

Town of Pine Plains Town Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

The Town of Pine Plains Town Board convened for a regular schedule meeting at the Town Hall on the above date at 7 pm. Supervisor Walsh, Councilman Ambrose, Councilwoman Sisco, Councilman Walsh and Councilman Zick were present. Also in attendance was Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky, Building Inspector Ed Casazza, PPWIA/Engineer Ray Jurkowski, Officer in Charge John Hughes, and seven members of the public.

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Councilman Zick motioned to acceptance of December 2023 Town Clerks Report and Approval of December 23, 2023, and January 2, 2024, Town Board minutes, second by Councilman Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Approval to pay 2023-General Bills number 1285-1306 Highway number 1295, 1308-1315, PPWIA number 1317-1320, 2024- General bills 1321-1331, Highway number 1332-1336, and PPWIA 1337, motioned by Ambrose, second by Councilman Walsh 5-0 Passed.

Public Comment- Zick wanted to discuss that the ice rink is closed unless the gate and lights are on. Zick also reminded the public of the snow ordinance.

Department Reports- Highway report on file. Zick motioned to approve agreement for the Expenditures of Highways Moneys, second by Councilwoman Sisco 5-0 Passed
Building Department- Report on file.

PPWIA/Engineer- Ray Jurkowski read report on file.

Animal Control- Report on file. Supervisor Walsh also let the Board know the kennel will have a state inspection soon. Also, multiple towns have signed contracts to use kennel

Police Department- Officer in Charge John Hughes read report on file.

Town Attorney- Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky has matters to discuss in executive session with decisions to be made.

Old Business-Sisco wanted to discuss 41 Hoffman Road. Building Inspector Ed Casazza said there has been a municipal search which normally means the property is being sold. Zick discussed short term rentals, wanted to know about having these short-term rentals register with town and pay additional taxes. The attorney to the town is writing a Local Law for another Town and will send a copy to Board members for their review to see if this is something they want to pursue. Supervisor Walsh also wanted to include the Zoning Review Committee.

New Business- Ambrose motioned to pay utility, insurance and any other bills that will cause late payments second by K. Walsh 5-0 Passed. Supervisor Walsh read a letter from the Town Court pertaining to the Board auditing the Court books. Zick wanted to do a burning of Town Christmas trees after the holiday season.

K. Walsh motioned to move into executive session to discuss litigation with Carson Power, contractual negotiations, tax certiorari case and to invite Planning Board Chairman Michael Stabile and Assessor Sara Foglia, second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Zick motioned to move into regular session, second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Attorney to Town Warren Replansky read the Resolution as follows “Resolution Authorizing the Attorney to the Town, Warren S. Replansky, P.C., to Provide the Necessary Defense for the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board in the Action Entitled: “Preserve Pine Plains, ET. AL. v. Town of Pine Plains Planning Board, ET. AL, Dutchess County Index No. 2023-55222.” Replansky explained he needed the Board approve to defend this case. This case has been recused by 6 judges in Dutchess County and has moved to Putnam County, which will result in a different index number. Motioned by K. Walsh to approve, second by Ambrose Roll Call was taken 5-Aye 0-Nay Passed. Warren Replansky discussed the tax certiorari case with Sunny River Farm v. Pine Plains Assessors. Warren Replansky requested authorization from the Town Board to retain the services of William Maker, Esq. To act as special trial counsel for the Town of Pine Plains in the Tax Certiorari proceedings Sunny River v. the Assessor of the Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County Index Numbers 2020-51902;2021-52796; and 2022-52150 at the hourly rate of \$250. Motion to authorize the retention by K. Walsh second by Zick Roll Call was take 5-Aye 0-Nay Passed. Attorney to the Town discussed Carson Powers de-commission agreement and bond. Replansky would like to have a special meeting or a workshop meeting before the next Town Board meeting. Replansky also mentioned a public comment from Helen Marsh, that she asked about a construction bond, which the town would not require but would require a de-commission bond.

Motion to adjourn made by Zick second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Supervisor: Brian Walsh

Councilman: Matt Zick

Councilman: Robert Ambrose

Councilwoman: Jeanine Sisco

Councilman: Kevin Walsh