

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD MEETING
OF
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 via Zoom # 93051000713. Supervisor William Bichteman Jr. opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Supervisor William F. Bichteman
 Councilman Matthew Kryzak
 Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
 Councilman Richard Filkins
 Councilman Joseph J. Boone

Also attending were: Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Comprehensive Plan Committee member John Sefcik, Broadband Research Committee member Leonard Laub, Library Trustee Maureen Sikule, Town Attorney Javid Afzali, Highway Employee Salvatore Spinnato, Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately 12 residents.

MINUTES

Councilman Kryzak made a motion to accept the Town Board meeting minutes of 4/20/21 & 5/4/21 as submitted. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT APRIL 2021

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report for April as submitted. Councilman Kryzak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS (MAY)

Councilwoman Burnside asked several questions regarding the monthly bills including the Barton and Lougudice bill. Supervisor Bichteman indicated the Town has already spent \$11,110.00 and is now over budget by roughly \$8,000.00 for the current bills. Councilman Boone asked if the bulk of the work by Barton & Lougudice has been accomplished; Supervisor Bichteman mentioned needing them for one more meeting regarding the zoning law. The Comprehensive Plan will hold a public hearing on May 27th at 7pm. Following that will be the last revision before it goes to the Town Board who will then hold a public hearing after their 10-day required notice. The Comprehensive Plan will be disbanded after their meeting on the 27th.

Councilman Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has audited the monthly bills, be it hereby
RESOLVED: the following May bills be paid Voucher # 186 through Voucher # 230 in the
 amount of \$67,637.21.

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

AYES: Councilman Boone, Councilman Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside,
 Councilman Filkins, and Supervisor Bichteman

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 51 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

INVESTMENT REPORTS

Bank of Greene County made \$231.23 overall in interest and the NYCLASS made nothing. Councilman Kryzak made a motion to approve the investment report for April. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Councilman Boone made a motion to approve the March & April Supervisor's report. Councilman Kryzak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

In regards to the American Rescue Plan, Supervisor Bichteman mentioned there was nothing new to report other than he has a meeting on Thursday with the Association of Towns to learn about updates.

REVITALIZATION OF HERITAGE MUSEUM

Councilman Boone attended the Historical Society meeting last Thursday and Supervisor Bichteman attended last night's meeting. Mr. Bichteman asked the Historical Society what level of involvement they wanted with the Museum moving forward and reported they are very anxious to be involved.

Supervisor Bichteman indicated that the Historical Society is a private organization not part of Town government like the Museum is. He suggested having the Historical Society and Museum members combine to make one unit. Councilman Boone suggested having shorter terms, suggesting three years instead of five years since that is a big commitment. The Board discussed and agreed that staggering three-year terms was a good idea.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Supervisor Bichteman mentioned that the Town Board would need to decide by December if the Town of Westerlo wants to allow dispensaries and what the provisions will be on consumption.

A resident wondered if the Town received any communication from NYS Ag & Markets on whether this will be a crop eligibility for land exemption; Supervisor Bichteman indicated no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW ZBA CANDIDATE

Councilman Kryzak made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:35 pm for the purpose of conducting a ZBA candidate interview. Councilman Boone seconded; all in favor motion carried.

Councilman Boone made a motion to end the executive session at 8:05 pm. Councilman Kryzak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF ZBA MEMBERS

The Town Board discussed the proposed ZBA appointments. There are currently two terms to fill, one expiring 12/31/23 and one expiring 12/31/25. Supervisor Bichteman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the resignation of Pamela Schreiber, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints George Spalmer to the ZBA position with a term expiring on 12/31/2025.

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

AYES: Supervisor Bichteman, Councilman Kryzak, Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 52 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Bichteman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to member Jillian Henck accepting the Chair position to replace John Sefcik who resigned 1/26/21. Mrs. Henck's term was set to expire 12/31/23, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints Sean Leary to the ZBA position to fill Mrs. Henck's unexpired term which is set to expire on 12/31/2023.

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

AYES: Supervisor Bichteman, Councilman Kryzak, Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 53 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

REAPPOINTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Councilman Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Due to the recent retirement of Jeffry Pine from his position at the Town of New Scotland, retirement regulations required he be off payroll at the Town of Westerlo for at least one day, therefore he submitted his resignation from the position at the Town of Westerlo on 5/17/21 for one day, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town of Westerlo Town Board reappoints Jeffry Pine to the Code Enforcement Officer position.

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

AYES: Supervisor Bichteman, Councilman Kryzak, Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 54 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

NEW YORK STATE LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (NYSLRS) STANDARD WORKDAY RESOLUTION

Town Clerk Karla Weaver and Planning Board member Edwin Stevens both submitted a Standard Workday Resolution which needs to be adopted and submitted to the retirement system. Councilman Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: NYSLRS requires a Standard Workday Record of Activities be submitted for retirement purposes and,

WHEREAS: Town Clerk Karla Weaver and Planning Board member Edwin Stevens have submitted a Record of Activities (ROA) and,

WHEREAS: NYSLRS requires a Standard Workday Reporting resolution for Karla Weaver and Edwin Stevens, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board establish the Standard Workday for Karla Weaver to be 8 hours and Edwin Stevens to be 6 hours and this resolution to be posted on the Town website and Town bulletin board for a period of 30 days.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Boone, Councilman Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Filkins, Supervisor Bichteman

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 55 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted. (See attached)

PROGRESS REPORT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Supervisor Bichteman mentioned that the draft Comprehensive Plan will be available on the Town's website and in the Town Clerk's office on Thursday. The Comprehensive Committee will be holding a public hearing on May 27th at 7pm for the purpose of hearing questions/comments on the final draft plan.

RENEWABLE ZONING LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

Zoning Committee member Leonard Laub indicated there is some out of date information in the zoning law from 2019. He advised the Zoning Committee has adapted a lot of the 2019 law while also adding in the different kinds of installations. They are waiting for the Town Attorney to review and hope to have the new draft ready for release after their meeting on Monday.

RETURN OF OPEN MEETINGS

Options for holding meetings in the future were discussed. Meetings can be held at the Town Hall again, zoom hybrid at the Town Hall or hold it some place remote from the Town Hall. The Town Attorney did not believe the Town Board would be able to forgo meeting in person in the future. Mr. Bichteman indicated the Town Hall can hold meetings now however when it comes time for public hearings may need to hold them at the Town Park. No decisions were made.

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING & NYS CDBG CARES GTANTS

Supervisor Bichteman reminded the public that the Town has applied for several different grants from CDBG Cares and through Dept. of Agriculture. He mentioned a survey needed to be conducted for the CDBG Cares grant. Many letters have been written to NY Senators in support of the Dept. of Agriculture grant but Mr. Bichteman encourages the Town to continue writing letters to reinforce the application. He indicated the new block grant for 2021 for infrastructure improvements, specific to the water district, can create the immediacy requirements to go past the LMI requirements. He believed this would help the water district solve their bromomethane problem within their system. The Town will need to hold a public hearing in order to apply for the grant. He hopes to hold a public hearing and Special Town Board meeting the night of the workshop on June 1st to explain the grant process and answer questions; the Town Board was in agreement.

NYSATRC MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Supervisor Bichteman advised that the Town Clerk's budget allows for the membership and training from NYS Association of Receivers and Tax Collectors and the membership is \$25 each however questioned if all of the staff needed to participate. The Town Clerk indicated that NYSATRC cancelled in person training this year due to COVID; instead offering training online for free. She explained that in order for her and her staff to participate, they would need to be members. Councilman Kryzak believed the decision to attend training should be up to the Town Clerk.

LIBRARY VACANCY AND APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Bichteman advised that Susan Keitel whose term expires 12/31/2025 submitted her letter of resignation, effective June 1st. Supervisor Bichteman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Due to Library Trustee Susan Keitel's resignation which becomes effective June 1, 2021, there will be a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints Eric Markson as a Library Trustee member to fill Susan Keitel's unexpired term set to expire on 8/23/2025.

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

AYES: Councilman Boone, Councilman Kryzak, Supervisor Bichteman, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 56 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

SNYDER'S SAW MILL HISTORICAL SIGN

Supervisor Bichteman advised that the Historical Society along with Dennis Fancher has done research to put an historical marker sign at the site of Snyder's Saw Mill on CR 1. The cost of the sign is \$1,450 which includes shipping and the post. Mr. Bichteman proposes taking money from the Museum fund to cover the cost of the sign. Councilman Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Historical Society and Dennis Fancher has researched the potential installation of an historical marker sign to be placed at Snyder's Saw Mill on CR 1, and

WHEREAS: The Town Board recommends using Museum funds to cover the cost, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board authorizes the installation of the historical marker sign to be placed at Snyder's Saw Mill for a total cost of \$1,450.00 which will be funded from the Museum Budget pending approval of the one remaining Museum member.

Councilman Boone seconded the motion. A vote resulted as follows.

AYES: Councilman Boone, Councilman Kryzak, Supervisor Bichteman, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 57 - 2021 was thereby duly adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Town Clerk was asked by Planning Board Chairwoman Verch to read the following letter of resignation which was received on 5/18/21.

May 18, 2021

TO: Karla Weaver, Town Clerk, Town of Westerlo

FM: Dotty Verch, Planning Board Chair, BRC Chair

RESIGNATION

It is with mixed emotions that I am resigning from both the Planning Board and the Broadband Research Committee (BRC).

I want to thank the Town of Westerlo for allowing me to serve as Chair of the Planning Board for 9 years. It was my honor to work with the some of the best men in the Town- Gerry Boone, Rich Kurlyo and Ned Stevens. Recently, Beau Loendorf joined the Board.

I also want to thank the Town for the faith and trust allowing the BRC to work toward total broadband/internet coverage. We are well on our way to that end. The men and women of the BRC will complete the process, I'm sure.

I enjoyed working with the really great ladies of the Town Clerk's office, Karla, Kathy and Marta; Jeff, the CEO made the application process so easy and Jody and the great guys of the Highway Dept. I also want to thank Amber for all of her assistance. A farewell would not be complete if I didn't thank the Town Board for all of their support. My last day will be the 17th of June.

My husband, Larry and I, will be relocating to Tennessee.

*Farewell and good luck,
Dotty Verch*

Town Clerk Weaver thanked Mrs. Verch for her service to the Town, mentioning it is immeasurable and she will be missed. Ms. Weaver also advised she had received a resignation from Jim Loux which was effective immediately.

Comments were heard from a resident regarding the Comprehensive Plan. She expressed concern for the Comprehensive Plan public hearing believing it wasn't enough time for the public to review the large document and suggested delaying the public hearing meeting at least a week. The Supervisor responded there will also be a public hearing held by the Town Board on the plan which will be advertised for 10 days. She also mentioned she sent an email to the Supervisor's office advising of an available farmland protection grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

With their being no further business to discuss or public comments, Councilman Kryzak made a motion to enter into executive session at 9:17pm for the purpose of discussing union negotiations. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

Councilman Kryzak made a motion to end executive session at 9:52pm. Councilman Boone seconded; all in favor motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Councilman Boone made a motion to close the meeting. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karla J. Weaver
Town Clerk

Please type or print clearly
 in blue or black ink

Employer Location Code

3 0 2 7 1

Received Date

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials

SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

RS 2417-A

(Rev.11/19)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Westerlo / 30271 hereby established the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record of activities:

Name	Social Security Number	NYSLRS ID	Title	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier 1
Elected Officials:									
Karla J. Weaver			Town Clerk/Tax Collector	1/1/2021-12/31/2023	8	25.52	<input type="checkbox"/>	weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointed Officials:									
Edwin Stevens			Planning Board Member	1/1/2018-12/31/2022	6	.28	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

I, Karla J. Weaver, secretary/clerk of the governing board of the Town of Westerlo, of the State of New York,
(Name of Secretary or Clerk) (Circle one) (Name of Employer)

do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board at a legally convened meeting held on the 18th day of May, 2021 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Westerlo on this 18th day of May, 2021,
(Name of Employer)

(Signature of Secretary or Clerk)

Affidavit of Posting: I, Karla J. Weaver being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the Resolution began on

5/19/2021 and continued for at least 30 days. That the Resolution was available to the public on the:
(Date)

Employer's website at: townofwesterlony.com

Official sign board at: _____

