

Tusten Town Board

Regular Meeting
February 11, 2020
6:30PM

Supervisor Ben Johnson	Present
Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger	Present
Councilwoman Jill Padua	Absent
Councilwoman Brandi Merolla	Present
Councilman Bruce Gettel	Present
Others Present: Crystal Weston, Town Clerk; Approx. 36 members from the general public.	

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
Led by Supervisor Bernard Johnson
- 1.3. Announcements
➤ Public Presentation will be held March 23 re: Little Lake Erie Culvert Project
- 1.4. Presentation
None
- 1.5. Correspondence
None
- 1.6. Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION # 26-2020

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the bills for be paid as presented:

FUND ACCOUT	CHECK DISBURSEMENT	VOUCHER #’S
General	\$310,946.94	68-71, 102-132
Highway	\$73,039.50	133-155
Water	\$13,091.73	74-85
Sewer	\$13,510.18	86-101
Light Dist	\$18,534.85	72, 73
TOTAL	\$429,123.20	-

Supervisor Bernard Johnson made note that this past month the Town Purchased the Lights & Poles in the Town.

2. DIVISION REPORTS

- 2.1. Highway (report submitted by Highway Superintendent Donald Neiger)

Monthly Report: January 2019

- Used 827.1gal of diesel fuel 690.6 gal was for highway and 136.5 was non highway use.
- Used 347.3 gal of gas 202.5 was highway and 144.8 was non highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Stock piled salt and made salt sand mix.
- Repaired trucks and snow removal equipment after storms.

- Cut trees in Bank parking lot, Gables Rd. Cullen and oak St
- Cleared snow from around town.
- Cleared frozen drain pipes on roads.
- On snow removal most of the time.

2.2. Water & Sewer

*\$21,000.00 in Grants has been received for new employee education.

Monthly Report: January 2020

2.3. Building Department/ Code Enforcement

Monthly Report: January 2020

Construction Inspections – 27
 Fire & Safety Inspections – 2
 Complaint/Violation Inspections - 2
 Certificate of Occupancy – 1
 Certificate of Compliance – 6
 Building Permits – 9
 New Homes – 0
 Accessory Building/Garage – 0
 Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 1
 Camping - 0
 Chimney/Fuel – 0
 Accessory Building Commercial - 0
 New Commercial Construction – 0
 Renovation/Alteration – Commercial Construction - 0
 Deck - 0
 Demolition Permit - 0
 Driveway Permit – 1
 Electrical – 2
 Logging Permits – 1
 Mechanical - 1
 Permit Renewals – 0
 Pool – 0
 Roof Replacement – 0
 Roof Structure - 0
 Septic Permits –
 Sidewalk - 0
 Sign Permit – 1
 Solar Permit – 1
 Well - 1
 Flood Plain Permit - 0
 C/O and violation search – 4
 Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0
 Complaints Received – 2
 Complaints Closed – 1
 Violations Issued – 0
 Violations Corrected – 0
 Previous Violations Closed/Corrected - 0
 Stop Work – 0

Monies collected by this office from January 1, 2020 to January 31, 2020 are \$1,061.00.

Respectfully,

Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector

JPC/js

2.4. Assessor

Monthly Report: January 2020

During the month of January we attended the Sullivan County Assessor's Association meeting where talk continued on the possibility of getting rolls and bills printed by a different service or doing them in house at the County. Most likely this will not be happening during 2020, but the contract with Telescent is coming to an end soon so possibilities are being explored.

The annual increase in address changes due to tax bill mailing has been updated as Crystal Weston, Town Clerk has gotten them. Office traffic was fairly heavy for the month.

Ken Baim

Sole Assessor

2.5. Upper Delaware Council (report submitted & read aloud by Susan Sullivan)

UDC Meeting held February 6, 2020

UDC Staffing: Committee appointments; Andy Boyar to Chair WU/RM Committee, Dave Dean to Chair Project Review, and Larry Richardson to Chair Operations. From Tusten, I am on Project Review and am Vice Chair, and Dan Papparella is a member of Operations and WU/RM

Position of Land Use Specialist; two good candidates, possible to fill position in a month

PA Grant; River Sweep Access Clean Up approved and Dan Papparella will be the coordinator of this effort which will happen in April, with 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Huge volunteer effort.

