

DONNA AKERLEY
*Town Clerk, Registrar
Tax Collector
and Marriage Officer*
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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Monday, January 07, 2019

Town of Fallsburg Town Board Re-Organizational Meeting
19 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg, NY 12779
6:00 pm

PRESENT:

*Supervisor Steven Vegliante
Deputy Supervisor Nathan Steingart
Councilperson Mike Weiner
Councilperson Joe Levner
Councilperson Rebecca Pratt*

*Town Clerk Donna Akerley
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Malave -- Santos
Attorney for the Town Paula Kay
Supervisor's Secretary Linda Ingber
Comptroller Scott DuBois
Code Enforcement Officer Mollie Messenger*

6:00 p.m. – Re-Organizational Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Steven Vegliante

Salute to the Flag : **By Councilman Joe Levner**

*(Oath of Office will be administered by:
The Honorable Robert Scheinman and Honorable Amanda Ward*

Supervisor's Report: **By Supervisor Vegliante:** "I proudly address you tonight, entering my tenth year as your Supervisor, filled with hope for what lies ahead this year for our Town.

When I joined this board over nine years ago, our Town, and our Nation were in the throes of an economic recession. In the years that followed, we were forced to make some tough decisions, which led us to the period of prosperity which we enjoy today.

In this time, I am proud to say that our Board has accomplished many of the goals which I laid out 9 years ago. We have made improvements to our Town infrastructure, improved our parks, roads and facilities and have done so with minimal tax increases and through responsible budgeting. Our work in these areas is never complete and our setting of ambitious goals should never slow.

We must capitalize on the prosperity which we are experiencing and prepare for the future. I am proud to say that our accounting office led by our Town Comptroller, Scott DuBois, has diligently managed our finances and we are in a strong financial position going forward. Day by day, he and our staff analyze our accounts and vendors, always seeking to shave pennies which save us dollars. We have a strong balance sheet and are prepared for rainy days ahead. Thank you Scott.

Many of you may have read about issues with the latest tax bills. Unfortunately, a vendor utilized by the County to print and send tax bills has made an error and many bills were sent out in duplicate and the return envelopes had an incorrect bank and address. I would like to commend our Town Clerk, Donna Akerley and her Deputy Liz on

recognizing the issue and working with all parties to resolve it. We will be working with the listed bank and USPS to capture any payments which were sent incorrectly, and we will be sending a new bill to anyone who hasn't paid by the 21st of January, to ensure that everyone has correctly printed bills. We are sorry for any confusion and I thank Donna and Liz for their work in resolving this issue.

The appearance of our Town is always paramount to our Board. With a good portion of the Town being seasonal in nature, much falls upon our Code Enforcement office to enforce our codes and motivate our residents to do their part to improve our town. I must mention Mollie Messenger tonight, who as our Code Enforcement Officer has led this fight, managing her growing office, and leading by example with her hard work ethic. Mollie, along with our incredible Town Attorney, Paula Kay, managed the review, and amendments to our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code this year, leading to a zoning code that will allow for controlled and responsible growth with protections to our rural areas and character. Our Deputy Town Attorney, Bruce Perlmutter, adeptly manages our code prosecutions, with the goal of improvements rather than penalties. I am proud and thankful that our Board has recognized the strong needs of this department and we will continue to support their efforts to improve the safety and appearance of our Town.

Two of the best examples of these improvements are the hamlets of Hurleyville and Mountain Dale. In Hurleyville, the redevelopment efforts of the Center for Discovery have transformed that sleepy hamlet into a vibrant community. The Hurleyville Arts Center is the cultural anchor to the Town which now features multiple restaurants, galleries and retail spaces. With help from the Center and Open Space Institute and utilizing only grant funding, we have improved over 7 miles of the rail trail. Visitors now can hike the trail, get a haircut, enjoy the galleries and grab a bite at Frankie and Johnnies, the Pickled Owl and Hurleyville Market. Pedestrian traffic has become an issue, and I am pleased to report that within a month, there will be a light controlled crosswalk installed at no cost to taxpayers. As new developers look at opportunities, we will continue to support smart growth and development in this area. Thank you, Patrick Dollard, your staff and the Hurleyville community for all you have done and your commitment to improving the lives of all residents of our Town.

