

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren held on December 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

Mr. Robert Grover	Councilor
Mrs. Jennifer Sullivan	Councilor
Mr. Michael Hulchanski	Councilor
Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water	Councilor
Ms. Darcie Lesniak	Councilor
Mr. Howard Tupper	Councilor
Mr. Richard Zaccaria	Town Supervisor

Also Present:

Mr. Ken Bush	Onondaga County Legislator
Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. Doug Foster	Highway Superintendent
Ms. Theresa Proctor	Executive Assistant to the Supervisor
Mrs. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Approve Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2023:

242-23-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mrs. Van Der Water, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town board meeting on December 6, 2023 as published.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Abstain, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments:

Mr. Ken Bush, Onondaga County Legislator, was present to give Mr. Howard Tupper a certificate of recognition from the Legislature for his years of service on the Village Board from April 1995 to 2007 and April 2008 to tonight on this Board.

Mr. Claude Sykes, former Town Supervisor, was present to thank Mr. Tupper for his years of service. He said he had the pleasure of serving with him in the Village of Baldwinsville as well as here at the town.

Mr. Tom Shaw, Tappan Street, thanked the Board members and wished them Merry Christmas. He said he hopes the Board will think carefully about the proposed zone change for the Crego property and how it will affect the town, traffic, and school district.

Approve vouchers:

243-23-007 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, to approve payment of claims 231442, 231486, 231506-231513, 231515-231520, 231522-231545, 231547-231548, 231550-231556, 231571-231572, 231574-231576 in the amount of \$83,344.78.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Assessor's Report:

Ms. Golden said her office identified residents who may qualify for the Senior Citizen exemption now that the income limit has been raised and mailed them postcards letting them know they may qualify for the exemption.

Ms. Golden said the Governor has signed an amendment to the Veteran's exemption for career service members. Residents may qualify if they have fulfilled their initial military service commitment, were not discharged or released when that initial commitment ended because they reenlisted, would have been eligible for a non-dishonorable discharge or release if they had not reenlisted and have served for at least ten years.

Ms. Golden said there is no application yet for this exemption but if you think you qualify call the office and they will get the application to you once the State creates the form.

Ms. Golden said the preliminary numbers from the State show an increase in property value of seven percent for Van Buren.

Ms. Lesniak asked if this trend continues and the town keeps assessments flat where will our equalization rate end up.

Ms. Golden said likely around 90% since commercial values are added in to that figure.

Mr. Hulchanski asked if the Corp. Kyle Schneider Foundation could help get the word out about the changes to the Veteran's exemption?

Approve four year contract with AFSCME:

244-23-010 MOTION BY Mr. Hulchanski, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve the four year contract beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027 and authorize the Supervisor to execute the agreement.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Purchasing Codes Books for the Codes Department:

245-23-052 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hulchanski, to purchase Codes Books for the Codes Department in the amount of \$900.00.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve budget transfers and modifications:

246-23-007 MOTIOIN BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mrs. Van Der Water, to approve the following:

FROM:	A.7110.0407	EQUIPMENT RENTALS	\$ (40.00)
TO:	A.7110.0100	RECREATION WAGES	\$ 40.00
FROM:	A.9050.0800	UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ (540.00)
TO:	A.1620.0426	BUILDING SECURITY	\$ 540.00
FROM:	A.1110.0441	COURTS CONFERENCES	\$ (300.00)
TO:	A.1440.0440	ENGINEER TRAVEL	\$ 300.00
FROM:	A.5010.0404	HIGHWAY ADMIN GAS	\$ (3,500.00)
	A.1110.0441	COURTS CONFERENCES	\$ (3,000.00)
	A.1110.0443	COURT PUBLICATIONS	\$ (300.00)
TO:	A.5010.0100	HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT WAGES	\$ 6,800.00
FROM:	A.3120.0400	POLICE CONTRACTUAL	\$ (6,560.70)
TO:	A.9950.0900	TRANSFER TO CD FUND FOR PLAYGROUND GRANT	\$ 6,560.70
FROM:	SW20.0000.0909	FUND BALANCE	\$ (39.00)
TO:	SW20.8350.0407	FLORAL PARK STILES ROAD OCWA LEASE	\$ 39.00

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Appoint Recreation Supervisor:

247-23-038 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mr. Hulchanski, to appoint Selena Buckner as Recreation Supervisor effective January 2, 2024 at a rate of \$28.64 an hour.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Supervisor Comments:

Mr. Zaccaria thanked Mr. Tupper for his years of service to the town. He said he has learned a lot from Mr. Tupper's experience.

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments:

Mr. Tupper said he thinks he is leaving the Board in good hands and the town in good shape.

Mrs. Sullivan said the Canton Woods wreath sale fundraiser was successful. She said they will use some funds on landscaping the front of the building and adding park benches to the walking path.

Mrs. Sullivan said she is happy that the Baldwinsville Central School District will be able to provide free meals for all students after the 1st of the year.

Mrs. Sullivan said she attended the Planning Board meeting and the developer for the proposed Crego Farm development was given a list of items he needs to address before that Board will vote. She said the most critical is securing the ability to provide a right turn only lane at Crego and Downer Street.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mr. Tupper for his 28 years of service and wished him the best in his retirement.

Mr. Hulchanski said he has been amazed at the depth of Mr. Tupper's knowledge.

Ms. Lesniak told Mr. Tupper she will miss his counsel and guidance most.

Mrs. Van Der Water told Mr. Tupper he will be missed.

Mr. Grover said it has been nice working with you.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Foster thanked the negotiating committee for the contract, he said the crew does an outstanding job.

Mr. Foster said if anyone is interested, he is looking for part time plow wing operators.

Attorney Comments:

Ms. Bell said she has represented many municipalities and few are fortunate enough to have someone with the institutional knowledge that Mr. Tupper has brought to this Board. There are few with your sense of civic duty.

248-23-014 MOTION BY Mrs. Van Der Water, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:36 pm.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

249-23-014 MOTION BY Mrs. Van Der Water, seconded by Mr. Grover, to close the executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting at 8:15 pm.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

250-23-000 MOTION BY Mrs. Van Der Water, seconded by Mr. Grover, to adjourn to the Organizational Meeting on January 3, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mr. Hulchanski – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Mr. Zaccaria – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt

Town Clerk

Dated: 12/21/23

