

**TOWN OF WINDHAM  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
371 State Route 296, Hensonville, NY  
Website: [www.townofwindhamny.com](http://www.townofwindhamny.com)**

**APRIL 22, 2021**

**Present:** Supervisor: Thomas F. Hoyt  
Councilmen: Wayne Van Valin, Ian Peters, Stephen Walker & Kurt Goettsche  
Town Clerk: Bonnie Poehmel

**Absent:** Ambulance Administrator Davia Montie

**Also Present:** Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington, Town Attorney Larry Gardner,  
Delaware Engineering John Brust & Police Chief Tor Tryland

**By Telephone:** Mike Ryan Mountain Eagle

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2021 TOWN BOARD MEETING were approved as typed on a motion by Councilman Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with 3 in favor, two abstained Councilmen Peters and Goettsche as they were absent.

1.DELAWARE ENGINEERING: John Brust was present. John stated on the water side of things we will soon be closing out the water project financially with a zero percent interest with EFC. The WWTP and the Old Road Pump Station upgrade plans will go to the DEC on Monday will also be shared here with the town as well. At the last meeting we looked at the Ambulance building floor plan. John provided to the Board an arial photo showing how the building will sit

on the site. The building has been moved further away from State Route 23 (about 105 feet between the entrance driveway and State Route 23). We are also 193 feet from the helicopter pad to the end of the building. Lighting will need to be 2 inches above the ground and green lighting is what they like as it is easier on the pilots' eyes to see at night. Supervisor Hoyt and the Board were concerned about parking. They would like to see the public park in the front of the building only with a front door entrance and the ambulance employees park in the back of the building with a back door entrance. John will get back to the Board with the parking change.

2.OPENING OF FLOWER BIDS: One bid was received from **Kerns Landscapes and Nursery for the installing and supplying of annual flowers** at town signs, garden beds and spring clean-up of garden beds in the amount of **\$11,675.00**. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. One bid was received from **Kerns Landscapes and Nursery for watering and maintenance** for annual flowers at town signs and garden beds in the amount of **\$3,695.00**. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Walker, with all in favor.

3.RESPONSE LETTER FROM NYS DOT regarding Speed Limit Request for State Route 23: "In response to your October 26, 2020 letter to Steve Shepard, Acting Greene County Resident Engineer requesting a speed limit reduction on Route 23 between Hickory Hill Road and St. Theresa's Church in the Hamlet of Windham... As you are aware, there is an existing posted 35 mph speed limit on Route 23 covering the approximate 1% mile corridor between Hickory Hill Road and a point just east of Route 296. We recently conducted a speed limit investigation including the entire 35 mph speed zone. Radar measurements just east of Hickory Hill Road found the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 41 mph with 47% of motorists exceeding the speed limit, at Mill Street the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 38 mph with 23% exceeding the speed limit, and near Begley Road 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 45 mph with 91% of motorists exceeding the speed limit. Based on these findings, we would not recommend a reduction of the speed limit for the entire length of the 35 mph speed zone. In 1996 a similar request was made by the town and the results of that study were similar to the data provided above. We denied a reduction of the entire length of the 35 mph speed zone. Based on that investigation, an offer was made to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph thru the heart of the hamlet (Hickory Hill Road to CR 21). However, the 35 mph limit to the east of CR 21 would be raised to 45 mph. This increase would more appropriately reflect the actual operating speeds of motorists thru this corridor, while providing enforcement of unreasonable and imprudent drivers who may be exceeding these speed zones." Supervisor Hoyt asked Chief Tryland to look into this as the State gave us an option. Supervisor Hoyt, "If we lower Main Street from 35 mph to 30 mph DOT will allow that as long as we raise the speed limit to 45 mph on the east end of town from County Route 21 to just passed the Brooklyn Bridge." Chief Tryland would still like to see the 30 mph from County Route 21 to Begley Road, as there is still a crosswalk, a lot of foot traffic going in front of Winwood Inn and Hickory Hill Market and the St. Theresa's Church; if we could change the speed limit to 45 mph just below Begley Road would be better. He thinks this is a better option. Chief Tryland feels it is important to lower the speed limit on Main Street as the 35 mph is quite high; and we have more people on the street than ever before and this is a concern too. If this is not possible than the Town will have to make a decision. RESPONSE LETTER FROM NYS DOT regarding Speed Limit Request for State Route 296: "This is in response to your letter to Thomas F. Hoyt, Windham Town Supervisor, requesting a speed limit reduction on Route 296 in front of the Thompson House in the Town of Windham...As you are aware, this section of Route 296 is currently governed by a 40 MPH speed limit, which was lowered from 45 mph in 2002. In response to your inquiry, we conducted a speed limit investigation on this section of Route 296, which included taking radar measurements of speed. Our radar measurements found 62% of motorists exceeding the posted 40 MPH speed limit. Under these circumstances, we recommend enforcement of the existing speed limit rather than a further reduction as an effective means to address speeding concerns through this section of highway. By way of this letter, we will notify the various police agencies for whatever enforcement action they deem necessary. Lowering the speed limit does not necessarily reduce the operating speed. While some drivers will blindly obey the new speed limit and any posted regulatory sign, most drivers will drive at a speed that they feel safe and comfortable at, which is usually the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The result is that when a speed limit is unjustly lowered, there is a significant deviation in operating speeds. This is reflected in what we call the "pace". Safety (crash reduction) is improved when the 10 MPH pace speed is closer to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. A wide distribution of operating speeds can lead

to aggressive driving, road rage, rear end collisions and a less safe condition despite lowering the speed limit.” Chief Tryland believes that the current speed limit of 40 mph in front of the Thompson House is too high speed of a speed to have there as well. Supervisor Hoyt will follow up with a phone call to the DOT State Engineer regarding both letters with Board’s concerns. Supervisor Hoyt received a letter from a resident living on High Peak Road. High Peak Road has no speed limit signs posted in either direction. With none being posted the speed limit is then 55 mph.

4.COURT JUSTICE REPORT FOR MARCH 2021: Justice McCarthy \$3,537.00 was noted by the Board.

5.TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION #23 OF 2021: To accept the Sidewalk District Billing for the winter season of 2020-2021 in the amount of \$7,996.80. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Walker, with all in favor. TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION #24 OF 2021: the following resolution was proposed to transfer funds to balance the Sewer District accounts. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilman Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

6.AMBULANCE REPORT: Ambulance Administrator Davia Montie was not present. The following report was provided for the Board’s review: “*Vehicles:* 96-1 - No issues. 96-2 – Oil Change/Service on 4/12, tires rotated. *Monthly calls:* There were a total of 43 calls for the month of March, last year there were 32 for the month of March. ***Calls for the Month of March 2021:*** *Calls in Windham: Advanced Life Support (ALS)-10, Basic Life Support (BLS)-7, Call Cancelled (C/C)-1; Refused Medical Assistance (RMA)-1, Stand By Fire (S/B Fire)-3;* *Calls in Hunter: ALS-1, BLS-1, RMA-1;* *Calls in Jewett: ALS-6, BLS-3, C/C-1, RMA-2;* *Calls in Durham: C/C-1;* *Calls in Cairo: ALS-1;* *TOT Mutual Aid: Ashland-3, Hunter 1. Total calls for March: 43, Calls turned over to Mutual Aid-4. Vehicle Mileage Log for March 2021:* 96-1: 44,142 and 96-2: 129,585. *Miscellaneous:* Windham Ambulance should be going live with UCM Digital Health by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.”

7.HIGHWAY REPORT: Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington was present. Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington received a letter through the town’s website from a resident concerning site distance and wild animals in the roadway on Begley Road. The concern was for site distance for a particular driveway. Based on Gary’s research and information there is a concern “for traffic traveling to the south coming down Begley Road; the driveway is near a crest in the hill and there should be approximately 350 feet of site distance”. There is no site issue coming up the hill. He will make sure a proper sign is installed for this. The other concern was for deer crossing, it is impossible to post deer crossing signs on every town roadway. We just sent the monthly rental of the boom mower back as we have finished cutting the roadside brush with it. “In total on town roads we covered 6.3 miles both sides.” The highway dept also did some fence repair at CD Lane Park, the fence is all straight now. Mowing of the grass as not started yet. Sweeping of the roads is completed. Gary has the annual 284 Agreement for the Board’s review and will need their signatures. The roads are listed Slater Road & Evergreen Road in Maplecrest. And the section of Mill Street in Windham. We have plenty of funding for what needs to be done. Supervisor Hoyt would like a motion to approve the Highway Superintendent’s 284 Agreement as written. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Peters, with all in favor. The Supervisor and the Highway Superintendent have discussed additional funding and the Highway Superintendent will research the funding for the highway program.

8.POLICE REPORT: Police Chief Tor Tryland was present. As last discussed, Chief Tryland has done some research on purchasing a new police car. He has presented his research to the Board for their review. The Chief has also submitted a memo with a list of equipment that needs to be purchase. The Board is concerned that there may be a vehicle shortage soon and they would like to stay in the rotation. A motion was approved for Chief Tryland to research the vehicle of interest as discussed and secure the vehicle should it meet the needs of the police dept, the motion was made by Councilman Van Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

9.COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Councilman Van Valin** the police barn had a barn lighting issue. An electrician was called to fix the problem and they have installed new LED lights. He continues to review projects that will need to be addressed. Supervisor Hoyt asked Councilman Van Valin to please check on the corner gutter of the town hall building, the recent winds may have pulled it away from the building. **Councilman Walker** all the SWAC proposed projects were approved. Supervisor Hoyt stated we were awarded through SWAC funding of \$200,000.00 to support the Windham Path Bank Stabilization Project behind the Windham Pharmacy. Supervisor Hoyt noted that Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District will help with the all bidding and permits for the Town of Windham. Councilman Walker also noted there is still more funding available in the fall. **Councilman Goettsche** needs more space on the town's website or he may have to delete some of the older Reporter's Notebook. He is using Sound Cloud that is a free account right now to post these recording, but it is half full. He has checked on the pricing for the premium account that is unlimited it will cost \$144.00 a year/\$12 a month or KathodeRay can upgrade our service plan through them for \$480.00 a year. Supervisor Hoyt would like when ready the Comprehensive Plan to be in an electronic version to be posted, this will also use more space. Supervisor Hoyt noted that just this week our Facebook page has received just over 1,000 likes for the past year. Councilman Goettsche noted the Lifeguard Notice has reached out over 2,000 people and the users are sharing information about Windham. **Councilman Peters** may have someone interested in the lifeguard position who is certified and lives here in town. He has reached out to the school for anyone that might be interested in a summer job. Councilman Peters believes we all have read about the article on "Prattsville Citizens Launch 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Drive". **Supervisor Hoyt** noted a letter was received from a town resident to the Supervisor and each Town Board regarding the article in the April 16, 2021 issue of the Windham Weekly "Prattsville Citizens Launch 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Drive". We are close to coming to an agreement with the CBA Highway Collective Bargain with the highway workers. At the Creamery Pond we have had a minor issue with the municipal parking lot. The WAJ School District has been using our parking lot area for parking their buses. WAJ can use the area Monday-Friday but on the weekends the buses have to be moved for the weekend soccer program as the parents will need to park. Highway Superintendent Gary Thorington and the highway department has fixed the well at that field and it is now all smooth. CD Lane Park will be getting a delivery of the beams for the bridge; the fence out front has been fixed; and there is an interest from four different people in our community for the lifeguard positions. Two of the people have the qualifications and the other two people will have their qualifications soon. Permit for the beach has been filed with the Dept of Health. Permit has been filed with DEC for trout that will be coming from SUNY Cobleskill. In May the water level will be dropped and beach sand will be added in the swim area. The Windham Foundation has sent another check for \$94,000.00 to use at the CD Lane Park for more project enhancements. The park had 2 old soccer goals that had not been used in years. They have been given to the soccer group in Prattsville for their season. The frames are good they just will need to buy new netting. Cable should be hot by the end of the month. Mid-Hudson Cablevision has requested another license to put cable on High Peak Road. There is still a section up on Nauvoo Road without cable. Supervisor Hoyt noted the NY Rising Project will have a pre-bid meeting on May 5, 2021 @ 10:00 am to walk the lower end of South Street for the Stormwater Project. We have been authorized that we can go out to bid yet we are still missing a few easements. May 3, 2021 the Greene County project will start the widening of South Street from CD Lane Road to State Route 296.

GENERAL FUND WARRANT #8-G contained vouchers #290-319, totaling \$34,673.64 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

HIGHWAY FUND WARRANT #8 contained vouchers #116-128, totaling \$6,928.08 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

SEWER DISTRICT FUND WARRANT #8 contained vouchers #126-143, totaling \$43,811.72 was audited and approved on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT WARRANT #2 contained voucher #2, totaling \$912.00 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

CD LANE PARK ENHANCEMENT WARRANT #8 contained voucher #21, totaling \$650.00 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

GENERAL FUND PAYROLL WARRANT #9-P for **General** contained 6 claims, totaling \$5,261.22 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. **Ambulance** payroll contained 18 claims, totaling \$15,227.15 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor. **Police** payroll contained 5 claims, totaling \$6,704.30 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

HIGHWAY PAYROLL WARRANT #9-P contained 6 claims, totaling \$10,224.00 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Van Valin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

SEWER DISTRICT FUND PAYROLL WARRANT #9-P contained 2 claims, totaling \$543.23 was audited and approved for payment on a motion by Councilman Goettsche, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Van Valin, with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Goettsche, with all in favor.

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SUPERVISOR

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TOWN CLERK

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