

TOWN OF ULSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING (03)
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Public Hearings:

7:05pm – Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024, A Law Repealing Local Law 1 of 2020, Grievance Day of the Town of Ulster

7:10pm – Public Hearing for the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Timber Harvesting to Valerie and Wayne Marquino, SBL 39.16-1-3, 2150 Ulster Ave, Lake Katrine, NY (26 acres)

MEETING HELD IN PERSON

CALLED TO ORDER BY DEPUTY SUPERVISOR CLAYTON VAN KLEECK, at 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO OUR FLAG

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR ULSTER POLICE DETECTIVE WILLIAM (BILL) MOYLAN

ROLL CALL by Town Clerk, Suzanne Reavy:

TOWN COUNCILMAN CLAYTON VAN KLEECK
TOWN COUNCILMAN ROCCO SECRETO
TOWN COUNCILWOMAN MARYANN DEGROODT
TOWN COUNCILWOMAN ANNA HAYNER
SUPERVISOR JAMES E. QUIGLEY 3rd - *Excused*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Jason Kovacs, Town Attorney
2. Tosca Sweeney, Comptroller
3. Warren Tutt, Building Inspector
4. Chief Kyle Berardi, Ulster Police
5. Frank Petramale, Highway Superintendent
6. Vincent Maggiore, Wastewater Superintendent
7. Bill Kemble, Daily Freeman
8. Twelve+ In-Person Attendees

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ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA – None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

COMMUNICATIONS – Town Clerk reads letter from Kathryn Grace Hill, commending Officer Megan Sutton’s actions in helping a person in distress on the Rhinecliff Bridge. (Letter attached to minutes.)

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS AND TRANSFERS

Read by Councilwoman Hayner

Transfers: \$ 222,235.49 (2024-M-039)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGrootd

Town Councilwoman DeGrootd	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Budget Modification: \$ 201,554.92 (2024-M-040)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGrootd

Town Councilwoman DeGrootd	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

7:05pm – Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024, A Law Repealing Local Law 1 of 2020, Grievance Day of the Town of Ulster

Motion to Open Public Hearing (7:05 pm) (2024-M-041)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

No Comments

Motion to Close Public Hearing (7:06 pm) (2024-M-042)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner
SECOND: Councilman Secreto

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

New Business:

Presentation of Tax Collection Data to February 1, 2024

Reavy: Total warrant is \$19,417,000; total collected to date \$13,720,000, which is 70%; still need approximately \$932,000 to satisfy the town's portion of the warrant. Last year at this time, \$15,420,640 had been collected, approximately 1% more. The comptroller has been transferring funds to fund the different districts in the tax levy. The remaining districts include all fire districts and \$3.9 M to complete funding the general fund.

7:10pm – Public Hearing for the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Timber Harvesting to Valerie and Wayne Marquino, SBL 39.16-1-3, 2150 Ulster Ave, Lake Katrine, NY (26 acres)

Opening: Valerie & Wayne Marquino, property owners (brother and sister)

Location of property is northern town of Ulster, across from Bread Alone, east side of 9W.

Reason: To improve health and sustainability of forest and to assist them in paying taxes and insurance.

Currently Central Hudson and Verizon utility lines on property. 1964 – town of Ulster bought one acre to place a water tower; now an easement. Property has been vacant since 2007; property deteriorated; in 2017, building(s) demolished and debris removed.

Always had a positive relationship with the town, especially since the easement.

Wayne Marquino presents information from their handout/Power Point presentation (attached).

- 10% (345) of trees to be removed over 18 acres.
- Pine, oak, hemlock trees marked by a certified forester for timber.
- Benefits of selective logging: allows more light and faster regeneration; enhances wildlife; leaves mature trees; remaining trees to seed the vacant areas.
- They are within existing zoned use of land.
- Thanks the public and Ms. Reavy.

TOWN OF ULSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING (03)
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Motion to Open Public Hearing (7:16 pm) (2024-M-043)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto

SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Public Comment

1. Vicki Lucarini, town resident

Thank you for presentation. Answered most of her questions. More questions –

- How much time will it take?
- How many trucks?
- How will this affect traffic on Rt. 9W? Noise?

Town should consider the birds. One quarter of birds have disappeared since 1970, most due to habitat loss/human altered landscape.

Notes the recent example of the airport wanting to remove trees and that they would plant trees in another place. Town should consider this as a requirement. There are grants.

2. Laura Hartmann, town resident

Thank you for informative presentation. Understands “why”. Town should have a policy to replace the trees. Not insensitive to need for money to pay the taxes. Perhaps use some of that money to replace the trees.

3. Wayne Marquino

There will be 25 lumber trucks. A flagman may be used for safety. Duration is 4-5 weeks of pulling lumber out. Total longer than that. Limited to work between December 1 and March due to the bat species. Regarding bird population, we are leaving a large border. Will investigate specific programs available for active/aggressive replanting.

Warren Tutt: He is accurate regarding the time frame (November-March) because of the bats.

Deputy Supervisor: We will accept written comments on this public hearing for 30 days.

TOWN OF ULSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING (03)
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Motion to Close Public Hearing (7:30 pm) (2024-M-044)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner
SECOND: Councilman Secreto

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Presentation and Acceptance of Monthly Supervisor's Report for the Month of December 2023 (2024-M-045)

MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGroot

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Presentation of Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies per Section 284 of the New York State Highway Law (2024-M-046)

Standard annual requirement for the highway department superintendent to state how money will be spent. Can be flexible and amended.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGroot

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FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Motion to Authorized Highway Dept. to remove the wooden fence from Town Property along Grant Ave. and properly dispose of the debris (2024-M-047)

Deputy Supervisor: Fence around Lake Katrine apartments, placed there by Edgewater Development before Grant Avenue; a private agreement to place fence between landowner and developer. Owners have changed, Grant Ave is now a town road. Fence appears to be on the town's right of way. Highway department will remove the fence and property owners will appreciate it. Town attorney will draw up paperwork for this removal.

MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Motion to declare Surplus one 2001 John Deere 624H loader, VIN DW624HX581361 and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to auction with Auction International and also authorize the Highway Superintendent to accept the bids (2024-M-048)

MOTION: Councilwoman DeGroot
SECOND: Councilman Secreto

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Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase one 2024 930M Caterpillar Loader from HO Penn Machinery Inc. under NYS Bid PC69406, NJPA/Sourcewell CAT-032119 not to exceed \$266,700.00 (2024-M-049)

Deputy Supervisor: New loader to the highway department. Old highway department loader to the transfer station. Fits within the ten year plan.

MOTION: Councilman Secreto

SECOND: Councilwoman Hayner

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Motion to authorize the Purchase of Two Dodge Durango Police Packages from Tasca Motors und NYS Contract #PC-70310 for a price not to exceed \$38,600.00 each (2024-M-050)

Deputy Supervisor: Could not get vehicles during shortage. Currently possess two hybrids that are causing trouble and we are circulating them out. Opportunity to purchase two Durangos at cost less than the last three purchases. We will get ahead of our inventory schedule so that vehicles do not age out at the same time.

Chief Berardi: To auction off the two hybrids. Good amount of money to be obtained on used vehicles.

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MOTION: Councilman Secreto
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGroot

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Old Business:

Motion to set a Public Hearing for Local Law __ of 2024: Providing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law Sec. 466-a, for February 15, 2024, at 7:10pm (2024-M-051)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner
SECOND: Councilwoman DeGroot

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

TOWN OF ULSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING (03)
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Deputy Supervisor: Speaks about “Alexis de Tocqueville”, a Frenchman who spoke about US government, the demonstration of democracy at the local town level, and how participation in government is very important. Public comment periods in our meetings are important, and as you go higher in government, there is less opportunity to speak at meetings.

2. Eileen Murphy, town resident
Thanks Clayton for introduction. Speaks about the “house of worship” on Memorial Drive, and its impact on traffic on Quail Drive. Reads from prepared material (attached).

3. Regis Obijiski, town resident
Also appreciates Alexis de Tocqueville. Regarding Eileen’s comments, there will be a petition circulated around the Fox Run neighborhood/area. Traffic on Quail Drive is an old issue. Cars for church services create a significant number. Since the discussion of chaining off Quail Drive, we still think it is a good idea. Traffic comes down the one-way road.

MOTION to adjourn (7:49 pm) (2024-M-052)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hayner

SECOND: Councilwoman DeGroot

Town Councilwoman DeGroot	-Yes
Town Councilwoman Hayner	-Yes
Town Councilman Secreto	-Yes
Town Councilman Van Kleeck	-Yes
Supervisor Quigley	-Excused

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by Suzanne Reavy
Ulster Town Clerk



Suzanne Reavy <sreavy@townofulster.ny.gov>

Public comment 2/1/24

3 messages

Eileen Murphy <eileenm0223@aol.com>
To: Suzanne Reavy <sreavy@townofulster.ny.gov>

Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 6:01 PM

Good afternoon Suzy,
I hope this email finds you well.
I would like to speak during public comment tonight at the board meeting. I'm sending it to you so it is part of the record and can be seen by the supervisor and other council persons.
Please see below.

Good evening. My name is Eileen Murphy . I reside at 114 Quail Drive in the town of Ulster.

I am reflecting on decisions made by elected officials and how their voices on issues that concern the citizens and the environment, travel across town lines.

For example, our town of Ulster Supervisor Quigley has kept his concerns about the asphalt plant coming to the town of Kingston , and promises made regarding the tons of supply's coming to the plant via Rt 28 and going out. He has spoken out about these concerns per a daily Freeman article dated 1.21.24 by William Kemble.

He says "the material may contradict information provided by the Ulster highway superintendent."

As an elected official, he speaks on the impact this has on his (our) town. As a resident of the town of Ulster, I appreciate this watchdog activism.

In addition, there is a Mega-trucking warehouse being planned for the town of Plattekill. Numerous letters to the editor in the 1/24/24 edition of the Hudson Valley One publication, have expressed concern about how this business will impact the towns of Gardiner, New Paltz, and Modena. Though the town of Ulster is not in their backyard.. they too are citizens of Ulster County and our town , Ulster, was mentioned as an example of how to re- purpose vacant properties with businesses such as iPark87.

Town of Ulster elected officials along with then county executive Pat Ryan, invited these businesses versus operations like a plastic bottled water company to fill the tech city space.

In closing, I'll add that the impact of the choices to build properties in our own backyards, specifically the house of worship on Memorial Drive will not bring trucks with 30, 000 tons of material as with the Asphalt plant, but the residents of Quail Drive have already seen an increase of cars and broken traffic laws that have been unenforced creating 'tons' of unsafe travel for the residents and young families who have recently arrived.

To that end, we the residents of Quail are , like our supervisor has demonstrated , preparing a petition as an effort to model good citizen behavior with our own version of 'watch dog activism' soon to be presented at a yet undisclosed date at a town board meeting.

Thank you for your time. I have sent this to our clerk for your records and your review.

Eileen Murphy

Sent from my iPhone

Suzanne Reavy <sreavy@townofulster.ny.gov> Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 7:47 PM
To: Anna Hayner <ahayner@townofulster.ny.gov>, Clayton VanKleeck <claytonvk@townofulster.ny.gov>, Maryann DeGroot <maryannnd@townofulster.ny.gov>, Rocco Secreto <roccosecreto14@gmail.com>, Town of Ulster Supervisor TOU <ulstersupervisor@townofulster.ny.gov>

I did not see this prior to the meeting, as she sent it after 6 pm.

Suzanne Reavy, RMC, CTO

Town of Ulster Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar

1 Town Hall Drive

Lake Katrine, NY 12449

845-382-2455

TOWN WEBSITE: <http://townofulster.ny.gov>

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Rocco Secreto <roccosecreto14@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 2, 2024 at 10:13 AM

To: Suzanne Reavy <sreavy@townofulster.ny.gov>

Cc: Anna Hayner <ahayner@townofulster.ny.gov>, Clayton VanKleeck <claytonvk@townofulster.ny.gov>, Maryann DeGroot <maryannnd@townofulster.ny.gov>, Town of Ulster Supervisor TOU <ulstersupervisor@townofulster.ny.gov>

Ok, thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]