

**HORICON TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 20, 2022  
7:00 PM**

Present at meeting:	Michael N. Geraci	Supervisor
	Frank Hill	Councilperson
	Rob Hill	Councilperson
	Robert Olson	Councilperson
	Peter Palmer	Councilperson
Krista Wood	Town Clerk	

Also: Barb French, ZA Matthew Magee, Tom Hutchinson, Mike Maxwell, Jake Gordon, Jason Letts, Ruth Hayes, Matt Wood, Ed Sim, Mary Ann Hill, John Hall.

Supervisor Geraci called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

***Local Board of Health...***

A Motion was made by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Palmer, to go into session as the Local Board of Health. The Board moved into session as Local Board of Health at 7:00 PM.

**1) Septic Variance request - Letts / 18 N. Sand Beach Way / tax map #55.10-1-5:**

- Jake Gordon, C.T. Male Associates, representing Jason Letts, explained the proposal is to install an NSF-40 certified Norweco wastewater disposal system. He said they are also proposing to use the Eljen sand filter system in place of the traditional absorption trench system. Mr. Gordon said they worked with the NYS Dept of Health and have obtained approval for this system. NYS Dept of Health has provided him with a signed waiver for the proposed well and wastewater treatment system. He added this system is for a proposed three-bedroom home.

- Councilperson Olson asked if this is a new proposal or a modification of the previous application. Mr. Gordon said it is a modification of the original application. Mr. Gordon said they have added a swail on the Lucas side of the property to cut off the flow of wastewater in the event of a failure.

- Councilperson Olson said this would be a continuation of the previous public hearing then. The Clerk noted this application would, in fact, require a new public hearing as the public hearing for the first application was closed.

- Councilperson Palmer asked how many gallons of water per day are being proposed. Mr. Gordon said the proposed system is designed for 333 gallons per day and noted the proposal is in compliance with NYS Dept of Health codes. He said there are three different design flows that can be used and explained each of them. Councilperson Palmer asked if the proposal takes into account the Town's septic code. Mr. Gordon said it does not, in fact they are complying with the NYS DOH code instead. He said the proposal is based on 110 gallons per day per bedroom, but the Norweco is sized to handle a minimum flow of 600 gallons per day.

- Jason Letts said he has spent a considerable amount of time on these revisions and out of the number of options considered he feels this is the right one. He noted that the house location has been staked out which gives a good visual of the location of the structure.

**RESOLUTION #26-2022**

Councilperson Palmer and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 26 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, acting in its capacity as the Local Board of Health, considers the application made by C.T. Male Associates for a septic variance at 18 N. Sand Beach Way (tax map #55.10-1-5) complete, and does hereby set a Public Hearing for Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center.

Ayes: 5 (Palmer, Olson, F. Hill, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

**2) Septic Variance request – Iannacchino / 1050 Palisades Rd / tax map #38.16-1-3:**

- Tom Hutchins, Hutchins Engineering, explained he is making this variance request on behalf of a contract buyer, Mr. Iannacchino, for the property at 1050 Palisades Road. Mr. Hutchins explained that the property is mapped at 2.8 acres, however, half of the property is water; he noted the APA has visited the site and has mapped the site. He said the client will remove the older home on the property and wishes to build a new three-bedroom residence. Mr. Hutchins explained the proposal is to replace the existing failed system with an NSF-40 rated enhanced treatment unit. They are seeking a variance to install the absorption field seventy-five feet from the APA wetland and ninety feet from the owner’s well. Mr. Hutchins added that this will provide the maximum separation distance.
- Councilperson Olson asked what the status of the existing system is and what would happen with it. Mr. Hutchins said the existing system has failed and it will be replaced with the new system if the variance is granted.

**RESOLUTION #27-2022**

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Palmer introduced Res. No. 27 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, acting in its capacity as the Local Board of Health, considers the application made by Hutchins Engineering for a septic variance at 1050 Palisades Rd (tax map #38.16-1-3) complete, and does hereby set a Public Hearing for Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Palmer, F. Hill, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

A Motion was made by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Palmer, to go back into regular session. The Board moved back into **regular session at 7:12 PM.**

***Regular Session...***

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of December 21 and December 30, 2021 and January 4, 2022 were approved by Motion of Councilperson R. Hill and Councilperson Olson.

Ayes: 5 (R. Hill, Olson, F. Hill, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0

**Reports:** Supervisor, Town Clerk, Zoning, Assessor, Justice, Landfill, Buildings/Food Pantry, Library, Historian, and Historical Society.

**Approval of Vouchers and Abstracts:**

**RESOLUTION #28-2022**

Councilperson F. Hill and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 28 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF JANUARY ABSTRACTS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the payment of the January 20, 2022 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Abstract	1	\$ 39,327.48
Highway Abstract	1	\$ 40,907.90
SF (Fire District)	1	\$ 239,039.00
SP (SLPD)	1	\$ 5,578.00

Ayes: 5 (F. Hill, Olson, Palmer, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

**Correspondence to the Board:**

- NYS Unified Court System RE: Request for copy of audit of Court records for 2021
- AOT RE: Virtual 2022 Training School and Annual Meeting Feb 20-23 ,2022
- Cindy Mead RE: Request for research on bubblers
- Gates Cemetery Monuments RE: Notice of increase in the price of corner markers for the cemeteries

-Sandy Carpenter

RE: Request to regulate bubblers on the lakes

\*\*Supervisor Geraci noted that he will be setting the date and time for an informational meeting in regard to the bubblers for some time in April.

**Resolutions:**

Councilpersons F. Hill and Olson introduced Resolutions #29 - #37 and moved their adoption:

Ayes: 5 (F. Hill, Olson, R. Hill, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0 :

**RESOLUTION NO. 29-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMPLETION OF AUDIT OF THE TOWN CLERK RECORDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby state that the examination of the 2021 Town Clerk records was completed at the meeting of the Board on January 20, 2022 and the records were approved by all members of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 30-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REGISTRAR AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby re-appoint Krista Wood as Registrar, and further authorizes her to appoint Rebecca Ross as her Deputy Registrar, for a term that will expire December 31, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 31-2022**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF SAND BIDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to solicit, by legal advertisement, bids for processed highway sand. Bids are to be opened at the regular Town Board meeting on February 17, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 32-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DELEGATE TO CAST VOTE AT AOT MEETING**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Mike Geraci to cast the vote for the Town of Horicon at the Annual Business Session of the Association of Towns Meeting which will be held virtually on February 23, 2022. Councilperson Pete Palmer will be the alternate.

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT INVESTMENT POLICY FOR TOWN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Horicon adopted an Investment Policy in January 1988, AND

WHEREAS, this policy is reviewed and adopted each year, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, hereby adopts the Investment Policy enacted in Resolution 21 of 1988. Banks used by the Town of Horicon are named in Resolution 3 at every Organization Meeting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 34-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ROB SMITH AS HORICON REP TO NWEMS**

WHEREAS, Michael Geraci is stepping down as Horicon representative to the North Warren EMS Board of Directors, and now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Rob Smith to take over as Horicon representative to the NWEMS Board of Directors to complete that term which will expire December 31, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REPAIRS AND PAINTING**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize repairs and painting of the side hallways in the Community Center by Andy Frasier at a cost not to exceed \$1,400.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 36-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, due to a price increase from the vendor, does hereby amend the Cemetery Regulations to increase the cost of one set of corner markers from \$195.00 per set to \$235.00 per set effective immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 37-2022**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REIVEW BOARD**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign the Agreement with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and further authorizes payment to the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board in the amount of \$300.00 in support of the work the Review Board does in representing the interests of local governments in the Adirondacks.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, F. Hill, Palmer, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

**Committee Reports:**

**-Councilperson Bob Olson reported on the following:**

- The ZBA and Planning Boards have completed the first of a two-part training with Mark Schachner. He said Mark Schachner does a very good job and is very knowledgeable.
- He interviewed Melanie Fuerst for the opening on the Planning Board. She is a licensed land surveyor and is experienced in land use regulation. He recommended to the Board she be appointed.

**RESOLUTION #38-2022**

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson F. Hill introduced Res. No. 38 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBER**

WHEREAS, Dave Iasevoli has been moved up to full Planning Board Member, and now, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Melanie Fuerst to fill the vacant seat of Planning Board Alternate Member #1 to complete that term which will expire on December 31, 2026.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, F. Hill, Palmer, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

Councilperson Olson committee reports continued...

- He met with Barb French regarding another person to help at the Landfill during the summer as there are currently no alternates. He said a third person is need and suggested the Town advertise for help. Supervisor Geraci said he would meet with Councilperson Olson and Barb French to develop an ad.
- He said Rob Wallace will need extra help in the Spring with Beautification, but after that will be able to manage the work load himself.
- Councilperson Rob Hill agreed that hiring is an issue across the board. He did a breakdown of Rob Wallace’s time in each area of his job. He said, in terms of the extra help that is needed in the spring, he feels it would be worthwhile to do a comparison between hiring an hourly

employee to help versus hiring an outside company to help to see which would be most cost effective. The Board agreed.

**-Councilperson Palmer reported on the following:**

- ZA Magee is still working on the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would allow the ZA to inspect and sign-off on new construction.

**-Councilperson Frank Hill reported on the following:**

- His committees are quiet this time of year – nothing to report.

**-Councilperson Rob Hill reported on the following:**

- He wants to talk with the employees at the different facilities to see what issues need to be addressed. There are issues with the Community Center, for example, that he will look into and address as soon as possible.
- He spoke to Bill Millington who can look at the electrical in the Heintzelman Library as this is a priority. If the Town Board wants to pick out lights and a fan he will get quotes.
- He talked to the Chamber of Commerce to see what events are currently being planned. He knows a lot of events are being cancelled due to Covid. The St. Patrick's Day parade is pending, but the Memorial Day and Woofstock are still planned as of now. The Chamber is doing a targeted email campaign and are also going to distribute more copies of the tourist map.

Supervisor Geraci thanked the Board members for their reports.

**-Supervisor's Report – January 2022**

- He has met individually with three Town Board Members and each Town Hall and Transfer Station employee; He will meet with Highway personnel as a group on February 9. Goals of 1-1 meetings, include but not limited to: establish and strengthen relationships, deliver goals / objectives, receive meaningful feedback, provide a forum for open dialogue.
- He is working with Town Committees and Associations to become familiar with their members and issues.
- Town Hall improvements have begun, the plan is to invest in general maintenance and needed repairs. Examples, painting, carpet / floor cleaning, air ducts cleaning.
- He was sworn in as a member of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, appointed as Chair of the Public Safety Committee and Criminal Justice Committee, and as a member of the Environmental, Real Property Tax Services, Health Services and EMS committees.
- Since January 1, he has taken several mandated Warren County training courses, and is scheduled to take additional County, Association of Towns, and NYS Association of Counties courses.
- He has initiated a review of the Town/s Comprehensive Plan that was published in July of 2010. There were several committees that were created and worked on various aspects of the plan and generated recommendations. More to follow on this issue.
- COVID updates are received daily from the Warren County Administrator's Office, we will publish the link [www.warrencountyny.gov/healthservices](http://www.warrencountyny.gov/healthservices) on our website, please contact the Supervisors Office if in need of home test kits or masks.
- He would like to acknowledge and commend all Town employees on their delivery of dedicated professional service to the Town. He noted we are most fortunate to have such a unified team working for our residents.

**Old Business:**

*Update on Potential Special EMS Tax District:* Supervisor Geraci said research continues on the possible creation of a Special EMS Tax District. A meeting has been set with Town of Chester and Town of Lake George to discuss this. He said the goal is to determine if it makes sense to ask the residents by vote to create the special EMS tax district as the current situation is not sustainable. They are going to look at the negatives and the positives of this and see if it makes sense to move forward.

**New Business:**

*Estimate for Generator Repairs:*

**RESOLUTION #39-2022**

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson F. Hill introduced Res. No. 39 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REPAIRS TO GENERATORS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize repairs to the generator at the Community Center at the estimated cost of \$1,411.98 and repairs to the generator at the Highway Garage at the estimated cost of \$958.17.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, F. Hill, Palmer, R. Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

*Assessment Reval Update:*

Mike Maxwell, Maxwell Appraisal, updated the Board on the current reval that is in process. He said he has done many revals in the surrounding towns and this is the fourth reval he has done for Horicon. Mr. Maxwell explained that he has reviewed all of the properties, updated records, made the necessary corrections, and worked with Assessor Hayes to set up new land tables and costs. He noted Horicon is a difficult area because it is so diverse, therefore he has set up base models to work from. He said the equalization rate would only be at 85% if the property assessments were not updated so the assessments need to be raised to bring that rate up to 100%. Mr. Maxwell said that once he is finished, notices will be sent to residents regarding changes to the assessments; the notices should go out around the end of February. He explained that just because an assessment goes up 25%, for example, this does not mean taxes will go up 25%. Once the notices go out there will be a six-week period to entertain questions, concerns, and reviews. After this, the tentative assessment roll will be filed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Residents will then have the opportunity to grieve their assessment. Mr. Maxwell told the Board that any questions raised need to be directed to himself or Assessor Hayes; the Board should not answer any questions related to the reval or to get involved. He explained the reason for this is that he and Assessor Hayes have all the information regarding the reval and they are the ones that are best prepared to answer any questions.

**Privilege of the Floor...** No comments

**Adjourn...** There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Olson and Councilperson F. Hill, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Town Clerk