



Town of Tusten Town Board Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

6:30 PM

Town Board Meeting was held at the Tusten Town Community Hall, located at 210 Bridge Street in Narrowsburg.

PRESENT

Supervisor Bernard Johnson
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger
Councilman Alfred Smith
Councilman Bruce Gettel

ABSENT

Councilwoman Jill Padua

OTHERS PRESENT

Crystal Weston, Town Clerk; Ken Klien, Town Attorney; and approx. 12 other members from the general public.

1 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Supervisor Bernard Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2 Pledge of allegiance

Supervisor Bernard Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

1.3 Announcements

- Reminder – Attention NWS District – the new water rates go into effect October 1, 2021 (Billed Dec 31)
- FALL CLEAN UP DAY – Tusten Residents on Saturday, September 18 from 9 am – 2pm

1.4 Correspondence

- Joanne Pentangelo re: Zoom vs In Person meetings

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1.5 Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION 107-2021

AUGUST BILL PAY

On motion of Councilman Alfred Smith, seconded by Supervisor Bernard Johnson, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 3 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSTAIN (Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger) **1 ABSENT**
(Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the bills be paid as presented:

Fund Account	Amt.	Vouchers
General Fund	\$ 32,460.38	560-575, 589 Late Bills 557,559, 621
Highway Fund	\$ 37,340.96	576-586, 586A, 587- 590 Late Bills 555
Water Fund	\$ 11,906.07	607-620
Sewer Fund	\$ 19,841.67	591-606 Late Bills 556
Lighting Fund	\$ 275.46	558
TOTAL	\$ 101,824.54	

2 **DIVISION REPORTS**

Supervisor Johnson read the following reports from July 2021 aloud.

2.1 **Highway** –submitted by Donald Neiger

- Used 655.8 gal of diesel fuel; 602.8 gal was for highway and 53 gal was non-highway use.
- Used 231.6 gal of gas; 0 was highway and 231.6 was non highway use.
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Mowed right of way along roads.
- Cut trees on De Mauro Lane, Schalck rd. and Kirks Road.
- Repair wash out and grade Grassy.
- Replace drive ways pipes Maple Lane.
- Ditch Cohecton Turnpike, Lake Ridge Maple Lane and Grassey.

2.2 **Water & Sewer** – submitted by NWS Dept.

Monthly Report for July 2021

- Completed monthly drinking water and waste water sampling and reporting.

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- Made adjustments to the chlorinator at the sewer plant, as needed, to maintain Federal and State standards on the effluent wastewater.
- Did water meter readings every Wednesday in the month of July to track down possible leaks inside buildings, notified a few homeowners of possible leaks.
- Continued maintenance on sand beds by removing weeds and sludge and replacing landscape fabric around edges.
- Continued checking septic tanks by digging up the inlet lid.
- Attended a class provided by NYRWA for sewer education.
- Koberlein pumped out sludge from dosing tanks and chlorine contact tanks at the sewer plant.
- Inspected a septic tank on 4th Ave and one on Delaware Dr that called about sewer issues and confirmed the septic tanks did not need to get pumped. Dug up and installed a riser over the inlet side of the tank on 4th Ave.
- Replaced a Y-Strainer at well #1 that got clogged, causing a loss of pressure to the booster pump.
- Inspected 13 pump and 4 grinder stations.
- Listed Ford F250 on Auctions International.
- Turned water on to one house and replaced a broken curb valve box.
- Dug up 8 septic tanks for Koberlein to pump out.
- Mowed grass at all Water and Sewer properties.
- Responded to 2 dig requests.
- Responded after hours 2 times for Kirks Rd pump station due to the panel overheating. The pumps have to be manually run and the panel reset.
- Responded to one afterhours grinder pump alarm and adjusted a float that was getting stuck in 'On position'.
- Installed 4 risers over the inlet side of septic tanks.

Financial Report for July 2021		
		Submitted By Jocelyn Strumpfler
Water Metered Rent	\$ 11,245.75	
Service Charge	\$ 24.50	
Water Penalty	\$56.28	
TOTAL Received Water Department		\$ 11,326.53
Sewer Rent	\$ 32,011.88	
Service Charge	\$ 4.50	
Sewer Penalty	\$ 148.38	
TOTAL Received Sewer Department		\$ 32,164.76
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 43,491.29

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2.3 Building Department/ Code Enforcement – Submitted by Code Dept. JUNE 2021 Monthly Report

- Construction Inspections – 12
- Fire & Safety Inspections – 0
- Complaint/Violation Inspections - 0
- Certificate of Occupancy – 1
- Certificate of Compliance – 11
- Building Permits – 8
- New Homes – 2
- Accessory Building/Garage – 0
- Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 1
- Camping - 1
- Chimney/Fuel – 0
- Accessory Building Commercial - 0
- New Commercial Construction – 0
- Renovation/Alteration – Commercial Construction - 0
- Deck – 0
- Commercial Deck - 0
- Demolition Permit - 0
- Driveway Permit – 0
- Electrical – 2
- Logging Permits –
- Mechanical - 1
- Permit Renewals – 0
- Plumbing - 0
- Pool – 0
- Roof Replacement – 0
- Roof Structure - 0
- Septic Permits – 0
- Sidewalk - 1
- Sign Permit – 0
- Solar Permit – 0
- Well - 0
- Flood Plain Permit - 0
- C/O and violation search – 12

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- Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0
- Complaints Received – 0
- Complaints Closed – 0
- Violations Issued – 0
- Violations Corrected – 0
- Previous Violations Closed/Corrected - 0
- Stop Work – 0

Monies collected by this office from June 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 are \$2,236.50

Respectfully,

Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector

JPC/js

Attached is a copy of the Building Monthly Report

2.4 Assessor – Submitted by Sole Assessor

Assessor's monthly report for June 2021.

During the month of June, I made the effort to get the computer as current as possible with deeds recorded and STAR information from New York State before the printing of the final roll for July 1st.

The grievance board of review met for adjudication of the two solar farm cases we had and made no changes to the value so the roll stood as it was for May 1st tentative values.

The Sullivan County Assessor's meeting ended up being cancelled as many of the assessors were not able to attend and a quorum could not be achieved. All in all the month was relatively quiet which worked out well for me as I had come down with two tick borne illnesses in later May and was feeling their effects and that of the three antibiotics I was on for most of the month of June.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Baim, Sole Assessor

2.5 Upper Delaware Council – submitted by Susan Sullivan UDC Tusten Rep. UDC August, 2021 monthly Meeting Report

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UDC Funding

NY State Budget; Sen Martucci's staff person attended UDC meeting and recommended we apply (again) for funding as the budget process is beginning, and will be different minus our current Governor, or so she anticipates. Motion carried to send appropriate letter and follow up.

PA Legislative Breakfast; Staff met with representative from Gov. Wolff's office. Positive contact. Follow up by staff

UDC's Fiscal Sustainability consultant will meet with staff 8/11.

Grants

TAG grants; Tusten is on schedule with completion requirements of the current Grant. Deadline for this year's round is 8/20.

Day on the Delaware at Callicoon saw Gunther, Martucci, and representatives from river advocacy groups attending. Evan Padua was there to take these folks out on the river. The goal is to include the Delaware River Funding as a line item in NY State Budget. On Federal Level there are 26 million in funds via Fish and Wildlife over 5-year period.

Nation Park Service

TMR

I asked about the proposed Boat Launch at TMR and the proposed purchase of the landing site by NPS. The Boat Launch is still being reviewed by consultant and NPS, and the WU/RM committee. The NPS purchase is in limbo, as the Boy Scouts have a new person in charge of TMR, so no decision has been made. I don't believe NPS has approval to spend the money either.

Staffing;

NPS announced Debbie Seibert as new Manager in charge of Commercial Permitting Program and new law enforcement ranger Nate Burdick.

Awards Banquet/Ed Jackson

Our Planning Board Chair, Ed Jackson, will receive the Volunteer Award and the date is Sunday September 12, Central House in Beach Lake, from 3:00 to 6:30PM NY State Senator Mike Martucci will be the Keynote Speaker. Reservations and prepayment to the UDC by September 3.

Other;

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Skidders Falls/Milanville Bridge 9/23 Project Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will meet to announce the results of PennDots Linkage Study.

2.6 Energy Committee – submitted by TEC Chair, Brandi Merolla

Tusten Energy Committee Report August 2021

1. We are still in the commissioning (pre-ramp up) phase for the Tusten HORSE. There have been some unforeseen issues that we are working through with Impact Bioenergy in Seattle.
2. We have tested processing some material but have not given the businesses their buckets yet since we are not ready to begin.
3. Likewise, we have stopped having the tent at the farmers market until we know the start date.
4. Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) has a professor and student group interested in doing a case study on the Tusten HORSE and we believe they will be coming on site in August.

Impact Bioenergy, the makers of the HORSE, has released this statement regarding the positive climate impact of the HORSE:

Through its processing of organic waste material, each HORSE actively reverses the carbon footprint of 8.5 cars annually. If you factor in use of the probiotic plant food instead of synthetic fertilizer, this carbon footprint reversal rises to 45 cars annually.

The TEC Soft Plastic collection after 2 years is 5 tons or 10,000 pounds. We have ordered our 5th free TREX bench for the town to be a part of a **Beth Peck Memorial Garden** at the Tusten-Cochecton Library Branch.

2.7 Grants – submitted by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger

- \$9,000.00 Rcv'd for the Comp Plan from UDC TAGs
- August 20, 2021 shall be submitting for a TAG to complete the zoning upgrade & possibly action items from the recently completed Comprehensive Plan
- Aileen Gunther – Supervisor Bernard Johnson & Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger have a meeting set up to discuss possible monies that are available for water improvement projects.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were heard from the public:

- Brandi Merolla re: zoom mtg

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- Star H. re: Zoom
- Bernie Lohman re: suggests asking the engineers to help locate funding for the water improvement project
- Brendon –re: Zoom
- Ed Krause – re: Cortese Landfill - is this still being monitored?
- Lisa D – re: Zoom, minutes being available online, Maintenance and safety issues re solar farm on oak
- Jeffery Gangel re: zoom
- Iris H re: Zoom
- Doreen Krause re: zoom
- Vicky O. re: zoom & meeting cancelation policies

4 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Hours for Temp Assistant to the NWS Clerk & Bookkeeper

RESOLUTION 108-2021

APPROVAL FOR BOOKKEEPER & W/S CLERK

On motion of Councilman Alfred Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that Jocelyn Strumpfler, Temporary Assistant to the NWS Clerk, Town Bookkeeper & Confidential Secretary, will continue as previously appointed with extra time approved by the Town Supervisor as needed until further notice.

4.2 Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act

Reviewed & Discussed the Legislation regarding opting in /out

A presentation will take place Sept/Oct to answer any questions regarding the local municipality opting in or out for dispensers or lounges within said municipality.

4.3 Bridge Street

RESOLUTION 109-2021

BRIDGE STREET PROPERTY CONTRACT APPROVAL

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorize Ken Klein, attorney for the town to draft a contract agreement for the property at 274 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg pending appraisal.

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4.4 Main Street Culvert Project

Attorney Ken Klein is awaiting a response from the property owner's attorney. No action being taken at this time.

4.5 Live Stream Meeting Policy

RESOLUTION 110-2021

TUSTEN LIVE STREAM MEETING POLICY

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that the Tusten Town Board hereby adopt the 'Live Streaming of the Town of Tusten Public Meetings Policy' as presented:

Policy: Live Streaming of the Town of Tusten Public Meetings

1. Purpose

To provide an additional means for the public to view public meetings convened by the Town of Tusten Town Board held at the Town of Tusten Community Hall, located at 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY 12764.

2. Policy Statement

This policy reflects the Town of Tusten's commitment to be transparent and an accessible government, with the introduction of live streaming of Town Board Meetings. (Those meetings under section 103 of the Open Meetings Law that do not require the public attendance will not be live streamed).

3. Objective

To provide accessibility, and a more flexible and convenient access to a larger audience by a means to watch meetings in real time without the need to attend in person and to promote greater community awareness and confidence in the integrity and accountability of the governmental processes.

4. Procedures

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- a. Regular and special board meetings of the Town of Tusten that are held in the town hall will be streamed live on the internet via the town web site www.townoftusten.org
- b. The recording will then be uploaded to the website within 48 hours.
- c. Other public meetings of the Town of Tusten may be live streamed as determined by the town board.
- d. The Town of Tusten will take no responsibility for and will not be liable for livestreaming being temporarily unavailable to technical issues beyond its control, which may include, but not be limited to, availability of internet connection, device failure or malfunction or power outages.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Mike Farrell re: zoom & Cannabis
- Star Hesse- Zoom
- Iris Helfeld – Zoom clarification
- Brendan Weidan – 274 bridge street, main street culvert project, live stream policy
- Doreen Krause – ambulance issues
- Wanda Gangel – Knotweed removal, thankyou.
- Gregg Triggs – offered zoom meeting assistance

6 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Zoning Update Committee

RESOLUTION 111-2021

CREATION OF ZONING UPDATE COMMITTEE & MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilman Alfred Smith, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the creation of the 'Zoning Update Committee' and to appoint the following members: Supervisor Bernard Johnson, Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, Town Assessor Kenneth Baim, Town Code Enforcement Officer James Crowley, Planning Board Member Sean Harrington, Zoning Board Chair Nico Juarez and previous ZRW Chair Kathy Michell

6.2 Water & Sewer

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RESOLUTION 112-2021

SET WATER SEWER COMMITTEE WORK SESSION DATE

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Alfred Smith, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED, that a public committee meeting shall be held on August 18, 2021 at 9:00 AM, in person ONLY at the Tusten Town Hall for the purpose of the Water Sewer Committee (supervisor Johnson, Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger and Councilman Smith) to meet with David Bunce, Water Superintendent.

Councilman Alfred Smith – suggested the purchase of a transducer to assist the NWS dept in knowing the levels within the water tower.

RESOLUTION 113-2021

NWS GPS PURCHASE APPROVAL

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Supervisor Bernard Johnson the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approve the purchase of a GPS unit for the Narrowsburg Water Sewer District in an Amount not to exceed \$3565.00. Quotes have been obtained in accordance with the Tusten Procurement Policy.

<u>Quotes received:</u> Fondriest Enviromental Products	\$3410.77
Canal Geomatics	\$3403.40
Soelter Services Gorup, LLC	\$3565.50

6.3 Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION 114-2021

AUTHORIZATION OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilman Bruce Gettel, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilwoman Jill Padua)

RESOLVED that the Water & Sewer Budget Transfers are authorized as follows:

Decrease

SS8197.4 Sewer Capital Outlay	\$5,000.00
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Increase

SS8130.2 Sewage Treatment equipment **\$5,000.00**

Decrease

SW8397.4 Capital Improvement Property **\$6,000.00**

Increase

SW 8330.4 Purification **\$6,000.00**

Decrease

SW8397.4 Capital Improvement Property **\$5,000.00**

Increase

SW8340.4 Transmission/Distribution contractual **\$5,000.00**

6.4 Planning Board

Planning Board will now be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

The Planning Board has requested that the next meeting, Tuesday September 28, 2021, be held in person and on zoom.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional comments

8 CLOSING ITEMS

8.1 Adjournment

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Bernard Johnson. All in favor. With no further business to be had the Town Board Meeting was closed at 7:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Crystal Weston, Town Clerk