

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF THE HYDE PARK TOWN BOARD, HELD AT TOWN HALL, 4383 ALBANY POST ROAD, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK, 12538, ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 AT 6:00 PM.

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR ALFRED TORREGGIANI
COUNCILWOMAN NICOLE NOAKES
COUNCILMAN JOHN LOMBARDI
COUNCILMAN DONALD PRUSAKOWSKI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY TO THE TOWN SARAH WILSON
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK LISA GIBSON

ABSENT: COUNCILWOMAN LYNN RUGGIERO

Supervisor Torreggiani called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MOTION: Councilwoman Noakes
SECOND: Councilman Lombardi

That the minutes of the October 3rd & October 5th, 2022 Town Board meetings, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved.

VOICE VOTE:

ALL IN FAVOR 4
ALL OPPOSED 0 CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

A letter from Councilwoman Ruggiero, who was on a scheduled vacation when this meeting was called, was read, regarding her concern about the budget. She stated that she has been cognizant of the budget process since August, asking questions and seeking to be included in the process, but feels she has not been.

Deputy Attorney To The Town Sarah Wilson explained the budget process and how it works.

Town Comptroller Jim Coughlan stated he is available for any and all budget questions.

WORKSHOP:

The Town Board entered a Workshop and discussed the following:

1. Town Comptroller's comments on the changes made to the 2023 tentative budget and presentation of the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2023

RESOLUTION 10:17 - 1 OF 2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF HYDE PARK TOWN BOARD TO APPROVE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TOWN OF HYDE PARK PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

WHEREAS, pursuant to §106 of the Town Law, the Town Clerk presented the “Tentative Budget” to the Town Board at a “Special Meeting” on Wednesday, October 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the tentative budget in accordance with the requirements of §106 of the Town Law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Law §108, the Town Board shall hold a public hearing on the “Preliminary Budget” on or before the Thursday immediately following the general election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Tentative Budget filed with the Town Clerk on October 5, 2022, has hereby been amended to reflect any and all necessary changes received after the filing of the Tentative Budget and also includes those changes presented to the Comptroller by the Town Board and is hereby approved and filed as the Preliminary Budget; and
2. The Town Board shall conduct a public hearing on said Preliminary Budget on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 6:05 p.m.; and
3. The Preliminary Budget will be posted to the Town’s Official website; and
4. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and post notice of said public hearing on the Preliminary Budget as required by law.

MOTION: Councilwoman Noakes
SECOND: Councilman Lombardi

VOICE VOTE:

ALL IN FAVOR 4
ALL OPPOSED 0 CARRIED

RESOLUTION 10:17 – 2 OF 2022

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF HYDE PARK TOWN BOARD TO AMEND RESOLUTION 10:23 – 10 OF 2022 AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF ETHICS TO RETAIN SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL TO ASSIST IN HANDLING AN ETHICS COMPLAINT TO REFLECT A CHANGE IN SAID RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE THE AUTHORIZED AMOUNT ALLOWED TO BE SPENT FOR THE HIRING OF SAID COUNSEL

WHEREAS, an ethics violation complaint was filed with the Town of Hyde Park Board of Ethics on or about September 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Code § 11-6(B), the Attorney to the Town shall serve as counsel to the Board of Ethics except in any matter where a conflict of interest may exist; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Board of Ethics forwarded said complaint to the attention of the Attorney to the Town, Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Attorney to the Town, it was decided that a potential conflict of interest exists to warrant Van DeWater & Van DeWater’s abstention from providing legal advice to the Ethics Board; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 10:3 – 10 of 2022 it was recommended that the Town authorize the Board of Ethics to retain alternative counsel to provide legal guidance in handling said complaint; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 10:3 – 10 of 2022 authorizing the Board of Ethics to retain said counsel did not reflect an authorized amount that the Board of Ethics would be allowed to spend on such counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution is amended to authorize the Board of Ethics to spend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the retention of legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, should the Board of Ethics exhaust the authorized amount in addressing the complaint as required by Chapter 11 of the Town Code, the Town Board will review and consider the allocation of additional resources for the continued retention of said counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hyde Park Town Board does hereby amend Resolution 10:03 – 10 of 2022 “Authorizing the Board of Ethics to Retain Special Legal Counsel to Assist in Handling an Ethics Complaint to reflect a Change in Said Resolution to Include the Authorized Amount Allowed to be Spent for the Hiring of Said Counsel” not to exceed \$5,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if said designated amount should be exhausted during the handling of the complaint, the Town Board does also hereby agree to reevaluate and consider the allocation of additional resources for the continuation of the services of said counsel.

MOTION: Councilman Lombardi
SECOND: Councilman Prusakowski

VOICE VOTE:

ALL IN FAVOR 4
ALL OPPOSED 0 CARRIED

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Lombardi is working on date for a workshop, meeting and public hearing for residents in Ward 3, on the flooding and dam reconstruction.

MOTION: Councilwoman Noakes
SECOND: Councilman Lombardi

To adjourn meeting.

VOICE VOTE:

ALL IN FAVOR 4
ALL OPPOSED 0 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gibson
Deputy Town Clerk