

**ORGANIZATION & REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board Organization meeting was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Westerlo Town Hall 933 CR 401, Westerlo, NY. The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Richard H. Rapp with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp
 Councilman Anthony W. Sherman
 Councilman Joseph J. Boone
 Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
 Councilman Richard Filkins

Also present were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Zoning Board of Appeals member John Sefcik, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch & Planning Board members Jerry Boone and Edwin Stevens, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Deputy Supervisor & Code Enforcement Officer Edwin H. Lawson, Dog Warden Salvatore Spinnato IV, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, Clerk to the Supervisor Patricia Boice, Deputy Town Clerk Karla Weaver, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato and approximately nineteen residents.

Supervisor Rapp and the Town Board welcomed recently elected Councilman Filkins and also congratulated Councilman Boone on his re-election.

The following resolutions were read by the Town Clerk with the voting as indicated for each:

RESOLVE: that the Altamont Enterprise, being the newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Westerlo, is hereby designated as official newspaper of the Town of Westerlo and all notices required by law are published in said newspaper. The Greenville Mountain View Pioneer may also be used when necessary.

Motion for adoption was made by Councilwoman Burnside, second by Councilman Filkins, a roll call vote followed:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Filkins, Councilman Boone and
 Councilwoman Burnside
NAY: Councilman Sherman

Motion carried.

RESOLVED: that the National Bank of Coxsackie be and is hereby designated as the depository of all Town funds, the maximum amount on deposit at any one time not to exceed \$250,00.00 per account; and in association with Wilmington Trust, pledges all securities in excess of \$100,000.

Motion for adoption was made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilman Boone, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Town Superintendent of Highways be and is hereby authorized to purchase equipment, materials and tools for Highway Dept. use in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each purchase, to purchase Bituminous Road Oils at the State Contract Price

RESOLVED: that the Town Superintendent of Highways be and is hereby authorized to enter into contracts for public works related to the Highway Dept. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 without prior approval of the Town Board, however at no time shall he cause any appropriation account to be overdrawn.

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Sherman, second by Councilman Filkins, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that any elected or appointed official of the Town of Westerlo shall be reimbursed an amount per mile, matching the current IRS approved rate when using their own vehicle for official Town business.

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Sherman, second by Supervisor Rapp, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the regular meetings of the Town Board shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Westerlo Town Hall, except for the November meeting, which shall be held on the first Wednesday following the General Election. The Town Board Workshop meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The Town Planning Board shall meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, and the Zoning Board of Appeals shall meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Boone, second by Supervisor Rapp, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Supervisor shall submit to the Town Clerk within 60 days after the close of the last fiscal year, a copy of the report to the State Comptroller, pursuant to Section 30 of the General Municipal Law and the Town Clerk shall thereafter cause summary of said report be published within ten days after receipt thereof on a form approved by the State Comptroller. This report shall be in lieu of the report required by Section 10 of Town Law.

Motion for adoption was made by Councilwoman Burnside, second by Councilman Filkins, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Town of Westerlo does hereby adopt the INVESTMENT POLICY (see attached).

Motion for adoption was made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilman Sherman, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Town of Westerlo does hereby adopt the PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (see attached).

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Boone, second by Supervisor Rapp, motion unanimously carried.

WHEREAS: the Westerlo Town Board wishes to continue its efforts to comply with New York State Statutory and Regulatory requirement, be it hereby

RESOLVED: that it will retain the firm Marvin & Company as consultant to the Town on financial matters involving accounting, reporting and management systems.

AND

WHEREAS: the firm Marvin & Company will audit the records of the following:

Town Clerk & Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato, Supervisor Richard H. Rapp, Town Justice Robert Carl and Town Justice Kenneth Mackey, and the Westerlo Water District No. 1, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board awaits the 2017 reports of Pattison, Koskey, Howe, & Bucci.

Motions for adoption were made by Councilman Boone, second by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Supervisor shall file a copy of the Annual Financial Report with the Town Clerk upon completion and that it will be presented to the Town Board at that time.

Motion for adoption was made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilman Sherman, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the Supervisor be hereby authorized to pay Utility, and Freight bills, bills with discounts, etc., all without prior approval of the Town Board.

Motion for adoption was made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed to the respective offices for the terms indicated:

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXP.
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Kathleen J. Spinnato	12/31/2019
Deputy Registrar	Karla Weaver	12/31/2018
Deputy Town Clerk/Dep. Tax Coll.	Gertrude A. Smith	12/31/2018
Deputy Town Clerk II/ Dep. Tax Coll. II	Karla Weaver	12/31/2018

Motion made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilman Boone, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed to the respective offices for the terms indicated:

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXP.
Clerk to the Justices	Patricia Thompson	12/31/2018
Deputy Supervisor	Edwin H. Lawson	12/31/2018
Town Attorney	Aline D. Galgay	12/31/2018
Town Historian	Dennis Fancher	12/31/2018
Dog Warden	Salvatore Spinnato IV	12/31/2018
Deputy Dog Warden	Justin Case	12/31/2018
Zoning Board Clerk	Jennifer Bungay	12/31/2018
Planning Board Clerk	Jennifer Bungay	12/31/2018
Water Board Clerk	Jennifer Bungay	12/31/2018
Assessor's Clerk	Claire Marshall	12/31/2018
Deputy Highway Superintendent	Justin Case	12/31/2018

Motion made by Councilman Sherman, second by Councilman Boone, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the salaries of the following Town Officers and frequency of payment thereof are hereby established as follows:

TITLE	SALARY	PAYABLE
Town Supervisor	\$15,000.00 Annual	Weekly
Deputy Supervisor	\$ 0	N/A
Superintendent of Highways	\$60,030.04 Annual	Weekly
Town Justices (2)	\$11,000.00 Annual each	Quarterly
Council Members	\$ 3,625.00 Annual each	Quarterly
Town Attorney	\$20,000.00 Annual	Monthly
Assessor	\$22,000.00 Annual	Weekly
Assessor's Clerk	\$19.33 Hour	Bi-Weekly
Code Enforcement Officer	\$13,500.00 Annual	Quarterly
Zoning Administrator	\$ 6,000.00 Annual	Quarterly
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$42,260.00 Annual	Weekly
Deputy Town Clerk/Dep Tax Coll.	\$18.58 Hour	Weekly
Deputy Town Clerk II/Dep. Tax Coll. II	\$16.50 Hour	Weekly
Clerk to the Justices	\$18.08 Hour	Bi-Weekly
Dog Warden	\$ 4,200.00 Annual	Monthly
Deputy Dog Warden	\$ 3,000.00 Annual	Monthly
Planning Board Clerk	\$ 18.58 Hour	Quarterly
Zoning Board Clerk	\$ 18.58 Hour	Quarterly
Water Board Clerk	\$ 18.58 Hour	Quarterly

Town Historian	\$ 1,500.00 Annual	Annually
Cleaning Person	\$ 12.00 Hour (Payroll)	Monthly

Motion to approve was made by Supervisor Rapp, second by Councilman Boone, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the compensation of Highway employees and the Clerk to the Supervisor be established as follows:

Deputy Highway Superintendent	\$21.80 Hour
SubForman	\$21.80 Hour
Transfer Station Operator	\$21.28 Hour
Recreation Maintenance Person/s	\$21.28 Hour
Utility Laborer	\$20.53 Hour
Laborer A (CDL required)	\$19.23 Hour
Laborer B (CDL not required)	\$18.23 Hour
Clerk to the Supervisor	\$20.56 Hour

All new employees are hired on a six-month probation and raises are awarded at the discretion of the Highway Superintendent.

