

HAGUE TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
August 13, 2019

The regular meeting of The Hague Town Board was held Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at The Hague Community Center at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Supervisor Edna Frasier
Martin Fitzgerald II
Jack Bast

Steve Ramant
Joshua Patchett

Absent: 0

Others present: Melissa Patchett- Town Clerk, Cathy Clark- ZEO
Anthony DeFranco, Marylou Doulin, Alice Patchett, Sally DeLarm Rypkema, Doug & Pam Connors, Travis Whitford, Carolyn Copenhauer, Linda Mury, Barbara Hayes Trainor, Kathy Hayes Fortier, Paul Ferguson – Supervisor, Town of Dresden, Linda Barber – Director of Royal Anchorage Estates, Putnam Station

On a Motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Bast, to open the meeting at 6:00 pm to audit bills. All voted aye. Motion carried.

After the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of silence was held for:
Evelyn Gravelle, Carol Stormer, Shirley Bly Smith, and James Coates

PUBLIC HEARING Waste Water Variance, Connors Tax Map # 2-1-25

On a Motion made by J. Patchett, seconded by M. Fitzgerald, to open the public hearing. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tony DeFranco, Licensed Professional Engineer, represented Doug & Pam Connors for the design of a replacement wastewater system. Mr. DeFranco had made adjustments to the design presented at the last Town Board meeting, July 9, 2019. The setback to water source was increased from 32.79' to 46.28'. Thus the setback to the jurisdictional wetland needed to be adjusted as well from 72.72' to 71.85'. The Board discussed the conditions to be set with Mr. DeFranco. Reminder letters will be sent to the homeowner annually for submission of the required inspection to the Town of Hague.

On a Motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Bast, to close the public hearing. All voted aye. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 95 OF 2019

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONNORS WASTE WATER VARIANCE

WHEREAS, the Town Board acting as the Local Board of Health of the Town of Hague held a public hearing on the 13th day of August regarding three Waste Water Variances for a replacement system for Doug and Pam Connors whose property is located at 911 New Hague Road, Tax Map # 2-1-25, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has implemented the following conditions:

1. Due to the possibility of flooding/saturation of the Puraflo pods with heavy water use, a water shut-off valve must be installed on the water pump.
2. Testing system (effluent) after the first month of use and annual inspection results be sent to the Town thereafter due to the 71.85' separation to a jurisdictional wetland.
3. UV/Chlorinator water filter will be installed on spring in the basement due to the 46.28' setback to the leach system.

Resolution introduced by S. Ramant, and seconded by M. Fitzgerald,

VARIANCE #1 IS RESOLVED, for the setback of septic tanks to property line:

Code 10', Design -10'

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: 0

Carried 5-0

Resolution introduced by J. Patchett, and seconded by J. Bast,

VARIANCE #2 IS RESOLVED, for the setback to potable water source:

Code 100', Design 46.28'

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: 0

Carried 5-0

Resolution introduced by J. Patchett, and seconded by S. Ramant,

VARIANCE #3 IS RESOLVED, for the setback to Jurisdictional Wetland:

Code 100', Design 71.85'

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: 0

Carried 5-0

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Barbara Hayes Trainor, of Ticonderoga, spoke about the conditions of the Hague Cemetery, located at the corner of Rt. 8 and W. Hague Road. Ms. Trainor has several relatives at rest at the cemetery. She expressed that the poor conditions of the grounds became apparent to her when she went to visit her grandparents on Memorial Day Weekend. Several headstones were found damaged and lying flat on the ground. She does not recall so many of the stones being in that condition the year prior, which leads her to question possible vandalism. Ms. Trainor brought photographs to share with the Town Board. She expressed that this cemetery holds some of the earliest settlers of the Town of Hague and she feels that it should be taken better care of.

Alice Patchett, of Hague, also spoke regarding the conditions of the cemetery. She recommended the formation of a Cemetery Committee. Supervisor Frasier suggested that Mrs. Patchett could head up the Committee. Mrs. Patchett stated that the project would be better for the Hague Historical Society. Councilman Fitzgerald stated that it may be best to leave the fallen stones on the ground as trying to lift them could cause more damage. He also stated that repairs would be an expensive proposition. Sally DeLarm Rypkema, the Town of Hague Historian, mentioned that grant money may be available. The Hague Historical Society will look into grant funding.

Marylou Doulin, of Hague, asked if the Town of Hague could consider reopening the landfill for leaves. Supervisor Frasier stated that the town landfill cannot accept leaves per NYSDEC. Ms. Doulin expressed her concerns about the leaves going into the lake and that the decomposing leaves makes the sand mucky, which creates perfect conditions for invasive species. She suggested a composting system. Councilman Fitzgerald states that residents can create their own private composting, but the town cannot.

Alice Patchett spoke regarding weeds growing in the cracks between the roads and the sidewalks in the hamlet. Mrs. Patchett believes this should be a Highway Department responsibility to maintain because it is on the roads. She suggested that bed tax funds could be used toward the cleanup as it is "Town Beautification". ZEO Clark mentioned that chemical weed killers can no longer be used, and that the weeds would need to be pulled by hand or cut using a weed whacker. Councilman Ramant suggested that it could be arranged to have prisoners come for the cleanup.

MINUTES

On motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Patchett, **IT IS RESOLVED**, that the minutes of July 9, 2019 be accepted. All voted aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 94 OF 2019 PAY BILLS

Resolution introduced by M. Fitzgerald, and seconded by J. Bast,

IT IS RESOLVED, to pay the following warrants as outlined in # 8-19 for a total of \$ 60,787.31

General	\$ 37,410.10
Highway	\$ 8,808.94
Sewer 1	\$ 2,208.41
Sewer 2	\$ 1,117.72
Occ. Tax	\$ 4,215.31
WQIP Grant	\$ 5,512.00
Street Lights	\$ 441.08

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: 0

Carried 5-0

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Administrative: Frasier**
 - Assessor/Justice
 - Finance/Insurance – Town of Hague had a meeting with Mark Carpenter Agency on August 13, 2019 for the renewal policy.
 - Recreation/ Promotion – the YMCA summer program is winding down for the season. There were 16 kids in attendance this year.
- **Buildings & Grounds: Fitzgerald/Patchett**
 - J. Patchett made mention that there is a section of pavement that needs to be repaired at the front entrance to the Town Community Center.
 - Councilmen J. Patchett and M. Fitzgerald recently met at the landfill. The Councilmen discussed that it is unfortunate, but it is a consideration to get rid of the recycling bins at the transfer station for the time being. The Town of Hague has been accepting resident’s recycling free of charge, while being charged a hauling fee from Casella to take the recycling off property. This has caused a large expense to the Town of Hague. The Councilmen stated that individuals could then take it upon themselves if they want to recycle. The second part of the plan would be to use a scale for all garbage as hauling fees are charged by weight. The Board is considering having two employees at the transfer station and/or installing a gate with a button to allow only one vehicle at a time to come through. ZEO Clark called a point of order that recycling is mandated in local law. The Board was in agreement that a plan needs to be established by the end of the year.
- **Highway: Ramant/ Bast**
 - Councilman Ramant reported that work had been done on New Hague Road and Decker Hill Road. He states that the highway crew has also been helping out with raking at the Town Beach as there is only one remaining lifeguard.
- **Museum/Historian: Patchett/ Ramant**
 - The Hague Historical Society Meeting was cancelled for August.
- **Personnel: Bast/Fitzgerald**
 - The Town of Hague Employee Manual revisions were added for the Town Board to review. Councilman Bast reported that he discussed the changes with Diane Trudeau, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor.

