

DRAFT- TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town of Ulysses

Nov. 12, 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 7:13pm.

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- Blix Taetzsch

WSPPC (Water Source Protection Plan Committee) member & CSAC (Conservation & Sustainability Advisory Committee) chair- Roxanne Marino

Via Zoom-

WSPPC chair and Planning Board member- Linda Liddle

OTHERS:

Via Zoom-

Nancy, Anne Koreman

In person-

Burke Carson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion:

Mr. Boggs moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a resolution to approve submission to NYSEDA for funding. This was seconded by Ms. Weatherby and passed unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (3 minutes per person):

Mr. Carson of Willow Point Rd presented a petition signed by (primarily) lakeshore residents demanding action against Cargill for illegal mining in the town. He said that attempts toward getting the NYS DEC to take action have not been productive. He expressed concern at the chance of catastrophic damage should the brine storage seep into Cayuga Lake and requested that the Ulysses Town Board should direct an inquiry and conduct a hearing.

Nancy spoke, saying that she applauds taking action against Cargill.

MUNICIPAL BOARD & STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Koreman shared the following updates:

- Sept. sales tax is down a bit
- The new County Administrator will start in Jan.
- Working on budget- the tentative has been finalized with a tax increase \$130 for \$249k home
- Following brush fires in Lansing and drought conditions/lack of rain, a burn ban was put in place on 11/2 for 30 days
- Renovations are happening for Key Bank to become a code blue shelter. Homeless persons will be housed at hotels (when temperatures are below freezing) until the shelter is completed

Committee reports:

Ms. Marino gave the following updates:

- CSAC discussed the letter to DEC that the board will discuss this evening
- The committee will have a joint meeting with the CPSC

Ms. Liddle shared the following updates:

- WSPPC meets next week and hopefully will have final well-testing report
- Will participate in a workshop in new year by RCAP and NYSBOH to educate the public on well-water and septic mgmt.
- Hope to have a WSPP by the end of this year

Ms. Weatherby said that the CPSC (Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee) will hold a focus group this Friday and would like to schedule a visioning workshop with the Town Board in Dec.

Ms. Olson gave the following updates:

- Youth Commission discussed how best to fill Zak's position and talked about the many youth who hang out at the library
- The final walkthrough for Camp Barton is tomorrow so the official change of hands is imminent.

Ms. Olson suggested that the board take up the DEC letter at this time.

APPROVAL OF LETTER TO NY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION REGARDING SALT MINE PERMITTING

Ms. Olson said that the Attorney for the Town said that the town cannot upzone- i.e., town zoning laws do not apply to governments above it (like the county or the state). She added that the DEC will be making a determination soon. The letter requests that Cargill be subjected to a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the town being able to weigh in as a concerned neighbor. Ms. Olson noted that the Attorney for the Town made slight amendments to the letter.

RESOLUTION # 164 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF LETTER TO NY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION REGARDING SALT MINE PERMITTING

WHEREAS, New York State owns Cayuga Lake, which is a vital natural resource within the Town of Ulysses, and New York has historically permitted underground salt mining in the land beneath Cayuga Lake within the boundaries of the Town of Ulysses; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses has a substantial vested interest in the ecological health of Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses has significant concerns about the safety of the salt mining and brine storage under Cayuga Lake, which is currently under review by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); and

WHEREAS, the DEC has not consulted the Town of Ulysses on its current review and permitting process of the salt mines; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Committee drafted and endorsed a letter on October 24, 2024 that requests, among other points, that the Town is included as part of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board adopts the letter as presented and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign it, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to submit the letter to the NY Department of Environmental Conservation and all of the additional individuals/agencies cc'ed within the letter.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Goldman

Olson	aye
Boggs	nay
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 4-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

OLD BUSINESS:

ESTABLISHMENT OF BID OPENING DATE PROCESS FOR THE PARKING LOT PROJECT (CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR TOWN OF ULYSSES TOWN HALL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NO.1. – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION)

RESOLUTION #165 OF 2024: ESTABLISHMENT OF BID OPENING DATE PROCESS FOR THE PARKING LOT PROJECT (CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR TOWN OF ULYSSES TOWN HALL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NO.1. – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION)

WHEREAS, advertisement for bids the Parking Lot project, known as the **Contract Documents for Town of Ulysses Town Hall Parking Lot Improvements Contract No.1. – General Construction**, has been posted per Town Procurement Policy and New York State law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board sets a public bid opening date of December 4, 2024 at 1:00pm at Ulysses Town Hall; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Clerk will advertise the bid opening in adherence to New York State law and relevant New York State Executive Orders regarding public meetings; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board designates the Town Clerk or the Second Deputy Supervisor to open and read out the bids at the December 4, 2024 public meeting.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FOR RECENTLY ELECTED TOWN JUSTICE

