

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on November 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

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

Absent: Mrs. Jennifer Sullivan, Councilor

Also Present:

Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. David Blaisdell	Highway Foreman
Ms. Linda Pease	Budget Officer
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2024:

212-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on October 16, 2024 as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments:

Mr. Jamie Rodems, Canton Woods Board of Directors Member, was present to address the Board. He said that the amount of money the towns contribute to the center has not changed in 12 years. He said at the time the center agreed to cover any costs above the budgeted amount but, with the recent hires requiring benefits, their budget has increased.

Mrs. Van Der Water said she has talked to officials from Lysander and the Village about the budget. She said they asked for the budget to be done by the end of September so we know what the numbers are and what is being requested. She said there is some concern about the \$160,000 the center has in reserves that is not being spent.

Mr. Rodems said the center is running around a \$30,000 deficit. If that money is used it will be gone quickly.

Ms. Lesniak said there needs to be a broad conversation with all entities involved.

Andy Bowes, 116 Hunter Drive, congratulated the Board on the election.

Mr. Bowes said he has been working with the Syracuse Urbanism Collective, a group of young people in the city who are discussing smart growth. He said they have brought in a lot of speakers for interesting discussions.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the town is in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan and hoping to start next year. She said she will be asking for members of the public to participate and hopes Mr. Bowes will participate.

Approve Vouchers:

213-24-007 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve claims 232882-232906, 232908-232924, 232938-232984, 232996 in the amount of \$193,934.32.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Budget Review presented by Darcie Lesniak, Deputy Supervisor:

Ms. Lesniak said the budget is a summary of funding that considers revenues and expenses as well as current trends and future needs.

Ms. Lesniak said the bulk of the revenues are from taxes but there are some non-property tax revenues such as snow plowing for the county, PILOT agreements, mortgage taxes, grants, court fines, land leases and shared services. The town anticipated revenues rising approximately \$98,000.00.

Ms. Lesniak said the major expenses are wages and benefits, which are 58% of the total expenses. Capital costs and consumables and debt make up the remainder.

Ms. Lesniak said the rate for the General Fund is \$1.52 per \$1000 assessed value, Part-Town is again zero and Highway Fund is \$1.85 per thousand. These rates are lower than last year and down approximately 15% over the last four years.

Public Hearing on 2025 Town and Special Districts Budget:

214-24-000 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mr. Grover, to recess the regular meeting, open the public hearing and waive reading the legal notice published in *The Messenger* on 10/30/24.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Mrs. Van Der Water asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the proposed budget. No one spoke.

Mrs. Van Der Water asked if there was anyone to speak against the proposed budget. No one spoke.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked the Department Heads for their work in making sure to account for all expenditures. She said this is a lean budget and she is proud of the work that went into creating it.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked Ms. Pease, Budget Officer, for her work creating this budget.

215-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Grover, to close the public hearing and resume the regular meeting at 7:24 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve 2025 Town and Special Districts Budgets:

216-24-007 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve the 2025 Town and Special Districts Budgets.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorize the Supervisor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with IUOE Local 158S to add the position of full time Deputy Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$30.00 an hour:

217-24-038 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with IUOE Local 158S to add the position of full time Deputy Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$30.00 an hour.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval to hire Mason White as Recreation Supervisor at the Parks Department starting on November 12, 2024 at a rate of pay of \$28.64:

218-24-038 MOTION BY Mr. Lesniak, seconded by Mr. Hand, to approve hiring Mason White as recreation Supervisor in the Parks Department starting November 12, 2024 at a rate of \$28.64 an hour.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments:

Mr. Hand congratulated Mrs. Van Der Water and Mr. Burke on their election success.

Supervisor Comments:

Mrs. Van Der Water received an update from Natalie Zaccaria, the OCRRA representative, and read the following:

As the appointee by the Town of Van Buren to the OCRRA Board of Directors, regularly attending monthly OCRRA Board meetings, I am providing an update on current OCRRA business that may impact the Town of Van Buren.

On September 11, 2024, resolution #2459 was adopted by the OCRRA Board, authorizing the OCRRA executive Director to enter into a contract with Barton & Loguidice Engineers of Syracuse, for the permit renewal of Site 31. The Brief and Resolution draft presented to the OCRRA Board for the September 11th meeting are attached. The resolution was adopted by a vote of eight to zero, with N. Zaccaria abstaining as a resident and appointee of Van Buren.

The resolution maintains the status quo of Site 31 in Van Buren as a potential landfill. The overall discussion at OCRRA and from its Executive Director is that there is no intention at this time of OCRRA pursuing the physical development of Site 31. The update and further development of Ley Creek continues to be in OCRRA's major long-term project. Other avenues being considered and pursued for increasing waste-management needs include expanding the use of the Town of Camillus' existing landfill (July 17 Board meeting minutes) and preliminary talks with other counties that may lead to future partnerships (ongoing Executive Director reports).

Mrs. Van Der Water said the Towns and Village received a grant for local waterfront revitalization. She said an advisory committee has been established and Mr. Hand and Ms. McMahon from the Planning Board have agreed to serve. She said this process will take about two years while they meet with consultants and they will update throughout the process.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Blaisdell said they have started putting up delineators for winter, if anyone wants them for their property they can contact the Highway Department.

Regular Town Board Meeting November 6, 2024

Mr. Blaisdell said no on street parking from 2:00 am to 6:00 am starts November 15th and ends April 15th.

Engineer Comments:

Mr. Hoy said the drainage project on the ballfields in the park is nearly done.

Attorney Comments: None

219-24-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Hand, to adjourn to the next Regular Meeting on November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt
Town Clerk

Dated: 11/7/24