



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Monday February 7th, 2022

Town Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Town Board Meeting on Monday February 7th, 2022, at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York. Supervisor Watts called the meeting to order @ 7:00 and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: Supervisor Watts, Council Member Cords, Council Member Flaherty, Council Member Powers.

Absent: Council Member Kralovich

Approval of the Minutes:

December 15th, 2021; Public Hearing:

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Abstain, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

December 15th, 2021; Board Meeting:

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Abstain, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

December 29th, 2021:

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Abstain, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

January 12th, 2022:

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Powers.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

January 26th, 2022:

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

New Business:

1. Barton & Loguidice Proposals

- a. 'Barton & Loguidice , D.P.C. (B&L), is pleased to present the Town of Cairo (Town) with this proposal to provide professional services for the pursuit of funding for the adaptive reuse of a former dojo training center into a community center, meals-on-wheels prep kitchen and ambulance quarters.' **Resolution No. 2022-051**
 - b. 'Barton & Loguidice , D.P.C. (B&L), is pleased to provide this revised letter proposal to the Town of Cairo (Town) for the development of preliminary interior space layout floor plan drawings for use by Town staff to demolish interior partition walls as required for the anticipated renovations to the Dojo Community building located in the Town of Cairo.'
Resolution No. 2022-052
 - c. 'Barton & Loguidice , D.P.C. (B&L), is pleased to provide this revised letter proposal to the Town of Cairo (Town) for the Professional Services related to upgrading the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at the Town Hall building located at Main Street in the Town of Cairo.'
Resolution No. 2022-053
2. Smoking Policy
 - a. 'With the recent legalization of recreational cannabis, many municipalities are taking another look at tobacco policies to protect their outdoor spaces. The majority of municipalities in Greene County have instituted no smoking policies in their parks, and some are now considering expanding their policies to include vaping and cannabis. Angelo Canna Park is being eyed for upgrades, which will make it even more attractive to visitors. The park is home to a number of events each year, including the Greene County Youth Fair. Parks are intended to be healthy and inviting spaces for youth to visit and play, and smoking just does not fit in with that idea. We have sample resolution language prepared to help municipalities create these policies, and Tobacco-Free Action provides signs at no cost to the Town.' Sarah Trafton
Resolution No. 2022-060
 3. Ambulance Billing
 - a. **Resolution No. 2022-065**
 4. Cemetery Bid
 - a. To perform general cleanup, mowing and trimming of cemeteries owned by the Town of Cairo with duties to be performed a minimum of five (5) times during the season, May thru September 2022. **Resolution No. 2022-059**
Cemeteries owned by the Town:
 - Frank Hitchcock Road
 - White Farm Loop Road
 - Route 145
 - Lake Mills Road
 - Garcia Lane
 - Ira Vail Road (Near Veverka Residence)
 - Ira Vail Road (Near Spahmer Road)
 - Union Church Cemetery (Rudolph Weir Road)
 5. Bookkeeper Training
 - a. Introduction to Governmental Accounting – Online – 3/15/22-3/17/22
Resolution No. 2022-063
 6. Request Use of Park for Rabies Clinic

- a. The Greene County Department of Public Health would like to hold Rabies Clinics in the Town Park during the Spring/Summer of 2022 on the following dates:
 May 18th, 2022 from 5:00-7:00PM
 June 15th, 2022 from 5:00-7:00PM
 August 17th, 2022 from 5:00-7:00PM
 September 14th, 2022 from 5:00-7:00PM

Resolution No. 2022-062

7. Ray Pacifico – Right of Way

- a. Supervisor Watts has looked over some paperwork and would like to address a few things before moving forward. Would like to have little more to look it over and address it further at the workshop next Wednesday the 16th. Looking for the best possible option for all residents. Ray would like a right of way to his property on William Dinger, but would like to avoid land locking any/all properties if possible; Fabrizio’s and/or the Miller properties. Rays has a building on his property on William Dinger behind Schindler’s Automotive and his office on Main Street. The old paper route is sometimes accessed to address the sewer and water pump station that is back there, would like them to look in to how they can change this and do it the best way possible for his request. Ray says he is going to continue going thorough and addressing the planning board about his request.

8. Justice Court Audit

- a. Lynette S.B. Lawyer, Certified Public Accountant performed the Court Audit and found everything was in compliance and good to go. **Resolution No. 2022-066**

Correspondence:

1. Sewer Adjustment Request

- a. Letter from Mountain View Enterprises LLC;
 ‘Cairo Town Board Members, I had spoken with Mr. Lamanec in September referencing a 28,000 Gallon water break within our building at 455-457 Main Street Cairo. I was told since the water didn’t go into the sewer; we should notify the Board after receiving the bill. I am asking the Board to please consider that this was an unforeseen accident as far as the water usage is concerned, as well as the 28,000 gallons be removed from the sewage charges since the water did not enter the sewer.’ **Resolution No. 2022-068**

Resolution No. 2022-004 “Set Town Hall Hours of Operation REVISED”

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cairo Town Hall shall be open for public business from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays or other such times the Town Hall is closed by order of the Town Supervisor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the offices of the Town Clerk, Code Enforcement and Building Department, Supervisor’s Office and Tax Assessor will be staffed and accessible to the public at all times when the Town Hall is open for public business.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-048 “Building and Code Clerk Provisional Appointment REVISED”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, both part-time Building & Code Clerks resigned in November and December of 2021.

WHEREAS, in anticipation of these resignations and due to the increase in the workload of the Town Building & Code Clerk’s workload, a provision was made for a full-time Building & Code Clerk. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby appoint Kyrie Fielder as the Building & Code Provisional Full-Time Clerk with a salary of \$15.00 per hour not to exceed 40 hours per week.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-049 “Approve IT Upgrades”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo has received a quote for an annual update and review of the Town’s Network Server and Workstations in response to the latest Security Advisories from the Federal Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with Intelligent Technology Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$4,400.00

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-050 “Authorize the Supervisor to Sign the 2022 Managed PC Service Contract”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo has received a quote for a managed service contract with Intelligent Technology Solutions, Inc. which would cover 18 Town PCs, 2 Police PCs and 3 Police Car PCs. This allows IT to cover the Police PCs that which previously not covered.

WHEREAS, this agreement covers Basic Router Management, Route Management, WAP Management, Managed Switch Basic, UPS/SNMP Device Management, Windows Build Updates, Spam Guard and VEEAM Backup Agent – Annual. Previously, all items were billed separately.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with Intelligent Technology Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$9,645.00

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-051 “Authorize Barton and Loguidice to move forward with the Professional Grant Writing Service”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, Barton & Loguidice has provided an estimate for Professional Grant Writing Services for the Town of Cairo in pursuit of funding for a Community Center, meals-on-wheels prep kitchen and Ambulance quarters.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Cairo Town Board does hereby authorize Barton & Loguidice to proceed with Professional Grant Writing Services for the Town of Cairo.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-052 “Authorize Barton & Loguidice to Move Forward with the Town Community Center Upgrades Project”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Cairo Town Board does hereby authorize Barton & Loguidice to proceed as the Engineer moving forward with the Scope of Services for the Town Community Building Upgrades Project as described in their January 7, 2022 proposal to:

- Conduct a site visit to verify existing building dimensions
- Perform a limited Asbestos Investigation and Sampling
- Develop 90% Design Development drawings and Technical Specifications for the required building upgrades
- Submit one set of the 90% Design Development Drawings and Specifications to the Town and attend one review meeting to discuss and review the drawings
- Update the Design Development drawings and technical specifications and submit final drawings to the Town for use by Town designated staff.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-053 “Authorize Barton & Loguidice to Move Forward with the Town Hall HVAC Assessment”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, Barton & Laguidice has provided an estimate for an Assessment and review of the Town Hall building HVAC System. The proposed assessment will identify existing deficiencies and concerns. The HVAC System assessment will also provide options for improved ventilation and air filtration throughout the facility.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Cairo Town Board does hereby authorize Barton & Loguidice to proceed with the Town Hall Building HVAC Assessment.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-054 “Appoint Zoning Board of Appeals 5 Year Term”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cairo Town Board does hereby appoint Robert Hasenkopf to a 5 year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals to conclude on December 31, 2026.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-055 “Authorizing Public Hearing”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo is proposing a new Town Local Law to assure snow removal can be done safely on Main Street, Cairo. The new law would ensure that residents park on odd and even sides of the street during designated times in order to expedite the removal of snow to make Main Street a safer environment.

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing is necessary prior to the adoption of any Law. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that on March 7th, 2022 at 7:00 pm, at the Cairo Town Hall, the Cairo Town Board shall hold a Public Hearing to introduce a new Law requiring vehicles to be moved during snow emergencies.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-056 “Budget Amendments & Payment of Bills on Abstract #302 for January Payables & Prepaids”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, payment of bills should be properly authorized & documented in the minutes; therefore be it **RESOLVED**, the Town Board does hereby authorize that Abstract #302 Payables and Prepaids, consisting of 2022 V2 #00040 through V2 # 00145 in the amount of \$ 1,416,606.27 is approved for payment;

The total amount to be paid from the:

General Fund -	\$957,832.07	Hydrant – \$-0-
Highway Fund -	\$53,874.19	Capital Water- \$-0-
Street Lighting -	\$5,860.44	Sidewalk - \$283,729.66
Sewer Fund -	\$10,255.99	Trust & Agency - \$2,983.36
Water Fund -	\$ 8,223.69	Special Fire - \$93,846.87

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-057 “Receipt of Monthly Supervisor’s Report”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, Town Law, Section 125 commands a detailed statement from the Supervisor’s office to be rendered to the Town Board of all money received and disbursed and a copy filed in the office of the Town Clerk; therefore, be it

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board Members accept the monthly Supervisor’s Report for January.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-058 “Water Billing Adjustment”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Water billing adjustment to be authorized by the Town Board and documented in the minutes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the adjustment to the Water billing dated January 6, 2022 to be credited to Account Number 3625 for \$292.27, which was erroneously posted.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-059 “Advertise for Bid for Annual Maintenance of Town Owned Cemeteries”

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cairo does hereby approve the advertisement for cleanup, mowing and trimming of cemeteries owned by the Town of Cairo. Duties to be performed to keep cemeteries maintained as necessary.

The cemeteries included are:

- Frank Hitchcock Road - White Farm Loop Road
- Route 145 - Lakes Mills Road
- Garcia Lane - Ira Vail Road (Near Veverka Residence)
- Ira Vail Road (Near Spahmer Road)
- Union Church Cemetery (Rudolph Weir Rd)

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-060 “Adopt Town and Facility Smoking Policy”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cairo does hereby adopt a Town property and facility Smoking Policy as attached.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Abstain. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-061 “Appointment for Zoning Board of Appeals”

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, there is an opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals and a need to complete that Board in order to move forward with requests that have been received.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cairo Town Board does hereby appoint Ryan VanDenburgh to complete the term for the opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals to conclude on December 31, 2025.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-062 “Authorizing Use of Park for Rabies Clinic”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, Public Health Law requires all cats, dogs and ferrets to be vaccinated for rabies starting at 12 weeks old. Greene County would like to hold 4 free Rabies clinics at the Town Park this spring/summer in the evening. They have held successful drive through clinics in the park during the last 2 years due to Covid-19. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cairo Town Board does hereby grant permission for the Greene County Rabies Clinic to be held again at the Cairo Town Park in the spring/summer 2022.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-063 “Approve Online Accounting Training”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Comptroller is providing online Accounting Training this Spring.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cairo does hereby grant permission to the Bookkeeper to attend online training in March and April at a total cost of \$170.00.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-064 “Purchase Hanging Flower Baskets for Main Street”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Cairo Chamber of Commerce is once again unable to purchase the flower baskets for Main Street this year. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby authorize the purchase of the flower baskets from Story’s Nursey for the Main Street flower baskets.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-065 “Approval to Hire Ambulance Billing Company”

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo Ambulance Clerk has submitted her retirement effective May 1, 2022 depending on the need for her to do training.

WHEREAS, research has been done to outsource the billing.

WHEREAS, estimates have been received as indicated below:

<u>Crossroads:</u>	8% of Net Collections
<u>MedEx</u>	\$35.00 per claim or 7% per claim PLUS \$15 per Medicaid claim since Medicaid tends to pay minimally
<u>MultiMed</u>	10% of all collected non-Medicaid monies \$19.50 for each Medicaid primary claim/\$9.50 for each Medicaid secondary claim

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cairo Town Board does hereby authorize the signing of a one year contract with Crossroads for the Ambulance billing.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-066 “Accept Justice Court Auditor’s Report”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo had hired the accounting Firm of Lynette S.B. Lawyer, Certified Public Accountant as an independent contractor to audit the Justice Court’s books for the 2021 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the auditors have completed their review and have presented their audit report to the town board for its acceptance, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cairo Town Board does hereby accept the auditor’s report for the Cairo Justice Court.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-067 “Accept Sewer Billing”

Offered by Council Member Powers and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Water Billing to be authorized by the Town Board and documented in the minutes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby accept the Sewer Billing from the Water/Sewer Administrator in the amount of \$30,245.21 dated February 3, 2022

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 2022-068 “Sewer Billing Adjustment”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, the Sewer Billing for 455-457 Main St., Cairo, NY 12413 was excessive due to unforeseen circumstances. It was determined that the water didn’t go into the Sewer and it is the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Department to not charge the excessive sewer amount. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby agree that there would be an adjustment made to the Sewer bill for 455-457 Main Street, Cairo, NY based on the averages of the bill at times other than the issue. The water adjustment will be in the amount of \$208.53 and will be reduced to the average amount of \$64.00.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Public Comments:

William:

- Would like to know if the Town can get the large sledding hill back in the Town, due to the walking path being paved. Which then requires the path to be plowed, which then causes the issues and dangers for kids who sleigh down the hill. Questions if that part of the path, during the 3 or so months of winter if it could not be used and plowed?
- Council Member Watts understands the safety concerns and but also understands that other residents do use the path all year long. Will look into it and address it to see what conclusions can be made.

Diana Benoit:

- Benoit says that the Library Board of Trustees sent a letter to the Board that was never read publicly and would like to read it.
 - *Supervisor Watts asked for this matter to stop, that he was advised by Council to dismiss this matter it was taken care of. Mentions that Board did discuss it and how it is a personnel issue and that Council should be here for any more questions about this topic.*
- Would like to read the public status that Council Member Powers made on Facebook about this topic and the Board of Trustees would like to read their answer or rebuttal, since his statement was public the rebuttal letter should be able to be read. Argues back and forward that they would like to read the letter, Board is hesitant because Council advised against this.
- Addressed how the alleged \$2,400.00 to pay lawyers to investigate the library was never voted on by the board to be spent.
- A. Veverka addresses how a public servant needs to be careful and do the right thing. Mentions how Council Member Powers put something out there at the time acting as a Council Member, representing the Town.
- Supervisor Watts after much debate and argument allows Benoit to read the Facebook post from Council Member Powers post and the rebuttal letter.
 - *Daniel Benoit starts by reading the Facebook Post;*
 - *As one of five elected fiduciaries (town board), at budget time, we are faced with properly allocating tax payer funds for the operation of our town, but also are tasked with maintaining proper oversight as to how the funds are spent throughout the year using a voucher system that is maintained by the town bookkeeper. So upon discovering that one of our departments was in a "unique" situation when it came to receiving tax payer money, I decided to investigate and the information that I discovered is troubling at best.*

At question here is one of the crown jewels of our community, The Cairo Municipal Public Library. While I fully support the Library as being a doorway to the mind with its vast wealth of knowledge and community service, I have found that the current financial arrangement with the Town of Cairo is un-acceptable from a fiduciary stand point. The Library was permanently chartered as a PUBLIC TOWN Library in 1973, by the NYS education department. There are two other libraries with the same designation on the Mid-Hudson library system; those being Greenville and Windham. Upon checking with the other two libraries as to how they are operated, it is done according to the town guidelines that were established for ALL other operating departments inside the town structure. The town owns the library building, they use a voucher system, where expenditure vouchers are approved by the library board of trustees and then submitted to the town book keeper for payment. This allows for the town board to have continuous OVERSIGHT into the use of the taxpayer money that is budgeted to the library. Such is NOT the case with our library.

Back on January, 13th 1986, a resolution was adopted by the library board citing NYS education law 259(1) DEMANDING that the town treasurer turn over to the library all financial books, accounts, records and funds pertaining to the library. This case was adjudicated under an article 78 proceeding in Albany county Supreme court in which they ruled in favor of the library. The case was filed against then supervisor Michael Valentin and not the existing Cairo town board at the time. Upon the decision of the case, Supervisor Valentin complied with the demand without a resolution from the town board. Since 1986, the library has established their own payroll account, own health insurance package, and is currently in charge of all library operations including: hiring and firing, salaries, sick leave and vacation time. As a foot note, in an e-mail dated September 23rd, 2021, our town book keeper was informed that there are five libraries that are "not part of their town or village". Cairo Public Library, Catskill Public Library, Hermance Memorial Library, D.R. Evarts library and Hunter Public Library. The current arrangement with the town of Cairo for our library is this: they submit a budget, once approved by the town board, the town book keeper deducts the worker's compensation amount for a year, and HANDS THE LIBRARY A CHECK FOR THE BALANCE! WHERE IS THE OVERSIGHT? Our fiduciary responsibility has been thwarted! Just to put a number on this, the annual yearly cost to the taxpayer for the building that we provide alone is \$167,500. Top that with this year's operating budget of \$196,000, we have a total cost of \$363,500 per year. In which \$162,966 goes out in the SALARIES of seven people! In a small town of 6,700 people, (according to the last US Census), the cost to EVERY man, woman, and child in our community is \$54.25 per year. Just to put this into perspective, the senior librarian is earning before benefits, \$70,000 per year, better than \$10,000 more than our police officer in charge or Ambulance administrator. Upon searching Indeed.com for salary comparisons, I discovered that our librarian is earning more than a senior librarian for THE CITY OF MANHATTAN whose salary comes in at \$60,200. The assistant Librarian is at \$41,000 per year before benefits.

During the COVID pandemic, the library was closed as most of the town offices were. Although the town did a department wide lay off or furlough, the library did not! In fact, they hired on a seventh employee. Was this all happening because of the lack of needed oversight by the town? This is exactly why I am stepping up with this information. This is my primary duty as your elected fiduciary to give you the facts, and I do have the documentation. Upon contacting two different attorneys with these facts, they both concur that the operating portion of this budget needs to be cut and I suggest that the library be given a choice to either come back into the town structure as they were originally chartered or seek operational funding elsewhere. In either circumstance, I believe that the town should continue to provide the building under the current arrangement continuing to absorb the cost as doing our part to support our library. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and it is an absolute pleasure to serve you.

- *Diana Benoit then goes ahead and reads the rebuttal letter:*
 - *The Cairo Public Library Trustees have decided unanimously to send a letter to the Town of Cairo, Town Board. The purpose of this letter is twofold. First, we wish to show our absolute support of Debra Kamecke, The Cairo Public Library Director. Her professionalism and commitment to the library is without reproach. The Town of Cairo residents are lucky to have such a devoted and faithful Director who gives selflessly of*

her time and energy to make the library cutting edge and the envy of the other libraries in Greene County and around the state. In addition to the many awards our library has received during Debra's 22-year term as director of the library, the Cairo Public Library has been nominated for this year's National Medal for Museum and Library Service. That leads us into the second reason for this letter. Councilperson Tim Powers has made a public announcement on social media. His Facebook post is filled with inaccuracies and lies, and we wish to correct them. For those town board members who have not read his post on Facebook, it has been attached to this letter in its original form.

Mr. Powers stated that, "There are two other libraries with the same designation on the Mid-Hudson library system. Those being Greenville and Windham." **Wrong Mr. Powers.** There are **eight** municipal public libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System, they are: Brewster, Cairo, Greenville, Kent, Philmont, Pine Plains, Red Hook and Windham.

Mr. Powers further stated, "Upon checking with the other two libraries as to how they are operated, it is done according to the town guidelines that were established for ALL other operating departments inside the town structure." **Wrong, again Mr. Powers.** The Office of the State Comptroller has ruled on several occasions that it is the library Board of Trustees' fiduciary responsibility to have financial oversight over a municipal library's finances. This does not mean as you further claimed that the Town has no oversight of the library's finances. To the contrary, the Town can review library expenses at the monthly meeting of the library Board of Trustees. Ultimately, the town Page 2 determines how much money it contributes to the library's operating budget every year. As an example, while this year's town budget increased on average almost 10%, the library's budget was cut by 5% from the previous year's amount.

Mr. Powers stated "I discovered that our librarian is earning more than a senior librarian for THE CITY OF MANHATTAN whose salary comes in at \$60,200. The assistant librarian is at \$41,000 per year before benefits." This one sentence contains many inaccuracies. Let's begin with geography. Manhattan isn't a city. It is a borough in the City of New York. Debra Kamecke isn't a librarian, she is the Director of the Cairo Public Library. They are completely different jobs with different responsibilities. A librarian provides frontline service assisting patrons with research needs while a Library Director is the chief executive officer of the institution. The library director is responsible for the administration of the entire operation, from human resources management to facilities to carrying out the library board's policies, plans and budget. For the record, the Library Director for the borough of Manhattan makes well over \$500,000 per year. Also, for the record, our senior librarian has worked for more than 20 years to reach her current income of \$41,000 a year. The **starting** salary for a Manhattan senior librarian \$60,200. Using your example, they are both woefully underpaid.

Mr. Powers also stated, "During the COVID pandemic, the library was closed as most of the town offices were." A **Correction** to a misleading statement is needed. Although the library building was closed to walk-in traffic, the library and its staff continued to work providing curbside pick-up service via phone, email and online contact with Cairo, Catskill, and Greenville residents.

Mr. Powers also stated, "Upon contacting two different attorneys with these **facts** they both concur that the operation portion of this budget needs to be cut and I suggest that the library be given a choice to either come back into the town structure as they were originally chartered or seek operational funding elsewhere." Again, Mr. Powers

deliberately skews established law for his own ends. Mr. Powers knows full well that in Cairo Public Library vs Michael Valentin, the court clearly stated that under New York state law, a library board has broad collective authority to manage the affairs of the library. As originally chartered, it is the library board that has the fiduciary responsibility for the library budget. If Mr. Power's attorneys had been supplied with accurate and truthful information, they would have no choice but to reach the same conclusion. If Mr. Powers does not understand that ruling, we suggest he contact the two unnamed attorneys and ask them to explain it to him.

In closing, the Cairo Library Board of Trustees would like Councilperson Jason Watts, Councilperson Mary Jo Cords, Councilperson Stephen Kralovich and (then) Supervisor John Coyne to publicly admonish Councilperson Tim Powers for his deliberately misleading statements on social media. A public official with self-declared "fiduciary responsibilities" also has the responsibility to be truthful and provide accurate information to the citizens he represents and should not be using public media to launch a personal attack on a town employee. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom." Our Constitutional Republic relies and depends on an informed electorate. Having a public official give out false information erodes public confidence.

- Upset for the fact that when she is allowed to speak as a Board of Trustee Member for the Library that the first thing that Council Member Powers mentions is how he does not want to assist the CDF with the barrels associated with the Community Bear Art Project. Wants the Board to understand what the CDF is doing and support one another.

Susan True:

- Would like to know if there was any Town money spent on attorneys, while Council Member Powers was 'investigating' the library?
 - *Board states that there was money spent.*
- Also, who were the attorneys that were paid to do this research?
 - *One to the board's knowledge, the Town's labor attorney, Elayne Gold, who would of received money. Does not believe Tal got paid more for this research.*

Ray Pacifico:

- He would like to point out that we are all members of the same community, when we can let's try to work together more than in the past, let's look forward.
- Also mentions as a commercial real estate appraiser that not only in our town but in other towns, he noticed that he was 20 years off in saying that Cairo was the hub of Greene County and how its finally going to take off and were going to see some development, but it's happening now and you can look and see just on Main Street.
- Mentions how there are more people on the CDF than just the people that are always brought up, if you look and see what they are trying to do for the Town and work together and help development Main Street. He envisions a lot of the things that have happened up in Hunter and Tannersville with the Hunter Foundation to happen here in Town.

Emmy Cross:

- Would like to thank the Board for allowing and assisting in the sharps project to get the sharps containers into the bathrooms at the Town Park.
- Emmy takes care of the installation and the retrieval of the sharps when it is full.

Allan Veverka:

- Mentions that he wrote a letter to Supervisor Watts the other day and had asked if he had the chance to look it over.
 - *Supervisor Watts mentioned that he had looked it over and then sent it to the county under Councils advice.*
- Also addresses that he heard that the vote on the Ethics committee was set up wrong and that it is to be rescinded and re-done according to the Town Attorney.
 - *Board will speak to Tal about this.*
- Says that when people who are public servants that are on the board should not abuse their power or authority, they should not be lying to anyone and they should be trusted servants.

Adjourn Town Board Meeting @ 8:33PM

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Powers.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Kayla L. McAlister
Town Clerk