

DONNA AKERLEY

*Town Clerk, Registrar
Tax Collector
and Marriage Officer*

www.townoffallsburg.com



**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
TOWN OF FALLSBURG**

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**Town of Fallsburg Town Board
2020 Re-Organizational Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2020
Town Hall Court Room, 19 Railroad Plaza
South Fallsburg, New York 12779
6:00 pm**

PRESENT:

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

**Town Clerk Donna Akerley
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Malave - Santos
Supervisor's Secretary Melissa Melko
Attorney for the Town Paula Kay
Comptroller Scott DuBois
Code Enf. Officer Mollie Messenger**

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

Salute to the Flag: By A.J. Pantel

Oath of Office will be administered by: The Honorable Robert Scheinman

Supervisor's Report:

By Supervisor Steven Vegliante:

"I address you tonight with humility and gratitude, which come from awareness that my life is blessed by those who surround me in my family, my workplace and especially my team members here in the Town of Fallsburg. I thank those sitting next to me, but I applaud the employees of this town that almost to a man and woman strives each day to make life in Fallsburg as positive as it can be.

Your elected Town Board, which I have the honor of leading continues to strive each year to better our quality of life while keeping a keen eye on spending, and taxes. I am pleased to announce that our 2020 budget was adopted well less than 2%, staying under the tax cap yet again, with no layoffs and improved services.

2019 saw this Board successfully negotiating contracts with our two bargaining units. I thank the CSEA and PBA members for their willingness to bargain and contract in good faith, balancing all our our desires for a fair wage and benefit package with the fiscal realities we face. Together, we crafted two fair contracts that will serve all parties for years to come.

As I mentioned last year, I will again be riding along with our Code Enforcement office, through each hamlet, in order to better understand and remove eyesores in our community. While financial realities prohibit us from

attacking each eyesore immediately, we will continue to move forward in an orderly fashion to remove unsafe buildings and eyesores systematically, based upon danger and location. We have removed several already this past year and with the help of the County, we hope to remove even more this year. I encourage you to become part of the process and contact my office with any properties, which are in need of repair or major maintenance. I ask for our resident's cooperation. We intend to work with those who are seeking to improve their property, and will prosecute violations only as a last resort. While we recognize the financial realities in our Town, the time is also now to begin our rebirth...to put our best foot forward...we must and we will commit to improving the appearance of our Home Town. We need you, our residents, to join us in the effort.

I wish to remind our residents that without reasonable and sustainable growth, our town and you our taxpayers will be strangled by ever increasing state mandates and rising costs of services. This is especially true when it comes to funding for education. Our state is only one of 12 which still fund education through a property tax, everywhere but NYC. We will continue to ask our legislators to review the extremely lax tax exempt laws and act on our request for the State to pay its fair share for lands owned in our Town.

With our zoning amendments and comprehensive plan updates complete, we must now increase our commitment to attracting stable and lasting commercial assessment projects. To that end, we will be taking the lead in developing corporate, light industrial and business centers. We will do this by identifying blighted or unused properties, seeking out private developers and working together to attract businesses to our Town.

We continue to work and collaborate with the Village of Woodridge. With our strong relationship with Mayor Collins, and with our old friends as well as the new members to their Board, I look forward to new and fruitful discussions. We owe it to each of our residents to explore every opportunity to share services, eliminate duplication and save our tax payers money.

Please look around our Web Site www.townoffallsburg.com. It is full of information about each Town department. A special thanks to our Town Clerk Donna Akerley for developing the site, which hosts the Town of Fallsburg Municipal Code where you can look up our laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. On the site is a link to our Code Red notification service. If you aren't receiving our alerts, there you can sign up so that we can contact you with emergency and severe weather alerts

Finally, we saw a lot of change in our Departments these past two years. Fortunately, with each change, our Town excelled at the new challenges faced. I would like to thank each department along with the department head for helping deliver the services that town residents expect in a timely and responsible manner:

Dylan Eidel, our Highway Superintendent. Dylan has filled the shoes of both our outgoing Superintendent Billy Jakaitis and the Deputy Wayne Pinos. He has led his department by example, and has the respect of his team. I thank each of them for consistently keeping our roads safe, and for supporting their boss. Great job Dylan

Winnie Foertsch, our new Assessor, stepped in and took over a very busy office in its busiest year in recent memory. I congratulate her and her staff for meeting each challenge and continuing to do so each day.

Arnold Seletsky, our new Parks director, has both improved our existing parks and added new amenities and services. Morningside and Mountaindale Park are sparkling treasures within our Town and we will continue to support Arnold as he improves their appearance and offerings.

Pat McNamara, Mike Decker and Geoffrey Walsh for maintaining our golf courses at a championship level with a municipal budget all the while keeping greens fees affordable. In a year with bad weather, they excelled. A special thank you to our retired pro, Glenn Sonnenshein, who helped with the transition and remains part of our extended family.

Randy Jones, Bobby McKeon, Mike Herbert and Chet Williams, our team at Water and Sewer. With the retirement of Will Illing, they stepped up and made sure that our services did not miss a beat. Rest assured that our residents will always have clean water, toilets that flush and projects that are safe.

There are two individuals that have taken on more responsibility and have proven invaluable members of our team. Scott Dubois, our town comptroller and Mollie Messenger, our Code Enforcement officer. Scott is my financial right and left arm, keeping an eye on expenses, maximizing our resources and keeping us all in line. Mollie Messenger, our code enforcement officer, and so much more, is our operational Right and Left arms. Thank you each for managing the building and maintenance of properties throughout the town, overseeing development and special projects, and helping to manage our staff and priorities, professionally and diligently.

Our Town Engineer, Ken Ellsworth, has stepped in and filled the shoes of Will Illing who retired this past year, supporting our departments, planning and zoning boards, assuring safe projects and safe working environments.

Donna Akerley our elected Town Clerk is the public face of the Town of Fallsburg, answering questions and servicing our residents with distinction and more than that, always a smile. Also, thank you to Deputy Town Clerk, Elizabeth Malave - Santos, for helping our residents and supporting Donna's efforts.

Paula Kay and Bruce Perlmutter, our town Attorneys and prosecutors. They diligently protect our Town's interest day in and day out. They are professional, and we are grateful to both of them for serving in these roles.

Joann Gerow, our Animal Control Officer. She responds on a moment's notice, and steadfastly protects the interests of the animals in her care. Thank you for all you do for the Town of Fallsburg and for CARE.
(Inadvertently omitted from spoken remarks)

And finally, our Police Chief, Simmie Williams, our Detectives, Travis Hartman and Brendan Pavese and the rank and file keep our Town safe and secure, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are fortunate to have the men and women of the Fallsburg Police Department protecting us. As risks increase, I am confident they will rise to any challenge.

Finally to each of our Town Employees. You each represent the lifeblood of our Town and on behalf of our Board and myself, I say to each of you, Thank you for all that you do to make Fallsburg great.

A personal thank you to Linda Ingber, my confidential secretary and secretary to the Board and in many ways a member of my family this past 10 years. In addition to keeping my schedule and interacting with the public, she has proven to always be dedicated to her position, always looking out for both our residents and the Board, taking on projects and helping wherever and whenever asked. She was an integral part of the Renaissance Municipal Grant program wins. I congratulate her on our retirement and I will miss her greatly. However, in this year of change, I am thrilled to once again announce our new Confidential Secretary, Melissa Melko. Melissa, I am thrilled to welcome you to our family! Melissa is a home town girl, born and raised in Mountain Dale. While she has big shoes to fill, I am sure she will bring enthusiasm, kindness and professionalism to the position, and with time, figure out how to manage my crazy schedule.

A final thank you to you, the residents of our Town, for again trusting me to lead our Town in these times of uncertainty. I will continue approach every day with the dual vision of improving our town and reducing our tax burden.

2020 vision is usually reserved for looking backwards. This year, we look forward. 2020 will bring many challenges and I am sure many exciting changes and we will use the years of experience to capitalize on the many opportunities that are present I urge you to join us in this journey and make your voice heard.

Once again, I leave you with this. We all deserve the Government we allow. Our meetings are held on Monday evenings. Please do not be a stranger.

Thank you for your time, for your support and please make time tonight, tomorrow and every day to show another person kindness. Steven Vegliante, Town Supervisor.”

Operations:

Motion #1

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion 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.

Motion by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #3

Motion to adopt Town of Fallsburg Procurement/Purchasing Policy.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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.

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motion Carried 4 Ayes – 1 Abstain (*Councilperson Steingart*)

Motion #5

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

Motion by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 4 Ayes – 1 Abstain (*Councilperson Weiner*)

Motion #6

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

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 4 Ayes – 1 Abstain (*Councilperson Levner*)

Motion #7

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 4 Ayes – 1 Abstain (*Councilperson Pratt*)

Motion #8

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #9

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion 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

Motion by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #11

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #12

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

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #13

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

Motion by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 4 Ayes – 1 Abstain (*Councilperson Steingart*)

Motion #14

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #15

Motion to re-appoint Scott DuBois as Town Comptroller.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #16

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

Motion by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #17

Motion to re-appoint Kenneth Ellsworth as Town Engineer.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #18

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #19

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

Motion by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #20

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.

Motion by Councilperson Levner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carries 5 Ayes

Motion #21

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.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #22

Motion to accept the retirement of Linda Ingber as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor. *With Regret.*

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #23

Motion to appoint Melissa Melko as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor.

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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*

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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

Motion by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #26

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion 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.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #28

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

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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.

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion 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, 2020 and that their actual and necessary expenses shall be audited and allowed as a town charge.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion 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 2020 Association of Towns Meeting.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion 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 2020 Association of Towns Meeting.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion 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 Albany in April, 2020.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #35

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

Motion by Councilperson Pratt, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motion 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, 2020.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Steingart

Motion 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, 2020.

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Levner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion #38

Motion to appoint Brian Manown to the Architectural Review Board for a term of one (1) year to expire December 31, 2020.

Motion by Councilperson Steingart, seconded by Councilperson Weiner

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

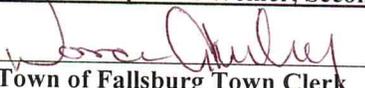
Motion #39

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

Motion by Councilperson Weiner, seconded by Councilperson Pratt

Motion Carried 5 Ayes

Motion to adjourn: Councilperson Weiner, Seconded: Councilperson Pratt, Time: 6:20 pm



Donna Akerley, Town of Fallsburg Town Clerk