

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
EMERGENCY TOWN BOARD AND WORKSHOP MEETING
OF TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held an Emergency Town Board and Workshop Meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at the Richard H. Rapp Municipal Building located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY 12193. Supervisor Kryzak opened the meeting at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside (left early @ 6:20pm)
Supervisor Matthew Kryzak
Councilman Josh Beers
Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Planning Board Chairperson-Beau Loendorf and member William Hall, Museum Committee Member Betty Filkins, Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately 3 interested residents.

Councilwoman Amie Burnside made a motion to open the Emergency Town Board and Workshop Meeting. Councilman Josh Beers seconded; all in favor motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

EMERGENCY UTILITY REPAIR CREW BIDS

Supervisor Matthew Kryzak mentioned that the Town is seeking companies providing bids for Emergency Utility repair specifically for the Water District. As of right now the Town Clerk sent bid packets to five (5) companies. Bids are due back by February 25th at noon. Mr. Kryzak advised the Town can still use the old utility contract until the new one is awarded in case of emergency.

NEW BUSINESS

AMBULANCE

Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak mentioned she has received comments from residents who are concerned about ambulance response time in the Town. According to them it takes a long time for an ambulance to show up on scene. Councilwoman Pecylak wondered what happened to the Westerlo ambulance building and squad and how we can get a quicker service in our town. She mentioned that she spoke with the Town of Westerlo Volunteer Fire Chief about First Responders. She believed they can get to a site quicker to support life until an ambulance gets there. Supervisor Matthew Kryzak explained that the Ambulance Station belongs to Westerlo Rescue Squad. It has already been discussed to start Westerlo Emergency Services and merge it with Westerlo Fire Department but more meetings and conversations need to be done to move forward. From a legal point of view the Town Attorney will need to be involved as well. A resident the Westerlo Fire Department should create a First Responders Squad to take care of a patients until Albany County Ambulance arrives. Another resident asked what other ambulance services, besides Albany County, is in the area. Councilwoman Burnside and Supervisor Kryzak explained that besides Heldelberg Ambulance the closest is

Coeymans and Ravena Ambulance Squad. The resident expressed his concerns regarding accidents needing more than one ambulance to respond and waiting 2 hours for help is unacceptable; the Town Board agreed. Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that he would love to see all the emergency services in Westerlo under one umbrella.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Supervisor Kryzak indicated he received complaints from some residents about other people having RVs on their properties. Current Town Law mentions no unoccupied trailers should be left on a vacant lot without a special permit approved by the Town Board. No occupied travel trailer should be used for year-round occupancy. He believed this topic should be passed to the Planning Board. In a meantime the Town Board will need to work with the Town Attorney to change the language in the law. Many things would have to be addressed. For example, how many days RVs can be left on a property and how to handle trash removal as currently vacant landowners are not eligible for Transfer Station permits.

LAW UPDATE/CHANGES

Supervisor Kryzak advised that BESS Local Law 2 of 2021, section 4.1 already needs to be modified as technology is improving. The Town Attorney is already preparing changing the language of that law.

NEXAMP

Town Clerk Karla Weaver explained that she was finally able to get in touch with Nexamp and Central Hudson. She was promised they will work on the issue and try to get things resolved. Nexamp advised that they will estimate their bills for now as they are aware of the issue with Central Hudson. Town Clerk Weaver asked if the Town Board still wanted her to terminate Nexamp services as planned or if they would prefer, she report back monthly to the Town Board. The Town Board agreed to allow the Town Clerk to update the Town Board at the next meeting. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** The Town Board decided to cancel Nexamp services at the 1/18/22 meeting, and
- WHEREAS:** The Town Clerk has since received communication advising they were aware of the Central Hudson billing issue and are estimating bills until it is resolved, be it hereby
- RESOLVED:** The Town Board agreed to continue NexAmp services temporarily with the Town Clerk updating the Board monthly so a decision can be revisited.

Seconded by Councilwoman Pecylak; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION #33 of 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

Nexamp will be discussed at the next meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that MVP Healthcare never notified the Town that they are canceling the vision care. He also mentioned that the Town is in the process of looking into rates and reinstating vision care for the Town's employees.

TOWN BOARD AND ZONING BOARD APPLICATIONS

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that the Town is still accepting applications for the Town Board and the Zoning Board positions. As of right now six (6) applications for the Town Board and one (1) for the Zoning Board have been submitted.

DONATIONS

Town Clerk Karla Weaver mentioned she would like to start collecting donations throughout the year benefiting people and organizations the Town. She would dedicate the first quarter for the Westerlo cemeteries. The Town Board was in favor of that idea.

WINTER FESTIVAL

Town Clerk Weaver mentioned that the Town is preparing a Winter Festival that will take place on March 12th between 12:00-3:00 pm. There will be a lot of activities for everybody but especially for kids. All the money that the Town would raise will benefit the Museum.

EMAILS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Emails for Committee Members were discussed at the previous meeting. The Town Board is still in favor of using Gmail for these members instead of Protonmail. The Town Attorney was previously asked for his advice on the matter and he saw no issue with it. The Town Clerk will ask the Town Attorney to draft an email use agreement for anyone needing a Gmail account so they know they cannot delete emails and that passwords are to be generated by the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Councilwoman Pecylak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Beers seconded; motion carried by those present. Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marta Pongo
Deputy Town Clerk