

DRAFT- TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town of Ulysses

Sept. 24, 2024

The meeting was held in person at the Town Hall at 10 Elm St., Trumansburg NY as well as via Zoom videoconference. Notice of Town Board meetings are posted on the Town's website and Clerk's board.

Video recordings of meetings are available on Youtube at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWVIs--q9CpHlxdk9YxZyPw>.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ATTENDANCE:

TOWN OFFICIALS:

In person-

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

Board members- Mary Bouchard, Liz Weatherby, Rich Goldman, Michael Boggs

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Town Bookkeeper/Budget Officer- Blixxy Taetzsch

Youth Development Supervisor- Rachel Kennedy

Youth Development Staff- Zak Kozlowski

Via Zoom-

Planning Board chair- Karl Klankowski

CSAC chair; WSPPC & CPSC member- Roxanne Marino

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion:

Mr. Boggs moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Goldman and passed unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

none

PRESENTATION: Youth Services

Ms. Kennedy gave an update on the following:

Youth Employment Program (YEP):

- Summer 2024 highlights:
 - o 15 teens hired, aged 14-17
 - o 29 applicants total- couldn't hire all due to the youth employment budget
 - o Those who weren't hired were referred to TC Workforce Development
 - o Site placements include Jenny Creek Flowers, Jojo Cooks, Library, nursery school and more
- Plans for future:
 - o job fair

- o collaborating with Learning Web & TC Workforce Development
- o trying to support kids who would not be able to get a job on own otherwise
- o exit interviews

Civics program info:

- sessions held fall 2023 and spring 2024
- encourages employment readiness + civic engagement
- develop youth feedback and voice for Comp Plan
- Improvements for this year- students initiate own program using Kingian non-violence
- feeds into New NYS Seal of Civics Readiness diploma program

College tours

- will visit 2 & 4-yr schools in 90 mile radius
- 6 tours with more intimate groups of kids for a more personal experience
- kids that might not have access to these visits otherwise
- some may be 1st in family to go to college
- CCC visit next week
- going into classes at school to pitch program

The group discussed target audiences and how to measure success.

Mr. Kozlowski shared information on the following programs starting this week for middle-schoolers:

- Youth Cross-Country
 - o 3rd-6th graders
 - o Fun for both kids who don't necessarily want structured sports along with more serious runners
- Outdoors Club
 - o 10 kids signed up + waitlist
 - o Posters and presentations at the school to recruit
 - o Wild foods, epic games, ropes
- Time spent talking with parents on the phone to explain what programs are- marketing different to parents vs kids
- Getting to know kids leads to return participants
- Considering how to get testimonials from parents on what was noticed in the kids during and after participation

Ms. Kennedy suggested that it may be worthwhile to have programs for 3rd & 4th graders who aren't interested in the musical or sports.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN COURT CONSOLIDATION - UPDATE

Ms. Olson noted that the town passed a resolution on consolidation subject to permissive referendum. The deadline passed without any petitions received to put the issue in the ballot. Due to

timelines with the Board of Elections, a candidate will still be on the ballot even though the town has abolished the position.

NEW BUSINESS

TENTATIVE 2025 BUDGET

Ms. Parlato officially presented the 2025 Tentative Budget to the board.
Ms. Taetzsch said that this budget currently goes above the tax cap by about ~\$32,000.

Ms. Olson noted that EMS revenue billing is down by about 30%. A new billing company may help with this by with doing more follow up to collect funds although the town will need to consider how aggressive to be.

Ms. Taetzsch added that EMS revenue in the last few years included appropriated fund balance.

Further discussion:

Property tax:

- WD3 taxes going down due to debt being paid off but putting some money into reserves

Fund balance

- Risky to use a lot at once
- Using FB to fund operations which is not a best practice
- Need some additional long term financial planning

The board discussed how much fund balance was appropriate to use and what the town’s policy allows.

Discussion of DA fund:

- Machinery, snow removal, staff, benefits, small addition to reserves
- Will start tracking overtime in a separate line this year
- DA2665 revenue

2025-2026 ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION #148 OF 2024: ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses is required to provide animal control services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Animal Control Services Agreement, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board directs the Town Clerk to submit the signed contract to the SPCA.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson aye
Boggs aye

Bouchard aye
Goldman aye
Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/24/24

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE (CPSC) PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN (PIP) AND WEBSITE

Ms. Weatherby shared that the CPSC desires to create a website specific to the project that is more interactive and has capabilities than our current website.

