

**MINUTES
 SPRING MAY, 2020 DIGITAL MEETING
 TOWN BOARD MEETING**

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

	REVIEW	COMMENT	
Supervisor John C. Reilly	√		
Council-member Nichole Martini	√		
Council-member Pat Odell	√		
Council-member Eric Mortenson	√		
Council-member John Fraser Paterson	√		

MONTHLY THOUGHTS:

There are more things ... likely to frighten us than there are to crush us - Seneca.

When written in Chinese, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity - John F. Kennedy

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts -Abraham Lincoln

NEW BUSINESS SECTION 2020

1. Approve permanent hiring of Joseph Sassu (Highway) and Lonnie Vater (Court)

Resolution 2020-10 to approve two Town permanent employees.

Motion CM Paterson Second CM Odell

YES_5__ NO__0__

2. Approve Budget adjustments from 2019 to account for additional sales tax revenue and transfer expense lines to balance inter-account shortfalls and over funding amounts. See attached sheet.

Resolution 2020-11 to approve 2019 budget adjustments

Motion CM Mortenson Second CM Martini

YES_5__ NO__0__

3. The Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Committee will be delayed as the schedule is dependent on public hearings that encourage large public participation. The Grant will allow for a longer term schedule and the Planner's contract can be reworked to allow for a longer term. The Supervisor proposes a suspension of the Committee meetings until June 1, 2020 and public hearings starting in August 2020 at the earliest.

Resolution 2020-12 to approve delay of Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Law update.

Motion CM Martini Second CM Odell

YES_5__ NO__0__

4. The Budget Officer recommends to the Town Board to reduce the Town surplus cash flow reserve from the prior \$250,000 level to \$200,000 for the year 2020 to account for sporadic revenue generation and the current use of the fund in the first quarter of 2020.

Resolution 2020-13 to approve decrease in unallocated cash reserve to minimum of \$200,000 from \$250,000.

Motion CM Odell Second CM Martini

YES__5_ NO__0__

5. The Budget Officer recommends to the Town Board to reduce the Town Capital Improvements Reserve by \$50,000 and the Highway Equipment Reserve by \$50,000 to establish a "Covid-19 2020 Emergency Reserve" to account for expected sales tax and court revenue shortfalls. The Highway Equipment Reserve would be replenished first, followed by the unallocated cash limit and then finally the Capital Improvements Reserve from any unexpected funding in 2020-2021. This Covid-19 Reserve Fund will sunset 12/31/2020 and the funds dispersed back together sources as detailed above unless extended by the Town Board.

Resolution 2020-14 to approve decreases in two reserves and establish a Covid-19 emergency reserve as detailed above.

Motion CM Mortenson Second CM Martini

YES__5_ No 0

Establishing this fund will enable the town to track any Covid-19 expenses for potential reimbursement.

6. The Supervisor proposes to disband the Town Community Center Committee feasibility committee for 2020 as the project is heavily reliant on state congressional commitments and private donations, the former of which is expected to be eliminated in the state budget amendments and the latter is not feasible for the near future. The Town Board thanks Chairman Mike Moran and the committee for the valuable work to date gathering input from the Town on the project options and feasibility.

Resolution 2020-15 the Town resolves to disband the Town Community Center Committee in light of State/Town budgeting realities due to Covid-19 crisis. The committee will forward all research to date to the Town Board to review and forward same information to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for August restart.

Motion CM Paterson Second CM Odell

YES_5__ NO_0__

7. The Budget Officer recommends that the Town Board and Highway Superintendent set up a provisional Highway 284 plan for 2020 to account for any unanticipated shortfalls in revenue and CHIPS funding. As a contingency, the Highway Superintendent and Town Board agree to shift budgeted road repairs and improvements (toppings) to roads that can fit the criteria for one layer oil/chip toppings. The Highway Superintendent recommends review of Pond and Snyderville Roads which combined will equal 3.85+ miles of topping for 2020 which combined with the elimination of a short section of Sigler Road related to the 2020 improvements, will account for meeting the annual 4 mile goal of repair and topping.

Resolution 2020-16 to amend the Highway 284 Plan for 2020 for Covid-19 flexibility.

Motion CM Mortenson Second CM Martini

YES_5__ NO_0__

8. The Supervisor proposes to repurpose the Bank of Greene County \$750 Grant from site planning at the Conservation Parcel to a Town Hall permanent Food Pantry establishment in 2020-2021. The Grant will be used in planning a permanent pantry or, in the alternative, a historic artifact storage cabinet at the Town Hall.

Resolution 2020-17 to repurpose a grant as detailed above.

Motion CM Odell Second CM Martini

YES_5__ NO_0__

9. The Supervisor proposes that The Town Board finalize the use of the Smart Energy Communities Grant of \$30,000. The Committee formed to recommend the use of this grant stated as their first preference that a solar installation be installed to address Town energy needs. The Town Board initially resolved to place such an array on the existing Town Hall or the proposed Community Center. After review of the current Town Hall electric billings, they are not sufficiently high enough to justify a solar array and the Town Community Center project has been postponed. In order to meet pending grant deadlines, the Supervisor seeks Board approval to approve/execute a proposal from a family owned Gallatin based company, that can work during the lockdown, to propose a solar array at the Town Highway Garage. The Town received a proposal for approximately \$27,350 worth of installed solar panels that would cover the annual energy costs of the Highway Garage which are estimated at \$4,200-\$5,000 annually. The proposal from Hudson Valley Wind and Solar would also include an additional \$4,250 NYSERDA grant to pay for the installer overhead and profit and the Town would reserve the \$2,650 grant surplus for any additional electric or roof work. The proposal is currently under review by NYSERDA-CEC (Clean Energy Communities).

Resolution 2020-18 to finalize the CEC grant to install a solar array on the Town Highway Garage as detailed above.

Any excess funds will be used to install solar lightening in the parking lot of the Town Hall

Motion CM Mortenson Second CM Paterson

YES_5__ NO_0__

10. In light of the State mandated “Stay in Place” order extending until May 15, 2020, the Supervisor proposes to suspend the Planning Board, ZBA and other committee meetings until June 2020 unless there is an urgent matter the Committee Chair deems necessary to handle by digital meeting (ZOOM, Hangouts etc.) or with safe distancing at Town Hall parking lot with public present but safely distanced.

Resolution 2020-19 to adjust committee and board meetings as detailed above.

Motion CM Martini Second CM Paterson

YES_5__ NO_0__

11. The Town Board recognizes that the Columbia Paper has decided to publish as a digital only paper and the Town Board resolves to temporarily name the Register Star as the only official Town paper for public notices if such are legally required to be placed in a paper still published in paper form. The resolution will sunset upon renewal of paper publication of the Columbia Paper.

Resolution 2020-20 to limit the Town paper to the Register Star for 2020.

Motion CM Odell Second CM Martini

YES_5__ NO_0__

12. Review of the Solstice-Gallatin Solar Farm Initiative for residents to join other existing solar farm communities and monies earned to be used towards a clean energy project in Gallatin. The Board conditionally resolved idea pending further due diligence.

YES 5 NO__0__

RESOLUTION 2020-21

The following Resolution was presented by Eric Mortenson, seconded by Nichole Martini and carried 5-0;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gallatin hereby supports the Solstice Power Technologies Partnership Model as detailed below:

SOLSTICE POWER TECHNOLOGIES PARTNERSHIP MODEL

The objective of this partnership model is to offer community solar to residents of the town of Gallatin, on community solar farms managed by Solstice Power Technologies in the Central Hudson and National Grid utility load zones.

Solstice will offer subscriptions to the appropriate community solar farm for eligible residents, small businesses, and municipality buildings. For every meter subscribed by residents of the town of Gallatin, Solstice Power Technologies will donate \$100 towards the town's funds to purchase solar-powered motion lights for the Gallatin Town Hall parking lot.

The Town Board of Gallatin will work with Solstice to promote the benefits of joining Solstice's local solar farms. These promotion efforts will be coordinated between the Town Board and a representative of Solstice (e.g. direct mail, promotion on the town website, etc.)

Solstice will ensure that all enrolled members of the solar farm will receive solar credits through their subscription, and a 10% discount on the cost of those solar credits as laid out in the Solstice customer agreement.

The Town Board of Gallatin will agree to enroll any eligible meters paid with municipal funds, barring extenuating circumstances (e.g. building that already has agreed-upon plans to install solar panels). Solstice will make the same \$100 donation toward the town of Gallatin's fund for solar-powered motion lights for each of these meters.

This partnership agreement will remain in effect until either December 31st, 2020 or the completed subscription of the two projects currently available for subscription in Central Hudson and National Grid utility load zones respectively. Solstice Power Technologies and the Town Board of Gallatin will have the option to renew this agreement with the consent of both parties should there be subscriptions available to new solar farms after one of the above parameters has been met.

The Town Board of Gallatin reserves the right to repurpose the funds as per a town resolution, but must inform Solstice if it should choose to do so. Should sufficient funds be raised to cover the

entire cost of the solar-powered motion lights, the Town Board of Gallatin will inform Solstice of how the additional funds will be used.

Solstice reserves the right to reduce the donation amount to \$50 per meter after September 1st, 2020 and will inform the Town Board of Gallatin should it choose to do so. Gallatin residents will be permitted to combine this with Solstice “enrollment bonuses” but no other third-party referral donations or bonuses. Solstice agrees to keep the Town Board of Gallatin informed of any changes to existing enrollment bonuses - which are \$100 per meter at the time of this partnership agreement.

YES 5 NO 0

REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS (BY EMAIL)

Discussion of request by the New York State Troopers to have a secure room at the Justice Court Building for a substation.

The board look into what is involved.

MONTHLY BUSINESS SECTION

1. Review of March- April 2020 Minutes for Errors/Clarifications **Resolution not needed as meetings cancelled. Any other Committee/Board minutes posted**
2. Bill Review of Non-Recurring items- Resolution **2020-22 Approve April 2020 bills (done by digital abstract review) for payment.** Motion CM Martini Second CM Odell
Vote Yes 5 No 0
3. Highway Superintendent Comments/Report- to be added in paper form-
4. Comments of Code Enforcement Officer - to be added in paper form
5. Clerk Reports- To be added in paper form
6. Assessor Comments To be added in paper form
7. Supervisors report published as an introduction to the Town Board meeting on the Town website

REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS (BY EMAIL)

MEETING ADJOURNED BY RESOLUTION OF THE GALLATIN TOWN BOARD