



Workshop Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7:30 pm

The meeting will be by telephone using the number and code below:

Telephone Number: 1-347-690-2503 conference code 535806689#

Meeting Location:

Durham Town Hall, 7309 State Rte 81, E. Durham

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

In Attendance: Shawn Marriott, Supervisor; Joan Beslin, Deputy Supervisor; Linda Sutton, Council Member; Scott Hulbert, Council Member; Walt Bennett, Council Member; Janet Partridge, Town Clerk Others in Attendance: Chris Kohrs, Court Clerk; Karen Tirpak, Bookkeeper; Joe van Holsteyn, Highway Superintendent; Tal Rappleyea, Town Attorney; 38 community members
Supervisor Marriott called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.
Marriott reported one anniversary. Town Clerk Partridge has been working for the Town for 4 years.

Public Hearings

2. 2021 Emergency Services Contracts

Minutes:

A motion was made by Council Member Hulbert to open the Public Hearings for the 2021 Emergency Services Contracts, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Breslin, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes - Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)
Marriott read through the contracts. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard,
Hulbert made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Breslin, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes - Marriott, Breslin, Hulbert, Sutton, Bennett)

a. East Durham Volunteer Fire Company

Minutes:

A motion to accept the 2021 contract agreement between the Town of Durham and the East Durham Volunteer Fire Company was made by Breslin, seconded

by Hulbert., all in favor, motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

b. Oak Hill-Durham Volunteer Fire Company

Minutes:

A motion was made by Hulbert to accept the 2021 contract agreement between the Town of Durham and the Oak Hill-Durham Volunteer Fire Company, seconded by Breslin, all in favor, motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

c. Durham Ambulance

Minutes:

A motion was made by Breslin to accept the 2021 contract agreement between the Town of Durham and the Durham Ambulance, Inc. seconded by Hulbert, all in favor, motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

New Business

3. Blakeslee Simple Subdivision

Minutes:

Attorney Jon Kosich explained the proposed simple subdivision application submitted by Edward Blakeslee for his property on Brandt Hollow. Mr. Blakeslee would like to subdivide off a 60 acre lot on the other side of the road from his residence using the road as the line. The Board members discussed meeting the requirements of the lot line adjustment with Attorney Rappleyea and Mr. Kosich.

Marriott read over and reviewed with the other Board members the Short Environmental Assessment Form part 2 and part 3.

A motion was made by Breslin to declare a negative declaration for SUB2020-04, seconded by Hulbert, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes - Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

A motion was made by Hulbert to approve the lot line adjustment application from Edward Blakeslee, SUB2020-04, seconded by Bennett, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes - Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

Once the new deed is generated by Mr. Kosich, Attorney Rappleyea will review it.

4. Strong Road Major Subdivision

Minutes:

Marriott welcomed Preston Jones, Taylor Palmer and Darrin Elsom to the meeting to discuss the major subdivision application, SUB2020-05, on Strong Rd. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Elsom gave an overview of the project and explained the initial sketch plan

provided in representing Basque Development, Inc. This plan was designed from tax maps and a more detailed plan will be submitted in the coming weeks. Two lots will be combined to produce a 95 acre parcel. This will have 12 residential properties and one farm parcel commonly owned. The residential parcels range from 3 to 10 acres approximately, housing single family homes. The plan will have individual wells and septic systems on each parcel. They have already done several soil tests and 25 perk tests. The 2,000 foot entrance to the property will be from Strong Road. Because of the wet land area, there will be a full storm water runoff plan from DEC. Although building code allows for 20 parcels on this property, the subdivision application is only for 12. 80% of the acreage will be left untouched and the vast majority of the woodland will remain untouched. This property is in the Cornwallville Historic District and an impact assessment has been submitted. They will also be doing a traffic impact study and submitting their findings. Attorney Rappleyea will draft an escrow agreement and forward that to Mr. Palmer and Mr. Elsom so town engineers can begin preliminary review of the application.

Dan Clifton asked if the community could give comment. Marriott reminded everyone that this was the preliminary step to review the application and the community will have a chance to speak at the public hearing. He is willing to allow comment tonight but would like to keep it short. Mr. Clifton wanted to make sure the town board knew the intense opposition in the Cornwallville hamlet and turn a rural landscape into a suburban subdivision directly contradicting the essence of the Cornwallville Historic District. It will also be in the middle of the Scenic Byway Corridor that was developed and approved by the town, county and state five years ago. Clifton hopes the town requires the developer fill out a full assessment form. Marriott assured him they will make sure they address all the concerns and follow all the steps according to our law. The board needs to look at everything objectively and will make sure everything is done properly.

The next step is getting more detailed plans and the engineers begin their review with updates submitted to the town board.

Abigail Agranat expressed her concern with the lack of understanding of the community and its nature and character. There have been overwhelming objections to this project and it is upsetting to community members that their objections are not taken seriously.

Two community members spoke up in support of this project and feel it will be an asset to the area.

Several other community members spoke out with their concerns with the historical and environmental impact to the town including Lisa Trafton who spoke to the board earlier in the year in getting a speed reduction for Strong Rd. There has been no word on the approval of the speed reduction and she is concerned with adding driveways and the increase of traffic that will follow with the addition of 12 more homes. Marriott reminded everyone that the Historic Commission will be reviewing the project and giving the board their recommendation also.

Marriott thanked everyone for their comments and encouraged all of the community

members to reach out to board members if they would like to have a conversation.

5. 2021 Columbia Greene Humane Society Contract

Minutes:

Marriott reported NYS did a yearly inspection and everything passed. The animal control officer is in compliance with Ag and Market regulations.

2021 contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society has not changed. Marriott read the fees in the contract.

A motion was made by Breslin to accept the contract with Columbia Green Humane Society for 2021, seconded by Bennett, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes - Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

Old Business

6. Security System Update

Minutes:

There are two quotes submitted to the board. The third company has toured the buildings but no quote has been received. The board will be reviewing the second quote that recently came in and will discuss them at the next meeting.

7. Questions from the Floor

8. Adjourn

Minutes:

Hulbert made a motion to adjourn at 9:02pm, seconded by Bennett.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Partridge Town Clerk