

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on August 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 3:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson Morrison
Supervisor Tyler

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Catherine Haskins, Taylor Haskins, Cynthia Schira

RESOLUTION #147 MINUTES AUGUST 8, 2017

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Cynthia Schira stated that she would like to see the Cornell Cooperative Extension renovated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – The meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION – The project is still on schedule to be completed mid to late October.

RESOLUTION #148 APPROVAL OF BILLS

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On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstracts 8C and 8D in the amount of \$61,621.89 for Vouchers 2017-463 through 2017-484.

RESOLUTION #149
CORNELL CO-OP EXTENSION BUILDING

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
1 Nay Paquette

WHEREAS, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building is the most prominent building at the Essex County Fairgrounds, contributing greatly to the streetscape of Westport; and

WHEREAS, the building serves as an agricultural hub for Essex County and its current location coincides with such events as the County Fair and Adirondack Harvest Festival; and

WHEREAS, the building currently houses numerous employees for both Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District. Relocating these employees, either on a full-time or seasonal basis, would be costly and the existing building would still require action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Westport supports the restoration of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building for year-round, four-season use.

CORNELL DISCUSSION – Board members were given copies of letters written by the Chamber of Commerce and Bill Johnston, both in favor of restoring the building for four-season use. Councilperson Paquette voiced concern over the cost and how that would compare to future use of the building. Councilperson Page added that the building is an important part of the town's history and it's important to note that the Town Hall restoration started with a \$4 million estimate and was greatly reduced. Supervisor Tyler said it would be a shame to tear the building down.

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RESOLUTION #150
RAGNAR RELAY

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Tyler to sign the permission form allowing Ragnar Relay Adirondacks to hold a run through Westport on September 22-23, 2017.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Paving has been rescheduled to Monday. Quotes will be coming in for the plow installation. There has been an issue with sewer backing up on and around Front Street. Dennie would like to have Green Mountain Pipeline inspect and clean out the lines.

RESOLUTION #151
GREEN MTN PIPELINE

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Dennie Westover to hire Green Mountain Pipeline to inspect and clean necessary sewer lines.

HASKINS' STREETLIGHT – Catherine and Taylor Haskins addressed the board, describing a light trespass issue with a streetlight on their Worman Lane property. They stated that the light infringes on their privacy and may pose a safety issue by attracting the attention of strangers. They would like the light to be removed and asked that the board take immediate action.

Councilperson Paquette suggested that the bulb be removed for now, leaving the possibility for reinstallation at a later date. Supervisor Tyler stated that he would like surrounding homeowners' approval before any action is taken. Letters will be sent to these homeowners and the board will revisit the issue after feedback is received.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS - Laura Benedict sent an email update on the next timber cut. She has been marking the area and provided an income estimate for the sale. The town's contract with Amerigas has expired, resulting in a higher cost. Supervisor

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Tyler spoke with the company and we will receive a partial credit for the last payment made.

RESOLUTION #152
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to enter into Executive Session at 3:40 p.m. to discuss health and disciplinary issues of a town employee.

RESOLUTION #153
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to end Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 4:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION #154
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk