

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
OF
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday June 21, 2022 at the Town Hall 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Kryzak opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:00 PM.

Attending were: Supervisor Matthew Kryzak
Councilman Joshua Beers
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside
Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak
Councilman Peter Mahan

Absent were: None

Also attending were:

Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Planning Board Chairperson Beau Loendorf and Member William Hall, Museum Board President Palma Schloer and Vice President Betty Filkins, Library President Maureen Sikule, Library Director Amy Powarzynski and Trustee Laura Tenney, Hometown Heroes Committee Member Lisa DeGroff, Town Attorney George McHugh, Deputy Town Clerk Marta Pongo, Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately 19 interested residents.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to open the Town Board meeting. Councilman Beers seconded; all in favor motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 17, 2022 and June 7, 2022. Councilman Pecylak seconded; all in favor motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Town Clerk Weaver reviewed the Town Clerk reports for May 2022. Councilwoman Pecylak made a motion to accept the Town Clerk report for May 2022 as submitted. Councilman Beers seconded; motion carried by those present.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS (MAY 2022)

Councilman Beers made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has audited the monthly bills, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the following May 2022 bills be paid Voucher # 249 through Voucher # 320 in the amount of \$83, 213.02.

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

AYES: Councilman Beers, Councilwoman Pecylak, Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 87 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

SUPERVISOR REPORT (MAY 2022)

Supervisor Kryzak reviewed the Supervisor's report and advised that the Town is in good financial standing. Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the Investment Report for May 2022. Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; motion carried by those present.

INVESTMENT REPORT (MAY 2022)

Supervisor Kryzak advised that the Town earned \$341.81 in interest for the month of May 2022 with the Bank of Greene County. Councilman Beers made a motion to approve the May 2022 Supervisor report. Councilman Mahan seconded; motion carried by those present.

LOCAL LAW #1 OF 1989

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned the review of Local Law #1 of 1989 is not moving fast enough. He suggested the Town Board work on it to not hold it up.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK DISCUSSION

Mr. Kryzak advised that the suggested changes of the Employee Handbook from previous meetings was already sent to Marshall & Sterling for their review.

CENTRAL HUDSON UPDATE

Town Clerk Weaver advised that there is no update for Central Hudson. Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that the Town will try to negotiate the rate to lower the bill since the Town can't get precise numbers from Central Hudson. Councilwoman Burnside inquired where we stand with Nexamp. Supervisor Kryzak responded that the Town Board reinstated it to see if we can get any applicable savings.

NEW BUSINESS

RENAMING OF WESTERLO TOWN PARK

Supervisor Kryzak advised that there was discussion at a previous meeting about renaming the Westerlo Town Park to Westerlo Veterans Memorial Park. He also reminded those present of the work the Hometown Heroes Committee has done to install a Veterans Monument in the park in the near future thanks to donations received from Hannay Reels and Bank of Greene County. Councilwoman Burnside provided the Town Clerk with numerous letters of support. Mr. Kryzak opened the floor to the public. Resident, Don Savino, read a letter about himself and his family serving in the army and how he would like to express his support to rename the Park. Another resident, Angela Carkner, backed up that decision by giving a speech to the public. Previous Town Board Member, Joseph Boone, expressed his concerns about renaming the Park. He believed it may be exclusive to some people and we should be thinking about everyone who serves, i. e. first responders, teachers, etc. Another resident made a brief speech to show his support to rename the Park. Hometown Heroes Committee Member Lisa DeGroff was also in favor of renaming the Park. Museum Board Member Palma Schloer would like to see the Park being named Memorial Park instead of Veterans to be more inclusive to everyone. Another resident mentioned he is going to the army next year and he would like to honor veterans by renaming the park. He also thought that naming the park Westerlo Veterans Memorial

Recreational Park would let people know that the park is for everyone. Museum Vice President Betty Filkins mentioned that she would like to see the park being named Town of Westerlo Veterans Memorial Public Park. All Council Members expressed support for renaming the park. Councilman Kryzak mentioned that renaming the park is a way to thank all the veterans and inspire young generations. He hopes it will create conversations like it did tonight. Supervisor Kryzak made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Town Board wishes to rename the Westerlo Town Park, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board renames the Westerlo Town Park to the Town of Westerlo Veterans Memorial Park.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 88 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted.

SECURITY CAMERAS AT TRANSFER STATION/WATER TOWER QUOTES

Supervisor Kryzak advised that the Town obtained two quotes for cameras system for the Transfer Station/Water Tower areas. The first quote was from a new company that would store information on SD cards which could be kept forever. The second quote was from the company the Town already used to install cameras around the Town Hall and at the Park. The Town Clerk also secured a quote from Self Secured Systems to add a camera at the North entrance of the Town Hall as well as a camera pointing to the entrance of the Town Park. The priority will be to cover the North entrance of the Town Hall as well as the Transfer Station. Councilwoman Pecylak asked if it is possible to close the gate at the park at dusk. Supervisor Kryzak explained that the Town would have to pay somebody to come and close it and that more research would need to be done to see what would benefit the Town. A resident asked who will pay for the Transfer Station/Water Tower camera. He suggested that it should come out of the Water District fund. Mr. Kryzak explained that the cost would be split between the General Fund and Water District Fund. No decision was made.