As has been seen in numerous articles in many forums, the hamlet of Mountain Dale is quickly becoming a place to visit and stay. Under the direction of owner Butch Resnick and Nhi Mundy, known for Dveight magazine and Ba and Me restaurants, we have seen a resurgence of the sleepy hamlet into an arts and cultural oasis. Visitors can visit art galleries, with resident artists Raymon Elozua, Micheline Gingras and J. Morgan Puett. Craft stores have opened, such as Stateland Supply, Witchey Homemade and Ambika which on certain days employs the cutest mascot I have ever held, a steel grey angora baby rabbit. Take a ride through and grab lunch, dinner or just a coffee at High Voltage Café and check out the rebirth of small town. Mountain Dale is a great example of what happens when diverse and well intentioned people get together to make a difference!

These redevelopments give us hope for other areas within the Town. Like a candle in wind, we must shelter and protect these efforts, and I am pleased to announce that I will direct an and ask my Board to support a review of our architectural design standards so they may be tailored to suit each of the hamlets within our Town. We must be committed to improving our gateways, to encourage more private investment to follow the lead of Hurleyville and Mountain Dale.

We would not be able to accommodate any of these improvements or growth without the dedicated efforts of our Public Works Departments. Our staff at our water and sewer departments has consistently kept our systems in excellent service and Will Illing, our former Town Engineer, planned and executed important improvements to a massive system with services to each of our hamlets. Our billing supervisor, Michelle Coopersmith, also retired this year, after over thirty years in our employ. We congratulate Will and Michelle on their retirement and know

that the systems they helped to build will continue to serve our needs for generations to come. In Will's place we have appointed long time outside engineer Ken Ellsworth as our Town Engineer. Day to day oversight and planning will be done by a committee of two of our finest minds, Scott DuBois and Mollie Messenger. As they take on these responsibilities I am confident that not only will our systems continue to perform, but improvements will be forthcoming that will improve our water quality as well as our impacts on the environment within our Town. I thank them both for taking on these responsibilities.

Anyone who has visited our Parks this year will notice their improvements. Our parks director, Arnold Seletsky, his deputy Greg Bennett and their staff take great pride in the appearance and offerings in our Parks. This summer, we will be beginning a weekly music series at Morningside Park and we are planning to feature national touring musicians each week for our residents. Join us under the stars in front of Morningside Lake to enjoy music all summer!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two long term employees for their retirements, Bill Jakaitis and Wayne Pirnos both retired from the highway department this year. Losing two men with over sixty years of Town experience between them would normally be devastating, but in our case, the staff they assembled has stepped up to the task supporting our new Highway Superintendent, Dylan Eidel, as he took the reins. Our Board is grateful for his leadership and will support him as he continues his good work.

Continuing our year of retirements, our long time assessor, Alice Manzi has retired, and we are pleased that we were again able to fill this position in-house. We appreciate Winnie Foertsch's dedication to our Town and look forward to her continuing the great work of this department.

A special thank you to our two Judges, here tonight, the Honorable Amanda Ward and the Honorable Robert Scheinman. Understanding the needs of our community, these two professionals, manage a busy and diverse Court, and do so with distinction. We appreciate your efforts and thank you for your commitment to our Town.

