

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
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The town board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall on January 18, 2022 at 7:30pm with the following present: Supervisor Matthew Howell, Councilman Brian Carey, Councilman Chris Furman, Councilman Jim Jennings, Councilwoman Amanda Davis & Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Attorney Bavoso, Deputy Police Chief Maresca, H'way Supt. Hassenmayer.

Supervisor Howell called the meeting to order at 7:30pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO ACCEPT PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilman Carey that the minutes of the January 3, 2022 meeting as submitted are accepted. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Resignation from Police Officer Greg Metakes
2. Letter from Geary Chumard re: appointment to town engineer for environmental issues - he is retiring effective March 1, 2022.
3. Truck equipment bid from highway supt.
4. Signed library contract received on January 14, 2022
5. Building dept. monthly reports for October – December 2021
6. Court audit resolution
7. 2021 End of year summary from Palmer's Ark
8. 2022 fuel agreement received from Howells Fire January 7, 2022
9. 2022 fuel agreement received from Village of Otisville January 4, 2022
10. Impound reports from Palmer's Ark for October, November, December 2022
11. Mortgage tax receipts December 2021 from Orange County
12. Assoc. of Towns correspondence re: 2022 Annual Training School in February 2022

BOARD REPORTS:

Councilwoman Davis reported the planning board meets January 19 at 7pm. Otisville country fair announced dates for the fair: August 25-28, 2022.

Councilman Carey reported that he and Amanda completed the department audits. There were a couple simple questions – answered pretty easily.

He explained the library & cards. We pay \$75/card – which is our agreement with the library. Last year we had 105 people get library cards. Our agreement with the library is we have to buy 100 cards and everything going forward we buy 25 cards after that. It's not so much we only gave out 105 cards but we paid for 125. We were trying to negotiate something a little different. He will continue to advertise this online.

Little league had a meeting tonight at 6pm. They are looking at getting prices on some equipment. They had a question on drainage at the fields. They asked about fence posts for the town field that would stop baseballs from going over into people's yards. They're only meeting once/month now.

Concert series: he reached out to Matt from New Windsor (he's the one who schedules the series). Councilman Carey has an interest in using 2 local bands this year. He's not sure if there will be grant money for the concert series this year but he did reach out to the county.

Summer rec: he saw an old post when they had summer rec in the past, that January is the time to start advertising for this. He will reach out to Mr. Monahan to set up a meeting with him.

He spoke re: COVID test sites. We are working with the county executive office hoping to set something up for this coming weekend to have it here. He will find out more about it. It's for county residents. Supervisor Howell followed up. 2 weeks ago, the county exec had a conference call with all town supervisors & mayors in the county. He was trying to get these test kits distributed more locally. This all hinges on the county getting their supply in to them for the test kits.

Councilman Furman reported there will be no ZBA meeting this month. HV sewer will be putting together a bid packet for siding at the plant. MVYFL had a cheer competition Saturday. They came in 2nd place. He requested executive session for the DCO.

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
www.townofmounthope.org

Also, someone questioned him about community day. Supervisor Howell spoke about 2 weeks ago with the Police Chief about this year and going forward with Night Against Crime being in conjunction with Community Day to make it a longer event for the public. The fireworks would be at it – a one night event. **Councilman Jennings** reported the village meeting is January 20, 2022 at 7pm.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Supt. Hassenmayer left a building check list with each of the board members. I will have one of the guys check the buildings every Monday & Friday: youth center, senior building, here. If there's anything you think should be added to the list, email Dean. The court house restrooms are in bad shape. We purchased new vanities, sinks, faucets – we're gonna start with the walls spackled and painted. Re place the sinks and do a new tile floor in both restrooms. Supervisor Howell reported to Dean that Geary Chumard is retiring effective March 1. Supt. Hassenmayer reported that the exit door in the meeting room has a work order request put in. Door functions fine. The card reader doesn't work. Supervisor Howell: Knight watch is coming tomorrow morning.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Deputy Chief Maresca affirmed the resignation from PO Metakes. Supervisor Howell spoke re: police impounds. David started working on the vehicles that are still in the impound lot for the removal aspect. He will get some data as to what we want to do. Last calendar year it cost us \$559 to impound the cars. He reported he did a recording with the Chief this afternoon for the "Coffee With The Chief". That will be online sometime next week.

VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE:

Trustee Loeven asked if we are successful with being a COVID test distribution site this weekend, is it incumbent upon us to verify residency? We are close to Sullivan County. Councilman Carey: we will do our best. You will know by your board meeting Thursday night if we are having this or not. Supervisor Howell: the short answer is yes. When I was on conference call with county exec, it is up to the distribution site. When he was at the 9-11 emergency center – they were polling the participants ie: drivers license. It's up to the person giving out the kits.

TRUCK EQUIPMENT BID:

Supervisor Howell noted that the equipment bid would be to complete the chassis we approved. Supt. Hassenmayer: correct. It's everything from the plow to build the truck: automatic chains, safety lights, all the electronic and hydraulic controls with tanks for liquids. Supervisor: this is from ESCNJ.

MOTION TO ACCEPT BID FOR DUMP BODY, PLOW, WING PLOW, HYDRAULIC CONTROLS & LIQUID SYSTEM:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilman Carey to accept bid from ESCNJ for DUMP BODY, PLOW, WING PLOW, HYDRAULIC CONTROLS & LIQUID SYSTEM for \$122,767.71. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

(Supt. Hassenmayer: that brings the cost of the truck to a total of \$270,754.18. This is honestly about \$40,000 less than I've been hearing.)

HVAC AT POLICE STATION/SENIOR CENTER BUILDING:

Supervisor Howell received the HVAC system plans for the police station/senior center building on Baker Street from the engineer. He asked the attorney to write the legal ad. Attorney: sure.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE GOING TO BID FOR THE HVAC SYSTEM AT THE POLICE STATION/SENIOR CENTER BUILDING:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilwoman Davis to advertise going to bid for the HVAC system at the police station/senior center with bids being opened on February 22, 2022 at 9:00am in the Town Clerk's office. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
www.townofmounthope.org

MOTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM POLICE OFFICER GREG METAKES:

MOTION offered Councilwoman Davis 2nd Councilman Carey to accept the resignation from Police Officer Greg Metakes effective January 10, 2022. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

OYA SOLAR/187 FINCHVILLE TURNPIKE:

Supervisor Howell has a request from OYA Solar/187 Finchville Tpk. to sign and complete their MS4 stormwater pollution prevention plan acceptance form. He has attached with this an email from the engineer Jason Pitingaro. This is at the planning board. This is a procedural step as to their process in terms of (inaudible). It needs to be signed and returned to them. It was verified with Jason & Julie that all of the MS4 procedures were completed to send this back to them.

MOTION TO SIGN/COMPLETE MS4 STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN ACCEPTANCE FORM FOR OYA/187 FINCHVILLE TURNPIKE:

MOTION offered Councilman Carey 2nd Councilman Furman to authorize the town supervisor to SIGN/COMPLETE MS4 STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN ACCEPTANCE FORM FOR OYA/187 FINCHVILLE TURNPIKE. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK:

Supervisor Howell explained the school choice week proclamation. He read it into the record.

MOTION TO ACCEPT SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK PROCLAMATION:

MOTION offered Councilman Carey 2nd Councilman Furman to accept the proclamation as read. (see end of minutes for complete proclamation) All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE CLAIMS:

MOTION offered Councilman Carey 2nd Councilman Jennings to approve the bills for (2021) Abstracts #51 & #52 AND (2022) Abstracts #1 & #2:

ABSTRACT #51:

GENERAL A:	#717-735	\$67309.73
GENERAL B:	#119-120	\$ 5959.93
HIGHWAY:	#239-242	\$19911.91
SEWER:	#119	\$ 1118.90

ABSTRACT #52:

GENERAL A:	#736-745	\$6901.76
GENERAL B:	#121	\$2686.50
HIGHWAY:	#243-247	\$2285.99
SEWER:	#120-122	\$635.78

AND

ABSTRACT #1:

GENERAL A:	#1-10	\$ 45,283.96
GENERAL B:	#1-2	\$ 3,397.00
HIGHWAY:	#1-3	\$ 26,880.36
SEWER:	#1-3	\$ 3,547.74

ABSTRACT #2:

GENERAL A:	#11-23	\$ 6142.42
GENERAL B:	#3-5	\$ 277.74
HIGHWAY:	#4-7	\$ 11,199.36
SEWER:	#4-5	\$ 284.48
MOUNT HOPE FIRE:	#1	\$160,900.50

