

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

A work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on November 22, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Peter Parsons
Council Members	Jane Crimmins, Tony Gonçalves, Richard Sklarin, Daniel Welsh
Town Clerk	Janet Donohue
Absent	None

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Facilities Maintenance Manager Joel Smith, Maintenance Assistant Shawn Johannessen, Police Officer Erika Holze, Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger and Confidential Secretary/Benefits Coordinator Mary Hafter.

Approximately 10 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 35 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Parsons called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Supervisor Parsons noted the exits to be used in the event of an emergency.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATIONS

PROCLAMATION – Supervisor Peter Parsons

Assemblyman Chris Burdick presented a proclamation to Supervisor Parsons (see attached).

PROCLAMATION – Councilwoman Jane Crimmins

Assemblyman Chris Burdick presented a proclamation to Councilwoman Jane Crimmins (see attached).

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES- Approved

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Sklarin, the minutes of the November 8, 2021, and November 15, 2021 Town Board meetings were approved.

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED – Budget 2022

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

TOWN OF LEWISBORO NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the preliminary budget of the Town of Lewisboro for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 has been compiled and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York where it will be available for inspection by any interested person at all reasonable hours. It can also be viewed on the town's website at <https://www.lewisborogov.com/finance/page/budget-reports>.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro will meet and review said preliminary budget and will hold a public hearing thereon at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter as time permits on the 9th day of December, 2021, and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled, or for or against any item or items therein contained. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following officers are hereby specified:

Supervisor	\$99,560
Councilmen, each (4)	\$17,025
Superintendent of Highways	\$110,170
Town Clerk	\$97,350

The Town of Lewisboro is committed to equal access for all citizens. Anyone needing accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting is encouraged to notify the Town Clerk in advance.

GOLDENS BRIDGE HAMLET ORGANIZATION – Pocket Park Waiver of Insurance Discussion (7:44 – 7:52 p.m.)

The Board continued their discussion on the Goldens Bridge Hamlet Organizations request to waive the insurance on the pocket park. Supervisor Parsons also read an email from Goldens Bridge resident Ellen Brief endorsing the waiver of insurance. The Board made the following resolution:

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

On motion by Mr. Sklarin, seconded by Mr. Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Goldens Bridge Hamlet Organization to obtain liability insurance solely for the time period where improvements are being constructed or installed at the pocket park located on the corner of Fairmount Road and Route 138, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a modification be made to the licensing agreement by the Town Attorney and then signed by the Goldens Bridge Hamlet Organization's Attorney.

PLANNING BOARD – Final Release of Performance Security to Smith Ridge/Laurel Ridge

On motion by Mr. Welsh, seconded by Mr. Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does approve the final release of the performance security to Smith Ridge/Laurel Ridge, subject to final and unconditional acceptance of the Phase III Improvements by the Oakridge Water and Sewer Districts, memorialized and confirmed to the satisfaction of the Town Attorney and Planning Board Attorney.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY – Resolution of Support (7:56 – 8:33 p.m.)

Supervisor Parsons stated he was asked by the County to adopt a town resolution supporting Westchester County's recent declaration of climate emergency. The board discussed the resolution at the last meeting, and it was decided that the Sustainability Committee would look it over and give recommendations.

Supervisor Parsons read portions of approximately eight emails that were sent to him from several individuals all supporting the declaration of climate emergency resolution.

Mr. Welsh made a presentation on the climate emergency (see attached) and also read the resolution in its entirety.

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Mr. Sklarin stated that as he saw it, climate change is a fact, it is an objective reality and as a result it should be completely apolitical. He stated that he was in favor of most of the resolution but he objected to paragraphs five through ten on the first page that include references to other matters outside of our town.

Supervisor Parsons stated that climate change is a worldwide issue. Mr. Sklarin stated that he was elected to represent the people in the Town of Lewisboro which is why he is fine with the majority of the resolution.

Mr. Welsh felt that Mr. Sklarin was missing the point and does feel that it is a global issue and does not feel that it is political. Mr. Gonçalves stated that he supported the wording as is and favored the Board to set goals for the Sustainability Committee with moving forward.

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Ms. Crimmins, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Welsh	(4)
	No	- Sklarin	(1)
	Absent	- None	(0)

**RESOLUTION: TOWN OF LEWISBORO
DECLARATION OF CLIMATE
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Climate Change has caused and continues to cause adverse impacts on human health, the introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, species extinctions and related threats to biodiversity, grave impacts on food and water security, economic security, and social-emotional wellbeing, and these impacts have predictably come to threaten the very viability of life on earth; and

WHEREAS, the modern warming trend is due to human activities¹, and

WHEREAS, a study published in the Lancet Planetary Health Journal conducted by researchers from Monash University found that the “unprecedented frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme temperature events” is responsible for over 5 million excess deaths per year ²; and

WHEREAS, as an example of the already devastating impact of climate change here in the New York area, approximately \$8.1 billion dollars in damages from Hurricane Sandy are attributable to the impact of climate change according to a study published in Nature³; and

WHEREAS, marginalized and frontline populations in Westchester and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, outdoor laborers, and the unhoused, especially women and children, are already disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, and disasters worsen; and

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

WHEREAS, as an example of this disproportionate impact, the Groundwork Hudson Valley organization has documented the overlap of heat islands with historically “redlined” neighborhood of color in Yonkers⁴, and

WHEREAS, the destruction wrought by Climate Change also represents an intergenerational transfer of wealth with a moral component which cannot be ignored, and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, 174 countries and the European Union signed the Paris Climate Agreement, recognizing the threat of climate change and agreeing to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit); and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018 the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) will require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, over 700 governmental jurisdictions across the world have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency; and

¹ “Analysis: Why scientists think 100% of global warming is due to humans” - <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-scientists-think-100-of-global-warming-is-due-to-humans>

² “Global, regional, and national burden of mortality associated with non-optimal ambient temperatures from 2000 to 2019: a three-stage modelling study” [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00081-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00081-4/fulltext)

³ “Economic damages from Hurricane Sandy attributable to sea level rise caused by anthropogenic climate change”, <https://rdcu.be/cBi1P>

⁴ Groundwork Hudson Valley - <https://www.groundworkhv.org/programs/transforming-places/climate-safe-neighborhoods/>

WHEREAS, a swift and sweeping transition to clean energy systems that centers on equity and justice in their solutions is vital to our future and must include the expansion of clean and renewable power sources; residential and commercial building upgrades for state-of-the art energy efficiency, comfort and safety; investments in community resilience; investments in local- scale agriculture; improvement in critical transportation, water and other infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency; and;

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2021, New Yorkers passed an amendment to the State Constitution asserting the right of each person to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment which was echoed in Westchester County Resolution No. 180-2021; and

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

WHEREAS, New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) is the among the most ambitious climate laws in the world and requires New York to reduce economy- wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels; achieve 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040 and statewide carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lewisboro recognizes that its responsibility to provide for the health and welfare of current and future citizens of the Town includes applying its resources and capacities to the elimination of the negative impacts of climate change; **Now therefore, be it**

RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, that the Lewisboro Town Board declares a climate emergency and calls for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town embraces the goals of the CLCPA, and shall establish a greenhouse gas inventory and climate change / emissions reduction goals for the Town, including municipal operations, which comport with those set out in the CLPCA and including these in its Comprehensive Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board will establish responsibilities and accountability for the achievement of abovementioned goals within the Town organizational structure, identify proposed budget items that might have a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions; and identify areas where additional resources could make new or existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts more successful; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby request the Sustainability Advisory Committee to assist in realizing aggressive interim targets to accelerate the achievement of the abovementioned goals; pursue a range of high-impact clean energy actions, to include but not be limited to: adopting the NYS Unified Solar Permit, purchasing 100% renewal electricity, adopting the NYStretch Energy Code, adopting a benchmarking policy to track and report the energy use of municipal buildings and launching a Community Solar Community Campaign; examine other objectives related to greenhouse gas emissions reduction, including the promotion of natural systems, green infrastructure, and carbon sequestration; public cooling, housing and transportation alternatives, and identify the feasibility of accelerating the timelines of achieving such objectives; develop recommendations for a comprehensive communications plan and community awareness campaign that will help the Town meet its climate change goals.

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

REFUSE LICENSE – Mayfield Sanitation LLC

On motion by Mr. Sklarin, seconded by Supervisor Parsons, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Parsons, Crimmins, Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized to issue a Residential Refuse License to Mayfield Carting, for a period of one year ending November 22, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (8 :35 – 8 :58 p.m.)

A total of eleven residents spoke during the public comment period.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY’S DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Approximately eight residents commented on the climate emergency declaration with half of them thanking the Board for passing the resolution and the other half criticizing the Board for passing the resolution stating that it was political and that they should be focusing on local issues. A resident also questioned why the Supervisor read several emails and letters in favor of the climate resolution but never read any of the several emails and letters that she had sent to him and the Board.

GOLDENS BRIDGE HAMLET ORGANIZATION

Two members of the Goldens Bridge Hamlet Organization thanked the Board for the resolution regarding the insurance on the pocket park.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Gonçalves, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town’s bills in the amount of \$239,190.46.

MEETING – Date Set

An upcoming meeting of the Town Board will include a meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021

POLLING OF BOARD

OAKRIDGE COMMONS

Mr. Gonçalves stated that there will be a discussion regarding the change of use for “The Heights” restaurant in Oakridge Common being turned into 4 apartments at the December 9th, 2021 meeting.

The Board wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukah.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Personnel Issues

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Gonçalves, the Board voted 4-0 to come out of executive session at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Sklarin, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk