

**HORICON TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 15, 2024
6:00 PM**

Present at meeting:	Michael Geraci	Supervisor
	Kayla Carozzi Hodgson	Councilmember
	John Francisco	Councilmember
	Teri Schuerlein	Councilmember
	Ed Sim	Councilmember
	Krista Wood	Town Clerk
	Mark Schachner	Town Counsel

Also: Becky Ross, Barb French, Assessor Christine Hayes, ZA Craig Leggett, Jim Ventura and Janet Early, Camille Dougan, Bob and Sylvia Smith, Scott Hayes, John and Joan Caruso, Wayne Butler, Mike and Kathy Hill, Cindy Mead, Joe Gensheimer, Dave Bourque, and Diane Dreyer.

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 18, 2024 meeting approved by Motion of Councilmember Sim and Councilmember Francisco.

Ayes: 5 (Sim, Francisco, Schuerlein, Hodgson, Geraci) Nays: 0

Public Hearing - Proposed Local Law to authorize the award of purchase contracts based on best value:

Supervisor Geraci asked Mark Schachner, Town Counsel, to explain the proposed local law.

Mark Schachner, Town Counsel, explained the Local Law would allow the Town to purchase on the basis of best value rather than the lowest bid price. He said towns are legally obligated to award a bid to the lowest responsible bidder. However, based on a change made by the NYS Legislature a few years ago, towns now have the option to adopt best value local laws which allow them to award the bid to the vendor who will provide the best good or service not just the lowest price. He said some things the Town can consider when determining best value are the reliability of a product, efficiency of its operations, difficulty or ease of maintenance, cost of maintenance, useful life span, ability to meet needs regarding timeliness of performance, and the experience of a service provider. He said without the Best Value Local Law the Town is not allowed to take any of these things into account and must follow the lowest responsible bidder requirement.

Supervisor Geraci, with a motion from Councilmember Sim and seconded by Councilmember Hodgson, opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm.

Councilmember Francisco asked who determines best quality. Mr. Schachner said the Town Board makes that determination, and the Board is allowed, but not required, to get the opinions of others. Councilmember Francisco asked if the engineer would have to review a proposal; Mr. Schachner said that would not be required, but the Board could have the engineer review a proposal if they want to.

Dave Bourque asked if this local law would allow the Board to award a bid to a local vendor rather than a vendor from out of town. Mr. Schachner said the Board cannot base the award solely on whether a vendor is local, but they can base it on quality and other criteria. He said, for example, if more reliable service and ease of maintenance is important and the local vendor can provide that as opposed to an out-of-town vendor then the Board could award the bid to the local vendor based on reliability of service.

There being no further comments, motion made by Councilmember Schuerlein, seconded by Councilmember Hodgson, to close the public hearing. The public hearing was closed at 6:10 pm.

RESOLUTION #111-2024

Councilmember Francisco and Councilmember Sim introduced Res. No. 111 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2024 ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS ON THE BASIS OF BEST VALUE"

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to consider adoption of Local Law #1 of 2024 entitled, "A Local Law Authorizing the Award of Purchase Contracts on the Basis of Best Value", a Local Law that would authorize the Town to award purchase contracts, which would otherwise be subject to the "lowest bidder" on the basis of "best value", as defined in §163 of the New York State Finance Law, as determined by the Town Board upon the recommendation of the appropriate officer, board, agency, commission or department, which would include the specific factors to be applied in determining best value reflecting, wherever possible, objective and quantifiable analysis; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this legislation is authorized by New York General Municipal Law §103 and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Home Rule Law §20 requires the Town Board to hold a Public Hearing prior to the adoption of any Local Law, and the Town Board duly held a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 15, 2024, concerning proposed Local Law No.: 1 of 2024 and heard all interested persons, now, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board hereby adopts proposed Local Law No.: 1 of 2024 which authorizes the Town to award purchase contracts on the basis of "best value" as that term is used in General Municipal Law §103 and State Finance Law §163; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that such Local Law shall take effect upon filing the Local Law with the Secretary of State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and/or Town Counsel to execute any required documents and take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Ayes: 5 (Francisco, Sim, Schuerlein, Hodgson, Geraci) Nays: 0

Monthly Abstract:

RESOLUTION #112-2024

Councilmember Hodgson and Councilmember Sim introduced Res. No. 112 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AUGUST 2024 ABSTRACTS

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize the payment of the August 15, 2024 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Vouchers	#8	\$ 97,800.63
Highway Vouchers	#8	\$ 16,360.83

Ayes: 5 (Hodgson, Sim, Francisco, Schuerlein, Geraci) Nays: 0

Correspondence to the Board – none

Reports: Town Clerk, Justice, Assessor, Zoning, NWEMS, Transfer Station, Library, Historian, and Historical Society

Supervisor's Report: see copy attached.

