



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Monday September 11th, 2023

Town Board Meeting @ 7:00PM

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

DRAFT

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Town Board Meeting on Monday, September 11th, 2023, at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York. Council Member Cords 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.

**Moment of silence was held for the people who have perished and the survivors of 9/11.*

Minutes:

August 16th, 2023:

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

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

August 23rd, 2023:

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

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

New Business:

- Public Hearing – Override Tax Levy Limit

Open Public Hearing:

Offered by Supervisor Watts 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.

- Each year there is a meeting for approving going over the tax gap just in case the Board needs to go over the budget for some reason; this was done last year, not the year before. Every town does this public hearing/meeting.

Last year's budget was over approx. \$176,000, which then had to be doubled due to the fee/fine from the comptroller's office for going over the budget, this is to give the tax payers a break for the following year, the Board put that money in an interest bearing account with the Bank of Greene County; all in accordance with the comptroller's office.

According to Supervisor Watts the Town had 3 audits done this year. The town has also gone through 3 different bookkeepers this past year as well.

Currently discussing raises, there are open positions within the Town but they are not getting applicants, or long term people due to non-livable wages or just not enough in general. Goes on to discuss the issues with the roof and how the Town is slowing patching it due to the money that was put away since it was partially for the roof repair.

- Code enforcement needs an updated truck due to some mechanical issues; hard time finding another vehicle within a decent price range.
- Supervisor Watts states that he believes that the taxes will not be going up next year. The current budget that the Town is working with is about 4.2 million dollars to run the Town.
- Council Member Cords addresses how the Daily Mail put in there article that both her and Council Member Flaherty had no comment on the money, they state that the Daily Mail actually never called them or had any messages from them to even ask for a comment, they also had budget wrong numbers. A couple of people in the audience then address the board about how they should reach out to the Daily Mail to correct the article that was put out; a possible retraction.
- The board continues onto the budget and how there are some departments that they are still waiting on. A gentleman states that the board should just give the departments that don't return their budgets in on time get the same budget as last year.
- Another gentleman in the public gives the board an actual timeline of how the board is supposed to go about the budget process each year. According to this alleged article they have to have at least a tentative budget available for 7 days before having this public hearing. The board neither agrees nor denies, but is willing to have another public hearing.
- JR VanDenburgh addresses the zoning law change issues; the board states that the public hearing on that is not complete yet and will be brought up again. The zoning plans have not gone through the planning board yet. The board does not agree with most of the proposed changes that the county brought up in the proposed zoning law change. The only change that was supposed to happen was with the property across the street from McDonalds stating that there were to be no residential zoning because the water/sewer could not support it.
- A resident state he heard something about that the taxes were going to double or triple; board addresses this and states that is not true and simple a rumor.
- A women from the audience addresses the internal process/plan that the board may have. Are the tax letters and budget going to be checked over by all parties of the board and bookkeeper? Are the checks and balances in line, etc.? If the Town does submit the budget after being looked at and there is a mistake the County does not allow for a correction.
- Council Member Bogins goes on to state that the Town had recently applied for the NY Forward Grant.
- The board is planning on having another meeting after the tentative budget comes out.
- The board addresses why they need to have this meeting and vote on going over the tax gap if needed; simply because the future cannot be predicted and if there is an emergency throughout the year that they cannot control; building issues, water and sewer, etc.
- Council Member Cords addresses that the taxes last year did not go up 7.5%, if you look @ the tax base and rate it was actually 4.5%. Supervisor Watts states that the average tax payer had to pay \$35 dollars more on their tax bills.
- Council Member Powers mentions that maybe the Town should invest in an accountant to go over the budget one last time before it gets submitted to the County, even if it was \$500.
- All dept. budget meetings and dept. request to the board are open to the public.
- A women asked if the Town could ever do fundraising for large items or updates that maybe required in the Town; the computer system for example. Supervisor Watts says that a great idea, they would need many volunteers if available.

- The reason the Town had a large amount of the money from last year that was able to be put in a reserve fund was because the Town had budgeted for a new roof and some to address the community center, which was not done this year.
- In the past there have been bonds that were to be put in the budget and there were not which have caused domino effects and other issues.
- The board is basically starting at zero with the budget to address the issues that have already occurred. Also any leftover budget from each dept. rolls over to the next budget. After tomorrow the board will inform each dept. about spending on items that are not necessary until the budgets is addressed for next year.
- A gentleman asks about the plan that have been made and addressed by engineers, what is going on with these and how much has that already cost the Town, Board address that they are waiting on them to move forward. Also trying to figure out this whole well issue with Delaware Engineering, where they signed off on the well when it was not working correctly.
- Senior residents appreciate the fact that the Board does not want to raise the taxes.

Closed Public Hearing:

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.

- Cairo Public Library – Mark Gorelic
 - The library had recently hired a new director with a 4 month probationary period. Unfortunately the person selected, though was very personable and friendly, was let go after the period for not being the best fit. The library board will be putting out the position once again with different guidelines that will allow more people to be qualified.

Old Business:

- Lease Land for Solar Landfill Project
 - **Resolution No. 2023-179**
- Continued Public Hearing – Zoning Law Amendments
 - Extended again with hope of more discussions with the county and to limit the number of changes that the county put in.

Correspondences:

- Resignation of Zoning Officer
 - ‘Due to the recent sale of my house and my subsequent upcoming move to Florida, it is with some sadness to report that I can no longer serve the Town in this function and I am tendering my resignation as the Zoning Officer and Deputy Code Enforcement Officer effective 1:00PM on September 14th, 2023. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the Zoning Officer and Deputy Code Enforcement Officer for the past 8 years. I took this position with seriousness and I feel that I made a difference in serving the Town of Cairo as well as its taxpayers. Robert Fritze’
- Resignation of Animal Control
 - ‘This letter is to inform the Cairo Town Board that effective September 27th, 2023, I am retiring as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Cairo. I would like to thank all Board Members, Tim Powers as my liaison. Also, I would like to thank Sergeant Richard Busch for all his assistance and helping me do my job as ACO. I would like to remain as a Peace Officer with the Town of Cairo, with no cost to the Town. Brian Feml’

Public Comment:

- Women from the public speaks about how she believes that no one really wants to raise taxes. But we as a Town we do want the roads plowed and our Police Officers patrolling, etc. Unfortunately the Town does not have a lot of applicants for jobs when they are available, due to the salaries; so if the Town wants to continue to employ themselves they would have to raise salaries, which would raise taxes in the end, unless other things are cut.

Resolution No. 2023-179 “Approve Option to Lease Land for Solar Landfill Project”

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo has been approached by two companies (42 Renewables and SOL Source Power) with proposals/bids to lease the former landfill located at 211 Joel M Austin Road; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board Members accept the proposal to Option & Lease property owned by the Town of Cairo presented by 42 Renewables per the agreed upon proposal details for a lease term of 25 years.

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

Resolution No. 2023-182 “Authorization for Bookkeeper to Register & Attend Training with NYGFOA”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

WHEREAS, New York Government Finance Officers’ Association (NYGFOA) offers training year round and a two-level professional development program in their Government Finance Institute (GFI). These two enrollments will provide the opportunity for the Bookkeeper to gain a well-rounded working knowledge of government; and

WHEREAS, the First Time Members to register for NYGFOA is \$98.00 and the one-time fee to enroll into the GFI is \$ 75.00; and

WHEREAS, there are two seminars to register in this year:

1. Downstate Fall Seminar in Bear Mountain, NY on October 5th, 2023 will cost \$190.00
2. “The Nuts & Bolts of Government Finance” is a virtual course on November 2nd, 2023 will cost \$40.00; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize Johanna Halvorsen, to register for NYGFOA and GFI and attend the above trainings in the amount not to exceed \$ 403.00 and will be reimbursed mileage in accordance with established town policy.

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

Resolution No. 2023-183 “Budget Amendments and Payment of Bills on Abstract #308 for August Payables & Prepaids”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, payment of bills should be properly authorized and documented in the minutes; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby authorize that Abstract #308 Payables and Prepaids, consisting of V3 #00672-00763 in the amount of \$ 274,852.20 is approved for payment;

The total amount to be paid from the:

General Fund - \$ 220,041.08	Hydrant - \$ -0-
Highway Fund - \$ 28,609.44	Capital Projects - \$ -0-
Street Lighting - \$ 5,011.49	Sidewalk - \$ -0-
Sewer Fund - \$ 10,851.59	Trust & Agency - \$ 1,623.96
Water Fund - \$ 8,714.64	Special Fire - \$ -0-

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

Resolution No. 2023-184 “Accept Water/Sewer Adjustments”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby accept the Water/Sewer Adjustments totaling \$25.41 dated September 11th, 2023 to be credited to account number 0790 for \$7.00, 1090 for \$18.41, which was erroneously posted.

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

Resolution No. 2023-185 “Approve Part Time to Full Time Laborer”

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo Highway Department has a vacancy and is in need of a full time laborer. That employee is switching from part time to full time and must work full time hours.

WHEREAS, the Town of Cairo Highway Department has hired Mikaela Pelliccia at an hourly rate of \$19.35 per hour. Mikaela Pelliccia also must work eighty hours in two weeks to be considered for full time.

WHEREAS, Mikaela Pelliccia is a laborer. Therefore; will be continued to be paid \$19.35; Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Cairo Town Board does hereby approve the switching of part time to full time for Mikaela Pelliccia effective September 6th, 2023.

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

Resolution No. 2023-186 “Receipt of Monthly Supervisor’s Report”

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

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 RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the monthly Supervisor’s Report for August 2023.

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

Resolution No. 2023-187 “Accept EDU Billing”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Bogins.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby accept the EDU Billing from the Sewer Administrator in the amount of \$14,256.25 dated September 1st, 2023.

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

Resolution No. 2023-188 “Approve to Change Police Officer from Full Time to Part Time Employment”

Offered by Council Member Flaherty and seconded by Supervisor Watts.

WHEREAS, The Town of Cairo Police Department is in need of employees to properly staff police patrols, and

WHEREAS, William Pine was hired as a full time Police Officer but needs to be changed to a part time Police Officer; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cairo Town Board does hereby approve to change employment status for William Pine from full time to part time Police Officer for the Town of Cairo Police Department effective

September 6th, 2023. Starting pay rate will be \$16.20 per hour based on the union contract and board resolutions for 2023.

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

Resolution No. 2023-189 “Amend 2023 Budget to Correct Balances on Expenditure Accounts”

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

WHEREAS, some of the expenditure accounts from 2023 have a negative balance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for all expenditure accounts to have a positive balance; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to amend the expense lines of 2023 as follows:

Transfer From:	Amount:	Transfer To:	Amount:
A-8020-105	\$ 500.00	A-3610-1	\$ 500.00

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

Resolution No. 2023-190 “Accept Sewer Penalties”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Bogins.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Sewer 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 Penalty from the Water/Sewer Administrator in the amount of \$2,050.91 dated September 8th, 2023.

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

Public Monthly Reports: (Not Discussed)

- Ambulance
 - 104 total calls for July/82 transported calls
- Animal Control
 - 20 incidents for the month of August
- Assessor
 - 21 sales/transfers for the month of July
- Highway Dept. for June/July
 - Crews working on patching and shoulders
 - Shoulder mowing is ongoing
 - Middlefield Road awaiting chip sealing
 - Culvert replacement is ongoing
 - Work on non-reflective road signs being replaced is ongoing
 - Highway currently has 8 full time employees, 7 with CDL’s
 - New mechanic started
 - Resurfacing of Winter Clove Road and Chapel Road completed
- Building And Code
 - 30 Building Permits Issued / 14 Municipal Searches
 - 2 Certificates of Occupancy / 17 Certificates of Compliance
 - 3 New Violations & Complaints
 - 1 Court Case for Trial / 1 Case in Court
 - 49 Total inspections were performed on current projects, complaints & violations

- Library
 - 2,179 items circulated / 1,485 in attendance / 500+ uses of the Wi-Fi
 - 223 used computers / 131 reference questions
 - 25 new library cards / room use 114 times

Adjourn Town Board Meeting @ 8:31PM

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Flaherty.

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
Cairo Town Clerk