

A Town Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on January 23, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Tony Gonçalves
Council Members	Andrea Rendo, Mary Shah, Richard Sklarin, Daniel Welsh
Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue
Absent	None

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Maintenance Employees Shawn Johannessen, Assessor Lise Robertson, and Recreation Supervisor Nicole Caviola.

Approximately 12 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 13 participated via Zoom.

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

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Supervisor Gonçalves 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.

PUBLIC HEARING – Chapter 199 Taxation Article II “Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income”

Supervisor Gonçalves opened the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Welsh, all in favor, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled “Taxation”; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for disabled persons under Chapter 199. It was also explained that this was for disabled persons making \$58,399.99 or less. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached). Supervisor Gonçalves asked for comments from the audience.

There were no public comments.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the public hearing for adopting a local law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation"; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for disabled persons under Chapter 199, is now closed.

CHAPTER 199 TAXATION ARTICLE II "EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED PERSONS WITH LIMITED INCOME" – Local Law Passed

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopted a local law to amend Chapter 199 Taxation:

LOCAL LAW # 1 OF THE YEAR 2023

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, STATE OF NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 : AUTHORITY

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority, of Article 2, §10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

SECTION 2 : AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 199

Chapter 199 of the current Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation", specifically Article II "Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income" and §199-7 thereof, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 199-7 Exemption granted.

The Town of Lewisboro hereby grants to persons with disabilities and limited income, as defined by § 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, the tax exemption up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed value of the real property owned by the person with disabilities and limited income in the manner described in § 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law.

SECTION 3 : AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 199

Chapter 199 of the current Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation", specifically Article II "Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income" and §199-8 thereof, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 199-8 Income Eligibility Level

The income eligibility level for a person with a disability to qualify for exemption under this chapter and the corresponding exemption entitlement shall be as follows:

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt From Taxation</u>
Under \$50,000	50%
\$50,000 to \$50,999.99	45%
\$51,000 to \$51,999.99	40%
\$52,000 to \$52,999.99	35%
\$53,000 to \$53,899.99	30%
\$53,900 to \$54,799.99	25%
\$54,800 to \$55,699.99	20%
\$55,700 to \$56,599.99	15%
\$56,600 to \$57,499.99	10%
\$57,500 to \$58,399.99	5%

SECTION 4 – HOME RULE

Nothing in this Local Law is intended or shall be construed to limit the home rule authority of the Town under State Law or to limit the Town’s discretion in setting fees and charges in connection with any applications requiring Town approval.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

SECTION 6– EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

PUBLIC HEARING – Chapter 199 Taxation Article VI “Senior Citizens Tax Exemption”

Councilman Sklarin opened the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, all in favor, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled “Taxation”; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for Senior Citizens under Chapter 199. It was also explained that this was for disabled persons making \$58,399.99 or less. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached). Supervisor Gonçalves asked for comments from the audience.

A resident questioned if this income referred to individual or a combined household income. The answer was a combined gross income.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Supervisor Gonçalves, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the public hearing for adopting a local law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation"; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for senior citizens under Chapter 199, is now closed.

CHAPTER 199 TAXATION ARTICLE VI, "SENIOR CITIZENS TAX EXEMPTION" – Local Law Passed

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopted a local law to amend Chapter 199 Taxation:

LOCAL LAW # 2 OF THE YEAR 2023

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, STATE OF NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 : AUTHORITY

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority, of Article 2, §10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

SECTION 2 : AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 199

Chapter 199 of the current Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation" is hereby amended to add Article VI to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI SENIOR CITIZENS TAX EXEMPTION

§ 199-21 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to grant a partial exemption from taxation up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed valuation of real property which is owned by certain persons with limited income who are 65 years of age or over, meeting the requirements set forth in § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law.

§ 199-22 Grant of Exemption; Conditions

- A. Real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by husband and wife or by siblings, one of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by one or more persons, some of whom qualify under § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law and § 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be exempt from taxation by the Town of Lewisboro in

regard to property located in the Town of Lewisboro up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed valuation in accordance with the schedule listed below and subject to the conditions and exceptions set forth in this Chapter

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt From Taxation</u>
Under \$50,000	50%
\$50,000 to \$50,999.99	45%
\$51,000 to \$51,999.99	40%
\$52,000 to \$52,999.99	35%
\$53,000 to \$53,899.99	30%
\$53,900 to \$54,799.99	25%
\$54,800 to \$55,699.99	20%
\$55,700 to \$56,599.99	15%
\$56,600 to \$57,499.99	10%
\$57,500 to \$58,399.99	5%

- B. For purposes of this section, "sibling" shall mean a brother or sister, whether related through half blood, whole blood or adoption.
- C. Application for such exemption must be made by the owner or all of the owners of the property, on forms prescribed by the State Board to be furnished by the Town Assessor. Said owners shall furnish the information requested on the forms and shall execute them in the manner required or prescribed in such forms. Applications shall be filed in the Assessor's office on or before March 1 of each year. Owners who become 65 years of age after March 1 and before December 31 of the year of application shall still qualify for the exemption.
- D. Any exemption provided under this article shall be computed after all other partial exemptions allowed by law have been subtracted from the total amount assessed.
- E. No exemption shall be granted:
 - (1) If the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption exceeds the sum of \$58,400.00 "Income tax year" shall mean the twelve-month period for which the owner or owners filed a federal personal income tax return or, if no such return is filed, the calendar year. Where title is vested in either the husband or the wife, their combined income may not exceed such sum. Such income shall include social security and retirement benefits, interest, dividends, total gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset which may be offset by a loss from the sale or exchange of a capital asset in the same income tax year, net rental income, salary or earnings and net income from self-employment, but shall not include a return of capital, gifts or inheritances. In computing net rental income and net income from self-employment, no depreciation deduction shall be allowed for the exhaustion, wear and tear of real or personal property held for the production of income.
 - (2) Unless the title of the property shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners of the property for at least 24 consecutive months prior to the date of making application for exemption; provided, however, that in the event of the death of either a husband or wife in whose name title of the property shall have been vested at the time of death and then becomes vested solely in the survivor by

virtue of devise by or descent from the deceased husband or wife, the time of ownership of property by the deceased husband or wife shall be deemed also a time of ownership by the survivor and such ownership shall be deemed continuous for the purposes of computing such period of 24 consecutive months. In the event of a transfer by either a husband or wife to the other spouse of all or part of the title to the property, the time of ownership of the property by the transferor spouse be deemed also a time of ownership by the transferee spouse, and such ownership shall be deemed continuous for the purposes of computing such period of 24 consecutive months. Where property of the owner or owners has been acquired to replace property formerly owned by such owner or owners and taken by eminent domain or other involuntary proceeding, except a tax sale, the period of ownership of the former property shall be combined with the period of ownership of the property for which application is made for exemption, and such periods of ownership shall be deemed to be consecutive for purposes of this section. Where a residence is sold and replaced with another within one year and both residences are within the state, the period of ownership of both properties shall be deemed consecutive for purposes of the exemption from taxation by a municipality within the state granting such exemption. Where the owner or owners transfer title to property which, as of the date of transfer, was exempt from taxation under the provisions of this section, the reacquisition of title by such owner or owners within nine months of the date of transfer shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement of this subsection that the title of the property shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners for such period of 24 consecutive months. Where, upon or subsequent to the death of an owner or owners, title to property which as of the date of such death was exempt from taxation under such provisions, becomes vested, by virtue of devise or descent from the deceased owner or owners, or by transfer by any other means, within nine months after such death, solely in a person or persons who, at the time of such death, maintained such property as a primary residence, the requirement of this subsection that the title of the property shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners of such period of 24 consecutive months shall be deemed satisfied.

(3) Unless the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that in the event that any portion of such property is not so used exclusively for residential purposes but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section.

(4) Unless the real property is the legal residence of and is occupied in whole or in part by the owner or by all of the owners of the property, provided that an owner who is absent while receiving health-related care as an inpatient of a residential health care facility, as defined in § 2801 of the Public Health Law, shall be deemed to remain a legal resident and an occupant of the property while so confined, and income accruing to that person shall be income only to the extent that it exceeds the amount paid by such owner, spouse, or co-owner for care in the facility; and provided further that during such confinement, such property is not occupied by other than the spouse or co-owner of such owner.

SECTION 3 – HOME RULE

Nothing in this Local Law is intended or shall be construed to limit the home rule authority of the Town under State Law or to limit the Town’s discretion in setting fees and charges in connection with any applications requiring Town approval.

SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

SECTION 5 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

PUBLIC HEARING – Chapter 199 Taxation Article IV “Volunteer Fire Fighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption”

Councilman Sklarin opened the public hearing, seconded by Supervisor Gonçalves, all in favor, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled “Taxation”; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers under Chapter 199. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached). Supervisor Gonçalves explained that the town currently has an existing exemption which requires 5 years term of service. There is an opportunity for the town to opt in to lower the years of service to 2 years. This would be certified by the governing agency which is the fire department and then the fire department would come to the town for the exemption. Supervisor Gonçalves asked for comments from the audience.

Tom Beneventano, Legal Counsel, and member of the Goldens Bridge Fire Department questioned the term “enrolled” member. He stated that many members are “enrolled” but are not active. His suggestion was instead of referring to the member as enrolled in the department, they should refer to the member as being active. He would like this to be clarified. He would also like the fire department to be the determining agency of who is active. Mr. Beneventano said he is willing to work with the Board to come up with wording that is agreeable to both the town and to the first responders. It needs to be user friendly.

Robert Melillo, Goldens Bridge Fire Department Commissioner stated that he is also concerned that with lowering the years of service to 2 years, they will have an influx of membership that don’t actually respond. He talked about consistency and criteria and how they qualify for the tax exemption. It was suggested that active member or a member in good standing be used

Mike DeVito, Chief of the South Salem Fire Department, stated that they also need a minimum amount of points to be considered an active member. After 20 years they become lifetime members.

Adam Ochs, Vista Fire Department Commissioner, and with the State and County fire commission, stated that every department has their own active status, and the Assessor gets the list from the departments, and this happens on a yearly basis. Mr. Ochs stated that it is similar in Westchester County.

Mark Sheeran, President of Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corporation (LVAC) stated that they track scheduled hours in order to be active. They include some nonriding members too, but that is a small amount of members. Mr. Sheeran also stated that he has already turned in their 5 year list already and questioned if it was changed to 2 years, could he resubmit and the answer was yes.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the public hearing for adopting a local law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation"; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers under Chapter 199, is now closed.

The public hearing for the revisions to this law will need to be re-noticed and another public hearing will be held on Monday, February 23, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED – Chapter 199 Taxation

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., or soon thereafter as time permits, at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York, 10590, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 199 of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled "Taxation"; such amendments specifically being proposed with respect to increased income thresholds and/or enhanced exemptions available for volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers under Chapter 199.

The Town of Lewisboro is committed to equal access for all. Anyone needing accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting is encouraged to call the Town Clerk's office at 914-763-3511 in advance.

COMMUNICATIONSFOOD COMPOSTING

Supervisor Gonçalves read three emails in support of the food composting program and the expansion of the program into other parts of Lewisboro.

CONSENT AGENDAMINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the minutes of the January 9, 2023, Town Board meeting were approved.

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

PARKS & RECREATION – Pickleball Courts Discussion (8:08 – 8:39 p.m.)

Recreation Supervisor Nicole Caviola presented the idea of creating pickle ball courts on the existing tennis courts located at the Lewisboro Town Park. She received two quotes from Sport Tech. One quote was to reconstruct the current asphalt to asphalt, and the other was to reconstruct to a post tension concrete surface which is the same type of surface that is on the basketball courts. The quote is based on maximizing that space which is 4 tennis courts that would create 16 pickleball courts, but this can be downsized. A pickleball court is 25% of the size of a tennis court. Currently there are 3 outdoor pickleball courts on the basketball court and 3 set up in the former Lewisboro Elementary School gym.

Councilman Sklarin asked about the current foundation as historically, there has been a problem and this company is only giving a one-year warranty. He asked if the foundation, as it currently exists is as it should be to support any type of courts. He also asked from a priority standpoint should we be looking at taking care of the pump house first and/or the bath house.

Ms. Caviola stated that drainage was an issue on the existing courts, and it would need to be pitched. Ms. Caviola was questioned about the comings and goings of the courts, and she said that it is very hard to regulate. She brought up the idea of turnstiles. She also stated that if they decided to go down to 8 courts the cost would be just under \$300,000. They could then make the other 2 tennis courts into a sitting area, a garden area, etc.

The bathhouse was again brought up which has been an eye sore for several years. It was suggested that an engineer look at the bathhouse and this project would be a process. Ms. Caviola did state that she met with the town engineer back in 2017 when this was first discussed and she has looped him back in again. But a dollar amount would need to be agreed upon.

If they begin construction in March, they should be completed by the end of May. Discussion of the courts will continue.

FOOD COMPOSTING – Discussion (8:40 – 9:09 p.m.)

Chris Coccaro, Chair of the Sustainability Committee made a presentation to the Board regarding the food composting program and the request to increase the program throughout the town (see attached).

Robert Fishman, Sustainability member stated there have been many requests to make it more convenient for others to take advantage of the composting. There has been a lot of good feedback on social media. He also stated that they received quotes from Suburban, Curbside Compost and CRP, who was the lowest bid and their compost facility is closer in proximity to Lewisboro.

It was also mentioned that there had been complaints from residents that the current hauler would pick up before 6 a.m. which is against the Town Code and there were also complaints about the odor coming from the receptacles in the summer months.

Robert Whittaker, Sustainability Committee member also stated he sold the composting kits in front of Greenway in the past and there was a lot of interest. Also, he stated that the high school students are trying to secure “Meatless Mondays” into the schools programs.

The Board asked that the Sustainability Committee to work with Ms. Caviola from the Parks & Recreation Department for the appropriate locations of the receptacles in the parks.

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro does approve the town to spend up to \$13,500 per year on the food composting program by expanding it to Fox Valley Park and

Onatru Farm Park and to include up to the maximum budgeted free compost to residents (locations to be determined) and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the composting kits will be sold for \$32.00 as opposed to \$25.00 once the current inventory has been depleted and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Committee work with the Parks & Recreation Department for the appropriate locations of the composting bins at the parks.

PARTNERS IN SAFETY – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Contract

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does approve the Partners in Safety 2023 Complete DOT Program Agreement and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign said agreement.

PARKS & RECREATION - Authorize Contract with North East Westchester Special Recreation

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro does approve the 2023 North East Westchester Special Recreation Interagency Agreement and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro does approve the Supervisor to sign said agreement subject to Town Counsel approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT – New Business Only

FOOD COMPOSTING

Two residents spoke in favor of the food composting program and suggested having the free compost available at all three sites.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$538,423.24.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIBRARY UPDATES

Upcoming library events include the Lewisboro Library's "Taste of the Town" Raffle. Tickets can be purchased for \$25. Winners will receive gift certificates to five local restaurants - Horse & Hound, Blazer, Restaurant 123, Bacio and LaVista. The drawing will take place at their annual meeting on February 5th which will be at 3 p.m. Town Historian Maureen Koehl will be presenting "Lewisboro Home Movies".

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATES

There will be a new neighbor wine and cheese get together at Onatru Farmhouse on February 26, from 4-6 p.m. Please sign up by calling the Parks & Recreation Department at 914-232-6162.

Camp sign up will begin on February 4.

The deadline to purchase Playground bricks is January 31, 2023.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The first CPSC community meeting was held on Saturday at the John Jay High School and approximately 120 residents attended. There will be two other public meetings held via Zoom – one on February 6 and the next on February 9th. Registration is required. Information can also be found on the town's website. It was also suggested that a few sessions be added that are subject specific. This will be investigated and discussed at an upcoming meeting.

BUDGET

The mortgage tax that was received was \$159,000 more than what was budgeted. The budgeted amount was \$800,000 so the total was \$959,000.

GRANT

A Bridge NY grant was applied for, and this will be for the Oscaleta Road culvert. This is a \$1.4 million grant. Supervisor Gonçalves thanked Joe Cermele from Kellard Sessions, Janet Andersen from the Planning Board and who is also involved with the lakes, and Mary Hafter his Chief of Staff. It was submitted on January 11, and they should find out within the year of the outcome. The Region 8 representative is aware of this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that there have been some unwarranted comments made and false statements made toward employees. He stated several employees have approached him regarding these comments and as one employee stated it is social bullying. Supervisor Gonçalves reminded everyone to “THINK” before they speak – Is it TRUTHFUL, is it HELPFUL, is it INSPIRING, is it NECESSARY and is it KIND. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that moving forward the Town Board meetings will still be live streamed and available via Zoom, however, there will be no public comment periods via Zoom. If people want to comment, they can either send in letters, emails or show up in person.

Councilmembers Rendo, Sklarin and Welsh all voiced their objection to this and questioned why it was not discussed amongst the group. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that this was not up for discussion and that they could discuss it offline. They continued voicing their displeasure with this idea and disagreed wholeheartedly with this decision.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

There will be a meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Personnel Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Supervisor Gonçalves, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

TOWN OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES – Financial Consultant, Leo Masterson

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted as follows:

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the hiring of Leo Masterson as a financial consultant on a part-time basis at a maximum of 30 hours per week at a rate not to exceed \$60.00 per hour.

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to return to executive session at 9:54 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 11:19 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Rendo, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 11:20 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk