

**THE TOWN OF MAMAKATING TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL, WURTSBORO, NEW YORK.**

**Present:** Janet M. Lybolt- Supervisor  
Eileen Rogers – Deputy Supervisor - Councilwoman  
John Lacey – Councilman  
James Carney – Councilman  
John Crudo - Councilman  
Thomas Morrow – Councilman  
Gary Forthoffer - Councilman  
J. Benjamin Gailey- Attorney for the Town  
Catherine A. Colombo-Deputy Town Clerk  
Kyra Platt- Deputy Town Clerk

**Also present:** Robert Hufcut – Highway Superintendent  
Kerron Barnes – Interagency Coordinator

**Absent:** Jean Dougherty-Town Clerk

**Work Session Items for Discussion**

1. Permission to bid on the following items: Gasoline, Fuel Oil, Diesel Engine Fuel, Bulk Gas & Calcium
2. Purchase of Projector Set-up for Community Room
3. Budget Modifications
4. MEEIC Fee Schedule

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The July 21, 2020 meeting was called to order with the pledge to the flag.

**PUBLIC HEARING-PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED ‘Amending vacation campgrounds definition and Special permit requirements’**

**Public Comments:**

Allyson Reagan, one of the new owners of Catskill RV Resort, stated that when they purchased the campground it was under the impression that they could be open in October. The season has already been cut short due to the Corona Virus and an even shorter season will impact the campground, as well as Town businesses.

Grant Coddington, the owner of Benchmark Hideaway Campground, asked what the purpose of a shorter season was. He purchased this campground as he considered it a golden triangle for snow birds. A shorter season will limit businesses and growth, and he has already lost money due to the Corona Virus and the restrictive season. He asked that the Board put more consideration into this matter. Susan Scheible stated she was new to the camping season but has done research, and a shortened season

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would take away the huge influx of visitors and hurt the local mom & pop businesses and income tax for the Town.

Erin Perry stated that a shortened camping season does not benefit anyone. The campgrounds support the local fire department and ambulance corps. She asked that the Board think more about this and the effects it would have on the Town.

Jessie Murphy stated she has spent 33 years camping and a sense of community has been built here. She stated that she encourages friends to travel to the area to enjoy the fall activities available in the current camping season. She also stated that it takes 2-3 weeks to winterize their campers, which would be lost if the season is shortened. She asked the Board to reconsider.

Joann and Joseph Kolenski stated they are campers and have gathered six pages of signatures of people who would like to keep the extended camping season. This paperwork was submitted to Catherine Colombo, Deputy Town Clerk.

Caitlin Mann stated her mother had camped at Wonderwood for years and that she has grown up here and considers it a second home. The community started off as friends but has become family. They have been supporting the local businesses and the Town for years and the season has always been May to the end of October.

Michael Montanez stated he does not understand the restriction and is not sure why they are being locked out. He asked the Board to reconsider.

Patricia Grillo stated she has been camping for 30 years with friends and family. They support local businesses, they support the community, all proceeds from outings are put back into the local developments and businesses.

Lorrence Green introduced himself as the Town of Mamakating planning Board Chairman and stated that the time frame was May through October, not 12 months of the year. J. Lacey asked Mr. Green when May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> was enacted. Mr. Green responded that the definition in the Code Book notes that date, but he was uncertain as to what year it came into existence. He mentioned a vacation campground in the Town, Back River Hope, and how it has been in front of the Planning Board for going on 3 years, that the previous owners had provided long term leases for people, children started attending school, thus creating a de facto development that cost the Town money. He stated that the Planning Board is in favor of a defined camping season in the Code Book. J. Lacey asked if the Building Code Enforcement Officer would be responsible for enforcing those dates. He also asked Mr. Green if he had spoken with the Building Inspector about what the reaction would be to this new rule. Mr. Green stated he had not. He also stated that when this project was approved, the dates approved were May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, but that there was a question mark with the date, and the Planning Board assumed someone would look into it prior to signing approvals. J. Lacey asked if Mr. Green checked with any other counties to see what their opening dates were. Mr. Green responded that it was not up to him to do that, that he was responsible to check these Town Codes.

Stephen Addeler stated that the longer season would be more beneficial for the Board and for the Town.

Angela Amenyual, who was outside for a majority of the meeting due to the capacity restrictions in the Building, stated that it was unfair she couldn't hear a majority of the meeting. She has been a camper for a long time and asked the Board to reconsider the May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> dates.

Tammy Gil stated the campground is a beneficial learning environment to teach the children to be better community members. They have different parties, learning events, and support local businesses.

There being no further comments, a motion was made by Gary Forthoffer, seconded by John Crudo to close the Public Hearing. All in favor.

Stephen Addeler asked when a decision would be made. Supervisor J. Lybolt stated not tonight, it would be brought up again at the next meeting.

#### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Highway Superintendent's Report: Town Board Meeting: July 21, 2020**

The culvert replacement on South Road was completed last Wednesday. We are currently hauling stone to prepare for the next phase of the paving project. It is tentatively scheduled to begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August.

I have been working aggressively with the Town engineer and the concrete pre cast company to get the concrete poured and delivered so that we can begin the Red Hill Road Bridge project by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September.