WATER OPERATOR

Mr. Kryzak proposed breaking the Water Operator position into two positions. The salary would also be split between the two operators. Right now there is one person who checks the water on a daily basis and the Town is actively looking for another person to fill in. Mr Kryzak mentioned there will be an executive session at the next Town Board Workshop Meeting to interview potential candidates.

BINGO NIGHT

Mr. Kryzak mentioned that Bingo Night will take place at the Town Hall for fun with no money exchanged and no prizes. Everyone who is interested can participate. The first Bingo Night will be held the first Thursday of August 3:30PM – 6:30PM.

CEMETERIES

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned the Hannacroix Cemetery currently receives \$1,200.00 from the Town a year to help with maintenance. He suggested meeting with the other two active cemeteries to potentially assisting them as well in the future due to the rising costs of gas used for mowing and upkeep. Mr. Kryzak suggested to pay each active cemetery \$1,200.00 a year by voucher to make it fair to everybody. A resident mentioned the acreage has to be discussed since the size of each cemetery is different and they may need more or less money. The Town Clerk will contact the cemeteries to get more information and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

LAWSON LAKE SUMMER PROGRAM

Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that the Town of Westerlo was invited to participate in the 2022 Lawson Lake Summer Program free of charge. Having many volunteers from other towns, Westerlo would only have to send one chaperone. Summer Camp will take place July 11 – August 12th, 2022 – Mondays for children ages 5-11 and Fridays for children ages 12-18.

TRANSFER STATION/TIRES DISPOSAL

Town Clerk Weaver mentioned that the company the Town uses to dispose of tires raised prices and additionally they are now charging a 15% fuel surcharge. The Town Board worries there will be more tires left along the roads if the price for tire disposal is raised. No decision was made.

COMMITTEE REPORT'S

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Chairperson Loendorf reported that the Planning Board approved the Hydrangea Farms application and the Town will have another small business application soon. They also passed their first travel trailer application and expect more soon.

LIBRARY BOARD

Library President Maureen Sikule reported that the Library is working on their Summer Program. Library Director Amy Powarzynski mentioned all the Programs will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays July 6th – August 17th at the Town Park and they will focus on all ages. They also have their “Walk and Book Talk” group every Wednesday at 9 am and Tuesday at 6 pm. Supervisor Kryzak mentioned that there is an appointment to be made for a Library Trustee Member and made the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Library reported that Library Trustee Member Miranda Drumm’s term is expiring in August and it is their recommendation to reappoint her, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board reappoints Miranda Drumm for a 5 year term set to expire August 23, 2027.

Councilwoman Pecylak seconded; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Kryzak, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilwoman Pecylak, Councilman Beers, Councilman Mahan

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 89 – 2022 was thereby duly adopted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Ostrander advised they will be paving Udell Rd, Kudlack Ln Ext, Field Rd, Pine Woods Rd. Also he informed the public about upcoming road closures; CR 404, CR 402 and CR 405.

ZONING BOARD

Councilman Beers read the following Zoning Board of Appeals report that was submitted by ZBA Clerk Britta Biggs:

Zoning Board of Appeals Report to Town Board June 2022

At the March 28th meeting the ZBA accepted the Variance application for Beers V- 22-1. A Public Hearing was scheduled for the April 25th meeting. No other business was conducted at the meeting.

At the April 25th meeting the Board held a Public Hearing on the application for Beers. There were no public comments or concerns. After further discussion between the Board and Mr. Beers, they agreed on a 30-foot setback for this variance. No other business as of now.

*Submitted by,
Britta Biggs
Planning Board and ZBA Clerk*

ASSESSOR

Supervisor Kryzak read the following report for the Assessor:

ASSESSOR'S MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

*To: Westerlo Town Board
From: Melanie Bunzey, Assessor
Date: June 2, 2022
Re: Monthly Report – May 2022*

Board of Assessment Review ("BAR") hearings were held on May 25, 2022. Of the 96 assessment changes made this year, there were only 7 changes that needed to be made to the Tentative Roll. The changes are as follows:

- Only 1 resident actually appeared requesting a reduction in one of his three parcels and it was granted;*
- 6 mailed in grievance forms - - one was denied for lack of sufficient information; one had exemption removed per resident request (moved to Florida); and four were reduced and stipulated to prior to the BAR hearings.*

A Verified List of BAR Determinations was submitted to the County and letters to all residents with changes (above) were mailed.

A resident reached out to Senator Hinchey's office inquiring about why Westerlo hasn't done a revaluation since prior to 1974. Supervisor Kryzak responded to the inquiry.

New Sales Transmittal Reports were submitted to the State (listing sales since last report) with 15 sales.

2022 Tax Maps have been received from the County. Copies can be found in the Clerk's office; the Building Inspector's office; and the Assessor's office.

Address changes are made on a regular basis as well as bank escrow information. Routine calls and emails are received and answered on nearly a daily basis.

The system is checked for property owners listed on death notices regularly received via email from A.J. Cunningham Funeral Home, exemptions removed if necessary and notifications of exemption change mailed.

STAR reports received from New York State to date have been processed. Those reports are:

May: None

*Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Bunzey
Assessor*

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Supervisor Kryzak read the following Code Enforcement's Report:

May 2022 Report - Building/ Zoning

Jeffry Pine BI/CEO

Applications Processed

Special use – 1

Variance request- 0

Sub– divisions – 0

Building permits issued – 6

New houses – 1

Commercial buildings - 1

Accessory structures – 3

Demo - 0

Other – 1

Cell tower related - 0

Construction inspections- 24

Site visits – 6

Fire calls – 1

Fire safety inspections and follow ups - 26

4 - In-service Training hours (24 hours per year required to maintain certification)

BRC

Supervisor Kryzak reported that BRC Chairwoman Carrie Wallace and himself are in the process of requesting mapping from Mid-tel to be able to apply for more grants.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Councilwoman Burnside reported as Hometown Heroes Chairperson that the closing ceremony will take place on November 5th at the Baptist Church.

*Westerlo Hometown Heroes Meeting Report
May 24, 2022*

Present; Amie Burnside, Lisa DeGroff, Matt Kryzak, Becky Kryzak, Betty Filkins, Rick Haley, Rachel Haley

- Banners hanging with the help of Albany County DOT and Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander. Discussed thank you gifts for both. Agreed on two \$60 gift certificates for each department to order lunch.
- Approved for a \$1,000 grant from Bank of Greene County for Veteran Memorial & Tribute area. Not yet received check.
- Update on Veteran Memorial & Tribute area.
 - New location chosen to allow for a bigger area that will lend itself to expansion and additions such as memorial trees and benches and a larger area for pavers.
 - Additional donations to the area include; 30 ton stone sand from Carver, boxwood bushes from Hilltown Landscaping (Josh Beers), granite marker noting donors for area from Taylor Monuments. Still need a donation and/or discount on crusher run.
 - Decided that the only memorial tree to be permitted would be varieties of maple trees. Matt and Becky will check with Story's on pricing of trees in order to determine price of memorial tree.
 - Need to decide on type and style of memorial benches permitted. Betty Filkins will gather information for discussion by the committee.
 - Awards by Walsh can provide the donor plaques for trees and benches.
 - Discussed naming area as Veterans Garden. Also discussed seeking town board approval to rename the Town Park as Westerlo Veterans Memorial Town Park. Matt to put town park renaming on next agenda.
- Discussed plans for Closing Ceremony
 - Date is November 5, 2022. Application sent to Baptist Church – waiting to hear back
 - Decided on guest speaker to be Liz Joy – wife and mother of veterans. Lisa will ask.
 - Decided any food to be served will be catered by local business(s). Need to get catering menu pricing from Shell Inn – Betty will ask, Maple on the Lake – Matt will ask, Casa Mia's (if/when open) – Lisa will ask and Babbling Brook.
 - Chris Tague will again provide flags – cost split with committee and proclamations, County Executive, Dan McCoy will provide proclamations.
 - Still need: Colorguard – Albany County Sheriff's Office Explorers, Boy Scouts, Shock Platoon (Norwich drill team) – Amie to reach out to all. Star Spangled Banner singer, possibly other singers
- Veterans Day Ceremony

- Westerlo will host a ceremony this year. (Berne does a Memorial Day parade so Westerlo can do a Veterans Day ceremony.
- Need to decide on date
- Ideas for ceremony discussed include; parade with fire trucks, bagpipes, prayer with Dick Brumley, school bands and chorus, dedication of Veterans Garden

MUSEUM

Supervisor Kryzak reported that Town Wide Garage Sale raised roughly \$1,200.00 after expenses which will be used toward their building fund. Over 125 maps were sold.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Library President Maureen Sikule inquired about the Employee Handbook in regards to holiday and sick time accruals. Mr. Kryzak advised that the Handbook was sent to Marshall & Sterling with all the corrections for the review.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With there being no further discussion, Councilman Beers made a motion to close the workshop meeting. Councilman Kryzak seconded; motion carried by those present. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Pongo
Deputy Town Clerk