

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

Mr. Roger Hand	Councilor
Mr. Robert Grover	Councilor
Mr. Michael Hulchanski	Councilor
Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water	Councilor
Ms. Darcie Lesniak	Councilor
Mr. Richard Zaccaria	Supervisor

Absent: Mrs. Jennifer Sullivan, Councilor

Also Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve Organizational Meeting Minutes:

015-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2024:

016-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hulchanski, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments:

Mr. Andy Bowes encouraged the Board to consider a traffic impact study for the construction vehicles if the proposed Crego development is approved.

Approve vouchers:

017-24-007 MOTION BY Mrs. Van Der Water, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve claims 231514, 231546, 231586, 231618-231619, 231624-231660, 231665-231673, 231687-231690, 231693-231699 in the amount of \$ 118586.97

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Public Hearing for Local Law A-2024 Amending Solar Regulations:

018-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hulchanski, seconded by Mrs. Van Der Water, to recess the regular meeting, open the public hearing and waive reading the legal notice published in *The Messenger* on January 10, 2024.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Mr. Kevin Bliss, RIC Energy, said he has given a letter to the Board members with his comments on this proposed local law. He is here tonight to show the Board a map of the wetlands in Van Buren and to explain that if this law is approved with the 1000 foot setback from wetlands for solar installation there will be no place solar is allowed.

He said every application will require a variance and it has been his experience that those are rarely approved.

Mr. Zaccaria said he thinks it is better to look at each project individually and asked what Mr. Bliss would consider an appropriate setback.

Mr. Bliss said it should depend on the quality of the wetland but the town could start with 100 feet since that is the standard in New York State.

Mrs. Van Der Water said she chaired the committee that worked on this proposed local law and she said she will contact him to discuss his concerns.

Mr. Ralph Mills, State Fair Blvd., said he read through the proposed local law and was pleased to see issues like decommissioning, insurance liability and other issues were addressed. He asked the board to also consider the financial benefits to the companies who propose building solar farms and ask them if the projects are still viable if the government incentives are removed.

Mr. Andy Bowes said there is no battery size listed on page 21 and asked the Board to consider specifying size.

Ms. Bell said that is intentionally left out of this proposed law because if created it will be separate law.

019-24-000 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mrs. Van Der Water, to close the public hearing and resume the regular meeting at 7:47 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Public Hearing for Local Law B-2024 a Moratorium on Smoke Shops:

020-24-000 MOTION BY Mrs. Van Der Water, seconded by Mr. Grover, to recess the regular meeting, open the public hearing and waive reading the legal notice published in *The Messenger* on January 10, 2024.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Mr. Andy Bowes said he appreciates the town considering this issue so that the laws are in place before the businesses. He said this will allow them all to be treated equitably. Mr. Bowes wanted to insure that advertising is included in the legislation.

Mr. Zaccaria asked if there was anyone to speak against this proposed local law. No one spoke.

021-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hulchanski, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to close the public hearing and resume the regular meeting at 7:50 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Direct budget officer to allocate \$2,000 to pay Usherwood for their Odyssey Examination:

022-24-007 MOTION BY Mr. Hulchanski, seconded by Mr. Hand, to direct the budget officer to allocate \$2,000 to pay Usherwood for their Odyssey Examination.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Comments:

Mrs. Van Der Water said smoke shops are new to the Board and we want to have a thoughtful discussion on them and how they may benefit the town.

Mr. Grover scheduled a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on January 31, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Foster said the jet rodder has been repaired and was used to install about ¾ of the new signage on Idlewood Boulevard to help alleviate the speeding cars. He said there are a couple signs that need to be delivered. He said the vendor has said the digital speed limit radar signs will be here around the end of February or beginning of March.

Engineer Comments:

Mr. Hoy said the state has released the new DEC stormwater permit and the coalition is going through the new regulations.

Attorney Comments: None

Town Clerk Comments:

Mrs. Precourt wanted to recognize and thank Theresa Golden, Assessor, for the work she did on correcting tax bills. There were two issues that resulted in hundreds of corrections and she went above and beyond for our residents, particularly for those with-

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mistakes on sewer charges from the County.

023-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mrs. Van Der Water, to adjourn to the next regular meeting on February 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt
Town Clerk

Dated: 1/18/24