All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
www.townofmounthope.org

MOTION TO APPROVE TOWN ANNUAL RECEIPT BOOK AUDIT:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilman Jennings to acknowledge to audit of the receipt books for town departments January 8-10, 2022. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE JUSTICE COURT AUDIT:

MOTION offered Councilman Jennings 2nd Councilman Furman that the justice records/receipts & docket have been duly examined and that the fines therein collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town of Mount Hope as required by law. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ALISON MILLER asked who the liaison to the library is as she knew it was Jim in the past. Councilman Jennings: I usually give the library report. She is hoping that the board is keeping an eye on the library initiative. She asked if there is an external audit done of the boards books. Supervisor Howell: no but we have an accounting firm that oversees not by any means a forensic audit. She asked the attorney if this is a requirement. Atty. Bavoso: typically speaking, the only time an external audit is done is if the state mandates it. The state will occasionally randomly pick municipalities to do those audits. She next asked for confirmation about plowing snow across the street – is illegal or not allowed. In the most recent storm, my husband plowed our driveway & the 2 next to us. An hour later, the neighbor across the street had someone plowing their snow across the street into our 3 driveways. Dep. Police Chief Maresca: you can't put it on other people's driveways. She asked if a facebook post could be put out about this not being allowed. She then asked if the town would consider updating our code of ethics and putting it online. We are the only town out of 6 that doesn't have it online.

MARY MAURIZIO noted that she cannot always hear what the board is saying. She noted, in the past, that executive sessions were held mid-meeting. The public is asked to wait or go home. She thinks this is a bad idea. She thinks executive session should be at the end of the meeting. She further noticed that we all have our masks up over our noses which is the proper way to wear your masks and there are 2 people in the room that do not – both Hassenmayers do not. I would ask that they please comply with the mask rules.

LUCIO ARMELLIN (102 White Bridge Road) he was here 2 weeks ago. He spoke re: the penalty assessed after building with no permit. After he went to a meeting with the man in charge of the building department, I was affixed with extra charges just for doing that. I've been asking if the board could review the reason why I have those charges & the possibility of abating those charges due to the fact that that was given to me violation of the presence of a shed in the back that was not recorded properly at the building department. It was actually recorded with Orange County. For that reason, I tore down the shed and I incurred considerable losses. I would like to know if the board came to an agreement. Supervisor Howell spoke to the building inspector tonight before the meeting. The proposal that Julie had presented you with the last time you were here would be the dollar figure that she would allow you – which you paid already – to go towards what's outstanding in terms of your fines that are due pending you made the repairs that were required and provided some documentation of some type of inspection that it was completed and correct. She hasn't gotten it as of today. Once she has those documents, we would have something written to show that the payment you made already would be applied towards what is outstanding. Once she has the documentation that the works has been completed, then we'll give you a letter that says whatever your initial fine was – that dollar value she has will be applied towards what's outstanding. She said she would be willing to do – because you're making the corrections – and by us authorizing it would waive that. Essentially, let you use your payment you already made towards what's outstanding. She needs the inspections & repair work done on your end before (inaudible).

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS:

Councilman Carey is aware of the audio complaints on this recorder. He thinks by closing the door during the meetings has definitely helped Kathleen. I don't think the masks help at all with projecting your voice.

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
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Councilman Furman apologized if people don't hear him. That's his business demeanor. He thanked Dean and the guys for the storm clean-up.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilman Carey to enter into executive session at 8:16pm for DCO contractual issue and a personnel item. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Davis, Jennings, Furman; carried.

MOTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION offered Councilman Furman 2nd Councilman Carey to reconvene regular meeting from executive session at 8:43pm. **(NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION)**. All in favor: Davis, Carey, Howell, Jennings, Furman; carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

MOTION offered Councilwoman Davis 2nd Councilman Carey to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. All in favor: Howell, Jennings, Carey, Davis, Furman; carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Myers, Town Clerk, RMC

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, JANUARY 18, 2022
www.townofmounthope.org

Town of Mount Hope School Choice Week

WHEREAS all children in Town of Mount Hope should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,

WHEREAS Town of Mount Hope recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in Government Name to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of the Town of Mount Hope; and,

WHEREAS Town of Mount Hope is home to a multitude of high quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

WHEREAS Town of Mount Hope has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew Howell do hereby recognize January 23 – January 29, 2022 as Town of Mount Hope School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.