

AGENDA

February 13, 2023

6:30 pm presentation for Town Board from Cahill Tech. – employee safety program

7:00 pm Regular Town Board Meeting

- Pledge of Allegiance**
- Opening Prayer**
- For the record, Board Members Present**
- Public Input**

- Approval of Minutes** January 23, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting (/)

- Approval of Bill payment of February 13, 2023**

Voucher No. 20230001 – 20230172 \$1,996,354.74

General Fund	\$ 105,224.46
Highway	\$ 41,490.84
Water/Sewer	\$ 195,113.67
Fire	\$1,484,766.51
Refuse	\$ 101,398.30
Pre-paid	\$ 68,360.96

- Highway – Paul Siegmann
- Water / Sewer – Rich Donner
- Recreation – Mike Ranalli
- Building Inspector – Mike Klock
- Assessor – Kelli Coughlin
- Constables
- Wendel – Tim Zuber

- Motions:** per list attached (Matthew Brooks)

- Board Member Items:**
 - Larry Helwig
 - Gil Doucet
 - Curt Doktor
 - Randy Retzlaff
 - Don MacSwan

- Public Input**

- Next Meeting:** March 6, 2023 7:00 pm Regular Town Board Meeting

- Request Motion to Adjourn:** (/)

MOTIONS

From: Budget Director

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve amendments to the 2023 General Fund and Fire Protection Districts Budget to provide the estimated revenues and budget appropriations for the use of a portion of the Town’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant to be paid to the Town of Wheatfield’s Fire Companies including Adams, Frontier, Bergholz, St. Johnsbury and Shawnee Fire Companies in the amount of \$10,000 each for a total of \$50,000 to help offset some of their revenue losses that resulted from the postponement of various fund raising and other revenue producing activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic as follows::

General Fund:

Increase Estimated Revenues:

Account A.0000.4089 Fed Aid ARPA Covid-19 \$50,000

Increase Appropriations:

Account A.9901.0901 Transfer to Other Funds \$50,000

Fire Protection District:

Increase Estimated Revenues:

Account SF.0000.5031 Interfund Transfers \$50,000

Increase Appropriations:

Account SF.3410.0430 Payments Fire Contracts-ARPA \$50,000

From: Town Board and Town Attorney

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

Resolution to adopt an Order reciting that the Town of Wheatfield was presented with a Petition to create a lighting district for the Whistling Straits subdivision containing the boundaries of the proposed district, the lighting improvements proposed and the estimated cost of the proposed district to the typical property contained therein.

And further resolving the Town of Wheatfield to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed lighting district for March 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Wheatfield Town Hall, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, New York, and authorizing the Town Clerk to properly publish and post Notice of said Public Hearing between 10 – 20 days before March 6, 2023.

From: Town Board

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to approve the agenda for the Wheatfield Veterans Memorial “Summer Event”, July 1, 2023, presented by the Wheatfield Veterans Group, and to approve the holding of the event at the Town of Wheatfield Veterans Memorial on said date.

From: Building Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the request of Mike Klock, Chief Building Inspector, to purchase a new 2022 Ford Escape SUV from Van Bortel Ford, on Onondaga Bid # 00 10808, Item 11, for \$27,688.20, to be paid from the Building Department's 2023 equipment budget.

From: Town Board

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to accept, with regret, the retirement of Richard Donner, Superintendent of the Water/Sewer Department, effective at the end of day, March 25, 2023, and congratulate him for his years of service to the Town of Wheatfield.

From: Town Board

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to appoint Mark Clark as the new Superintendent of the Water/Sewer Department, effective March 26, 2023, and to appoint Matthew Siegmann as the new Deputy Superintendent of the Water/Sewer Department, effective March 26, 2023.

From: Town Board

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul's state-of-the-state address contained a proposal to "...end the sale of new fossil powered heating equipment by 2030 by calling for construction of - all new construction needs to be zero emission - starting in 2025 for small buildings and 2028 for large buildings,"; and

WHEREAS, President Biden and the White House have come out against any prohibition of gas stoves; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's ban is intended to help address climate change, but this government mandate is more a burden on our region's working-class residents; and

WHEREAS, a ban on natural gas appliances and water heaters is not feasible for Western New York with harsh winter weather and exposed electrical infrastructure. Appliances used to heat water and cook food need to work during power outages especially during times of inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, this past December saw a blizzard pass through the Western New York Area leaving tens of thousands of residents stuck in their home without power, many for several days. Gas appliances, fed by more resilient infrastructure, allowed those residents to heat their homes, boil water, and safely cook their food for the days needed to clear the roads and restore electricity. Nearly four dozen people died during this storm, many more would have suffered if they had to rely on our power grid for cooking and emergency heating; and

WHEREAS, what is more, current technology that is expected to replace gas appliances, like space heating, does not work well in our climate. This fact was noted in the recent Climate Action Council's report, which proposed requiring two heating sources for New York Residents who live in areas that are frequently too cold; and

WHEREAS, electrical appliances have more moving parts and are expensive to maintain and repair, mandating their purchase is an unnecessary burden we are placing on families across New York State at a time when the cost of living has significantly outpaced wage growth; and

WHEREAS, further, all electric appliances have been shown to be less efficient and therefore cost more to generate the same amount of heat than natural gas fed appliances. With the higher costs, energy bills will go through the roof for residents further exacerbating the recent price spikes in food, transportation, and general merchandise; and

WHEREAS, as we have seen with California's recent push to make everything electric, this government mandate will likely lead to an increased strain on our state's electrical grid leading to black outs and rationing, which is especially dangerous with the winter weather we routinely experience; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure investment costs are not the sole responsibility of utility companies nor do they exist in a bubble. The investment costs to bury powerlines, increase renewable energy infrastructure, and increase the capacity of transformers will be passed on directly to consumers in the form of increased energy costs. Further, individual homes, especially those in older housing stock like Western New York, will be forced to conduct costs in-home electrical panel upgrades to accommodate the increased demand from their appliances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Wheatfield Town Board hereby opposes the Governor's plan to ban natural gas heating and appliances as not feasible or warranted for Niagara County and much of Western New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wheatfield Town Board hereby urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to pause in their rush and to fully examine the real life impact their decisions will have for all New Yorkers, especially those least able to afford them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Hochul's Office, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

From: Building Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the Building Department to declare a 2012 Ford Escape as surplus equipment, and to allow the Building Department to place said surplus equipment item on Auctions International for sale.

This Resolution requires, upon receipt of any bid offers for the purchase of said surplus equipment item, the Town Board to review said bids and authorize the sale of said item. The eventual proceeds of said sale will be used towards the Building Department's purchase of new equipment.

From: Highway Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the request of Paul Siegmann, Superintendent of the Highway Department, to purchase a Duramag service body to be installed on new pickup up already ordered, at a cost of \$15,900.00 piggybacked on Onondaga bid #0010808, to be paid from the Building Department's 2023 equipment budget.

From: Highway Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the request of Paul Siegmann, Superintendent of the Highway Department, to create 4 addition MEO positions in his Department, and to promote the following current truck drivers to said position: Jon Stoelting, Jeff Devantier, Tim Steiner and Robert Feightner

From: Highway Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the request of Paul Siegmann, Superintendent of the Highway Department, for an emergency purchase of a new Sewer Jet for \$76,000.00, directly from the manufacturer, US Jetting, with a down payment of \$10,000.00, and a 12 week delivery. The current machine will not maintain pressure and is needed on occasions for immediate use to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of residents. Said emergency purchase avoids the requirement of competitive bidding as the equipment is needed by the Town of Wheatfield immediately and any unnecessary purchasing delay will endanger the Wheatfield residents and their property.

From: Town Attorney/Prosecutor

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, to authorize the Town Attorney and Town Prosecutor's Office to obtain injunctive relief pursuant to Wheatfield Town Code section 69-15D., to enforce, a particular provision of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, Town Code, or any term or condition of any building permit, certificate of occupancy/certificate of compliance, temporary certificate, stop-work order, operating permit, compliance order, or other notice or order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer, for a certain property in the Town of Wheatfield wherein a commercial business is being operated in violation of the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

From: Town Attorney/Prosecutor and Building Department

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

RESOLVED, by the Wheatfield Town Board to set the required Public Hearing on proposed Local Law 1-2023, AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 69 - BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND FIRE PREVENTION, for March 20, 2023 at 6:45 pm at the Wheatfield Town Hall, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, New York, prior to the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, and authorizing the Town Clerk to properly publish and post Notice of said Public Hearing between 10 – 20 days before March 20, 2023.

From: Town Board

MOTION by _____ Seconded by _____

BE IT RESOLVED:

To issue a Request for Proposals for window replacement at the Wheatfield Town Hall, based on the specifications on file with the Building Department, with said proposals due by March 6, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at the Office of the Town Clerk, Wheatfield Town Hall, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120, and to be opened on March 6, 2023, 6:50 p.m., before the Town Board meeting at the Wheatfield Town Hall, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

