

TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town of Ulysses

April 28, 2020

Audio of the minutes are available on the website at ulysses.ny.us.

The meeting was held via videoconference on the Zoom platform.

Notice of Town Board meetings are posted on the Town's website and Clerk's board.

ATTENDANCE:

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Supervisor- Nancy Zahler

Board members- Richard Goldman, Michael Boggs, Katelin Olson, Marc Devokaitis

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Second Deputy Supervisor- Michelle Wright

Highway Superintendent- Scott Stewart

Attorney for the Town- Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni

Environmental Planner- John Zepko

OTHERS PRESENT:

Roxanne Marino, Linda Liddle

ATTENDANCE:

The Town Clerk called the roll.

Town Board members:

Ms. Zahler present

Ms. Olson present

Mr. Boggs present

Mr. Goldman present

Mr. Devokaitis present

Town staff:

Ms. Wright present

Mr. Stewart present

Mr. Zepko present

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Zahler called meeting to order at 7pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2020-99: APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approve the agenda for April 28, 2020.

Moved: Mr. Goldman Seconded: Mr. Devokaitis

Ms. Zahler aye

Ms. Olson aye
Mr. Boggs aye
Mr. Goldman aye
Mr. Devokaitis aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 4/28/2020

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

(none)

TOWN REPORTS- Brief Announcements

Ms. Olson reported that she, Mayor Hart, Steve Daly (Trumansburg Area Chamber of Commerce), Bet the Farm (winery) have developed an Economic Recovery Task Force. They have put together an anonymous survey for businesses. Results so far indicate significant cash flow challenges for local businesses.

Ms. Wright noted that the AUD was submitted today.

Ms. Zahler shared the following:

- There is an issue with the South St. Ext. slope.
- Outside user request to join Water District 3
- Updates on Coronavirus Efforts:
 - Meetings each week to keep in touch with:
 - Village/School/Town
 - Community leaders
 - Tompkins County Health Director and Tompkins County Administrator
 - Town Supervisors in county
 - Changes to town policies- compensatory time guidelines extended
 - Sought guidance from Empire State Development on when to resume town hall HVAC project
 - Got clarification on benefits during the pandemic

Ms. Olson shared information on Mutual Aid of Tompkins County's Food Pods. She inquired as to whether this would be an appropriate town project.

BUDGET UPDATES:

Overview of possible revenue shortfalls

Ms. Zahler, Ms. Wright, and Mr. Boggs created models for various shortfall scenarios and shared information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Planning Board Recommendations RE: Zoning Amendment

Ms. Liddle said that the Planning Board has recommended that the maximum sq. footage be changed from 2000 to 3500sf. in both the lakeshore and conservation districts. Additionally, the board recommends environmental protections (or performance criteria) for stormwater, erosion, and sediment control and management.

RESOLUTION 2020-100: RESPONDING TO PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the Zoning Law adopted on December 10, 2019 in Resolution 2019-211 included provisions that several members of the Town Board wanted to re-visit in 2020 based on feedback from the Public Hearing held November 12, 2019 and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wished to consider alternative strategies that balance property rights with our environmental stewardship when protecting steep slopes and Unique Natural Areas in the Lakeshore and Conservation zone rather than a zone-wide limit of 2000sq ft footprint and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020 the Ulysses Town Board charged the Ulysses Planning Board with:

- reviewing the current number of undeveloped parcels and acreage in the two zones and
- recommending a proposal to amend the Zoning Law Sections Section 212-47. N and Section 212-54 in ways that address the options identified by the Town Board and/or
- recommending other strategies to achieve the Town Board’s policy goal and

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Planning Board has reviewed the zoning and the guidance from the Town Board and has transmitted their recommendations and rationale to the Town Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board acknowledges receipt of the recommendations and extends its appreciation to the members of the Planning Board and further

RESOLVED, that before voting on a local law to amend the Zoning Law, the Town Board will take the following steps:

1. Review and discuss the proposal and agree on language for a draft local law;
2. Schedule a public information meeting to be held by videoconference and advertised to the land owners in the affected zones as well as to all Town residents for the purpose of informing those affected and the wider public of the proposal under consideration and to invite questions and comments about the intent and wording of the proposed amendment;
3. Review and discuss the specific comments shared at the Public Information meeting and any comments submitted in writing and then adopt final language for the proposed amendment;
4. Introduce the draft local law to Amend the Zoning Ordinance

5. Conduct a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review on the proposed action;
6. Schedule a Public Hearing with sufficient time to request and receive comments from Tompkins County Planning (239 Review), other regulatory bodies to be identified;
7. Post the notice of public hearing and notify neighboring municipalities as required.
8. Conduct the Public Hearing and depending on comments, vote to adopt the local law amendment and submit the change to the NYS Department of State **OR** consider changes that will require the process to be repeated.

Moved: Ms. Zahler Seconded: Mr. Devokaitis

Ms. Zahler aye
 Ms. Olson aye
 Mr. Boggs aye
 Mr. Goldman aye
 Mr. Devokaitis aye

Vote: 5-0
 Date Adopted: 4/28/2020

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATING 2020 LIAISON AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

RESOLUTION 2020-102: UPDATING 2020 LIAISON AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Ulysses Town Board appointed Town Board members as liaisons to various boards and committees and community members as members and alternates to the Planning Board at its January 6th Organizational Meeting as required and

WHEREAS, there have been changes in the composition of the Town Board since January 6, 2020, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulysses Town Board approves the liaisons and town board appointments as updates to Resolution 2020-19 as outlined on the attached charts:

TOWN BOARD LIAISONS:

COMMITTEE OR BOARD	1/6/20 Org. Mtg.	4/28/20
1. Highway Department	Town Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor	Nancy Zahler, Katelin Olson
2. Personnel	Nancy Zahler, Rich Goldman	Nancy Zahler, Rich Goldman
3. Planning Board	Rich Goldman, Michael Boggs (alternate)	Rich Goldman, Marc Devokaitis (alternate)

4. BZA	Katelin Olson, Michael Boggs	Katelin Olson, Michael Boggs
5. Fire Department	Michael Boggs	Michael Boggs
6. Tburg/Ulysses Youth Commission	Nancy Zahler	Katelin Olson, Nancy Zahler (alternate)
7. Village EMS & EMS Billing Oversight Comm	Michael Boggs, Nancy Zahler	Michael Boggs, Katelin Olson
8. Town Hall Maintenance	Supervisor, Michael Boggs (alt)	Nancy Zahler, Michael Boggs (alternate)
9. Sustainability Committee	Katelin Olson	Marc Devokaitis
10. Trumansburg Village Bd	Nancy Zahler	Marc Devokaitis, Katelin Olson (alternate)
11. Records Advisory Board	Supervisor	Nancy Zahler
12. Safety Committee	Michael Boggs/Nancy Zahler Alt	Michael Boggs, John Zepko (alternate)
13. Union negotiations	Rich Goldman, Nancy Zahler	Rich Goldman, Nancy Zahler
14. Agricultural Committee	Katelin Olson, Nancy Zahler	Katelin Olson, Marc Devokaitis

TOWN APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENT	1/6/20 Org. Mtg.	4/28/20
Health Consortium Board	Rich Goldman, Nancy Zahler (alt)	Rich Goldman
Planning Board Chairperson	Linda Liddle	Linda Liddle
Board of Zoning Appeals Chairperson	Robert Howarth	Steven Morreale
Clerk for Board of Zoning Appeals	Louis DiPietro	Louis DiPietro
Clerk for Planning Board	Maria Barry	Maria Barry

APPOINTMENT	1/6/20 Org. Mtg.	4/28/20
Tompkins County Environmental Mgmt Council	Cait Darfler, Liz Thomas (alternate)	Cait Darfler, Marc Devokaitis (alternate)
Tompkins County Water Resources Council (WRC)	Liz Thomas serving in an “at-large” position.	Liz Thomas serving in an “at-large” position.
Tompkins County Stormwater Coalition	John Zepko	John Zepko
Stormwater Officer	John Zepko	John Zepko
Tburg Ulysses Youth Commission Reps	Sharon Bilotta, Reanna Levine	Sharon Bilotta, Reanna Levine
Rec Partnership rep.	Durand Van Doren, Nancy Zahler (alt)	Durand Van Doren, (alt)/ Katelin Olson
Tompkins County Youth Services Board	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
Ithaca/Tompkins County Transportation Council Planning & Policy Committees	Michelle E. Wright	Michelle E. Wright / Katelin Olson (alternate)
Tompkins County Council of Governments	Supervisor & Deputy Supervisor	Nancy Zahler, Michael Boggs (alternate)
Fair Board liaison	Michelle E. Wright	Michelle E. Wright
Historian	John Wertis	John Wertis
Tompkins County Animal Control	Supervisor, Carissa Parlato (alt)	Carissa Parlato, Nancy Zahler (alternate)
Cayuga Lake Water Shed Intermunicipal Org. (IO)	Supervisor, Michael Boggs (alt) Current: Liz T & Roxanne M	Liz Thomas/Roxanne Marino (alternate)
Chamber of Commerce	Nancy Zahler, Rich Goldman (alt)	Katelin Olson/Rich Goldman (alternate)
Voucher Reviews	Nancy Zahler & Rich Goldman (Jan-Jun) Michael Boggs & Katelin	Rich Goldman & Katelin (through June) Michael Boggs and Marc

APPOINTMENT	1/6/20 Org. Mtg.	4/28/20
	Olson (July-Dec)	Devokaitis (July-Dec)

Moved: Ms. Zahler Seconded: Ms. Olson

Ms. Zahler aye
Ms. Olson aye
Mr. Boggs aye
Mr. Goldman aye
Mr. Devokaitis aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 4/28/2020

URGING FEDERAL FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEW YORK STATE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

RESOLUTION 2020-103: IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEW YORK STATE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 in New York resulted in Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a State of Emergency on March 7, 2020 and closed non-essential businesses by executive order on March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump approved a Major Disaster Declaration for New York State on March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, New York State is the most adversely impacted in the United States by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is an economic hub in Upstate New York and attracts residents and visitors from all over the world to live, work and shop; and

WHEREAS, all non-essential businesses in Tompkins are closed and sales tax revenue is projected to be upwards of 50% below original projections for 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses relies on sales tax revenue for approximately 20% of its budget; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses and other regional municipal governments and school districts with populations less than 500,000 continue to provide essential services during these difficult times; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ulysses and other regional municipal governments and school districts have expanded their service provisions to meet the necessary responsibilities created by this global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York is projected to have a \$10-15 billion budgetary shortfall for 2020 and has indicated it may withhold its normal fiscal support to municipalities and school districts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Town of Ulysses requests that our federal representatives—Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and Representative Tom Reed—strongly advocate for municipalities and school districts in New York to receive direct monetary support from the federal government in the Phase 4 aid package.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk send certified copies to our federal representatives.

Moved: Ms. Olson Seconded: Mr. Boggs

Ms. Zahler	aye
Ms. Olson	aye
Mr. Boggs	aye
Mr. Goldman	aye
Mr. Devokaitis	aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 4/28/2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ms. Zahler moved to go into Executive Session at 9:15pm to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person. This was seconded by Mr. Goldman and passed unanimously.

Ms. Zahler moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:47pm. This was seconded by Mr. Devokaitis and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS continued:

APPOINTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The board decided to continue the search for a new Code Officer before appointing anyone at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RESOLUTION 2020-104: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Ulysses Town Board approves the minutes from the 3/18/20, 3/21/20, 3/23/20 and the 4/14/20.

Moved: Ms. Zahler Seconded: Ms. Olson

Ms. Zahler	aye
Ms. Olson	aye
Mr. Boggs	aye

Mr. Goldman aye
Mr. Devokaitis aye

Vote: 5-0

Date Adopted: 4/28/2020

ADJOURN:

Mr. Goldman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. This was seconded by Ms. Olson and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Carissa Parlato,
5/11/2020*