Motion for adoption was made by Supervisor Rapp, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the following are hereby appointed to the designated positions, at the designated salaries and terms of office:

NAME	TERM ENDING	SALARY
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW		
Dawn Belarge	09/30/2022	\$200.00
Sara Statham	09/30/2021	\$200.00
Susan Cunningham	09/30/2018	\$200.00

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS		
Robert Beck	12/31/2018	\$1,875.00
Virginia Mangold, Chairperson**	12/31/2017 12/31/2022**	\$3,375.00
John Sefcik	12/31/2020	\$1,875.00
Vacant (formerly Wilfred VanDerstine)		
James Gallogly**	12/31/2021**	\$1,875.00
Guy Weidman**	12/31/2017 12/31/2019**	\$1,875.00

PLANNING BOARD		
Edwin C. Stevens**	12/31/2017 12/31/2022**	\$1,875.00
Doyle Shaver	12/31/2020	\$1,875.00
Dorothy Verch, Chairperson	12/31/2018	\$3,375.00
Gerard Boone	12/31/2019	\$1,875.00
Richard Kurylo	12/31/2021	\$1,875.00

**(Reappointments or appointments followed during the 1/2/2018 Regular Town Board meeting.)

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Boone, second by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

RESOLVED: that the following Library workers be compensated as follows:

Library Director	\$23.00 Hour
Clerk 1	\$14.25 Hour

Clerk 2	\$13.50 Hour
Clerk 3	\$13.50 Hour
Clerk 4	\$13.00 Hour
Library Page (Vacant)	\$ 9.00 Hour

Motion for adoption was made by Councilman Sherman, second made by Councilman Filkins, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to close the Organizational portion of the meeting, second made by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried. Meeting closed at approximately 7:28 PM. The Regular monthly Town Board meeting immediately followed.

**TOWN OF WESTERLO REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JAN. 2, 2018**

Supervisor Rapp opened the regular Town Board meeting at 7:28 PM. Those present were listed in the Organizational Minutes of 1/2/18 see above.

Supervisor Rapp and the Town Board welcomed recently elected Councilman Filkins and also congratulated Councilman Boone on his re-election.

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to accept the Town Board minutes of 12/5/2017 as submitted. Councilman Boone seconded the motion. Councilman Sherman & Councilman Filkins abstained, Councilman Burnside in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Boone made a motion to accept the Town Board Workshop minutes of 12/18/2017 as submitted. Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion. Councilwoman Burnside & Councilman Sherman in favor, Councilman Filkins abstained, motion carried.

Councilman Sherman made motion to accept the Special Town Board meeting minutes of 12/28/2017 as submitted. Councilman Boone seconded the motion. Supervisor Rapp voted in favor, Councilwoman Burnside & Councilman Filkins abstained, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Town Board had received the Supervisor's Reports for the month of November. Supervisor Rapp made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Reports of November as submitted, Councilman Sherman seconded, motion unanimously carried.

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Town Board had received the Town Clerk's Report for the month of December. Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's report for December 2017 as submitted, Councilwoman Burnside seconded, motion unanimously carried.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has audited the monthly bills recently received for the year 2017 and 2018, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the following bills be paid

Voucher # 702 through Voucher # 710 in the amount of \$38,411.53 and also Voucher # 1 through Voucher # 7 in the amount of \$4,990.00

Councilman Boone seconded the motion, a roll call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Boone, Councilwoman Burnside,
Councilman Sherman and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 1- 2018 was thereby duly adopted.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

Virginia Mangold Chairwoman submitted to the Town Board the following report read by Councilman Boone.

*TO: Town Board of Westerlo, New York
FROM: Virginia Mangold, ZBA Chairperson
RE: ZBA Report for December 2017
DATE: January 2, 2018*

The Town of Westerlo Zoning Board of Appeals canceled their December 25, 2017 meeting and made a notification to the newspapers and the town that their December 2017 meeting originally scheduled for the holiday on December 25th. With that said, the ZBA re-scheduled the December meeting for December 18th. Later finding the Town Board scheduled a special meeting for the same date, the ZBA cancelled their meeting totally for December 2017 as there was no old business nor any new business.

The ZBA's next scheduled monthly meeting is January 22, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Thank you. Wishing you all a Happy and Safe New Year.

*Respectfully,
Virginia A. Mangold, Chairperson ZBA*

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the ZBA report as submitted, seconded by Councilman Sherman, motion unanimously carried.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

Dorothy Verch Chairwoman submitted and read the following report:

*The regular monthly meeting was held on December 20, 2017.
There were 2 public hearings and 2 new solar applications.
The Public Hearing for Shepard Farms, LLC Solar Farm was opened. Mr. David Albrecht and Mr. Michael Doud of Borrego Solar answered a number of questions presented by the attendees and the Planning Board. Mr. John Dolce, owner of Shepard Farms, LLC provided his vision for the complex and how the monies generated from the Solar farm would be used. Mr. Stevens asked about the PILOT and the amount that this solar project would generate for Westerlo. There have been no negotiations conducted as of yet. Part 2*

of the SEQRA was completed. The public hearing was closed and Part 3 of the SEQRA was completed. A voice vote of 4 to 1 was conducted for approval of this application. Mr. Stevens was the only desenter because he was not able to receive an answer to his PILOT question.

The Public Hearing for Costanza Solar, represented by Ann Walling of Cypress Creek, was resumed. A number of items were discussed including the points that have yet to be satisfied by Cypress Creek. The main objection is access. The property access by the original application has been determined that there is no access from 405 at the initial site. Cypress Creek is working on an alternate access route. The public hearing will e resumed on January 23rd.

The Planning Board accepted the application of Bergmann Architects and Engineers Represented by Joe Shanahan of Clean Energy Collective for a 2 Mw Solar Farm in Medusa. This is a Type 1 action and Part 1 of a Full SEQRA was completed. The access Is via AC Rout 351 but the whole of the property is in the Town of Westerlo jurisdiction. A site visit is being scheduled. A public hearing will be held on January 23.

The next application accepted was presented by Mr. Shanahan of Clean Energyt Collective representing CTMale Associates. The property is on the east side of Rt 32 Bordered on the north by AC 405. This is a Type 1 action and a Part 1 of a Full SEQRA Was completed. A site visit is being scheduled. A public hearing will be held on January 23.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Verch, Chairman, Westerlo Planning Board*

Councilman Filkins made a motion to accept the Planning Board report as submitted, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

MUSEUM REPORT

Mary Jane Araldi Director was absent. Councilman Boone read her report that was emailed to the Town Clerk on 12/28/2017.

It was determined by the Town Board that the report read was a duplicate of a previously submitted Museum Report which had been approved at the Dec. 5, 2017 Town Board meeting. No action was taken by the Town Board on this report.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Boone advised during the last month or so, Mr. Bichteman along with Councilman Sherman, had agreed to meet with the Westerlo Vol Fire Co. Board to talk about budget items. A second meeting with the Fire Co. was scheduled on November 28 along with former Councilman Bichteman and Councilman Boone who had discussions with Fire Co. Board President Kelley Keefe, Treasurer Lisa Joslin,

Chief Kevin Flensted and Deputy Chief Andy Joslin. After having a very open and candid meeting the Fire Co. Board came to the decision that they would reduce their contracted budget by \$11,000.00 which was originally tagged for monies for their building fund. This was greatly appreciated by the Town Board. At this meeting it was decided that Councilman Boone would be the liaison between the Fire Co. Board & the Town Board to better improve communications. The Fire Co. Board and its members have our deep appreciation for coming to the table and offering that reduction.

The Town Board heard public comment from several residents on the concession made by the Fire Co. to reduce their budget by \$11,000. Supervisor Rapp responded to inquiries made about the funds.

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR & ACCOUNTANT

The Town Clerk advised after listening to the recording of December 5, 2017 Town Board meeting it was determined that an official motion had not been made on either the hiring of the Grant Administrator or the hiring of a new Accounting firm, although there was a second made on both and everyone had voted in favor. Due to several interruptions during that meeting Councilman Bichteman had thought that the Supervisor had made these motions, but he in fact had not. It would be in the Board's best interest to re-visit these items.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board had made a decision to hire a Grant Administrator, be it hereby
RESOLVED: the Town Board appoint Dr. Nicole Ambrosio to the position of Grant Administrator.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Boone, Councilman Sherman and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION #2-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board had made a decision to retain the services of a new accountant, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town retain the services of the accounting firm Marvin & Company

Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Boone, Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilwoman Burnside, and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION #3-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Supervisor Rapp announced that the renovations to the restrooms at Town Hall has been completed. The public is welcome to check the renovations if they care to. Councilman Boone reiterated and also commented that Rick & Theresa Rupeka have done a very nice job. The Rupeka's were applauded for their efforts.

Supervisor Rapp also announced that D & E Contractors continues work on the new heating system for the Town Hall. The furnace has been installed but is not operational yet. The hot water baseboard has been ordered, but has not arrived & more plumbing work is necessary in order to complete the system.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Supervisor Rapp reminded the public of two upcoming Public Hearings and a Special Town Board meeting to be held on Tuesday January 16th at 7:00 PM for the purpose of public comment & review of proposed Local Law 1 of 2018- Cold War Veterans Exemption to extend beyond the previous 10 year period and to review the proposed resolution to extend the Westerlo Water District No. 1 to include property located at 560 State Route 143. The Public Hearings will be followed by a Special Town Board meeting regarding both items.

MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER

Supervisor Rapp re-announced the appointment on December 5, 2017 of Susan Cunningham to fill a vacancy seat as a Museum Board Trustee. The Town Board received a letter dated 12/15/2017 from then Westerlo Heritage Museum Board Trustee President Alicia Malanga that Susan's term will become effective January 1, 2018 and expire December 31, 2022. She asked that Susan's records please be adjusted to reflect the term.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board had recently appointed Susan Cunningham on December 5, 2017 to the position of Museum Board Trustee, be it hereby

RESOLVED: that Museum Board Trustee Susan Cunningham's term be set effective 12/5/2017 through 12/31/2022

Councilman Filkins seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Sherman, Councilman Filkins, Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Boone and Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 4-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

MID-HUDSON CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Councilman Boone reported that the Broadband Research Committee (BRC) had diligently worked on the proposed Franchise Agreement with Mid-Hudson Cable (MHC). On Nov 8th a contract was presented to the Town Board for approval. There were some questions asked at that time by then Councilman Bichteman. Councilman Boone reviewed the process that had transpired since the contract was submitted by MHC to the Supervisor. Some blanks within the agreement need to be filled with the appropriate dates along with the Supervisor's signature. Dorothy Verch advised that she had provided a disc of Westerlo addresses for MHC's review that can be submitted along with the Agreement.

Councilman Boone reported that he had been advised by the Town Attorney that this type of contract does not require a resolution. Councilman Sherman suggested to be safe and to put the matter to rest he made the motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the proposed MHC Franchise agreement has been reviewed, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Mid-Hudson Cablevision Franchise Agreement (15 yr.) as soon as he has the respective dates to enter into the contract

Councilman Boone seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Boone, Councilwoman Burnside and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 5-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

Councilman Sherman thanked the BRC for their dedication and hard work to prevail in obtaining a better contract for the Town, it is appreciated. Dotty advised they will continue to follow-up review of the potential of any underpaid franchise fees received from MHC for past years.

The Town Board heard public comments or suggestions for preventing unauthorized use of the Transfer Station by non-residents. Edwin Stevens commented on the efforts taken by the Town over the past years to prevent misuse at the Transfer Station. More public discussions followed. Councilwoman Burnside suggested that this could be discussed at a Workshop meeting as the Town Board has to continue onto new business.

NEW BUSINESS

MUSEUM BOARD TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Rapp announced that the Westerlo Heritage Museum needs to appoint a new Board of Trustees member and has submitted their recommendation. Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Museum Board has made a recommendation to appoint Diane Therrien-Smith to the position of Museum Board Trustee, replacing Catherine Latham whose term expired on 12/31/2017, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board appoints Diane Therrien-Smith Museum Board Trustee her term effective 1/1/2018 through 12/31/2022.

Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. A vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Boone and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 6-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REAPPOINTMENTS & APPOINTMENT

Councilman Sherman reported that ZBA Chairperson Virginia Mangold's term and ZBA Member Guy Weidman's terms expired on 12/31/2017. Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the ZBA needs to make reappointments, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board reappoint Guy Weidman ZBA member his term to expire 12/31/2019 and Virginia Mangold ZBA Chairperson her term to expire 12/31/2022.

Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Sherman, Supervisor Rapp, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Boone and Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 7-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

Councilman Sherman announced that the Board had met to interview applicants for a vacancy on the ZBA. He then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: a vacancy remains on the ZBA due to the resignation of ZBA Member Wilfred VanInderstine, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board appoints James Gallogly to the position of ZBA Member his term expires 12/31/2021

Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Sherman, Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Boone, Councilman and Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 8-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

PLANNING BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

Before his reappointment Mr. Stevens offered his opinions to the Town Board on what he considered were negative comments made in news articles and he made suggestions he felt may stop the naysayers. He also asked Councilman Filkins about comments he had reportedly made in a news article about fair assessments and re-valuation. Councilman Filkins responded giving his opinion on surveys & fair assessments. The Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall advised of the procedures that are followed by the Assessor's office and the documental proof that is required yearly from applicants applying for an Agriculture Exemption and/or the removal of the exemption when an applicant no longer qualifies. She also indicated the potential costs the town would have to bear for re-valuation of properties and a re-assessment of properties would raise almost everyone's taxes, very few people would be lowered. Mr. Stevens continued to discuss his opinion to the Town Board over other news articles regarding negativity about the comprehensive plan and internet access. Mr. Stevens reported to everyone that good people had worked very hard on these matters.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Planning Board member Edwin Stevens term expired 12/31/2017, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board reappoint Planning Board member Edwin Stevens his term to expire 12/31/2022

Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Boone, Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Filkins and Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 9-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

FOIL APPEALS OFFICER

The Town Clerk reported a new appointment is needed to fill the unpaid position of FOIL Appeals Officer. This position was held by former Councilman William Bichteman. Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town needs to appoint a new FOIL Appeals Officer, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board appoints Councilwoman Amie Burnside to the position of FOIL Appeals Officer

Councilman Boone seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Sherman, Councilman Boone, Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION #10-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

WATER BOARD VACANCY

Councilman Boone announced former Councilman Bichteman no longer serves as the Water Board Chairman, thus there is a vacancy on the Water Board. He discussed qualifications in order to serve on the water Board. He was advised by Councilman Sherman that the Water Board appoints their Chairperson from within the Water Board. Supervisor Rapp made a motion that the Clerk to the Water Board Jennifer Bungay mail a letter to all Water District residents seeking interest from those who wish to serve on the Water Board. Councilman Sherman seconded, motion unanimously carried. Councilman Sherman will contact Mrs. Bungay regarding the letter.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Lisa DeGross proposed an educational community wide event "Get to know Westerlo" she offered to coordinate and organize. She proposed who, what, where & a date of Sat, March 10th to coincide with the Fire Co. Breakfast and Museum event scheduled for that same day.

Anita Marrone commented on bullying, the Altamont Enterprise, democracy, freedom of speech freedom of the press.

Fire Co. President Kelley Keefe reported on their calendar fund raiser. The missing envelopes will be mailed out and she advised of the contest associated with identification of certain calendar pictures. She also reported they are proud to have six students graduate from Basic Exterior Firefighting Course (100 hrs.) Will Creeter, James Dutton, Samantha Filkins, Ryan Kaller, Liam O'Connor and Sarah Zwack.

Diane Sefcik commented on the political diversity on the Town Board. People must learn to work together regardless of party. She agreed with Anita about freedom of speech and the press. She also would like to see the Board invite Robert Freeman the Commissioner on Open Meetings Law & FOIL to come to a meeting, not only for the Board's information, but so the Public understands as well.

Sue Cunningham suggested that the Pioneer newspaper serves South Westerlo residents it should be included as well, not just when necessary.

John Sefcik reported on the new Tax Law passed and the Executive Order issued near Christmas by Gov. Cuomo allowing persons to pay their property tax by 12/28/17. He thanked the Town Clerk for scrambling to allow this to happen for Town taxpayers. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector reported this was a team effort thanks to the assistance of her staff, the Assessor, and Town Attorney. The remaining property tax bills were mailed out on Jan. 2nd. thanks to the assistance of Trudy, Karla, and Claire & Mary Marshall.

CLOSE MEETING

There being no further public comment Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilwoman Burnside seconded, motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato Town Clerk

