

Present at meeting:	Michael Geraci	Supervisor
	Rob Hill	Councilman
	Robert Olson	Councilman
	Peter Palmer	Councilman
	Krista Wood	Town Clerk

Also: Tom Luciano, Bob and Sylvia Smith, Assessor Christine Hayes, Barb French, HS Darian Granger, Drew Cappabianca, Wayne Monroe, Janet Early, Jim Ventura, Craig and Cozanne Marsh, Poul Carstensen, Aaron Frankenfeld, Dan Rourke, and Tom Baird.

Supervisor Geraci opened the regular meeting at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of November 17, 2022 were approved by Motion of Councilman Olson and Councilman Palmer.
Ayes: 4 (Olson, Palmer, Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

Tom Luciano – Schroon Lake Park District

Mr. Luciano reviewed the dam inspection and operation of the dam. In terms of the dam inspection, he said Blue Mt. Engineering used to do the dam inspection. Over the last five years the SLPD has repeatedly tried to get them to do the inspection which has not been done. They have been in constant contact with DEC about this issue so DEC is aware they are behind on the inspections but it is not the fault of the SLPD. Mr. Luciano said Blue Mt. Engineering has gone out of business so DEC came up and did a dam inspection in September. He said DEC found two violations: the first is more analysis is needed as the dam is unsound because the engineering assessment has not been done, and the second is that SLPD provided a draft of the emergency management plan to DEC but it is not done. Mr. Luciano said both violations are basically because of Blue Mt. Engineering not completing the necessary work. He said they are going to be working with CT Male going forward to create a ten-year emergency management plan. He expects to start working with CT Male in June once they finish with their current project. Mr. Luciano said the people that did the recent dam inspection wanted the area near the crest of the dam clear cut. He asked if it would be possible for HS Granger and the highway crew to do this work. The Board said this would be fine.

Barton & Loguidice – Mill Pond Pedestrian Improvements

-Supervisor Geraci introduced Tom Baird and Dan Rourke from Barton & Loguidice, and Aaron Frankenfeld from the Glens Falls Transportation Council. He explained there has been much discussion about improving the Mill Pond area in the past. Mr. Geraci said it is the Town’s responsibility to maintain and improve the use of the Mill Pond area. He said Mr. Frankenfeld spoke to him about developing a plan for the Mill Pond area. Mr. Geraci said they chose Barton & Loguidice to do a study of the area and see what improvements can be made. Mr. Geraci stressed this is only a draft plan, nothing has been finalized, and there will be much discussion about this in the coming months.

-Mr. Rourke and Mr. Baird gave a presentation on the Mill Pond Pedestrian Improvement Plan and explained the various options and solutions the Town might consider in order to improve safety around the Mill Pond.
(Please see Draft Mill Pond Pedestrian Improvement Plan attached)

-Mr. Geraci asked for a motion to move forward with further research on this, noting there is no commitment, this is simply authorizing further research.

RESOLUTION #185-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Palmer introduced Res. No. 185 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MILL POND IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby allow the Mill Pond Pedestrian Improvement Study to move forward and to authorize further research on this project.

Ayes: 4 (Olson, Palmer, Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

Public Hearing – 2023 contracts

Motion made by Councilman Hill, seconded by Councilman Olson, to open the public hearing. Supervisor Geraci opened the Public Hearing for the 2023 Contracts and briefly reviewed the contracts.

No comments were made.

There being no comments, Motion was made by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Palmer, to close the Public Hearing. Public Hearing was closed at 6:45 PM.

RESOLUTION #186-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Hill introduced Res. No. 186 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2023 CONTRACTS AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN

WHEREAS, the Horicon Town Board held a public hearing on December 15th at 6:40 PM regarding the proposed 2023 Contracts, AND

WHEREAS, the public had the opportunity to speak for or against said contracts at this hearing, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby approve the following 2023 Contracts and authorizes the Supervisor to sign in the following amounts:

Emergency Service Provider	\$ 200,000.00
Horicon Historical Society	\$ 1,000.00
North Warren Chamber of Commerce	\$ 12,000.00
Horicon Free Library	\$ 2,000.00
Chester-Horicon Health Center	\$ 6,000.00
Snowmobile Club	\$ 3,500.00
Horicon Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 256,550.00
Brant Lake Association (BL milfoil)	\$ 32,617.00
Warren County (SL milfoil)	\$ 12,838.17

Ayes: 4 (Olson, Hill, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0

Approval of Vouchers and Abstracts:

RESOLUTION #187-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Hill introduced Res. No. 187 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF DECEMBER 2022 ABSTRACTS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the payment of the December 15, 2022 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Abstract	12	\$ 27,367.08
Highway Abstract	12	\$ 13,112.73

Ayes: 4 (Olson, Hill, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0

Correspondence to the Board:

-Horicon Library Bd of Trustees RE: Request to appoint two new Trustees

Action on Correspondence:

RESOLUTION #188-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Palmer introduced Res. No. 188 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT LIBRARY TRUSTEES

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Greta Heilman as Horicon Free Public Library Trustee effective January 1, 2023 for a term which will expire on December 31, 2027, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Pam Conlon Eastman to the vacant seat of Horicon Free Public Library Trustee effective January 1, 2023 to complete that term which will expire on December 31, 2025.

Ayes: 4 (Olson, Palmer, Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

Reports: Town Clerk, Justice, Assessor, Landfill, Library, NWEMS

Supervisor's Report (see copy attached)

Town Board Member Reports (see copies attached)

Additional comments from Board members:

-Councilman Olson noted the recent ZBA and Planning Board training done by Mark Schachner was excellent. He said it was open forum and very valuable.

-Councilman Palmer said he met with Christine, Matthew, and Bob about Zoning Law issues. He said junk and travel trailers are two of the biggest problems and they focused on jurisdiction and enforcement. He said they wrote up their suggestions and sent it to the attorney for his opinion and hopefully they will have something for the January meeting.

Resolutions:

Councilpersons Palmer and Olson introduced Resolutions #189 - #195 and moved their adoption:

Ayes: 4 (Palmer, Olson, Hill, Geraci) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #189-2022

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PETTY CASH FUND FOR TAX COLLECTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Office of Tax Collector to set up a petty cash fund in the amount of \$200.00 for the 2023 tax collection period.

RESOLUTION #190-2022

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SECOND NOTICE FEE FOR THE 2023 TAX COLLECTION PERIOD

WHEREAS the Town is required by Sec. 987 of the Real Property Tax Law to mail a Notice of Delinquency to landowners who are delinquent in making real property tax payments and charge the landowner a second notice fee of \$1.00, AND

WHEREAS, the mailing of said notices costs the Town postage along with the cost of preparing and handling said notices, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Second Notice fee be established at \$2.00 for each delinquent notice that is sent, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize the Tax Collector of the Town of Horicon to impose the \$2.00 second notice fee on each delinquent notice sent for 2023 to cover the cost of preparing and mailing the delinquent notice.

RESOLUTION #191-2022

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES WHO OPT OF TOWN HEALTH INSURANCE

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, as per the Employee Handbook, does hereby authorize payment to employees who did not take health insurance through the Town as follows: Michael Geraci - \$800 (2021 and 2022) and Rob Hill - \$400 (2022).

RESOLUTION #192-2022

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH CHESTER FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize Supervisor Geraci to sign the agreement with the Town of Chester for the use of their animal shelter at a fee of \$300.00 for 2023.

RESOLUTION #193-2022

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ASSESSOR AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF BOLTON

WHEREAS, pursuant to Agreement between them, the Towns of Horicon and Bolton share the same individual as Town Assessor, and

WHEREAS, the Assessor has been treated as an employee of each and both Town(s) during 2022, and
RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves amendment to the Agreement so that the Assessor is deemed to be solely an employee of the Town of Horicon with the Town of Bolton reimbursing the Town of Horicon for sixty percent (60%) of all salary, benefits and related expenses of employment, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests similar Resolution from the Bolton Town Board so authorizing, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this employment arrangement continue for the term of the Agreement contingent upon continued reimbursement of the Town of Horicon by the Town of Bolton.

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the amended Agreement on behalf of the Town.

RESOLUTION #194-2022

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Bookkeeper to make the following budget transfers in the General fund:

General Fund:

<u>Account:</u>	<u>Description:</u>	<u>Debit:</u>	<u>Credit:</u>
A1990.4	Contingency	\$ 17,200.00	
A8160.2	Refuse & Garbage Equipment	\$ 500.00	
A9010.8	State Retirement	\$ 11,950.00	
A1010.4	Town Board Contractual		\$ 100.00
A1420.4	Attorney Contractual		\$ 3,000.00
A1620.1	Buildings/Grounds Personnel		\$ 2,500.00
A1620.4	Buildings/Grounds Contractual		\$ 6,000.00
A7410.4	Library Contractual		\$ 50.00
A7510.4	Historian Contractual		\$ 1,000.00
A8160.1	Refuse & Garbage Personnel		\$ 8,000.00
A8160.4	Refuse & Garbage Contractual		\$ 5,000.00
A8510.1	Comm Beautification Personnel		\$ 3,000.00
A8510.4	Comm Beautification Contractual		\$ 1,000.00

RESOLUTION #195-2022

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE CHRISTMAS EVE AS PAID HOLIDAY FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize that when part-time employees scheduled workday falls on Christmas Eve, the employee will be provided with one-half day off and compensated with eight- hours pay. This policy will be added in the next edition of the Town of Horicon's employee handbook.

Old Business:

ZBA Alternate: Councilman Hill said he and Councilman Olson interviewed Larry Bell and Melanie Fuerst. He noted Melanie currently serves as a PB alternate and they have been advised it is best not to have someone serve on both Boards. He and Councilman Olson recommend Larry Bell as ZBA alternate.

RESOLUTION #196-2022

Councilman Hill and Councilman Olson introduced Res. No. 196 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ZBA ALTERNATE

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Larry Bell to the vacant seat of ZBA Alternate member to complete an unexpired term which will expire December 31, 2024.

Dog Control Officer: Supervisor Geraci explained that the Town has been advertising for a Dog Control Officer for some time and one application has been received. He said there may be a couple more coming in. He asked Councilman Hill to follow up on the applications.

Electronic recycling: Supervisor Geraci noted at last month's meeting the Board had discussed electronics recycling and discovered the Town was losing money on this. They had asked Barb to come up with a fee schedule. However, Supervisor Geraci said that is no longer necessary because NYS DEC recently passed a new requirement where it appears that if the Town does not charge people for disposal of electronics then the Town will not be charged when turning these items over to a recycler.

Highway truck: Supervisor Geraci said a bid was put out for a new highway truck about a year and a half ago, a bid was received, but now the vendor cannot supply the truck. So, another bid request was put out this past month but no bids have been received. He said HS Granger worked with NYS OGS this morning to put out a bid request for a new truck.

Update on de-icing systems: Supervisor Geraci said as of today the County sent out a press release that the de-icing brochure and website that include best practices are ready. He said Warren County is funding this initiative and there is no cost to the Town.

New Business:

Weather Spotter Training: Warren County is offering Weather Spotter Training through the National Weather Service for anyone interested. The training will be held at the Warren County Sheriff's Office on December 19th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Privilege of the Floor...

-Drew Cappabianca said the Chamber is working on branding to identify the towns and also to use for signage. He said it will be a joint effort with each town having their own brand under one broad logo. He said there is no commitment; he is simply putting this out to the Board as something to think about to see if there is any interest. Supervisor Geraci said he would be in favor of this, and if funding were needed it could come from the Town's occ tax.

-Poul Carstensen said the area across from the Post Office and Nikki's store is lower than the road and is wondering if there is a way to correct the issue. He said people try to pull off the road but the area is about a foot lower than the road, and people have tripped and fallen in that area. He asked if the Town could reach out to the state or whoever is responsible for that area to see if they will fix it. Supervisor Geraci said this is a good point and noted HS Granger had previously raised this issue. Councilman Hill noted there may be private property involved and this is something they would have to reach out to the landowner about. Mr. Geraci asked HS Granger to follow up on this with the State.

Mr. Carstensen asked if there is any reason the Town cannot take Market St back from the County. Mr. Geraci said this sounds reasonable but it is nice to be able to call the County about repairs to the road. He said, however, taking it back would need to be looked at in terms of real dollars related to the additional work and materials that would be involved. He said he is not opposed to further discussion on this.

-Wayne Monroe, representing the HVFD, thanked HS Granger for doing such a great job keeping the parking lot at the Fire Department clear in the winter. He also thanked the Town Board for their support with the ARPA funds. Mr. Monroe said they were able to get badly needed equipment that they have already used. He said the HVFD appreciates Mr. Granger and the Town Board.

Announcements...

- The next Town Board meeting will be the year-end meeting on Thursday, December 29th at 2:00 pm.
- The organizational meeting of the Town will be Tuesday, January 3rd at 2:00 pm

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Palmer, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Town Clerk