

HAGUE TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

December 10, 2019

The regular meeting of The Hague Town Board was held Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at The Hague Community Center at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Edna Frasier – Supervisor

Jack Bast – Councilman

Martin Fitzgerald II – Councilman

Joshua Patchett – Councilman

Absent: Steve Ramant – Councilman

Recording Secretary: Melissa Patchett – Town Clerk

Others Present: Linda Mury – HVFD President, Donna Wotton, Stephen Engle, David Landers

The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Edna Frasier.

A Motion made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Bast to open the Meeting at 6:02 pm to audit bills. All voted aye. Motion carried.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for: None

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Donna Wotton reported in on a couple of projects from the Ti-Alliance.

One is the Trade Education Program. A scholarship fund has been established. An initial donor is going to give a sizable amount of money for the fund. After the first of the year, the Ti-Alliance will be soliciting for additional donors. They expect for the 2020-2021 school year that they will be distributing 6 to 8 scholarships in the amount of \$6,000 to \$8,000 a piece.

Another project in an effort to connect kids to the trades is the Contractors in the Classroom. In Ticonderoga there is a program with Ti'Coustics to put 10 historic figure sculptures in the Town of Ticonderoga, which are being made by a renowned sculptor from the Boston area. Contractors from the community will be helping the technology students design and create structures to protect these sculptures.

Ms. Wotton discussed the Downtown Development projects including renovating the Hacker Building, the Burleigh House and the Agway Building. Additional Downtown Development includes putting in a theater for local performances, retail stores along the street, a boutique hotel, and new apartments.

Ms. Wotton also announced that Ti-Alliance is working a project called the Co-Working Space. Ti-Alliance is partnering with The North Country Regional Economic Development Council to work on ways to build small business in the north country, build a younger workforce and expand the technology workforce in the area. They will be offering rental co-working spaces and housing rentals to entice young technology professionals to the area.

The Ti-Alliance has a newsletter that anyone can sign up for on their website for additional information and updates.

Stephen Engle discussed how people lose things and items wash up on the shorelines of Lake George. Mr. Engle suggested creating a community lost & found for wash-up items. Ms. Wotton shared that there is a free nationwide social network called 'Nextdoor' that allows the community to post things like lost and found items.

David Landers, former Transfer Station employee, stated that he has been observing that the management of the Transfer Station has gotten worse and is costing the Town of Hague money. M. Fitzgerald suggested creating a committee for the Transfer Station. Supervisor Frasier stated that she would like to approach changes for the Transfer Station in January of 2020.

RESOLUTION #116 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 # 12-19 for a total of \$ 168,430.86

General	\$ 31,987.28	Sewer 1	\$ 4,045.10
Highway	\$ 42,262.67	Sewer 2	\$ 1,992.39
Occ. Tax	\$ 171.00	Fire District	\$ 87,415.25
Street Lights	\$ 557.17		

Duly adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Martin Fitzgerald II, Josh Patchett, Jack Bast

Nays: None

Carried 4-0

MINUTES

On a motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Patchett, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Minutes of November 12, 2019 as submitted by the Town Clerk are approved.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Administrative: Frasier**
 - Assessor/Justice
 - Finance/Insurance
 - Recreation/ PromotionSupervisor Frasier had nothing to report.
- **Buildings & Grounds: Fitzgerald/Patchett**
 - M. Fitzgerald had nothing to report.
 - J. Patchett reported that he took measurements on the Welcome to Hague sign that needs repair.

- **Highway: Ramant/ Bast**
Supervisor Frasier reported that Highway Department has been busy.
It was found that the sidewalk along the brook does not belong to D.O.T. It is the Town of Hague's responsibility to repair the damages caused by the heavy rain storm on October 31, 2019.
- **Museum/Historian: Patchett/ Ramant**
J. Patchett reported that the Historical Society did not hold their December meeting yet as there are a lot of people out of town.
- **Personnel: Bast/Fitzgerald**
J. Bast inquired about the status of the search for candidates for the new positions of administration clerk, zoning clerk, and full-time maintenance man.
Supervisor Frasier reported that she has been working with the Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Diane Frasier, on drafting the job descriptions to advertise. Interviews will begin after the job has been advertised and applications come in.
- **Planning/Zoning: Fitzgerald/Patchett**
M. Fitzgerald stated that the board will be discussing zoning and planning board amendments in the New Business section of the meeting.
- **Town Park/Beautification: Ramant/Frasier**
Nothing to report at this time.
- **Sewer District#1 & #2: Bast/Frasier**
J. Bast reported that he and ZEO Clark are waiting to hear from the Town Attorney, John Silvestri on a meeting time to discuss compliance.
There is no new status on compliance at this time.
- **Environmental Concerns: Ramant/ Patchett**
Nothing to report at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ON AMENDING ZONING ARTICLE XIII – NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND PLANNING BOARD

The Board discussed reducing the number of members for the ZBA and the Planning Board from a seven-member board to a five-member board with one alternate member.

Supervisor Frasier stated that ZEO Clark had told her that the majority of other municipalities have five-member boards. It would not be necessary to do a SEQR, it could be done in the form of an amendment. Supervisor Frasier stated that if a board member volunteers to resign, that would be fine, otherwise the Town will wait until a board member's term expires.

M. Fitzgerald stated that he would like to hear from the chairman of the Boards for their recommendations on the number of members.

**RESOLUTION #117 OF 2019
AMEND 2019 BUDGET – HISTORIAN EQUIPMENT**

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

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Hague amend the Historian Budget for fiscal year 2019 by transferring \$307.00 from Historian Contractual Expenses A00-7510-400 to Historian Equipment A00-7510-200 for the purchase of a fireproof safe.

Duly adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: 0

Carried 4-0

MAY MEMORIAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

On a Motion made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Patchett,

WHEREAS, the previous committee members are no longer interested in participating, and WHEREAS, there is a need for rules and regulations review, IT IS RESOLVED to appoint a May Memorial Cemetery Committee with the following members: Melissa Patchett, Diane Trudeau, Bernard Denno, Valerie Lawrence, Bill Gourley, and Sally DeLarm-Rypkema. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2019 END OF THE YEAR MEETING

The Town Board will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 4:00 pm to close out the books for the year and discuss any other business that may come before the Board.

2020 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Town Board will hold their Organizational Meeting on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

SUPERVISORS REPORT & COUNTY REPORTS:

Supervisor Frasier proclaimed that the Hague Sno Goers did a wonderful job with the 2019 Holiday in Hague celebration. She reported that the trees have been decorated for the season at the Community Center and at the Town Park. The seasonal banners have also been changed.

An Executive Session was called to order by Supervisor Frasier to discuss the employment history of a town employee.

A Motion was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Bast to go out of the Regular Open Meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Bast to enter into an Executive Session at 6:47 pm. All voted aye. Motion carried.

All present other than the Town Board Members were asked to leave the room.

A Motion was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Bast to come out of the Executive Session at 7:08 pm. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by J. Bast to return to the Regular Open Meeting.

On a Motion made by M. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Bast, IT IS RESOLVED, to adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 7: 08 pm. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa L. Patchett
Hague Town Clerk