



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Wednesday July 20th, 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 Wednesday, July 20th, 2022, at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York.

Supervisor Watts called the meeting to order @ 7:00PM and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Discussions:

- Library Bench – Mark Gorelick
 - Marc addresses how the library is coming up on 10 years in its current building. Will be addressing all the people who have been involved with library over the years. Debra recently got a grant for the new reading garden, interested in putting a bench in the reading garden. No protocols to put a bench in just need permission from the Town. The bench will be put in concrete (post holes) so it is permanently there. The library is taking care of the price and installation of the bench, simply asking the Town for permission. **Resolution No. 2022-164**
- Pop Warner
 - Chairperson for the Greene County Pop Warner has come to the board to address the requirements for an AED on premise for games and/or practices. This is also being required for Little League due to past incidents in other states. She is asking if the board would be interested in a universal AED so that it is there year round for teams who require it or any others that may need it. In the past it wasn't required to be taken care of by either league since the police station was in the park and they had one on hand. About \$1,100 total cost, and \$100 a year to maintain, it is required before August 1st, 2022. Asking if the cost could possibly be split 3 ways and decide who would take on the annual maintenance. Ambulance Dept. in Durham has given them training and said that they could get the league one in a timely fashion when approved. To try to avoid vandalism or being stolen it can be put in the Little Leagues building first half of the year and Pop Warner the second half of the year since that is when each sport is in season.

- Richard Lorenz mentions how since it's a county wide program that maybe the other towns could also assist with cost.
- Council Member Powers mentions reaching out to the legislature for options as well.
- Cords mentions asking the Youth Bureau for assistance.

New Business:

- Public Hearing – Community Center Project

Open Public Hearing @ 7:11pm

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

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

- Emmy Cross asks what exactly will be going on with the Community Center.
 - Part of the building will be the new senior center, the other part will house the ambulance dept.; vehicles and staff. Will continue to do meals on wheels, which will also be out of that building with help from the county.
- John Coyne asks about the price on the grant, what's the overall number?
 - Watts states it approx. a million dollars, since the Town has come out of the poverty level the town now has to pay 50% of the cost instead of 20%.
- Drew, treasurer of the senior group that meets at the community center, agrees the building needs to be replaced. Was told that this could take up to 2 years and there is always a possibility of not receiving the grant. What happens if the center does not happen, could something be improved at the current senior center?
 - Cords states that the senior center will happen, it's more of when it will happen. The building is bought, if the current grant does come through the Town will apply for another one.
 - Powers states that Bill Lawrence was also working on a grant when in legislature, not sure of what happened after he left office. The board should reach out and see if anything came about and if funds are still available.
 - Supervisor Watts states that support letters are always helpful when it comes to applying for grants.

Close Public Hearing @ 7:16pm

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Supervisor Watts.

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

- Accept Resignation of Planning Board Employee
 - **Resolution No. 2022-159**
 - Powers would like to put up a resolution to hire Chris Keff for the now open position for Planning Board. Watts states that this can be addressed when the time comes, position will have to be put in the paper and interviews will have to be done.
- Accept Resignation of Bookkeeper
 - **Resolution No. 2022-160**

- Starting new employee off at approx. \$41,000 instead of \$60,000 since they are less experienced. Will see what comes about throughout the year about increasing the salary.
- Approve Temporary Bookkeeper Duties/Pay
 - Supervisor Clerk, Kim Weiss, will take over spot this until needed, has experience in bookkeeping. But does not want the job permanently just to assist until the job is filled.
- **Resolution No. 2022-161**
- Accept Designation of Bookkeeper
 - **Resolution No. 2022-162**
- Solar Energy PILOT Law
 - This will require another public hearing. The last Solar PILOT Program was just for one farm, this local law would require all Solar Farms to pay taxes. **Resolution No. 2022-165**
 - Former Supervisor, John Coyne, mentions that when a farm comes in they do have to pay taxes through the PILOT program, they do pay, but it's a whole big ordeal. Watts agrees.
 - This law will make it to be this is what you pay and that's it in one payment.

