



Town of Tusten

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

6:30 PM

Town of Tusten Community Hall 215 Bridge St.

Zoom ID: 890 1678 4280

PRESENT

Supervisor Bernard Johnson
Councilwoman Cass Collins
Councilman Greg Triggs
Councilman Bruce Gettel
Councilman Kevin McDonough
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger

OTHER PRESENT

Crystal Weston, Town Clerk; Victoria Strumpfpler, Deputy Town Clerk;
Ken Klein, Attorney

1 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:34pm

1.2 Pledge of allegiance

Supervisor Johnson led the pledge

1.3 Presentation

- Ethan Wood – Totally Tusten Video
- Catt Scott – District Legislator
- Kevin McDonough – wrote a poem for Bernie Craemer

1.4 Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION #26-24

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On the motion of Councilman McDonough, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the bills be paid as presented:

Ck Acct

Town of Tusten

Fund Acct	Disburse	Voucher #'s	Late Bills
General	\$93,860.42	69-88,131	57-59,60-65
Highway	\$66,553.34	90-93,95-106,89,94	
Water	\$12,101.26	107,108-110-117,109,130	66,67
Sewer	\$12,133.81	118-129	68
lighting dist			
escrow accts			
TOTAL	\$184,648.83		

2 DIVISION REPORTS

Some reports have been sent to the board in advance of the meeting, therefore they are not read out loud at the meeting; copies of all reports may be obtained at the Town Clerks Office

2.1 Highway Dept. – Submitted by Highway Superintendent Don Neiger

- Used 1005.7 gal of diesel fuel 965.7 gal was for highway and 40 was non highway use.
- Used 313.4 gal of gas 0 was highway and 313.4 was non highway use.
- Patch holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Removed trees in road way Third Avenue, Ackerman, Oak Street and cut several on Hankins.
- Repair pipe on Smith Hughes rd.
- Make sand salt mix for winter.
- Grade dirt on Perry Pond, Lake Ridge, and Hankins Road.
- Out on snow removal several times in January.
- Repair equipment after snow removal.

Town of Tusten

2.2 Narrowsburg Water & Sewer District

- Tested wells and sewer plant daily to ensure the drinking water and wastewater quality met federal and state standards. Made adjustments as needed.
- Completed monthly drinking water sampling, wastewater sampling, reporting for the DOH and DEC.
- Completed the annual sampling for sodium and nitrate at Well #1, Well #3, and sodium at the town hall.
- Did water meter readings every Wednesday in the month of January and contacted home and building owners with unusually high water use to help them track leaking pipes or fixtures.
- Koberlein pumped-out and cleaned sludge from the dosing tanks at the sewer plant.
- Switched propane companies from Paraco to Superior Plus due to state bid changing. Superior Plus serviced our propane heaters. Several propane heaters were having issues and Superior fixed them. They also replaced some old propane lines that were no longer up to code.
- Switched out a cylinder of chlorine at Well #3.
- Exercised Kirk Rd generator and topped off the fuel.
- Completed 1 final meter reading.
- Marked out 1 dig request.
- Plowed/shoveled snow at the sewer plant and the wells.
- Performed 2 septic tank inspections.
- Shut water off and removed meter to 1 home.
- Received a new flowmeter for the sewer plant effluent. Scheduled a day for Cyclopes Equipment to install it next month.
- Cleaned and organized the well houses and sewer plant office.
- Watched a webinar on NPDES technical assistance.
- Received a shipment of 12 radio heads from Schmidts.
- Performed 1 water meter inspection.
- Replaced 3 bad radio heads.
- Worked on a water pumped vs metered flowchart to track water loss over the past 19 years.
- Calibrated and bump tested 3 personal chlorine gas meters.
- When time allowed, studied sewer course books.

Town of Tusten

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR		
Narrowsburg Water		
Water Metered Rent	\$	35,834.96
Service Charge	\$	1,342.00
Water Penalty	\$	0.12
TOTAL RECEIVED		\$ 37,177.08
Narrowsburg Sewer		
Sewer Rent	\$	520.20
Service Charge	\$	-
Sewer Penalty	\$	-
TOTAL RECEIVED		\$ 520.20
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 37,697.28
Jocelyn Strumpfler Water & Sewer Clerk		

2.3 Building Department/ Code Enforcement

JANUARY 2024 Monthly Report

Construction Inspections – 14

Fire & Safety Inspections – 0

Complaint/Violation Inspections – 0

Certificate of Occupancy Issued – 2

Certificate of Compliance Issued – 17

Total Permits Issued – 10

New Homes – 2

Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 0

Chimney/Fuel – 1

Acc Bldg Comm – 0

Ren/Alt – Comm Const - 1

Accessory Building/Garage – 0

Camping - 0

New Comm Const – 0

Town of Tusten

Deck – 0	Commercial Deck - 0
Demolition Permit – 1	Driveway Permit – 3
Electrical – 1	Logging Permits – 1
Mechanical – 0	
Plumbing – 0	Pool/Hot Tub – 0
Roof Replacement – 0	Roof Structure - 0
Septic Permits – 0	Sidewalk - 0
Sign Permit – 0	Solar Permit – 0
Well – 0	

Permit Renewals - 1
Flood Plain Permit – 0
Abstracts/Violation Search – 8

Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0	
Complaints Received – 0	Complaints Closed – 0
Violations Issued – 0	Violations Corrected – 0
Previous Violations Closed/Corrected – 0	Stop Work – 0

Monies collected by this office from January 31, 2024 to January 31, 2023 are \$2,846.80

Respectfully,
Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector
JPC/js

2.4 **Assessor Submitted by Acting Assessor Peg Harrison**

Assessor's monthly report January 2024

The Sullivan County Assessor's Association meeting was held and attended by Ken and myself. Continued discussion on the two notifications for all residential properties before March 1st was discussed and consciences with the Assessors is the Town/County bills and our School Tax bills have the appropriate wording to cover the requirement, eliminating the mailing of post cards avoiding the expense.

A few deeds and address changes received after the submission of the tax roll for the January bills were updated and submitted in early December for name and address purpose only.

Letters were mailed to the Aged Exemption taxpayers with their renewal forms before year end.

Application for Corrected Tax Roll was submitted to the Sullivan County Legislature for the error on the modification for the IDA lease agreement with Rock Meadows Partners, LLC on parcel 10.-3-1.

Exemptions processed at the municipal level have been coming in and will be processed for the May 1st tentative roll. Calls received by the assessor's office following the mailing of the tax bills have been minimal.

Transition of files from Ken's home office to the town hall has begun.

In an effort to be available for the public, I am tentatively establishing the 1st Thursday of the month from 6-8pm as office hours and then by appointment and at the convenience of the property owner.

2.5 **Upper Delaware Council – Submitted by Evan Padua**

Town of Tusten

- At the upcoming March 7th meeting we will have a High-Definition Stream Survey Demonstration of the Delaware river. Public Welcome.
- The UDC is looking for Litter Leader volunteers from each township to help lead groups of folks to pick up trash in their towns and areas. This event will take place during the week of 4/20-28. Please contact the UDC directly if you are interested.
- Town of Tusten Representative Evan Padua, (who lives in Damascus township), wants to express the need for more involvement in the UDC from Tusten residents. If any Tusten residents are interested in becoming an alternate representative for the Town of Tusten, reach out to Crystal or Evan, and they can help you get involved. The UDC is a good organization to be a part of to overlook the River valleys projects and needs respectively.

2.6 **Tusten Energy Committee** – *Supervisor Ben Johnson*

- Jenn Porter has submitted the fifth quarterly report and invoice for the Sullivan Catskills Zero Waste Food Security expansion project, which over the period of October 23rd to December of 23, the town has submitted the payment and the state aid voucher for reimbursement.
- We are currently awaiting New York State Electric and Gas to finalize some paperwork for their engineering department for the hook up of the street lights in the Main Street parking lot. The lights have been installed and the wires have been in place, with the approval of Nyseg they will make the connection. The maintenance contract with the New York Power Authority has been signed. We are waiting two overheads for the lights that were not the place during the initial phase. We are also awaiting new decorative lights for those that are inoperable. It's approximately a 6 to 12 week wait for any overhead decorative lights; we have no date on those.

2.7 **Conservation Advisory Council** – *Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger*

- The committee did not meet in January.
- We are waiting for the contract from the Engineering firm.

2.8 **Water & Sewer Committee** – *Councilman Kevin McDonough*

- Committee has decided that the sewer- only customers will have a meter installed at the Sewer Districts' expense.
- WS Committee suggested Motion: Effective 2024 Sewer rates will be based on metered water usage. It is the policy of the Sewer District to supply those customers who are in the Sewer District Only with water meters to measure their use and bill accordingly. However, a nationwide shortage of these meters may make implementation impossible for the foreseeable future. So those customers who are in the Sewer District Only will be billed at twice the based rate for the four billing cycles of 2024 or until meters become available.
- We have no word from State DOH on Water Tower. Nothing from Del Eng. It's in Albany's hands. (Have Since learned that it's still in the hands of the County Dept of Health.) Del Engineering still sees a 2024 completion date.

Town of Tusten

2.9 Building Committee

- In Progress

2.10 Grants

1. Water infrastructure project – The project continues to be coordinated by Delaware Engineering. Although a new cycle is being released by NY State, we are ineligible since we have been awarded funds.
2. UDC - Midterm report is due next month.... will be submitted
3. National Fish and Wildlife – still waiting for contract. I have been assured that work has begun internally in the Engineers office.
4. Sullivan 180 has informed us that they will not entertain another grant request until the Town closes out the 2023 grant.

- No new grants in the works.

2.11 Tusten Youth Commission – Kelly Agar

- Met for our January Meeting, and we're planning out the year and getting our programming together
- Went to Big Bear Ski seven times already, serving 74 Tusten residents and counting. Having the winter programming be such a hit, we are looking into applying for specifically a winter sports grant
- Afterschool Wednesday programming has expanded to Mondays and Wednesdays. Each week we host about 15-30 kids. We received funding for this program and that has gone to new games and equipment for the kids
- Would also like to start a gardening program
- Tusten Youth has been denied the use of the Fireman's Field by the current leaseholders but this doesn't mean forever
- Also, would like to work with the Tusten Historical Society

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

The following from the public made comments:

1. Star Hesse – the streetlight's still have not been fixed
 - Asked if the water/sewer project be a priority
2. Brenten Smith - what I find unacceptable are some of the things that that mean collaboration, that mean having a group of people like minded who are enriching the lives of everyone that lives in
 - Money is important, but so is enriching the already very rich town that has a lot to offer.
3. Joanne Pentangelo – never thought of Tusten has separate areas but rather one big Town
4. Dawn Currari – to vote on the pavilion, the town board represents everyone in the town district, not just the flats

4 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Sewer Rates

RESOLUTION # 27-24

SEWER RATES

On the motion of Councilman McDonough seconded by Councilwomen Collins the following resolution was

Town of Tusten

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to approve the following motion from the Narrowsburg Water/Sewer Committee:

Effective 2024 Sewer rates will be based on metered water usage. It is the policy of the Sewer District to supply those customers who are in the Sewer District Only with water meters to measure their use and bill accordingly. However, a nationwide shortage of these meters may make implementation impossible for the foreseeable future. So those customers who are in the Sewer District Only will be billed at twice the based rate for the four billing cycles of 2024 or until meters become available.

4.2 Narrowsburg Water Sewer

Sand Filter Bid

- Two Bids Received
 - 1. Reeves Excavation – non collusion received
 - Per Yard = \$479.00
 - Per Ton = \$237.00
 - 2. Wind River Environmental - non collusion received
 - Per Yard = \$40.00

SAND FILTER BID

RESOLUTION # 28-24

SAND FILTER BID

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to approve the removal of used Filter Sand Filter to Wind River Environmental at the rate(s) of:

Labor Hauling & Disposal of Filter Sand

Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$40.00) per yard

Septic Tank Pumping

- One Bid Received
 - 1. Wind River Environmental - non collusion received
 - Base Price per gallon to include 3 emergency calls

Twenty-Four cents (\$0.25) per gallon
 - Surcharge Price (per call) for emergency calls over three

(\$0.28) Twenty-Seven Cents per Gallon

Town of Tusten

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING BID

RESOLUTION # 29-24

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING BID

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman McDonough, the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board motion to award the NWS Septic Tank Pumping to Wind River Environmental at the rate(s) of:

Base Price per gallon to include 3 emergency calls

Twenty-Four cents (\$0.25) per gallon

Surcharge Price (per call) for emergency calls over three

(\$0.28) Twenty-Seven Cents per Gallon

4.3 New York Police Rental

RESOLUTION # 30-2024

NEW YORK POLICE BARRACKS RENTAL FOR 2024

On motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Councilman Greg Triggs, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board pay Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars, as per the 2024 Adopted Budget to the Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Service for the NYS Police Barrack Rental Space.

4.4 Park

Sullivan 180 2023 Grant

RESOLUTION # 31-24

SULLIVAN 180 2023 GRANT

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Collins the following resolution was

ADOPTED 4 AYES 1 NAYS (Councilman McDonough)

RESOLVED that the Town Board will accept sealed bids on the flats Pavilion. Full description BID packets are available online at www.TOWNOFTUSTEN.org and at the Town Clerks office. Said bids shall be mailed or delivered to the office of the Town Clerk, 210 Bridge St., P.O. Box 195, Narrowsburg, N.Y.

12764, clearly marked "Pavilion bid" no later than 3:00pm April 8th, 2024. Bids will be opened read at the Town Board Regular Meeting on April 9th 2024 at 6:30pm. The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to re-advertise for new bids. **Non-Collusion Certificate required** and is available at the Tusten Town Clerks Office & online.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk put a notice in the local paper

Sullivan 180 2024 Grant – discussion

Town of Tusten

Parks & Recreational & Open Space Committee

RESOLUTION # 32-24

PARKS & RECREATIONAL & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board create the Parks & Recreational & Open Space Committee, meeting the first Monday of the month at 5:00pm 210 Bridge Street Narrowsburg NY 12764 with the following appointments:

1. Supervisor Johnson
2. Councilman Triggs
3. Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger
4. Councilman Gettel

5 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Attorney to the Town, Ken Klein

RESOLUTION # 33-24

ATTORNEY TO THE TOWN, KEN KLEIN

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize to pay Ken Klein monthly or quarterly as billed for attorney fees for an amount of \$1550.00, not to exceed \$18,600 per year excluding litigation

5.2 Tusten Seniors

RESOLUTION # 34-24

CREATE BUDGET LINE

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSTAIN (Councilman Triggs)

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to accept the following agreement and \$2,000 budget modifications from the Contingency Line:

THIS AGREEMENT, between the Town of Tusten and the Tusten Social as of January 1, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Tusten wishes to facilitate the funding of Tusten Social for the benefit of the Tusten Seniors of the Town of Tusten.

WHEREAS, the Tusten Social wishes to institute activities for the benefit of the seniors of the Town of Tusten.

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED by and between the parties:

1. That the Town of Tusten shall fund the Tusten Social to the extent of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars.
2. That the Tusten Social will use those funds disbursed to them by the Town of Tusten for the use and benefit of the Seniors in the Town of Tusten.

Town of Tusten

5.3 Generator Contract

RESOLUTION # 35-24

GENERATOR CONTRACT

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to go into contract with Kinsley for generators at the Highway Barn and 210 Bridge Street for the year 2024 at the rate of \$1,800 a year

5.4 Street Lighting

- Discussion about adding lights in the park area, rear of town hall, side of building

5.5 NWS Tractor

- Get prices/specs

5.6 Mowing Bid – Tabled

5.7 Sullivan County Youth Bureau

RESOLUTION # 36-24

SULLIVAN COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

On the motion of Councilman Triggs, seconded by Councilwoman Collins the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board allow Tusten Youth to apply for grant funding through Sull Co. Youth Bureau for Winter Programming, Summer Programming, Garden Club & Holiday Festivities

5.8 Animal Control Officer

RESOLUTION # 37-24

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED to Appoint Peter DeAngelis as ACO, Liette DeAngelis as 1st Deputy ACO, and Tammy Cutler as 2nd Deputy ACO effective February 13th, 2024.

5.9 NWS Meeting

RESOLUTION 38-24

NWS MEETING

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to move the NWS Committee meeting from Monday March 4th 2024 to Monday March 11th, 2024

Town of Tusten

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following from the public made comments:

1. Naomi Hallock – Park Committee, Park Pavilion
2. Star Hesse – more detailed agendas handed out before meetings
3. Iris Helfeld – need to make water issue a priority
4. Mike Farrell – Pavilion bid
5. Brenton Smith - We have the potential to become one of the most beautiful and most highly sought after towns in Sullivan County because of all these groups and projects
 - Sullivan 180 - Healthiest Firefighter Caption, looks forward to working with Tusten Youth and Tusten Social

6 CLOSING ITEMS

Board Comment

1. Bruce Gettel – asks what other township in the river valley has public bathrooms
 - Greg Triggs responds with he has researched it and he has not found a municipality with a public bathroom
 - Cass Collins responds with there are two public bathrooms in the DVAA, they may not be open all day and night but they are there

6.1 Executive Session

RESOLUTION # 39-24

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the the Town Board motion to enter executive session at 8:18pm for the purpose of discussing the employment of a particular individual

No decision made

No action taken

Exit Executive Session

On motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman McDonough, that the Town Board hereby exit executive session at 8:30pm

7 Adjournment

With no further business to be had, the meeting closed at 8:40pm on motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Councilman McDonough

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal Weston, Town Clerk

Town of Tusten