOVERNMENT RECORDS (LGS-1)

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following resolution was

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 VACANCY

RESOLVED By the Tusten Town Board of the Town of Tusten Retention & Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts & Cultural Affairs Law. and containing legal minimum retention period for local government records is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

(a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention & Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;

(b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

5.6 The Flats Neighborhood Watch

Discussion had regarding the most recent events on the flats, homeowners/ residents are concerned – the Town Board will be involved in investigating the possibilities of future installation of cameras/ motion lights etc....

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

Further public comments regarding the Fats were received.

7 CLOSING ITEMS

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7.1 Board Comment - no further comments

7.2 Meeting reminder - next meeting will most likely be in person with a zoom option for those that so choose to not come in person.

7.3 Adjournment

At 7:45 PM Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua