

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 DIGITAL/HYBRID MEETING 6:30pm
TOWN BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO FLAG- Stated by each Town Board Member
2. ROLL CALL

	Present	Zoom	Absent
Supervisor John C. Reilly	x		
Council-member Nichole Martini	x		
Council-member Pat Odell		x	
Council-member Eric Mortenson	x		
Council-member John Fraser Paterson	x		

MONTHLY THOUGHT:

“Dissents speak to a future age. It's not simply to say, ‘my colleagues are wrong and I would do it this way, but the greatest dissents do become court opinions”

In every good marriage, it pays sometimes to be a little deaf, It works on the Supreme Court, too."

The Notorious RBG

NEW BUSINESS SECTION 2020

1. Discussion-Hybrid plans for future meetings. The board will check into technology to set up the meeting room for digital meetings. For the foreseeable future board meetings will be a mix of zoom and limited in person attendance.

2. Update Town Solar projects- nearing 70+ sign ups for solar farm project. Nearing goal of 100 sign ups. Another check mark for future grants when available.

3. Speed postings - resolution for first 25% of un posted town roads
 Resolution 2020-33

The Town Board Resolves to request a speed limit reduction on the following Gallatin Town Roads.

Camp Road, Beaver Road, Skiba Road, McNeil Road, Barnett Road, Green Hill Road, Church Road, Sigler Road

Motion Councilman Mortenson Second Councilman Paterson

Vote 5 Yes 0 No

4. The Board discussed safe placement of lawn signs to include campaign signs and heard the complaints of residents whose campaign signs were stolen or damaged. Gallatin Resident Deputy Kilmer will interview all residents that have had sign issues. Theft of signs is considered Petit Larceny. Gallatin Democratic Committee Chairman Harry Franklin-reported the theft to the authorities. Councilman Paterson contacted the Republican committee to express his concern; and stated that no one in the town of Gallatin should be intimidated in their support of a candidate. County Rte. 11 residents recounted their experience to the Town Board on witnessing signs run over and damaged.

Gallatin Zoning Law states:

Temporary signs no larger than two (2) feet by two (2) feet pertaining to and displayed during campaigns, drives, or events of civic, philanthropic, educational or religious institutions, provided such signs are installed not more than thirty (30) days prior to the event and are removed not later than one (1) week after the event.

Councilwoman Odell introduced Resolution 2020-34

The Gallatin Town Council understands and respects the differences of opinions of Gallatin residents regarding political candidates and causes during this time. The Gallatin Town Council along with the Democratic and Republican Town Committees do not condone the theft or defacement of political signs on private property that were placed with the permission of the property owners. We strongly urge our residents to respect each other's First Amendment rights, and to refrain from trespassing on private property to commit acts of theft and vandalism.

Motion CW Odell CM Mortenson

Vote 5 Yes 0 No

5. Add to the Gallatin Comp Plan/Zoning review- Solar Farm and Short Term Rental Regulations.

Only 5% of town has access to 3 phase power which would limit larger solar projects. The Town will follow The Town of Copake and Town of Chatham progress and regulations on the proposed large scale solar farm and Short Term Rentals. Copake is zoning for future projects and proactively overruled solar farm tax exemption and tax large projects.

- A. Copake proposed zoning changes as a preemptive action to large scale Solar projects, understanding State presumptive powers.
- B. Copake Local Law taxing solar farms-local law over riding exemption.
- C. Chatham Short Term Rental Law- Draft attached-fee for annual registration fund compliance, local contact for emergencies and complaints.

6. **Gallatin Budget 2021 Review** - Worksheet attached

Supervisor Reilly explained the revenue decreases for 2020 and expected decrease for 2021. CHIP's reimbursements are reduced by 20%. Sales tax is down 12% Court revenue is trending 30-35,000 below budget. Town fees are up slightly. The highway hourly employees will receive a \$1.00/hr. increase; the working foreman will receive \$1.50.

Public Hearing for the 2021 budget will be 6:30 October 20.

The State released the Fiscal Stress scores, Gallatin's fiscal stress score is 3.3 points out of 100 total points, indicating no designation of Fiscal Stress, worksheet attached.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS (Email/Zoom Comment)

A question was raised on why there is a variety of speed limits on the same road. The posting of speed limits and distance between signs is determined by New York State DOT regulations. Slower speeds posted with yellow signs are suggested speeds.

MONTHLY BUSINESS SECTION

1. Review of August 2020 Minutes for Errors/Clarifications **Resolution 2020-35-Approve August 2020 Meeting Minutes and posting of any completed Committee minutes.**
Motion CM Mortenson second CW Martini
2. Bill Review of Non-Recurring items- **Resolution 2020-36 to approve August 2020 bills (done by digital abstract review) for payment.**
Motion CW Martini Second CM Mortenson
3. Highway Superintendent Comments/Report- Read and filed.
Final roadside mowing for the year is being done to improve site distance.
Resident complaint concerning loose stone on Snyderville Rd, signage was installed warning motorists to exercise caution due to loose stone on the newly laid oil and stone.
Further ongoing improvement of the permanent lines on Sigler Road
4. Comments of Code Enforcement Officer: Read and filed
5. Clerk Reports: Read and filed
6. Assessor Comments
7. Supervisors report - update on County matters as applicable.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON OLD BUSINESS (Email/Zoom/Live Comment)

MEETING ADJOURNED BY RESOLUTION OF THE GALLATIN TOWN BOARD