- **Planning/Zoning: Fitzgerald/Patchett**
 - The Town Board received a report from ZEO Clark with permit activity, updates on the Planning and Zoning Boards, and the status of sewer district hook-ups.
- **Town Park/Beautification: Ramant/Frasier**
 - Councilman Ramant reports that there have been three “Music in the Park” performances moved to the Community Center due to inclement weather this year, which is a new record.
 - The Open House at the Community Center on August 5, 2019 for the Town Park Master Plan was well attended.
 - An Invasive Species Meeting sponsored by the LGLC is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm. A large turnout is expected.
- **Sewer District#1 & #2: Bast/Frasier**
 - Councilman Bast stated that the status of the sewer hookups was included with ZEO Clark’s zoning report. Certified letters were mailed out to homeowners within the sewer districts that are not yet hooked up. There still has been no response from some of the property owners.
- **Environmental Concerns: Ramant/ Patchett**
 - Knotweed project is underway.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

-The Town of Hague received letters from Royal Anchorage Estates Homeowners Inc. and the Town of Putnam requesting the approval of two 5 MPH speed zone buoys to be installed between the shores of Royal Anchorage and Rock Brothers Island. Linda Barber, Director of Royal Anchorage, discussed the safety concerns of speeding boats. She states it is a danger for swimmers and boaters in small watercraft.

- The Town of Hague also received a letter from the Town of Dresden requesting the approval of four 5 MPH speed zone buoys to be installed in Indian Bay around Dunder Island. Dresden Town Supervisor, Paul Ferguson spoke on behalf of the request. He stated that there was recently an incident where a kayaker was hit by a speeding boat. He mentioned that boats are made to go much faster than they used to be.

-Both of these areas previously had put out speed zone buoys on their own. However, NYSDEC enforcement officers removed the buoys as they were not official. Because the waters of Lake George bordering the Towns of Putnam and Dresden lie within the jurisdiction of Warren County, NY, and specifically the Town of Hague, the resolutions for these requests must be approved by the Town Board of the Town of Hague as per NYSDEC.

-Councilman Patchett expressed that he would like to do a site visit to get a visual understanding of both sites. Councilman Ramant made motion to table the resolutions until the next Town Board meeting. The Town Board agreed that they would plan a site visit together by boat. Supervisor Frasier stated the resolutions will be added to the agenda for September 10, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion made by S. Ramant, seconded by M. Fitzgerald, the Town Board approves the Town Clerk, M. Patchett's request to attend the workshop, "Your Role as Local Records Management Officer" on August 28, 2019 at the Warren County Municipal Center.

On a motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Ramant, the Town Board approves the Town Clerk, M. Patchett's request to attend NYS Town Clerk's Regional meeting in Saranac Lake on September 23, 2019—Cost \$35 plus mileage.

On a motion made by J. Bast, seconded by M. Fitzgerald, the Town Board approves the Town Clerk, M. Patchett's request to attend Tri County Clerk's Association Meeting on September 27, 2019 in Queensbury.

RESOLUTION # 96 OF 2019 REVISED EMPLOYEE GUIDE

Resolution introduced by M. Fitzgerald, and seconded by S. Ramant,

WHEREAS, the Town of Hague Employee manual was last revised in February 2012, and

WHEREAS, from 2012-2018 a number of amendments have been made to the manual, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board contracted with Jaeger & Flynn to update our manual due to new rules and regulations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopt the newly revised manual to be effective immediately.

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: 0

Carried 5-0

DISCUSSION

Reappointment of the Assessor

The Town Board agreed to table the resolution appointing the Town Assessor until the next Town Board meeting.

Town of Hague Clean-up Day

Supervisor Frasier appointed Councilmen Ramant and Bast to arrange the Clean-up Day plans. Notifications will be made to town residents.

Swede Mountain Fire Tower

Councilman Patchett expressed that it is important to push forward with the revitalization project. Councilman Fitzgerald brought out a survey map of the trail for the Town Board to review.

On a Motion made by J. Bast, seconded by J. Patchett, **IT IS RESOLVED**, to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 7:35 pm. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa L. Patchett
Interim Town Clerk