

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on November 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Anthony Molé, Facilities Maintenance Manager Joel Smith, Comptroller Leo Masterson, Parks and Recreation Employees Randy Price and Reed Pullem and Confidential Secretary/Benefits Coordinator Mary Hafter.

Approximately 12 residents/observers.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Accessory Wineries as a Special Use Permit (7:31- 7:41 p.m.)

Supervisor Parsons called the public hearing to order. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached).

Supervisor Parsons stated that the Westchester County Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment and found it to be a matter for local determination. Supervisor Parsons called for comments from the public. Jason Krellenstein, the attorney representing Gossett Brothers Nursery and South Salem Winery encouraged the Board to close the public hearing this evening and to take a vote on this matter. Mr. Krellenstein feels that his clients are being hamstrung on the local level.

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

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

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, that the public hearing to amend Chapter 220, Zoning, Sections 220-2, 220-23(A), and 220-32(B), and to enact Section 220-43.6, of the Lewisboro Town Code, in order to allow accessory wineries as a special use in residential districts accessory to an existing farm operation and located in an existing agricultural district, is now closed, with the exception of written comments from the Planning Board and Kellard Sessions which need to be received by the Town Board no later than January 17, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING – Budget 2019 (7:42 – 8:00 p.m.)

Mr. Parsons called the public hearing to order. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached).

Mr. Parsons called for comments from the public. Vista resident Isabel Silvestro had a few questions and made a few comments about the proposed budget for 2019. Ms. Silvestro stated there are three things that are happening with this budget increase. First, she asked if the 6.4% increase was a permanent increase and the Board replied yes. Second, with the new tax laws that are in effect she feels this is devastating in Lewisboro because only \$10,000 can be put on one's tax returns. And third is the tax cap; the residents will now lose the small refund that they would have received if the tax cap was not broken. Town Comptroller, Leo Masterson did inform the Board and Ms. Silvestro that there had been a tax credit program that was in effect for two years and that program ended so there would be no financial penalty for the town exceeding the cap.

Ms. Silvestro then asked about the reserve of \$158,000 and Supervisor Parsons explained the importance of rebuilding the reserves at a time when the federal government has indicated it will not provide the same level of FEMA reimbursement in cases of emergencies such as hurricanes, etc. Mr. Welsh also stated that the tighter the budget, the more important it is to have a reserve.

Ms. Crimmins stated that the school taxes are approximately 70% of the taxes and approximately 8% are town taxes. Mr. Gonçalves did share his pie chart that shows the breakdown of his taxes with Ms. Silvestro showing that with the proposed tax increase his local taxes would go up by \$80.21.

Ms. Silvestro questioned the \$37,000 for the Parks & Recreation ski trips. The Board explained that the revenue from the ski trips does exceed this charge. Other programs don't necessarily always make money for the town such as the pool or camps because attendance goes up and down. Mr. Masterson stated that Parks & Recreation is about 65% covered.

Ms. Silvestro was also surprised that the Town subsidizes the Lewisboro Library with so much money. The Board explained that our library is less per capita than any other library in the county. Supervisor Parsons reminded everyone that our town taxes are 33% less than North Salem, 100% less than Bedford, and 122% less than Pound Ridge.

Mr. Welsh stated that when he first joined the board in 2009, the financial crisis hit and then the tax cap came and the town had zero surplus at that time and then the town got locked in to the tax cap. Other towns hit the tax cap period and had a surplus so they could ride through it. He stated that for the ten years that he has been on the board, they never made up that surplus and they had always avoided making those big tax increases so they are still playing catch up.

Ms. Silvestro also mentioned \$2,000 that goes to the garden club and suggested that the local garden centers donate this money to them. Supervisor Parsons did state that the local garden centers do donate a lot behind the scenes and do a lot of fundraisers for them as well.

The Board thanked Ms. Silvestro for her comments.

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the public hearing on the 2019 Budget, is now closed.

BUDGET – 2019 Budget Adopted

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the 2019 Budget has been adopted (see attached).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the meeting minutes of November 5, 2018.

WESTCHESTER POWER – Community Choice Aggregation Program (8:05 – 8:18 p.m.)

Jenna Amundsen and Cathy Golebiewski of Westchester Power 2019 made a presentation regarding the renewal of the Community Choice Aggregation Program (see attached). The Board thanked them for the presentation.

Supervisor Parsons asked if they would be including day versus night electricity usage and the answer was no but they are working on this for the future.

Mr. Welsh also stated that Westchester Power would be holding an outreach session on January 6, 2019 at the Lewisboro Senior Citizen meeting.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Pappalardo, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$551,367.84.

POLLING OF THE BOARD

LOCAL BUSINESS – Copia

Ms. Crimmins showed an insert from Copia Garden Center which was in the local newspaper advertising different events that they would be having during the holidays. Ms. Crimmins encouraged all to visit Copia.

PLANNING BOARD – Meeting

Mr. Pappalardo attended a recent Planning Board meeting regarding affordable housing. He thanked the Planning Board, which is completely volunteer, for all of their hard work. Mr. Pappalardo also thanked the Goldens Bridge Fire Department for coming to the meeting well prepared.

BUDGET – Comments

Mr. Pappalardo stated that he was also concerned with the increased budget/taxes however he felt that the Board really did dissect the budget and they voted to raise the taxes to provide essential services and function efficiently as a town.

REUSABLE BAG INITIATIVE – Businesses

Mr. Welsh thanked Ms. Crimmins and Supervisor Parsons for visiting local businesses regarding the reusable bag initiative and the fact that the new law will take effect January 1, 2019.

FUNERAL – Mary Frances Lynch

Supervisor Parsons stated that Mary Frances Lynch's funeral would take place at 10:00 a.m. on December 10, 2018 at the South Salem Cemetery. A Go Fund Me page was set up by someone who collected over \$8,000 for her burial.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

Upcoming meetings include a meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, NY.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Real Estate and Legal Issues

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Pappalardo, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss real estate and legal issues.

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Ms. Pappalardo the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 10:10 p.m.

KATONAH-LEWISBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT- Amendment to Lease Agreement

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the lease amendment with the Katonah-Lewisboro School District for additional office space with the revision to the draft lease to provide that the use is for office space.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Parsons, seconded by Mr. Pappalardo, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue  
Town Clerk