Finally, I would like to call out the dedicated and professional members of the Fallsburg Police Department. As the only Town in our County with a dedicated, full time department, it is easy to overlook their presence. Just this past holiday, they were on the scene of an awful accident, professionally managing an awful accident scene. In this past year, they have managed our traffic, protected our schools and solved several felony crimes. Led by our Chief, Simmie Williams III, they keep us safe every day, all day. They have our respect and gratitude for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few other people. The Board you see here are my friends, my colleagues and four of the most dedicated people I have ever met. I thank each of them for their service and for their support. I challenge each to join me and to challenge me to always do better for our constituents. My confidential secretary, Linda Ingber. I can honestly say that I could not do this job without you. I and our Town are blessed to have you here. Thank you. To my children, Morgan Cayleh and Cody, I am so proud of the adults you have become. I am proud that you are back here, in our Town, and look forward to all you will accomplish. To my wife Dali, you are my moon and my stars. You keep my priorities straight and my heart filled. Thank you.

I end my address tonight just as I did, nine years ago. Our road begins anew tonight. I leave you with a favorite quote of mine uttered by President Harry Truman over fifty years ago... Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better. That is our cause....and our cause is right and just. Thank you."

Operations:

Motion # 1

Motion to adopt Roberts Parliamentary Rules of Procedure for all Town Board Meetings.

Motioned by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 2

Motion to re-affirm all Town Policies, Regulations, Ordinances and other Town Laws and Rules including the Code of Ethics, Internet, Cell Phone and Vehicle Use Policy, Substance Abuse Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Policy.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 3

Motion to adopt Town of Fallsburg Procurement/Purchasing Policy.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 4

Motion to re-appoint Nathan Steingart as Deputy Supervisor and Town Board Liaison for Golf, Fire and Safety and Police Commission.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Supervisor Vegliante

Motioned carried 4 Ayes

Abstained 1 (Councilperson Steingart)

Motion # 5

Motion to re-appoint Michael Weiner Town Board Liaison for Youth Programs and Police Commission.

Motioned by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 4 Ayes

Abstained 1 (Councilperson Weiner)

Motion # 6

Motion to re-appoint Joe Levner Town Board Liaison for Planning & Zoning, Beautification and Police Commission.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 4 Ayes

Abstained 1 (Councilperson Levner)

Motion # 7

Motion to appoint Rebecca Pratt Town Board Liaison for Parks and Recreation and Senior Citizens.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 4 Ayes

Abstained 1 (Councilperson Pratt)

Motion # 8

Motion to re-appoint Donna Akerley as Registrar of Vital Statistics, Land Tax Collector, F.O.I.L. Officer, and Records Management Officer.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 9

Motion to re-appoint Elizabeth Malave-Santos as Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Land Tax Collector, and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 10

Motion to re-appoint Jimmi Dewitt of the Sullivan County Correctional Facility as Deputy Town Clerk for the purpose of issuing marriage licenses to inmates. – No Stipend

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 11

Motion to re-appoint Karen Luse as Deputy Town Clerk – Woodbourne Correctional Facility for the purpose of issuing marriage licenses to inmates. – No Stipend.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 12

Motion to re-appoint Paula Kay as Attorney for the Town.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 13

Motion to re-appoint Bruce Perlmutter as Assistant Attorney for the Town (Special Prosecutor).

Motioned by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 4 Ayes

Abstained 1 (Councilperson Steingart)

Motion # 14

Motion to re-appoint Simmie Williams as Chief of Police.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 15

Motion to re-appoint Scott DuBois as Town Comptroller.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 16

Motion to re-appoint Mollie Messenger as Code Enforcement Officer.

Motioned by Councilperson Levner seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 17

Motion to appoint Kenneth Ellsworth as Town Engineer.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 18

Motion to re-appoint Joanne Gerow as Animal Control Officer.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 19

Motion to re-appoint Tracey Leszcynski as Justice Court Clerk.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion #20

Motion to re-appoint Donia VanKeuren as Justice Court Clerk.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 21

Motion to approve the selection of JK Vending a/k/a Duso Vending Company as the official supplier of vending services to Fallsburg properties.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 22

Motion to authorize Town Supervisor Steven Vegliante to sign and execute town policies, contracts and agreements and Deputy Supervisor Steingart when Supervisor is not available.

Motioned by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion #23

Motion to authorize Supervisor Steven Vegliante, Deputy Supervisor Nathan Steingart, Comptroller Scott DuBois, Town Clerk Donna Akerley and Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Malave-Santos to open competitive bids for purchase, contracts, and other public works matters after such bids are authorized by the Town Board.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 24

Motion to designate the following banks as depositories of the town funds subject to a letter in which the bank would secure the checking accounts and certificates of deposits.

*Catskill Hudson Bank
Sterling National Bank
First National Bank of Jeffersonville
J.P. Morgan Chase
M&T Bank*

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 25

Motion to set the bonding limits of Town Officials as to form and sufficiency of surety in the amount of \$100,000.00

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 26

Motion to authorize Supervisor Vegliante, Deputy Steingart, and Town Comptroller DuBois as signatees for all bank transactions.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 27

Motion to authorize Supervisor Vegliante, Deputy Supervisor Steingart, and Town Comptroller DuBois to continue wire transfers for the Town of Fallsburg Investments.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 28

Motion to designate the following Town of Fallsburg locales as official polling places:

District 1 & 9 – Municipal Hall (Firehouse) Woodridge
District 2 & 8 – Woodbourne Firehouse
District 3 – Loch Sheldrake Firehouse
District 4 & 7 - Senior/Youth Center, South Fallsburg
District 5 – Mountindale Firehouse
District 6 – Hurleyville Firehouse

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 29

Motion to authorizing the reimbursement rate for person using their own vehicles for town business at \$0.45 cents per mile.

Motioned by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 30

Motion to designate the Sullivan County Democrat as the official newspaper of the Town of Fallsburg and the Times Herald Record as an official newspaper when the need for a timely advertisement cannot be satisfied with a bi-weekly newspaper.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 31

Motion to authorize any member of the Town Board, the Town Clerk, the Attorney for the Town, Chairman of the Planning Board, Chairman of the Zoning Board, the Code Enforcement Officer, the Town Engineer, the Town Comptroller, the Chief of Police, and the Public Works Director to attend the Association of Towns meetings in New York City to be held in February, 2019 and that their actual and necessary expenses shall be audited and allowed as a town charge.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 32

Motion to authorize Town Supervisor Vegliante to vote as representing the Town Board of the Town of Fallsburg at the 2019 Association of Towns Meeting.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 33

Motion to authorize Deputy Supervisor Steingart as the alternate to vote as representing the Town Board of the Town of Fallsburg at the 2019 Association of Towns Meeting.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 34

Motion to authorize Town Clerk to attend the New York State Town Clerk's Association Annual Conference & Training School to be held in Syracuse in May, 2019.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 35

Motion to appoint Refuah Health Center as Town's Health Officer.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 36

Motion to re-appoint Art Rosenshein to the position of Chairman of the Planning Board for a term of one (1) year to expire December 31, 2019.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 37

Motion to re-appoint Steve Burke to the position of Chairman of the Zoning Board for a term of one (1) year to expire December 31, 2019.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motioned carried 5 Ayes

Motion # 38

Motion to accept agreement between Waschitz, Pavloff, CPA, LLP and the Town of Fallsburg for Audit Services of the Town Financial Statement.

Motioned by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motioned carried 5 Ayes


Supervisor Vegliante asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session and stated that the Board would not be returning for further business thereafter.

6:21 PM - Motion to enter into Executive Session as set forth in Public Officers Law Sec. 105 (1) regarding: Employment Matters.

Motioned by: Councilperson Weiner Seconded by: Councilperson Levner

8:20 PM - Motion to adjourn Executive Session.

Motioned by: Councilperson Levner Seconded by: Councilperson Weiner



Town of Fallsburg Town Clerk Donna Akerley