Correspondence:

- Resignation of Planning Board Employee
 - To Supervisor Watts and Joseph Hasenkopf; 'Dear Sirs: Please accept my resignation from the Greene County Planning Board. I thank you for the opportunity to serve. It was a great learning experiences. Elizabeth Coyne Hansen' will be addressing with the County hopefully soon.
- Fossil Forest Meeting – August 9th, 2022
 - 'I would like to thank everyone for their continued interest in helping with the Cairo Fossil Forest project. I wanted to get all parties interested in helping together to move forward and give everyone an update as to where the process we have made stands. I will be hosting a meeting at the Mountain Brauhaus in Round Top at 7pm on August 9th, 2022. If you cannot attend in person and would like to voice virtually please email me, and I can provide you zoom details. If you would like to invite anyone who did not get this email that are welcome however please forward me their name and email prior to the meeting so I have their contact information for future use and record keeping.' Joseph Hasenkopf.
 - Currently looking for reasonably priced Jersey barriers. Designed for the fence to sit on them.

Resolution No. 2022-159 “Resignation of Planning Board Employee”

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

WHEREAS, a resignation letter has been received from Planning Board Employee, Elizabeth Coyne Hansen with an effective date of July 13, 2022 at close of business. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the resignation submitted by Elizabeth Coyne Hansen is hereby accepted by the Cairo Town Board.

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

Resolution No. 2022-160 “Resignation of Bookkeeper”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, Joan (Ria) Everts did not show up for work after leaving the office on July 13, 2022. Ria Everts informed the Town Supervisor on July 15, 2022 that she resigned. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the resignation submitted by Ria Everts is hereby accepted by the Cairo Town Board.

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

Resolution No. 2022-161 “Approve Temporary Duties of Bookkeeper”

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

WHEREAS, there is a need for a temporary fill of critical Bookkeeper functions until another Bookkeeper can be hired. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Kimberly Weiss will perform critical Bookkeeper/Water & Sewer tasks. A separate time card will be used to account for bookkeeper functions performed. Furthermore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to appoint Kimberly Weiss to the temporary position of bookkeeper at a pay rate of \$31.00 per hour effective July 19, 2022 is accepted by the Cairo Town Board.

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

Resolution No. 2022-162 “Authorization to Designate Bookkeeper with Human Resources/Water & Sewer Department Functions”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Supervisor Watts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to appoint Johanna Halvorsen to the full-time position of Bookkeeper with Human Resource functions at an annual rate of \$44,080 paid bi-weekly per hours worked, not to exceed 40 hours/week starting July 21st, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to appoint and set salary for an annual stipend of \$10,000 annually to be paid bi-weekly for work with the Water & Sewer Department.

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

Resolution No. 2022-163 “Approve to Apply for CDBG Funding for the Senior Community Center Project”

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo is proposing to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to renovate an old dojo into a senior community center that also has a meals on wheels prep kitchen within the building and a place to house ambulances for the town. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on July 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm, at the Cairo Town Hall, the Cairo Town Board shall hold a Public Hearing to apply for CDBG funding to renovate the old dojo into a senior community center.

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

Resolution No. 2022-164 “Approve Installation of Bench in Library Reading Garden”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, the library would like to install a bench behind the library in the reading garden. The bench will be anchored in the ground which is on Town property. Therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the library to install a bench in the reading garden on Town property.

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

- There is a gathering tomorrow July 21st, 2022 @ the library from 4-6 celebrating the 10th anniversary in the current building. Room dedications, Maureen Forester, Dorothy True and Bill Lawrence along with plaques and awards being given out. Refreshments are available, indoor and outdoor.

Resolution No. 2022-165 “Authorize Public Hearing”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo is proposing a new Town Local Law on the “Town of Cairo Solar Energy System PILOT Law”,

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that on August 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm, at the Cairo Town Hall, the Cairo Town Board shall hold a Public Hearing to enact the local law.

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

Public Comments:

- Monica Kenny-Keff gives a lawsuit to Supervisor Watts and Council Members; Cords, Flaherty and Bogins along with the Town Clerk to file on behalf of the Town.
- John Coyne asks about budget season and if meeting dates will that be posted on the website, he knows the Town has been busy.
 - Watts states yes that will be posted so the public will be made aware.
- Emmy Cross asks about the water/sewer bills and how she has not received them yet, just wondering when.
 - The bills were mailed out today July 20th, 2022 stated by Supervisor Watts.

Adjourn Town Board Meeting @ 7:31PM

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

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

Respectfully Submitted

Kayla L. McAlister
Town Clerk