Additional comment: Supervisor Geraci said the Warren County Board of Supervisors is looking into raising the County sales tax rate. He said there has been much discussion as to whether it should stay at the current rate of 7% or be raised to 7.5% or 8%. He noted that the only counties in the state that are still at 7% are Warren, Wahington, Saratoga, and Oneida, and Oneida is going to raise their rate to 8%. Mr. Geraci said the County is looking at this due to increasing costs of County operations as well as a number of unfunded state mandates. He said a decision will likely be made by the end of the year, and if an increase is passed it will not take effect until January 2026. Mr. Geraci said there is a lot of information on this, and he encouraged people to watch the Warren County workshop meetings on YouTube to keep up to date on what is happening.

Town Board Liaison Reports: see copies attached.

Additional comments:

Councilmember Francisco distributed copies of the Bubbler regulations that he and his committee have created to the Town Board members to review. He said the Committee has revised them several times and they are now ready to be adopted so they can go into effect December 1st of this year.

Supervisor Geraci said the Town Board needs to review what Councilmember Francisco is proposing, noting they have just received it. He then asked Mark Schachner, Town Counsel, to explain what the process is for passing a local law.

Mr. Schachner said in order to pass a local law it first needs to be prepared in a draft version, notice of public hearing is published, the public hearing is held, the public hearing can be closed unless there are significant revisions and then the public hearing should be left open for continuation at a subsequent Town Board meeting. Once the public hearing is closed the Town Board can take action on the local law either adopting it or not adopting it.

Councilmember Schuerlein thanked Barb French for all her work in getting a new scale at the Landfill. She encouraged people to come out for the programs given by Town Historian, Colleen Murtagh and the Horicon Historical Society, and Dan Smith. She said they are very interesting, and you learn so much about the town. Councilmember Schuerlein thanked all those that volunteer for Food Truck Fridays. She said a lot of effort goes into making this event happen, it is a huge success and something the Town should be proud of.

Resolutions:

Councilmember Schuerlein and Councilmember Francisco introduced Resolutions #113 to #115 and moved their adoption:

Ayes: 5 (Schuerlein, Francisco, Hodgson, Sim, Geraci) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #113-2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN GRANT CONTRACT WITH NYSDOS

WHEREAS, the Town of Horicon has been awarded a grant through NYSDOS, Contract C1002616, for the Town’s Brant Lake Watershed Management Plan, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to execute all forms and agreements related to Contract C1002616, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute all future contract or budget amendments associated with this project.

RESOLUTION #114-2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS ENTERTAINMENT

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize payment from A6410.4 for entertainment at Food Truck Fridays to be issued as follows:

August 23, 2024 - \$350 for Nicole Suto

August 30, 2024 - \$700 for Brodie Flewelling

RESOLUTION #115-2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

General Fund:

<u>Account:</u>	<u>Description:</u>	<u>Debit:</u>	<u>Credit:</u>
A599	Unexpended Fund Balance	\$ 62,000.00	
A5132.4	Highway Garage - Contractual		\$ 62,000.00

Highway Garage furnace

A599	Unexpended Fund Balance	\$ 4,767.00	
A8160.2	Refuse & Garbage – Equipment		\$ 4,767.00
	<i>Transfer Station scale</i>		

Old Business

Hazmat Surveys – Community Center Garage and Museum Annex:

Supervisor Geraci said the survey of the Museum Annex in Adirondack showed no asbestos, but did show lead-based paint, so there would need to be lead abatement done on the exterior. It needs to be painted and the windows and doors repaired. He has asked Cedarwood Engineering to prepare bid specifications for the work.

Supervisor Geraci said the survey of the Community Center Garage showed some asbestos and some lead. He said they will need an abatement quote for the garage whether they consider renovating it or demolishing it. He said no action has been taken at either location, but now the Board knows what will be needed in the future.

New Business:

Website re-design: Supervisor Geraci said the Town has received additional Occupancy Tax money from the County and one of the things the money can be used for is website design and maintenance. He noted the website is functional but out of date. Councilmember Hodgson said she and the Town Clerk have had some preliminary discussions and are in the process of researching different website development companies.

SAM grant – Museum Annex: Supervisor Geraci explained there is funding available that could be used for repairs at the Museum Annex in Adirondack. He asked the Board for authorization to apply for this grant funding; he noted there is no match for this grant.

RESOLUTION #116-2024

Councilmember Hodgson and Councilmember Sim introduced Res. No. 116 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO APPLY FOR SAM GRANT

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to apply for a State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) grant for painting and related renovation efforts for the Museum Annex in Adirondack.

Ayes: 5 (Hodgson, Sim, Francisco, Schuerlein, Geraci) Nays: 0

NYS SWIM grant: Supervisor Geraci said the Town worked very hard to recruit lifeguards for the '24 summer season; they began advertising back in the winter, asked the school, reached out to area camps, etc., but have not been able to hire any lifeguards. He said this is a problem all over and part of the problem is the pay rate. He said Warren County has grant funding available to allow towns to increase the pay rate for lifeguards to \$20/hour. He asked the Board for authorization to apply for this grant funding.

RESOLUTION #117-2024

Councilmember Hodgson and Councilmember Schuerlein introduced Res. No. 117 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO APPLY FOR NYS SWIM GRANT

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to apply for a NYS SWIM grant through Warren County which would allow the Town to increase the pay rate for lifeguards in order to fill the open positions at the Brant Lake beach and the Adirondack beach.

Ayes: 5 (Hodgson, Schuerlein, Francisco, Sim, Geraci) Nays: 0

Adirondack Employee Assistance Program: Supervisor Geraci explained the Adirondack Employee Assistance Program provides counseling services to all employees of the Town for anything happening in their personal life that is impacting their job. Additionally, if the Town has a problem with an employee for something like drug addiction or anger management, etc. the program offers assistance to the Town in pairing employees with counselors. Supervisor Geraci stressed that this program is completely confidential; the Town will not know who the employees are that are utilizing the services. He said the program would cost the Town \$1,500 annually and feels it would be very beneficial. He asked the Board if they would be in favor of this. The Board agreed this would be a good program.

Privilege of the Floor:

Diane Dreyer, referencing the lifeguard issue, suggested the Town should advertise earlier, advertise at the high school, and reach out to local camps; Supervisor Geraci said they did all that with no luck.

Joan Caruso asked how to find the Warren County meetings. Supervisor Geraci said the County has a You Tube channel, so Google Warren County NY You Tube, and all the Board of Supervisors meetings will come up. She asked about finding more information on the human trafficking Councilmember Hodgson spoke about. Councilmember Hodgson said it is the Lower Adirondack Human Trafficking organization; they work with the Warren County Sheriff's Office, Social Services, and Child and Family Services.

Wayne Butler gave an update on Brant Lake. He said the ProcellaCor application was done June 4th; they did a swim over and the preliminary findings showed no Eurasian milfoil in the treated areas. He said they are getting reports that the native plants are re-growing; Warren County Soil and Water will be monitoring the lake for three years; the buoys will be kept in place to keep people away from the treated areas so the native plants can grow; the oxygen levels should improve by the spring of 2025; there are no algae blooms in Brant Lake; and he is working with Supervisor Geraci to get a schedule from NYS DEC on storm water clean outs. Mr. Butler thanked the Town and HS Granger for keeping the lake at a good level.

Cindy Mead said she is one of the committee members that worked on the Bubbler regulations with Councilmember Francisco and asked what the timeline could be on this because they would like it in effect by December 1st. Supervisor Geraci said he cannot guarantee anything, but the public hearing might be able to be held at the October meeting. He said the Town Board needs to review it, they will have Mark Schachner, Town Counsel, review it, and then they can go from there. Ms. Mead said the committee did their research so the regulations are all set, and they just do not want the public hearing to go past October.

Dave Bourque, editor of the BLA's Brant Laker, spoke about how things have changed over time to a more community related publication. He noted the Brant Laker won first prize in the NYFOLA contest. He encouraged people to reach out to him with any content, stories, etc. they may have.

Sylvia Smith thanked the Highway Department for the great job they did cleaning up from the recent storm. She also noted the HHS has another program, History of the Adirondack Fire Towers with Marty Podskoch, coming up on October 1st; the Horicon Historical Society and the Horicon Library Trustees are jointly sponsoring this event.

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM by MOTION of Councilmember Francisco and Councilmember Schuerlein, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Town Clerk

Supervisor's Significant Meetings / Activities Report

July 19- August 15, 2024

July 19	Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting
July 19	Food Truck Friday
July 22	National Grid ref storm outages
July 23	Warren County Board of Supervisors Committee meeting
July 24	Warren County Board of Supervisors Committee meetings
July 25	Cedarwood Engineering ref various projects
July 26	Drug & Alcohol Testing policy review & development
July 26	Food Truck Friday
July 27	Peter Palmer services
July 30	CSEA Negotiations
July 31	Meeting at the HUB ref land development
July 31	Association of Adirondack Towns and Villages in Minerva
August 1	Warren County Board of Supervisors Committee meeting
August 2	Warren County Road Safety
August 2	Food Truck Friday
August 5-7	Out of the Office
August 8	Town of Chester Senior Center President
August 9	NYS Swim grant prep with County Admin office
August 10	Brant Lake Canoer Race, Founders Day at the Brant Lake Museum, survey storm damage throughout Town
August 12	AWI Paul Smiths College ref boat stewards
August 12	Adirondack Employee Assistance Program meeting
August 12	Town of Chester Senior Center President
August 12	Horicon Historical Society
August 13	Cedarwood Engineering ref Heintzelman Library projects
August 14	Warren County Board of Supervisors Committee Sales Tax workshop
August 14	NY Voting Rights webinar
August 14	Historical Society Adirondack presentation
August 15	Town Board Meeting

Town Board Member Kayla Carlozzi
Activity Report July 16 – August 13, 2024

DATE	ACTIVITY
Thurs. July 18 th , 2024	Signed Checks, audited Bookkeepers books Town of Horicon Board Meeting
Fri. July 19 th , 2024	Spoke with Drew about possibilities for housing and development across the pond.
Wed. July 24 th , 2024	Caught up with Mike, and stopped at the Town Hall
Thurs. August 8 th , 2024	Human Trafficking Event at Queensbury
Thurs. August 8 th , 2024	Spoke with Krista and Jack Bartlett about a new Town of Horicon website, layout, and functionality.

John FRANCISCO Activity Report

July 19th to Aug 15th 2024

July 19	Mullers Heavy Duty Towing Let know Watering Tub will not be moved. (if ever need help offer stands still)
July 24	Check holes for woodchuck, also look at interior walls at the Horizon Museum (Fix able but Time consuming)
July 25	wrote new DRAFT For ice bubbler Regs. Delivered to group
July 29	Stopped at Heizleman building Talked to BRIAN Johnson. he is All set. will not need staging There. Should be starting vault couple weeks. The Framing inside should be moved.
July 30	second ice bubbler meeting
Aug 1	Stopped NYS Highway shed on beach issue Talked to supervisor. He will ck out Take Pictures (Asphalt gutter)
Aug 5	Stopped NYS Highway shed he will be Fixing Tues. it will be temporary. till they can do it with hot patch.
Aug 7	Aug 8 Dave Johnson ADK Roofing estimate on Roof ETHAN MANIA (Greenwood Roof Services) SNOW c.l.d.

Town Board Member Teri Schuerlein
Activity Report July 19, 2024 - August 15, 2024

July 19,26 August 2	Volunteer - Food Truck Friday
July 21	Historical Society - Jimmy VanHusen Presentation
July 22	The Hyde Museum luncheon at The Sagamore
July 25	Met with Supervisor Geraci - flowers taken in front of the Fire House
July 27	Brant Lake Association - Schultz Boat/Band on Brant Lake
July 27 & 29	Met with Barb French - discussed incident at Transfer Station Update on scale
August 1	Library - Dan Smith talk at the Town Hall on 200 year old road
August 10	Founders day - Historical Society Joint with Friends of the Library and the Lazy Moose event Flower Talk with Aimee
August 11	BLA- meeting at Town Hall

Town Board Member Edward Sim
Activity Report July 19 to August 15, 2024

July 25, 2024	Met with Supervisor Geraci
July 26, 2024	Volunteered to work at Food Truck Friday
July 26, 2024	Visited the Heintzelman Library and met with Town Historian Colleen Murtagh
August 1, 2024	Met with Fire Chief Scott Hayes and toured the Firehouse
August 2, 2024	Visited Hayesburg Rd reconstruction worksite and spoke by phone to Highway Superintendent Granger
August 2, 2024	Met with Supervisor Geraci to review activity
August 8, 2024	Re-visited Hayesburg Rd to see completed blacktop
August 8, 2024	Met with Supervisor Geraci to review activity
August 15, 2024	Attended Town Board meeting.