RESOLUTION # 149 OF 2024: AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT WEBSITE AND UTILIZE WEB APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses in undertaking a comprehensive plan process and is committed to engaging and soliciting public opinions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses has a Social Media Policy (established in 2023 and affirmed by the Town Board in January 2024) that is intended to direct official Town actions related to websites and social media, with a priority on providing information to the public and not engaging in the creation of a public forum; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses Comprehensive Plan Committee would like MRB Group, the consultant hired by the Town of Ulysses to guide the Comprehensive Plan process, to host a website for the purposes of sharing publicly available information and enabling web applications to solicit and engage public feedback on Comprehensive Plan topics; and

WHEREAS, while the collecting of public opinions is not expressly permitted in the Social Media Policy, the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan prioritizes gathering and collecting public comments and this can be achieved through a standalone website and web applications that do not create a public forum in violation of the Social Media Policy; and

WHEREAS, it is more efficient and financially prudent for this work to be accomplished by a third-party vendor under an existing contract than by Town staff on the current website;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes MRB Group, overseen by the Town Planner and the Town of Ulysses Comprehensive Plan Committee, to create a standalone website for engagement on the Comprehensive Plan process and utilize web applications that collect public opinions and solicit information, with the following conditions:

1. The Town's Communications Manager shall either review or designate someone to review the material posted to the MRB website and the web application content to ensure compliance with the resolution, and any violations or concerns regarding these materials shall be promptly addressed with MRB Group and edited or removed as necessary.

2. The independent website shall identify that it is approved by the Town of Ulysses and clearly identify that it is part of the Comprehensive Plan process. This language will be approved by the Town's Communication Manager or designee.
3. The website is subject to records retention requirements by New York State and the Town of Ulysses, and the Records Manager is directed to ensure a process whereby these records are collected and saved as required by law.
4. All information posted to the website shall be public information (reports, data, educational information) and is not editorializing on the part of either Town officials, members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, MRB Group or their affiliates.
5. All web applications utilized will be for collecting information from the public as part of the Comprehensive Plan process and will not be used in such a way that creates a back-and-forth dialogue between members of the public (i.e. public forum).

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ulysses recognizes the Social Media Policy and approves this unique deviation for the purposes of fulfilling its essential responsibility of engaging public feedback as part of the Comprehensive Planning process.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/24/24

RESOLUTION # 150 OF 2024: ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF ULYSSES' PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN (PIP)

RESOLVED, the Ulysses Town Board adopts the Public Information Plan (PIP), which was developed and reviewed by the Town of Ulysses Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/24/24

NEW BUSINESS continued:

BUDGET:

A FUND:

Rec budget:

- Program funded in conjunction with Tompkins County, United Way, and Village of Trumansburg
- Mr. Goldman inquired about the net funding vs. expenses for the program
- Ms. Olson said that the town is providing the program cheaper than when CCE did
- Discussion of program and taxpayer costs and how to quantify

Other lines:

- Money budgeted for Camp Barton transition that will be recouped in time
- Recommended investments in IT

B fund discussion will take place at Oct. 8 mtg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8 – Regular Town Board meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall

October 9 – Public Meeting on Preliminary Design of the Curry Road Bridge (possibly a special Town Board meeting if a quorum is present), 5:30-6:30pm @ Town Hall

October 22 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION #151 of 2024: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approves the meeting minutes, as amended:

- 8/13/24 Regular Meeting
- 8/21/24 Special Meeting
- 9/9/24 Special Meeting
- 9/10/25 Regular Meeting
- 9/11/24 Special Meeting
- 9/12/24 Special Meeting

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 9/24/24

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 min limit per person):

Ms. Marino followed up on water testing results, noting that it is a part of the Water Source Protection Plan that is currently being developed.

At this time, the Zoom was accidentally disabled and Ms. Marino could not reconnect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Goldman moved to go into Executive Session at 9:34pm for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby and passed unanimously.

Mr. Goldman, moved to end Executive Session at 9:37pm. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 9:38pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk
10/3/24*

APPENDIX:

On the following pages, please find: