

Minutes of the workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held July 7, 2020 by telephonic conferencing at 7:30pm.

Present: Joan Breslin, Deputy Supervisor
Linda Sutton, Council member
Walt Bennett, Council member

Called in: Shawn Marriott, Supervisor
Scott Hulbert, Council member

Recording Secretary: Janet Partridge, Town Clerk

Others called in: Karen Tirpak, Bookkeeper/Judge
Tal Rappleyea, Attorney
Joe van Holsteyn, Highway Superintendent
Chris Kohrs, Court Clerk
David Cunningham, Building Inspector
Maryellen Brooks, Assessor's Clerk
Vince Randowser, Mid-Hudson Cable
Rachel Puckett, Mid-Hudson Cable
Dave Clapp, Mid-Hudson Cable
17 community members

Supervisor Marriott called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.

Marriott started the meeting with anniversaries. Ruthie Fishman started working for the Town July 1, 1988.

Three representatives from Mid-Hudson Cable spoke to the board and others called in about where they are planning to extend their lines in the Town of Durham. They explained where they are working on getting more lines in Cornwallville. The time frame for the project's completion is looking like 2021. The process of getting the licenses from the power company is very time consuming. They need permission from the power companies to get the lines on the polls. Ms. Puckett reminded everyone they are in the preliminary stages of building new lines and they may find it is not feasible for them to build.

If anyone would like a Mid-Hudson Line Extension Request Form, it is available at the town building and it will be put up on our town website. Contact information will also be shared at that time.

The Durham Democratic Committee would like to use the Town hall for their caucus on July 18th at 9:30am. Deputy Supervisor Breslin volunteered to open the building for them and suggested the Board write down simple rules for using the building asking the committee to have a sign-in sheet and please clean the tables and chairs when they are finished. Sanitizing supplies will be provided by the Town. Marriott will write something up to give to the committee and to have a sign in the meeting room.

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Rosemary O'Brien spoke about the Cares Act funds available for school age children in getting broadband to all our school age residents. She suggests the town look into this funding to help Mid-Hudson fund some of the line building. She had hoped to ask Mid-Hudson if they are helping any other towns get this funding. This is federal funding. The Town can apply for this. The deadline is mid-September. She asked about a map of all of Durham as to what roads and homes are wired. She was hoping to ask the representatives who called in earlier what can we as a town do to help them get the funding needed to increase the number of lines in our town.

Attorney Rappleyea left the meeting.

The Board discussed the subdivision application for property 294 County Rte 10 with Mr. LaRosa. Breslin talked to fire chief Whitbeck and she did not see a problem with firetrucks getting up the driveways. Sutton asked if there would be a final plat available in the town office for people to review before the public hearing that Marriott suggested be set for July 21st at 7:30pm. Frank LaRosa said he could have it to the office a minimal of 5 days prior to the public hearing and he will get a letter from the fire chief.

A motion was made by Council Member Hulbert to set the public hearing for the simple subdivision of 294 County Route 10 on July 21st at 7:30pm pending submittal of the final plat and letter from the Oak Hill-Durham Fire Chief 5 days prior, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Breslin, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

The Board reviewed the two mass gathering permits submitted by Blackthorne Resort. A question was raised about mandating the visitors to these two events wear masks. Marriott said it is not up to the town to mandate it. The business is supposed to follow the executive orders from the governor on large gatherings. All the paperwork seems to be in order.

A motion was made by Breslin to approve the Rats Nest Run-in and Catskill Mountain Thunder events at Blackthorne Resort respectively August 15-16 and September 16-20 assuming all state guidelines are followed and NYS restrictions allow for such gatherings, seconded by Hulbert, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

Attorney Rappleyea Returned to the meeting.

Attorney Rappleyea asked that Blackthorne Resort provide an insurance certificate naming the Town as additional insured for the Catskill Mountain Thunder event.

A motion was made by Hulbert to approve the Park Use Form submitted by Nathan DeGeyter for July 8th, seconded by Council Member Sutton, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

The Board discussed a request for a port-a-let at the Kellegher softball field and how much sanitation would need to be done on a daily basis. Usually the Cairo-Durham Little League would pay for it. This team is a travel team since there is no little league this year. Signage

should be put at the park and on the port-a-let. The Board discussed back and forth on how much liability is on the town for cleaning and sanitizing the port-a-let daily.

A motion was made by Breslin to put a Port-a-let at the Kellegher softball field in East Durham, seconded by Sutton, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

Breslin suggested the open position on the Greene County Planning Board be advertised on the website, the newspaper and the town hall sign.

Breslin had a monetary, open government question for Superintendent van Holsteyn. Since at the last meeting there was no motion to accept the hiring of the new highway employee and the Town Board did not set a salary, she asked how he was paying the new employee or at least what he quoted him. Van Holsteyn quoted the employee at \$15.75/hour. Rappleyea confirmed the highway superintendent would hire the employee and the Town Board would accept and set a salary. Breslin questioned van Holsteyn as to why he hired an employee who is unable to drive a vehicle according to the town policy prior to the holiday weekend and then paid the new employee and another employee to drive to do a one person job. Van Holsteyn responded since he was on vacation that week and the new cleaning of the park was started that week, he thought it would be good to work through the process this way. Breslin feels the Town needs to be open about spending tax payer money and do it as frugally as possible right now. If the Town gets audited by the state, it would be questionable if there was no motion made on the pay of an employee in the open meeting.

She then asked about the Board passing a waiver since the new employee does not live in the Town of Durham. Van Holsteyn did not know about the waiver policy. Breslin read the policy to everyone. Other questions will be asked in executive session.

Questions from the Floor: None

A motion was made by Breslin to enter executive session at 9:06pm to discuss the matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation, seconded by Sutton, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

The Board will enter back from executive session at 9:45pm for anyone interested in calling back in.

A motion was made by Breslin to return from executive session at 9:50pm, seconded by Sutton, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

A motion was made by Breslin to hire Brett Zimmerman at \$15.75/hour pending completion of the hiring process and waiving town residency requirements, seconded by Councilmember Bennett, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

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A motion was made by Marriott to return to executive session at 9:55pm to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation, seconded by Breslin, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

A motion was made by Breslin to return from executive session at 10:40pm, seconded by Bennett, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes – Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

No decisions made.

Hulbert made a motioned to adjourn at 10:42pm, seconded by Breslin, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Partridge
Town Clerk/Collector