RESOLUTION #166 OF 2024: MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FOR RECENTLY ELECTED TOWN JUSTICE

WHEREAS, Mr. Harvey Shapiro was elected on November 5, 2024 for a Town Court Justice position; and

WHEREAS, the Town adopted Local Law #2 of 2024 that consolidated the Ulysses Town Court from two justice position and reduced them to one effective January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the position to which Mr. Shapiro was elected will not exist effective January 1, 2025, meaning that Mr. Shapiro will be unable to hold office; and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Elections was provided by a certified resolution on the court consolidation by the Town Clerk in advance of the election, and acknowledged to the Town Supervisor that they were aware of the court consolidation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to send a note of appreciation to Mr. Shapiro for his willingness to have served in this position and thank him for his participation in the democratic process.

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

ROXANNE- NYSERDA FUNDING

Ms. Marino shared that the town has qualified for \$100K through the Clean Energy Communities program and will need to submit its plans for spending the funds sooner than anticipated.

She proposed that additional solar panels for highway will be the fastest and easiest project. Battery storage is also a possibility.

Ms. Olson asked whether there were financial estimates on the cost of the panels. Ms. Marino said that they would only get as many panels as was covered by the grant.

Ms. Marino added that said that the town will have 3 years to complete the project once it is approved, and the town needs to cover 75% of the total and then be reimbursed for the full amount. The town's solar panel lease ends in 2026. The highway department could consider ground solar mount panels as well.

The Ms. Olson said that the town needs to consider whether it will be better to extend the lease with current panels or consider newer ones, as well as battery storage.

RESOLUTION #167 OF 2024: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR NYSERDA CEC FUNDING

Whereas the town is pending authorization to be eligible got \$100,000 in funding through NYSERDA; and

Whereas Ms. Marino, Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force chair, working with the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Coordinator has worked with staff to develop a draft proposal of funding ideas; and

Whereas it is a benefit to the town to move expeditiously to apply for funding once notice of eligibility is received;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Ulysses Town Board authorizes Ms. Marino CSC Task Force chair to work with the CEC Coordinator to submit funding on behalf of the town.

Moved: Mr. Goldman

Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF ULYSSES, NEW YORK AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 317, JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2027

Ms. Olson noted that this contract will result in changes to the personnel policy- mainly the chart illustrating retirement benefits.

RESOLUTION #168 OF 2024: APPROVAL OF LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF ULYSSES, NEW YORK AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 317, JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2027

WHEREAS, the employees of the Town of Ulysses Department of Public Works, formerly the Highway Department, voted to affiliate with the Teamsters and form Local Union 317; and

WHEREAS, the current labor agreement will expire on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Town Supervisor Katelin Olson and Deputy Town Supervisor Rich Goldman were appointed at the January 4, 2024 Organizational Meeting as the Town Board's representatives to negotiate a new contract; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Budget Officer conducted a wage study of comparable positions throughout Tompkins County and the wages in the contract are in keeping with other municipalities in the area; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Olson and Deputy Supervisor Goldman presented draft proposals in multiple executive sessions held during Town Board meetings in order to receive feedback from all Town Board members; and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town appreciates and values the members of Teamsters Local Union 317;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approves the Labor Agreement between Town of Ulysses, New York and Teamsters Local Union 317, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027.

Moved: Mr. Goldman

Seconded: Ms. Bouchard

Olson	aye
Boggs	aye
Bouchard	aye
Goldman	aye
Weatherby	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

SCHEDULING DATE OF 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

RESOLUTION # 169 OF 2024: SCHEDULING DATE OF 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board sets January 9, 2025 at 8:15am for the 2025 Organizational Meeting.

Moved: Mr. Goldman

Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 27 and 28 – Town Buildings Closed for Thanksgiving

December 10 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 7pm @ Town Hall

PAYMENT OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

RESOLUTION #170 of 2024: PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED that the Town board approves payment of the following audited claims:

- Vouchers #514-563 in A-SW funds totaling \$252,419.48
- Voucher #5 in the HA fund for \$3009.00

Moved: Ms. Olson

Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION #171 of 2024: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approve the meeting minutes October 22, 2024 (regular meeting) and the November 6, 2024 (special meeting) as amended.

Moved: Mr. Boggs

Seconded: Ms. Weatherby

Olson aye

Boggs aye

Bouchard aye

Goldman aye

Weatherby aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 11/12/24

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

Ms. Marino thank for entertaining the motion on short notice. She will submit and follow up.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 8:23pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk
12/4/24

APPENDIX: