

# Tusten Town Board

Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Supervisor Ben Johnson	Present
Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger	Present
Councilwoman Jill Padua	Present
Councilwoman Brandi Merolla	Present
Councilman Bruce Gettel	Present
<b>Others Present:</b> Crystal Weston, Town Clerk; Approx 40 members from the general public.	

## 1. Opening Items

### 1.1 Call to Order

Supervisor Ben Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

### 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Led by the Supervisor

### 1.3 Announcements

No announcements made

### 1.4 Presentations

- Danielle Jose, partner in Ricciani & Jose LLP presented the services they provide to municipalities, planning and zoning committees

### 1.5 Correspondence

Supervisor Ben Johnson read the following correspondences aloud without comment. Copies are available at the Town Clerks Office

- RE: Intersection concern NYS Route 97 & NYS Route 52
- RE: Code Compliance Questions on Lot # S.B.L. 5-1-9.12 Project as per State Code 268 Enforcement/ Remedies

### 1.6 Payment of Bills

#### **RESOLUTION #15- 2020**

#### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the bills for December 2019 are paid as presented:

<b>December 2019 Report</b>		
<b>Fund Account</b>	<b>Ck Account Disbursement</b>	<b>Voucher #'s</b>
General	\$58,402.90	
Highway	\$46,749.12	
Water	\$12,150.08	
Sewer	\$14,017.51	
Light Dist	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$131,319.61</b>	<b>-</b>

## 2. Division Reports

### 2.1 Highway – Report submitted by Highway Superintendent Donald Neiger

Monthly Report: December 2019

- Used 1336.5 gal of diesel fuel 1231.4 gal was for highway and 105.1 was non highway use.
- Used 331.7 gal of gas 186.9 was highway and 144.8 was non-highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Cut trees and brush on Half Moon Lake and Ackerman Rd.
- Stock piled salt for winter use, made sand, salt mix.
- Got trucks ready for winter and repaired equipment after winter storms.
- Repaired bank failure on Brook Road.
- Graded dirt roads for winter.
- Repaired and replaced several signs with new ones that were faded or missing.
- Replaced pipes on Luxton Lake Rd and Irishtown Rd.

### 2.2 Water & Sewer – Report Submitted by Narrowsburg Water Sewer Dept.

Monthly Report: December 2019

- Fixed broken curb valve box at the fire house.
- Had a meeting with Jane, Ben, Candace from RCAP, and Dave from Delaware Engineering about priorities in the water system and funding solutions.
- Replaced pH meter and probe at the sewer plant.
- Started writing up standing operating procedures for operating the wells.
- Koberline pumped and cleaned the dosing tanks at the sewer plant.
- Kevin Maine about the NYRWA apprentice program, a free scholarship providing onsite training, books, and courses to assist getting sewer and water licenses.
- Calibrated chlorine and pH meters.
- Exercised generators two times.
- Got an alignment and new tires for the Ford F250.
- Responded to two power outages, ran the Kirk Rd pump station generator for the second one.
- Read water meters.
- Organized warehouse.
- Replaced broken valve box on School St, patched area with cold patch.
- Set up David weather station and linked it to Weather Link.
- Started training new operator.

### 2.3 Building Department / Code Enforcement – Submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Jim Crowley

Monthly Report: December 2019

- Construction Inspections – 19
- Fire & Safety Inspections – 0
- Complaint/Violation Inspections - 0
- Certificate of Occupancy – 1
- Certificate of Compliance – 1
- Building Permits – 7
- New Homes -3
- Accessory Building/Garage – 0
- Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 0
- Camping - 0

- Chimney/Fuel - 1
- Accessory Building Commercial - 2
- New Commercial Construction - 0
- Renovation/Alteration - Commercial Construction - 0
- Deck - 1
- Demolition Permit - 0
- Driveway Permit - 0
- Electrical - 0
- Logging Permits - 0
- Mechanical - 0
- Permit Renewals - 0
- Pool - 0
- Roof Replacement - 0
- Roof Structure - 0
- Septic Permits -
- Sidewalk - 0
- Sign Permit - 0
- Solar Permit - 0
- Well - 0
- Flood Plain Permit - 0
- C/O and violation search - 4
- 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

Monies collected by this office from December 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 are \$2,217.90.

Respectfully,  
 Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector  
 Jocelyn Strumpfler, Building Clerk

#### 2.4 Assessor- Submitted by Sole Assessor Ken Baim

Monthly Report: December 2019

During the month of December we attended the Orange, Ulster and Sullivan County holiday meeting in Goshen. The updated roll of addresses and bank codes was transmitted to Telescent to correct as many address issues before the tax bill printing as possible. This promotes bills going to the correct recipient without the tax collector having to resend them.

The required mailing for aged exemption recipients was completed and a few have been returned. The STAR no longer is being processed in the local assessor's offices so that large mailing and tracking of response and financial processing has been eliminated. I am not missing this large annual job!!

Preparation for the collection of new construction data is beginning for 2020.

Ken Baim

Sole Assessor

2.5 Upper Delaware Council- Report Submitted by Susan Sullivan Tusten UDC Rep.

Monthly Report: NO report received

2.6 Energy Committee- Report Submitted by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla

No meeting held this month. The Energy has collected a total of 2,003 lbs. of soft plastic to date.

2.7 Zoning Re-Write Committee - In progress

2.8 Grants – Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger - Nothing to report at this time.

2.9 Repair Café- Councilwoman Jill Padua

Next repair cafe will be February 1, 2020 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Tusten Community Hall.

### 3. Public Comment

3.1 Comments from the Public

Comments heard from the public

### 4. Old Business

4.1 Attorney from the Town

#### **RESOLUTION # 16-2020**

#### **APPOINT TOWN ATTORNEY**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that Ricciani & Jose, LLP is hereby hired as an attorney for the Town of Tusten as per proposal presented.

4.2 Wayne Bank Parking Lot

Councilwoman Jill Padua gave update- Tusten ZBA held a public hearing on January 6, 2020. Minutes have been submitted. The ZBA has not yet made any decision regarding the Parking Lot, they are holding a special meeting on January 28, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

4.3 State Route 97 Passing Zone

Councilwoman Jill Padua will follow up with the state on the matter of the passing zone on State Route 97 by the Luxton Lake.

4.4 Comprehensive Plan Committee

#### **RESOLUTION #17-2020**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Comprehensive Plan Committee shall consist of nine seats; The following individuals are hereby appointed to the said committee with two seats still vacant: Ken Baim, Sole Assessor; Jane Luchsinger, Councilwoman; Bernard Johnson, Supervisor; Arthur Hawker, Fire Commissioner; Jim Crowley, Code Enforcement Officer; Michael Farrel & Elaine Giguere.

4.5 Building Renovations

Bathrooms – in progress.

#### 4.6 Compensation Schedule

**RESOLUTION #18**

**AMEND COMPANSATION SCHEDULE**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby amend the 2020 the 2020 Compensation Schedule by removing the following lines: Snow Shoveling of the ice rink, as well as Election Inspectors.

#### 5. New Business

##### 5.1 Approval of Minutes

**RESOLUTION #19**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSTAIN** (Supervisor Bernard Johnson)

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes from December 27, 2019 End of Year meeting be hereby accepted as presented.

##### 5.2 Approval of Minutes

**RESOLUTION #20**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councilwoman Jill Padua, seconded by Councilwoman Jane Luchsiinger, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the January 2, 2020 Organizational Meeting be hereby accepted as presented.

##### 5.3 Expenditure of Highway Monies

**RESOLUTION #21**

**EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONIES**

On motion of Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby accept the agreement for the expenditure of highway monies as presented by the Town Highway Superintendent.

##### 5.4 Fire Advisory Board Appointment

**RESOLUTION #22**

**FIRE ADVISORY BOARD APPONMENT**

On motion of Councilwoman Brandi Merolla, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua, the following resolution was

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Tusten Town Board hereby appoint Craig Burkle to the Sullivan County Advisory Board as the representative for the Town of Tusten for the year 2020

##### 5.5 Set Workshops

**RESOLUTION #23**

**SET DATE & TIMES FOR BOARD WORKSHOPS**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Tusten Town Board shall hold a special meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM for the purpose of agenda building workshops. The meetings will be held at the Tusten Community Hall located at 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY.

5.6 Executive Session

**RESOLUTION #24**  
**ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board enter into executive session at 7:28 PM, for the purpose of matters leading up to an appointment and to discuss possible litigation with Danielle Jose, the Attorney for the Town.

Town Clerk Present  
No decision made.  
No minutes taken.

Motion to exit executive session made at 7:43 PM by Supervisor Ben Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua.

5.7 ZBA Alternate Member

**RESOLUTION #25**  
**APPOINTMENT OF ZBA MEMBER**

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

**ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSTAIN** (Councilwoman Brandi Merolla)

**RESOLVED**, that Stephen Stuart is hereby appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as the Alternate Member with an unexpired term ending 12/31/2020.

**6. Public Comment**

6.1 Comments heard from the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Public Comment period was held prior to the Town Board entering into executive session.

**7. Closing Items**

7.1 Board Comment

No further comments.

7.2 Meeting Reminders

Special Meeting: Agenda Workshop Tuesday February 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting: Tuesday February 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM

7.3 Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM made by Supervisor Bernard Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Jill Padua. The**

Respectively Submitted

Crystal Weston,  
Town Clerk