I did win the bid on Auction International for the Western Star truck, however, the bid was not accepted by the seller. I will continue to look for a truck to add to our fleet for the upcoming winter season and I would like to ask the Town Board for their continued support.

We have had a series of microburst storms in the area that have affected the maintenance of our roads with clogged ditches and fallen trees. It may not

happened directly in your area, but I ask all residents for their patience while we address the needs of their neighbors that these storms did affect.

As we approach budget season, I would like to remind the public and the Town Board that a position was cut from the Highway Department in December 2019 by the previous administration. By losing that position, we lost a member to fill a dedicated snow plow run. Which, in turn, has caused us to shift our responsibilities to ensure that all Mamakating Roads, are plowed effectively for the safety of our residents. I am asking the public and the current Town Board to undo what was unfairly done by the previous administration. I am pleased to announce that we have entered into an inter municipality agreement with the Town of Lumberland Highway Department. A few of their members came down to assist us with paving Haven Road. In turn, we have a few members working in Lumberland this week to assist them with their paving project. I anticipate the return of Lumberland Highway staff when we are ready to move forward with South Road.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Hufcut, Sr., Highway Superintendent

#### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

##### Supervisor's Report- July 21, 2020

- A big thank you to the Knights of Columbus and Charity's Champion. The Knights donated an Eastern Redbud tree for the new trailhead at Town Hall and Charity's Champion donated a Serbian Spruce for the front of Town Hall to be lit at holiday time along with a menorah.
  
- In working with Senator Jen Metzger's office regarding the amount of money available in our SAM Grant that Kerron obtained

previously, it was told that the previous administration had earmarked \$50,000 of the \$100,000 grant to the Highway department last year for road repair, when I asked how half of the funds were not available. When I said that money was to be used toward the Canal path project, Senator Metzger was able to add \$50,000 back in. We now have the full \$100,000 again to be put toward completing the Canal Trail at Town Hall.

- Our concert series continues this Friday with the band Jaxx's Café playing starting at 5:30pm. The concerts run every other week in coordination with our weekly Farmers Market. Many thanks to the American Legion for supplying the hamburgers and hotdogs and manning the grill. Proceeds go towards our Sullivan Renaissance projects.
- Our MEEIC is holding weekly Nature Program Sessions for 7-10 year old children from 10-2pm. There will be (4) one-week sessions. Registration information is on our website or you can call Town Hall.
- The US Census Bureau has a Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program which will be set up on Fridays at our weekly Farmers' Market. If you haven't completed the census, stop by their table and they can assist you.
- NYS Division of Agriculture and Markets performed the Annual Dog Control Officer Inspection. T.O.M. received a Satisfactory Rating – thank you to Vicky Darnobid, our Dog Control Officer.

### ABSTRACTS

A motion was made by Eileen Rogers, seconded by Gary Forthoffer to approve the following abstract as presented: Abstract #14, (Voucher #20201161-20201249) in the amount of \$75,470.50. All in favor.

- Manual Check Register
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- Expenditures, Encumbrances & Appropriations Report, Revenues & Expenditures Report Motion to accept made by Eileen Rogers, Seconded by Tom Morrow
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- Approval of Minutes: 7/7/2020

### Resolutions:

- a. A motion to close the Public Hearing on the Local Law for Amending Vacation Camp Ground Definitions – No Action will be taken was made by G. Forthoffer, seconded by J. Crudo. All in favor
- b. A motion was made by T. Morrow, seconded by J. Crudo to accept to solicit bids on the following items: Gasoline, Fuel Oil, Diesel Engine Fuel, Bulk Gas & Calcium. A motion was made by T. Morrow seconded by J. Crudo. All in favor.
- c. A motion was made by J. Crudo, seconded by T. Morrow for Purchase of Projector Set-up for Community Room for \$546.47. All in favor.
- d. A motion to accept the Budget Modification \$5000.00 for unemployment and \$500.00 for stenography services for the Planning and Zoning Boards was made by G. Forthoffer, seconded by J. Carney. All in favor.
- e. A motion to accept the Mamakating Environmental Education & Interpretive Center (MEEIC) Fee Schedule was made by E. Rogers, seconded by T. Morrow. All in favor.
- f. A motion to accept the Expenditures, Encumbrances & Appropriations Report, Revenues & Expenditures Report was made by E. Rogers, seconded by T. Morrow. All in favor
- g. A motion for Approval of Minutes, 7/7/2020 was made by John Crudo, seconded by E. Rogers. All in favor.

### Announcements:

**Eileen Rogers** stated there will be a Ward meeting for District One on July 27, 202 at 6:00 PM. She will be there to sit and talk.

**Supervisor Janet Lybolt** stated the Catskills Visitors Association Catskill Confidence Campaign had been in discussion with Donna, from the Park and Rec. Dept. in regards to free advertising of the Farmers Market and the MEEIC summer program over radio and video .

**Gary Forthoffer** stated that on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a Ward Two meeting to discuss.

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No need to go into Executive Session tonight, but during the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting they discussed hiring an account clerk for the Building Department, that the Town Clerk did not have. There is no need to make a motion for a resolution to hire an account clerk

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Forthoffer, seconded by J. Lacy. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine A. Colombo

Deputy Town Clerk