TOWN OF STANFORD TOWN BOARD   
MINUTES of SEPTEMBER 14th, 2023

The Town of Stanford Town Board met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 14th, 2023, at the Town Hall. Supervisor Burton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Bruman.   
 This meeting was dedicated to the Sept. 11th innocent victims and heroes who also died, and to the Town of Stanford Fire Company for the extraordinary job they did on the flag memorial on the Town Hall hill and asked for a moment of silence for all of those who perished.

Roll call: Wendy Burton – present

Anne Arent - present

Margaret Fallon – present

Nathan Lavertue – absent

Corey Clanahan - present

Also in attendance was Town Attorney Robert Butts.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA: A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Anne Arent to approve the agenda, with the addition of an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

LIAISON REPORTS: Corey Clanahan reported that the Planning Board had not met.

Anne Arent was not able to attend the last Fire Commissioners meeting but according to Kathy Spiers, the Fire District discussed their financial advisor’s updates, was able to clear out old supplies for auction, all vehicles had been serviced with the UTV in the fall, Ed Cerul was working on a letter of intent for a grant for training, the services of NDP with Pine Plains, budget workshops will be going on, elections will be on Dec. 1st, and discussions on the 10% tax exemption for firemen. Their next meeting will be Sept. 17th.

Margaret Fallon stated that the CAC would be having a table at Community Day and that the new sign for the Gary Lovett Wildlife Preserve will be dedicated on October 7th at 10 AM.

Wendy Burton said that two area variance applications were approved by the ZBA, Manning on Ernest Road and Kiernan on Hunns Lake Road.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORTS: Ms. Burton informed all that Congressman Pat Ryan would have a constituent meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 12 PM to 1 PM and all were welcome to ask any questions; the Burdick Park committee was applying for a Community Development Block Grant; and Larry Brody from the County Emergency Response Office was here to look into changing the Recreation Park address from Noller Way to Creamery Road, and then hopefully have Noller Road turn and go behind Big Rock.

The Board had received three payroll verification reports, the August Supervisor’s report and the August bank reconciliation and the Board will be approving a budget resolution this evening. The Tentative Budget was given to the Board members on Monday evening the 11th. For revenues, the Town Clerk’s office had done a stellar job this month with hunting licenses and dogs, building permit revenue was improving but research fees are still down. Mortgage tax revenue may be down as well but should make up the shortfall with the NY CLASS account interest; at the end of the year, if all spending is lower than expected, revenue lines should be all right. Mortgage tax is the issue in all towns, and perhaps the whole country. An Article 78 has been brought to the Town so we will not comment on any matter concerning Charwill Drive.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Johanna Shafer, 21 Decker Road – mentioned the confusion with the spelling of Shelley Hill Road and Ernest Road. Bob Butts stated that there were two signs on Shelley Hill with two different spellings.

Mark Burdick, 19 Burdick Way – had questions on the Comprehensive Plan: 1. Did the plan eliminate the provision about NYS law superseding certain laws? Would like the Town Attorney to look into this; 2. Will another public hearing be at the Cold Spring School? Yes; 3. Does the County have to look at the revisions made? No.

Nancy Krysak, 455 Hobbs Lane – strong comments were made last month alleging the Supervisor behaved in an inappropriate manner regarding certain issues: logging – she listened to all concerns and helped facilitated a meeting with the forester and we were very grateful for her help. The logging operation did not go through, but she acted as a supervisor should, she listened and responded. She also recognized the talents and level head of Corey Clanahan and

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asked him to serve on the Board when there was a vacancy and commended her for serving the Town with integrity.

Betty Cosgrove, 186 Charwill Drive – gave the letter to the Clerk that stated that she felt that Ben Rathjen, a member of the ZBA, should be removed from his position due to his zoning dispute with neighbors and attacking the Supervisor as being anti-business. She also implied that legal action would be taken. Ms. Cosgrove was unable to finish her statement due to time constraints. (Letter available upon request.)

Diane Duffus, 71 Hicks Lane – reading on behalf of two other neighbors, Lynn Tondrick and Lynn Massimo, who could not attend: read that they were both appreciated the services of the Town Board and the Supervisor, and how Wendy Burton listens to the citizens of the community and are grateful to her.

Kathy Zeyher, 158 Shelley Hill Road – had questions about the proposed police contract with Pine Plains: what is the contract status, when will it start, how will it be funded, how will it be funded, how to see if it benefits us, what’s the goal? She was wondering if this should go up for a vote of the townspeople?

Divo Martini, Shelley Hill Road – How much money will we get for a summons? Ms. Burton responded that it would depend on the infraction. Some money goes to the State from the troopers’ and sheriff’s tickets and assumed that that matrix would be the same for the Pine Plains police. Mr. Martini also stated that maybe the Board should think about this longer and maybe put up for a vote? There may be a minimal amount from any summonses, with the Supervisor responding that she will find out. Further discussion continued about the possible police presence once the Pine Plains contract is approved, and roads would be covered, etc. He also asked if the Troopers at Troop K had been contacted, with Wendy responding that there are problems on other roads other than Rt. 82.

Robert Byrnes, 186 Charwill Drive – read the end of Ms. Cosgrove’s letter regarding the requested removal of a member of the ZBA, and that he was not being a good neighbor. He added that he was a small business owner and believed that our Supervisor was not anti-business. Asked if the Zoning Board was accountable to anyone in the Town?

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2023: AMENDING ARTICLES I AND IV OF THE TOWN CODE TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL FOR REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DISABLED AND HAVE LIMITED INCOMES

Supervisor Burton made a motion to open the first of the Public Hearings scheduled for this meeting. Her motion was seconded by Anne Arent, with all voting in favor.

Betty Cosgrove, Charwill Drive – asked if there was an estimate of the number of people that could take advantage of this. Councilwoman Fallon and Supervisor Burton responded that they did not have an exact number, but there were about 750 seniors and they have to be below the income levels.

Mike Ginese, Prospect Hill Road – asked about the STAR program, and was told that this was a State program, and the town had no control over the school boards. Councilwoman Arent added that there were four different school districts in Stanford.

Johanna Shafer – said that there was an article in the Poughkeepsie Journal article about the STAR program.

Anthony Sarnicola – this is just for lower income levels for the seniors and the disabled?

Councilwoman Fallon added that there are less than 100 people that this could apply for according to the Assessor.

Betty Cosgrove asked when they would vote on this; Ms. Burton clarified that the Board would vote on this tonight. Wanted to know hard numbers of those impacted. No one knew.

Wendy Burton made a motion to close this public hearing, seconded by Anne Arent. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

2. PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2023: A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BOARD OF AMBULANCE COMMISSIONERS

A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Margaret Fallon, to open the second public hearing on proposed Local Law #5 to appoint a Board of Commissioners for the Ambulance District, already a lengthy process. After consulting with the Fire District’s attorney, a Board of Commissioners must be appointed. With no comments heard, a motion to close this

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public hearing was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Anne Arent. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The Supervisor explained that HUD funds to finish the task of creating the Irv and Dot Burdick Park and making it ADA compliant was being applied for under a Community Development Block Grant, part of which required this public hearing. This park would be an educational area with walking trails.

Mike Ginese – asked if this was Federal monies as State and Federal funds came with strings attached.

Jane Cottrell, Rt. 82 – they must comply with the terms of the grant only so that it’s for the good of the public.

Charles Shaw, Millis Lane – introduced the Burdick Park committee, Judith MacDonald, Frank Sellerberg, Lucy Kasofsky and himself. He attended a 2 ½ hr. County meeting today for the grant and explained that the area would be a 4.9 acre nature preserve. The grant application had to outline the objective and meet certain eligibility standards. They already had a Master Plan done in February of ’21 and would outline all species of flora and fauna; they also had a soil and water conservation study, an initial trail design, the history of the parcel (since 1885), a deed research and has had it brush hogged. The committee is now asking for the Town Board to prepare a resolution so that we may continue to prepare a grant for $75,000 - $125,000 with the requirement of this public hearing. The letter of intent must go to the County Planning by Sept. 27th which outlines what we plan to do to see if all of this qualifies and submit the grant application by October 20th. We’d like to start to construct a Boardwalk and have the Planning Board review as well.

Jon Bloomberg, Willowbrook Road – would the boardwalk be okay for seniors?

Mike Shafer, 21 Decker Road – Past Town Boards did not look at these grants, nor of the Greenway grants. Thinks this plan was a great idea.

Mike Ginese – there are a host of things that the Greenway is not in favor of.

Charles Shaw – we have already secured several other sources of funding, but maintenance by the Town and people willing to keep it running would be essential. We already have the support of the Town’s CAC, the Dutchess Land Conservancy, the American Legion, the Stanford Historical Society and others.

Corey Clanahan – we just need to give them the OK to apply for the grant and details will be forthcoming.  
 A motion to close this public hearing was made by Wendy, seconded by Anne Arent with all present voting in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION 9D – TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #4: The following resolution was offered by Wendy Burton, seconded by Margaret Fallon, as follows:

**RESOLUTION #9 D 2023**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 4 FOR THE YEAR 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLES I AND IV OF CHAPTER 144 OF THE TOWN CODE TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL FOR REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR**

**SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DISABLED AND HAVE LIMITED INCOMES**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stanford (“Town Board”), held at the Town of Stanford Town Hall on the 14th day of September, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., Town Supervisor Wendy Burton called the meeting to order, and she, seconded by Councilperson Margaret Fallon, moved the following resolution to introduce the following local law, to be known as Local Law No. 4 of 2023, entitled “A Local Law Amending Articles I and IV of Chapter 144 of the Town Code To Increase the Maximum Income Eligibility Level for Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens and Persons With Disabilities and Limited Incomes” as follows:

WHEREAS, the following Local Law was introduced as Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, at a meeting of the Town Board held on August 10th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a properly noticed public hearing was held before the Town Board during the meeting on September 14th, 2023, on this Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined proposed action qualifies as a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, as it involves routine or

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continuing agency administration and management and does not include new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment and is therefore exempt from environmental review.

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Stanford as follows:

Section 1. Legislative intent: Article I and Article IV of Chapter 144 of the Town Code entitled “Taxation” have not been updated in several years. As a result, the Town Board has determined that the exemptions from real property taxation available to Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes in the Town of Stanford have not kept pace with inflation and the increase real property values over the years. As a result, the Town Board has determined it is in the best interest of the Town to increase the maximum income amounts for eligibility for the exemption from real property tax available to Senior Citizens under Article I of Chapter 144 and to Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes under Article IV of Chapter 144 of the Town Code. This increase in the maximum income amounts for eligibility for such real property tax exemptions will keep such exemption amounts in line with current economic conditions.

Section 2. Chapter 144 of the Town of Stanford Town Code entitled “Taxation” is hereby amended by repealing the existing §144-2(B)(2) and replacing it with the following language.

“(2) The percentage of exemption shall be based on the maximum annual income range specified herein as follows:

”Section 3. Chapter 144 of the Town of Stanford Town Code entitled “Taxation” is hereby amended by repealing the existing §144-8 entitled “Amount of Exemption” and replacing it with the following language.

“[§ 144-8 **Amount of exemption.**](https://ecode360.com/12908704#12908704)

Real property owned by one or more persons with disabilities, or real property owned by a husband, wife, or both, or by siblings, at least one of whom has a disability, or real property owned by one or more persons, some of whom qualify under this article and § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, and whose income, as hereafter defined, is limited by reason of such disability, shall be exempt from taxation by any municipal corporation in which located to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof as hereinafter provided for income up to $41,600. The Town hereby also provides an exemption so as to increase the maximum income eligibility level of such municipal corporation as provided in the following schedule:

”

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Section 4. This Local Law shall take effect as of the date of filing with the New York Secretary of State.

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor - Yes; Anne Arent – Yes; Margaret Fallon – Yes; Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan – Yes.

Resolution #9D of 2023 to adopt Local Law #4 of 2023 was adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

2. RESOLUTION #9E – TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW# 5: A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Margaret Fallon, to approve the following resolution:

**TOWN OF STANFORD**

**Resolution 9E 2023**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 5 FOR THE YEAR 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BOARD OF AMBULANCE COMMISSIONERS**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stanford (“Town Board”), held at the Town of Stanford Town Hall on the 14th day of September, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., Town Supervisor Wendy Burton called the meeting to order, and she, seconded by Councilperson Margaret Fallon, moved the following resolution to introduce the following local law, to be known as Local Law No. 5 of 2023, entitled “A Local Law Establishing a District Board of Commissioners for the Town Ambulance District” as follows:

WHEREAS, the following Local Law was introduced as Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, at a meeting of the Town Board held on August 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a properly noticed public hearing was held before the Town Board during the meeting on September 14th, 2023, on this Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined proposed action qualifies as a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, as it involves routine or continuing agency administration and management and does not include new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment and is therefore exempt from environmental review.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Stanford as follows:

Section 1. Legislative intent: The Town Board recently established a Town wide Ambulance District pursuant to Article 12-A of the New York Town Law to provide ambulance service to the residents of the Town of Stanford. Subsection 10-f(e) of Section 198 of the New York Town Law gives the Town Board the authority to establish a District Board of Ambulance Commissioners by Local Law. The Town Board now wishes to enact such a Local Law to establish such a District Board of Ambulance Commissioners to act in an advisory capacity to the Town Board.

Section 2. The Town Board hereby establishes a District Board of Ambulance Commissioners to consist of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the Town Board by resolution to serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Board. The terms of each member shall be determined by resolution by the Town Board with such terms to be fixed so that at least one (1) Commissioner term will expire at the end of each calendar year.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect as of the date of filing with the New York Secretary of State.

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor - Yes; Anne Arent – Yes; Margaret Fallon – Yes; Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan – Yes.

Resolution #9E of 2023 to adopt Local Law #5 of 2023 was adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

3. RESOLUTION 9F – APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT: A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Corey Clanahan, to approve the following resolution:

**Resolution 9F 2023**

**To approve the Burdick park committee’s request to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for Burdick park**

**WHEREAS**, the Burdick Park Committee desires to submit a Letter of Intent to apply

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for a CDBG funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board of the Town of Stanford supports this effort enthusiastically,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stanford grants permission to the Burdick Park Committee to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for a Community Development Block Grant, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the Letter of Intent is granted, the Town Board of the Town of Stanford further approves the Burdick Park Committee to move forward with submission of the grant proposal.

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor- Yes; Anne Arent, Councilperson – Yes; Margaret Fallon, Councilperson – Yes; Councilperson Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan, Councilperson – Yes.

Resolution #9F of 2023 adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

4. TOWN CLERK PRESENTED THE 2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET TO THE TOWN BOARD: The Clerk presented copies to the Board members on Monday, October 11th. Budget workshops will follow on 9/12, 9/28 and 10/5/23. Mention was made that the Town Board had passed a law that mandated the budget be passed before Election Day.

5. PINE PLAINS POLICE PATROL CONTRACT DISCUSSION: Supervisor Burrton said that there was not much to discuss as she was waiting to hear back from the Pine Plains Town Board. Councilwoman Fallon added that the Board was looking into a three-month trial of their police patrol and would be looking for feedback regarding speed reduction on roads, residents feeling safer, etc. We are not doing this to make money but hope that any summons fees may cover the expense.

6. APPOINT MARGARET LERA AS BOOKKEEPER: A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Anne Arent, to appoint Margaret Lera as the Bookkeeper, retroactive to June 12th, 2023. Her appointment was neglected back in July. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

7. RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A ZONING COMMISSION: Supervisor Burton made a motion, seconded by Margaret Fallon, to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION #9A of 2023**

**TO ESTABLISH A ZONING COMMISSION**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stanford (“Town Board”), held at the Town of Stanford Town Hall on the 10th day of August 2023, at 7:00 p.m., Town Supervisor, Wendy Burton, called the meeting to order, and she, seconded by Councilperson Margaret Fallon, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Stanford is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, once the updated Comprehensive Plan is adopted by the Town Board the Town Board will need to update the Town Zoning Laws to ensure they are consistent with the updated Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to create a Zoning Commission to serve in an advisory capacity to review the Town Zoning Law and recommend changes as warranted by the revised Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Zoning Commission to advise the Town Board on recommended changes to the Town Zoning Law is a Type II Action under the New York State Environmental Qualify Review Act and therefore is exempt from environmental review; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby establishes a Zoning Commission to consist of five (5) members to be appointed by the Town Board by separate Resolution to serve terms as determined by the Town Board by separate Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes such Zoning Commission to review the Town’s Zoning Law and the revised Comprehensive Plan and to make recommendations to the Town Board on the provisions of the Town Zoning Law that need to be updated and/or amended, in order to ensure consistency with the revised Comprehensive Plan.

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

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Wendy Burton, Supervisor- Yes; Anne Arent, Councilperson – Yes; Margaret Fallon, Councilperson – Yes; Councilperson Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan, Councilperson – Yes.

Resolution #9A of 2023 adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

8. RESOLUTION #9B – NY CLASS ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHWAY FUND: The following resolution was offered by Wendy Burton, seconded by Corey Clanahan, as follows:

**RESOLUTION #9B 2023**

**TO ESTABLISH A NY CLASS ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHWAY FUND**

**WHEREAS** interest rates are rising substantially, and it is sound fiscal management to take advantage of these increases, and

**WHEREAS**, the current HIGHWAY FUND is held at the Bank of Millbrook where the interest rate is only .2% and,

**WHEREAS,** the current rate in the NY CLASS accounts is approximately 5%

**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stanford authorizes the Town Supervisor to establish a NY CLASS account for the HIGHWAY FUND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stanford authorizes the Town Supervisor to transfer $400,000 from account #837720 into the newly established NY CLASS account.

The foregoing Resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor- Yes; Anne Arent, Councilperson – Yes; Margaret Fallon, Councilperson – Yes; Councilperson Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan, Councilperson – Yes.

Resolution #9B of 2023 adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

9. RESOLUTION #9C – TO APPOINT THE AMBULANCE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS: The following resolution was offered by Wendy Burton, seconded by Margaret Fallon, as follows: **RESOLUTION #9C 2023**

**TO appoint the ambulance district commissioners**

**WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of Stanford has passed a Local Law creating an Ambulance District and.

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners of the Stanford Fire District have agreed to act in the capacity of Ambulance Commissioners as well

**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stanford appoints the following people to serve a term NOT TO EXCEED THREE YEARS.

Dennis Smith Expiration of term: 12 / 2026

Dennis Buchal 12 / 2027

Tim Gifford 12 / 2024

Darrin Buonocore 12 / 2025

Jim Hamburger 12 / 2023

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor - Yes; Anne Arent – Yes; Margaret Fallon – Yes; Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan – Yes.

Resolution #9C of 2023 adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

10. RESOLUTION #9G – BUDGET MODIFICATION: The following resolution was read by Margaret Fallon, seconded by Anne Arent, as follows:

**Budget modification Resolution # 9G 2023**

Whereas the Town of Stanford has expenditures for the adopted 2023 General Fund budget lines that will exceed the amount of fund available in these certain budget lines, and

Whereas, the General Fund have funds available in other lines and needs to transfer such funds to provide for expenditures,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Stanford Town Board hereby amends and transfers from and to budget lines listed below for FY 2022:

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION INCREASE DECREASE

00-01-1110-11 Court Help +$ 81.00

00-06-7989-40 Special Event Comm. -$81.00

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00-01-1620-45 Bld Exp Sp Project +$193.54

00-06-7989-40 Special Event Comm. -$193.54

00-01-1670-40 Central Printing +$1582.53

00-05-6010-40 Social Service -$1582.53

00-07-8010-40 Z.B.A. +987.96

00-07-8011-10 Zoning Comm. Sal. -$987.96

00-07-8510-40 Community Garden +305.17

00-07-8020-10 P.B. Salary -$ 305.17

Total Funds General: $3150.20 -$3150.20

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all Board members voting as follows:

Wendy Burton, Supervisor - Yes; Anne Arent – Yes; Margaret Fallon – Yes; Nathan Lavertue – Absent; Corey Clanahan – Yes.

Resolution #9G of 2023 adopted by the affirmative votes of the Board members present and certified this 14th day of September 2023 *Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk*

11. INCREASE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES: The Building Department’s Senior Clerk Katrina brough the matter of fees to the Board’s attention. She added that our Building fees were much lower than other towns and suggested raising certain ones. Supervisor Burton suggested that the Board members review her recommendations and discuss the matter at the October meeting.

12. SET COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP DATE: The Board members agreed that they would meet again for another workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 7 PM.

13. BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES: A reminder for the workshop dates for the proposed ’24 budget: 9/21, 9/28 and 10/5 AT 7 pm.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the July 31st Special Meeting/Public Hearing and the August 10th Town Board meetings were approved as written on a motion made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Anne Arent. Motion carried.

15. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER ABSTRACT #9 OF 2023: A motion was made by Wendy Burton, seconded by Corey Clanahan, to approve the September Abstract of Claims as follows:

General Fund: check #s 7266-7321 in the amount of $ 135,162.04

Highway Fund: check #s 4378-4398 in the amount of $ 123,500.76  
 Bangall Lights: check #3064 in the amount of $ 857.51

Total of September 2023 Abstract #9: $ 259,520.31

Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

16. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Anthony Sarnicola, 25 Hunns Lake Road – moved to Stanford 30 years ago to eventually retire here and supports the grant for the Irv and Dot Burdick Park, a beautiful wild, natural wetland that he hoped would be preserved. If a big box store had come, it would’ve destroyed this natural area, brought more traffic.

Ben Rathjen, 158 Charwill Drive – commenting on Betty Cosgrove’s letter, he does contribute to the ZBA. Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, other boards should review it and see any changes before the Board votes. The Supervisor stated that everyone had over a year to look at the draft, with Mr. Rathjen replying that he wants to see any significant changes that were made. Ms. Burton said the plan will be available before the next public hearing.

Kathy Zeyher, 158 Shelley Hill Road – asked again how the Town would be paying the Pine Plains police, and will it be budgeted in 2024. Supervisor Burton replied that it will be paid for by generated revenue for this year, and it’s already the end of the summer. It can also be paid for from the Contingency account or another budget line and will be all accounted for. Ms. Zeyher continued that Mr./ Martini had some good points; one-way roads, major cause of accidents is driver inattentiveness, 50% fatality at 45 mph, our roads are not designed for walking, biking. The Supervisor added that there was a good discussion at the August meeting and a lot of enthusiasm for trying the police patrols out, and for being here in case of other emergencies.

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Sandra Bilski, 4 Aberdeen Lane – moved here in ’76 but worked out of town and was lucky enough to have a car. Added that she lives on a dirt road and without a license or car, would have to depend on other people. Last week had gone to Amenia to the Dollar store and would like to have one, would not resent having one here.

Jon Bloomberg, 91 Willowbrook Road – has been here since 2002 and there has never been a time when the State Police have not been here when needed, sounds like duplication.

Claudia DeBellis, Charwill Drive – spoke about “manners,” people holding doors at the Post Office, the Library, local stores; had heard that the Supervisor was being called a tyrant, anti-business, but helped get Peyo’s open along with Republican and former Board member Paul Coughlan. Has no problem with people disagreeing but lying is destructive; many good people here who volunteer in so many groups.

Julia Descoteaux, 189 Haight Hill Road – regarding the police, says she rides her bicycle everywhere and was disturbed that she had gotten honked at today. If the police were here, they could help slow speeding down. She thought having this 3-month trial was a good thing, it would slow people down with a police presence.

Mike Shafer, 21 Decker Road – would love to have the police go on Rt. 82 because it’s dangerous; added that he drives 25 mph through town.

Johanna Shafer, 21 Decker Road - a long time ago the Town Board received significant money through the Court.

Jim Griffin, Charwill Drive – moved here in 2004 but in 2011 started working from home. His 3 children loved Sparc Park and it was so welcoming to see after growing up with city playgrounds. It has fallen into disrepair as the Town Board didn’t care years ago but thanked this Board for what they have done.

Jane Cotterll, 5957 Route 82 – was in agony hearing the things about the Supervisor but said that here at the Town Hall there is a joyous spirit, we have teamwork, we laugh, we have a good leader.

Chris Drago, 1212 Hunns Lake Road – while serving jury duty met 3 people from Stanfordville, and one even stopped at my house later. It’s nice meeting new neighbors, and there is a spirit and energy in the community.

Divo Martini – replied that no one said people couldn’t ride bikes, but the Troopers provide the most income for the Town, part-time people are a different story. He asked Attorney Butts if a resident could come to a workshop and was told yes, but then asked about an Executive Session of the Board. He was told only if invited in, but executive sessions are for the Board to discuss matters of litigation, personnel or other serious matters, with Councilwoman Arent explaining the Open Meetings law. Continued brief discussion about the confidential session.

Mike Ginese – asked about the board’s meetings, with the Supervisor responding about workshops being open to the public. He also asked about Burdick Park matter being up for approval, with Councilman Clanahan and Supervisor Burton replying that the Board was just allowing a grant application to be completed. He also mentioned zoning plans and the Comprehensive Plan and was told everything was on the Town website, as well as videos and the Supervisor’s weekly newsletters online. Also asked about the 5-person zoning commission, and was told that they will ask for letters of interest, interviews, etc.

Betty Cosgrove – was happy with the proposed Comprehensive Plan but was unclear about the laws with the ZBA and asked who has oversight over them.

Pat Tierney, 327 Jamson Hill Road – as a member of the ZBA, stated that he was offended by comments about the Zoning Board of Appeals being less than honorable with their decisions, and read all the laws which are needed to determine how to proceed in their work. The ZBA has integrity, we donate our time and do the best we can, and asked the Supervisor to give us something we can work with regarding new zoning laws. Councilwoman Fallon agreed that certain parts of the zoning laws were unclear.

With no other comments heard, a motion was made by Wendy Burton at 9:05 PM, seconded by Margaret Fallon, to close the meeting and go into an Executive Session regarding litigation. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

At 9:29 PM a motion was made by Margaret Fallon, seconded by Anne Arent to close the Executive session, and with no action taken, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Margaret Fallon, seconded by Corey Clanahan, to give the Supervisor permission to seek counsel for the Article 78. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

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With no further business to attend to, Margaret Fallon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM, seconded by Corey Clanahan. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ritamary Bell, Town Clerk