Awards Banquet; Sunday May 3 at the Central House, and UDC is soliciting nominations for Awards Recipients

Tusten TAG grants: Updates due Feb 28; The update on Comprehensive Plan is in. The update on finalizing Zoning Update is not

Tusten Code Enforcement; UDC requested records of Permits. Which has not been received. I don't know the details of the request.

Other:

Skidders Falls Bridge Joint Position Statement; UDC supported 1. Keeping the Crossing 2. No large Bridge ...Jeff Dexter pointed out that the Damascus Roads are inadequate for heavy loads. Debate about fire trucks

Damascus Hotel; No word from NPS on this

Utility Scale Renewable Energy Systems; NPS agreed to Letter of Interpretation to declare Utility Scale Geothermal and Wind as incompatible in the Corridor Solar not included. The Solar position Paper is being finalized. There is no agreement yet on how to incorporate in the RMP

Bioblitz not happening this year. It will be part of River Sojourn in 2021

Town of Tusten will do **presentation on Composter Digester**

2.6. Energy Committee – report submitted & read aloud by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla Monthly Report: January 2020

Total Tusten soft plastic collection weight to date in 6 months is approximately 2,300 pounds. Our new 6-month collection period began on February 1. We have 6 months to collect 500 pounds for another free TREX bench.

February 2, 2020 Sullivan Waste Reduction Alliance;
Local Green Initiative meeting at the Ethel B. Crawford Library, Monticello.

In attendance:

Bill Cutler and Heather Brown Sullivan County Public Waste
Brandi Merolla and Jill Padua Tusten Town Board/TEC
George Nikolados Miss Monticello owner/Deputy Mayor Monticello
Mary Paige Clouse Lang Ethel B. Crawford Library head
Sandy Rowland Sullivan 180

Continuing discussion about NYS and Sullivan County single use Polystyrene ban for health and environmental reasons.

Governor Cuomo has announced a proposal to ban single use polystyrene within 2 years. This proposal came in the 2020 State of the State Agenda.

Our group would like to move the ban faster in our county recognizing that Sullivan County has the 2nd to last worst health in the state. Using single use hot beverage containers and takeout containers introduces plastics into the user. A look at other healthier, biodegradable options are being compiled. The Narrowsburg Fire Dept has replaced Polystyrene clamshell takeout containers with biodegradable ones. They use Bio Centric products with clamshells ranging from 20-39 cents each. They are made of corn, grass fiber or wheat straw. Also available are cups for hot beverages ranging from 7-16 cents each. They also offer Disposable Hot Cup Lids made of corn, non-petroleum. We are compiling healthy alternatives.
<https://greenpaperproducts.com/biodegradable-clamshells.aspx>

Zacharin in Fallsburg <https://www.thebestpartydeals.com/collections/compostable-dinnerware>

The Alliance will soon start a social media page on Facebook to education the public and feature local restaurants and food merchants that use recyclable, biodegradable single use containers.

We also want to start a signed petition campaign in support of a single use food container Polystyrene ban in Sullivan County to be presented to Governor Cuomo, Senator Jen Metzger, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, etc. in order to grow support and voice the public's environmental and health concerns.

Public outreach will also include Earth Day at SCCC and at the Narrowsburg Farmer's Market.

Brandi Merolla
Chair, Tusten Energy Committee

2.7. Zoning Re-Write Committee- in progress

2.8. Grants

- UDC TAG
- Sullivan Renaissance – community impact grant
- SAM Grant – reviewing remaining funds
- PER – help to improve infrastructure

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Comments received from the public
 - Ed Krause – would like to see the river walk moved forward

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1. Little Lake Erie Culvert Project

RESOLUTION # 27-2020

LITTLE LAKE ERIE CULVERT PROJECT PRESENTATION

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise the Little Lake Erie Culvert Project informational Presentation to be held, March 23, 2020, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Tusten Town Community Hall located at 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg.

4.2. Comprehensive Plan

RESOLUTION # 28-2020

ACCEPT AGREEMENT WITH PETER MANNING

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the agreement with Peter Manning shall be accepted as presented for the Comprehensive plan.

(insert agreement)

RESOLUTION # 29-2020

APPOINTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEMBERS

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that Crystal Weston & Heather Jacksy are hereby appointed to the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Scenic Byway

RESOLUTION # 30-2020

APPOINTMENT OF SCENIC BYWAY ALTERNATE REP.

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that Rose Fredricks is hereby appointed as the Town of Tusten Alternate Representative for the Scenic Byway with an unexpired term ending 12/31/2020.

RESOLUTION # 31-2020

SCENIC BYWAY CONTRIBUTION

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that a contribution in the amount of \$1000.00 be made to the Scenic Byway for the 2020 year.

5.2. Sullivan Renaissance

RESOLUTION # 32-2020

SULLIVANCE RENAISSANCE IMPACT GRANT

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger is hereby authorized to apply for the Community Impact Grant to complete a capital project through the Sullivan Renaissance.

5.3. Sound System for Town Board Meetings

Supervisor Ben Johnson read aloud the three written quotes received for the proposed public announcement system.

The Board had a brief discussion:

Quote Summary for a PA system

COMPANY	Wired Cost	Wireless Cost	Additional Comments
Steve's Music Center	\$	\$ 1,074.00	Used parts
Players Row	\$ 1895.00	\$ 2085.00	Incl. installation
SweetWater	\$ 2078.60	\$ 3582.90	-

RESOLUTION # 33-2020

PA SYSTEM PURCHASE APPROVAL

On motion of Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the supervisor is hereby authorized to purchase the PA Sound System from Players Row in the amount of \$2085.00; authorization is hereby given to pay 50% deposit and the remaining 50% after installation is complete.

5.4. Minutes Program

RESOLUTION # 34-2020

MUNICODE PURCHASE APPROVAL

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to sign the service agreement between the Town of Tusten and Municipal Code Corporation for the purchase of the Municode Meeting & Agenda Management Program in the amount of \$1500.00 per yr.

5.5. Ambulance Protection

RESOLUTION # 35-2020

AGREEMENT FOR AMBULANCE PROTECTION

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby accepts the agreement for ambulance protection as presented:

(insert agreement)

5.6. Tusten Youth Agreement

RESOLUTION # 36-2020

TUSTEN YOUTH AGREEMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with the Tusten Youth as presented:

(insert agreement)

5.7. Highway Sand & Stone

RESOLUTION # 37-2020

ADVERTISE FOR STONE & SAND BIDS

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise for bid requests for Stone & Sand for the 2020 year, as per the recommendation of Highway Superintendent, Donald Neiger. BIDS shall be read opened and read aloud on March 10, 2020 at the Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

5.8. Municipal Clean-up Day

RESOLUTION # 38-2020

SET DATES & TIMES OF MUNICIPAL CLEAN UP DAY(S)

On motion of Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the Municipal Clean Up Program Application with the Spring Clean up to be held: Saturday, May 16, 2020 and the fall Clean up to be held: Saturday, September 12, 2020 between the hours of 9 am - 2 pm.

5.9. Attorney for Tusten Justice Court

RESOLUTION # 39-2020

APPOINT ATTORNEY FOR JUSTICE COURT

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that Scott Russell be hereby appointed as the attorney to represent the Town Justice Court at the pleasure of the board.

5.10. Planning Federation

RESOLUTION # 40-2020

AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND NYS PLANNING FEDERATION CONF.

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that 2 (two) members of the Tusten Planning Board are hereby authorized to attend the NY Planning Federation Conference in Lake George, New York in April 2020

5.11. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

RESOLUTION # 41-2020

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT TRAINING SESSIONS

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

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Tusten Town Board hereby authorizes Jose & Ricciani LLC to conduct training sessions with the Tusten ZBA as needed upon request to the Town Supervisor by the ZBA Chairman.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were heard from the public at this time.

7. CLOSING ITEMS

7.1. Board Comment

No further comments

7.2. Meeting reminder

*Next Special Meeting: Agenda Workshop Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM

*Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM

7.3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, at 7:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Crystal Weston
Town Clerk