

December 11, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a regular meeting on December 11, 2024.

Present were: Lisa Driscoll, Supervisor  
Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember  
Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember  
Dwayne C Hill, Councilmember  
Donna VanSickell, Councilmember

Alos Present: Russell Hatch, Supt. of Highways  
Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk  
Heidi R. Stevens, Deputy Town Clerk  
Laurie Bedford, Town Assessor  
Thomas Little, Codes Enforcement Officer  
Christine Bellinger, Town Clerk Assistant  
Lawrence R. Musella, Town Justice  
Joy Musella, Justice Clerk  
Dean Darling, Chairman of The Planning Board

Others Present: Russell Bedford  
Elizabeth Page, Editor of The Mountain Eagle  
Richard Brisco  
Charles Goss  
Thomas VanSickell  
Chris Plante  
Richard Bellinger  
Susan Little  
Bettye Joey Darling

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Supervisor Lisa M. Driscoll.

Supervisor Driscoll led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they received the November minutes? The Board had received the minutes. Supervisor Driscoll asked if they had any questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes? The Board had no questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. A motion to except the November minutes was made by Dwayne C. Hill seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Linda Goss reported to The Board that she had received a revised letter from New York State Department of Transportation. This letter obtains to Odell Lake Road Extension speed limit reduction. The original letter stated that Delaware County was responsible for signing the new 50 MPH signs. The revised letter states that the Town of Harpersfield is responsible for signing the new speed limit. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll introduced Christopher Plante and Richard Brisco to the Board. They have given the Town resumes for the Codes Enforcement position. Supervisor Driscoll asked them to join the Town Board meeting so the Board could ask them a few questions. Supervisor Driscoll asked Christopher Plante to share his experience with Codes Enforcement with The Board.

Christopher Plante stated that he has been a Codes Enforcement Officer for about 8 years. Mr. Plante has been in construction his entire life. He also attended Vocational Tech School for construction beforehand. Mr. Plante is originally from Massachusetts. Mr. Plante owned a business in Massachusetts then moved to New York to cool off a little bit. After 911 Mr. Plante ended up back in the construction business. Supervisor Driscoll asked Mr. Plante where he was a in Codes Enforcement? Mr. Plante answered that he was in Codes Enforcement for the Village of Margaretville and the Town of Middletown which covered the Village of Fleischmanns also which was a full-time position. Mr. Plante is not looking for another full-time position, he is looking for a part-time position which is what the Town of Harpersfield is offering. A part-time position fits best in Mr. Plantes schedule. Mr. Plante maintains a full-time construction business currently. Mr. Plante says he owns property in Harpersfield, so he has a vested interest here.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Richard Brisco to introduce himself to the Board.

Mr. Brisco introduced himself and stated that he is from East Merrideth and that he has been here his whole life. Mr. Brisco has been in the construction business since 1989. He started his own construction business in 1995. Mr. Brisco just recently took the test to become a Codes Enforcement Officer. He has not worked in the field as of this point. Mr. Brisco is hopeful that this will be the next phase in his construction career.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Thomas Little if he had any words of wisdom for Codes Enforcement? Thomas Little went on to say that Codes Enforcement is a thankless job, but it needs to be done.

Codes Enforcement is for the protection of the public and the homeowners. To make sure the homeowners get a safe and secure home that follows New York State Codes as much as it possibly can. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Town Board if they had any questions for Mr. Plante and Mr. Brisco? The Board needs to make a decision on who will fill the Codes Enforcement position. That decision does not need to be made today but within the next couple of days. The Board members have read their resumes and had no questions. Supervisor Driscoll asked Thomas Little if he had any questions? Mr. Little had no questions. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Volunteer Firefighter Law-resolution for amending the current Local Law.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD  
RESOLUTION NO. 028 OF THE YEAR 2024

At the Regular meeting of the Town Board of Harpersfield held on December 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD AMENDMENT OF LOCAL LAW NO. 002 OF THE YEAR 2024.

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 446-a authorizes a partial exemption from real property taxes on qualified residential real property for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Harpersfield adopted a Local Law (Local Law No. 002 Of The Year 2024) establishing a partial exemption from the Town portion of real property taxes for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who own qualified residential real property within the Town of Harpersfield; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield to provide for such exemption on Town of Harpersfield properties to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers for their valued service to our community; and

WHEREAS, the State legislature has now provided express authorization for local governments that provide the emergency service responder real property tax exemption to members providing services within their jurisdiction to extend the exemption to any resident volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker that provides their volunteer services to a neighboring City, Village, Town, County or School District; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Harpersfield desires to amend the eligibility requirements in Local Law No. 002 Of The Year 2024 consistent with this legislation to extend the tax exemption to any resident volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker that provides their volunteer services to a neighboring City, Village, Town, County or School District; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board members and Town Attorney have reviewed a proposed draft of the local law which has now been introduced by a member of the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the proposed draft Local Law that has been introduced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the proposed draft Local Law shall be placed in the Town Clerk's office and made available for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a public hearing for consideration of the Local Law on January 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in The Daily Star, and to post copies of such notice in the manner provided by law.

Seconded by Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill whereupon the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.
Councilmember	Donna M. VanSickell	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Union Contract. The contract has the typo errors corrected. Councilmember Patrick F. Funk stated that there was a lot of time and effort put into the new contract. Everybody has now come to an agreement. A motion to accept the new Union Contract was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik R. Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town will have the 2024 year end meeting at the next Board meeting on January 8, 2025. At this meeting the Board will discuss any bills that come in for 2024 to make sure they are paid before the books close.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the council members if they have any items that need to be addressed with the Board? Patrick F. Funk has two things he would like to address.

Patrick F. Funk asked Laurie Bedford Town Assessor when the Town would need to make the change to taxes due to the new COLA for the year 2025? Laurie Bedford answered that she would need all the information by fall of 2025. Patrick F. Funk asked Supervisor Driscoll if she was going to address the Fire District information? Supervisor Driscoll answered that she is going to have Tim Powell of Stamford Fire Department come to a Board meeting to discuss the increase to the Stamford Fire District.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Town Highway Superintendent. Russel told the Town that he has a call in for an update on the new truck to see where they are with getting the equipment. He has not received a call back currently. Russel also told the Town that he is working on the CHIPS paperwork and hopes to get that in by the end of the week.

Town Clerks report for the month of November was issued to the Board. The amount that the Town received was \$600.49.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers for the month of November. Supervisor Driscoll issued the vouchers to be reviewed by the Board. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that they will need to initial her Abstract. A discussion was had. Supervisor Driscoll mentioned the fire extinguisher inspections that had been done. They are done once a year. That includes the buildings, equipment and the Post office. A discussion was had.

The Supervisor's report for the month of November was issued to the Board. Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they had any questions about the Supervisor's report? The Board had no questions about the Supervisor's report.

Supervisor Driscoll called the meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

The Public Hearing and Organization meeting will be held on Wednesday January 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Heidi R. Stevens

Deputy Town Clerk