

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PARIS
HELD AT THE PARIS TOWN HALL, SULPHUR
SPRINGS ROAD, SAUQUOIT, NEW YORK
September 12, 2023
5:00 PM

Town Board Members Present:

Supervisor	James Christian
Councilman	Gary Tuttle
Councilman	Dean Tibbitts
Councilman	Kevin Fahy
Councilman	Michele Parker

Other Town Officials Present:

Attorney for the Town	Anthony Hallak
Bookkeeper	Kim Roberts
Assessor	Pat Terns
Town Clerk	Mike Williamson
ZEO/ CEO	Gina LaMonte
Highway Superintendent	Jim Canaguier
Water/ Sewer Superintendent	Joe Inglis
Water/ Sewer Maintainer	Robert Evans
Budget Officer	Danielle Munn-Remeczyk
ZBA Chairman	Ray Hollenbeck

Supervisor Christian called the Meeting to order at 5:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

A Motion was made by Councilman Fahy to accept and approve the minutes of the August 8th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, August 22nd, 2023 Special Board Meeting and do further waive the reading of same. Seconded by Councilman Tibbitts. Vote 5 Ayes.

A Motion was made by Councilman Tuttle to approve the financial report for the month of August 2023 as submitted, seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Vote 5 Ayes.

Supervisor Christian extended the privilege of the floor to those present; of those present was Town Resident Chris Roberts. Mr. Roberts claims that the Assessor has no right to assess his property for taxes. Mr. Roberts states that his property deed was not filed as real property. Mr. Roberts also informed those present that if a mask mandate comes back a lawsuit will follow. Mr. Roberts stated that no one is permitted to tell what someone can do on their property. Supervisor Christian informed Mr. Roberts that the Town Board does not oversee assessments. Mr. Christian stated that the Board of Assessment Review is the proper board to discuss assessments with. Mr. Roberts wants the town to stop sending him tax bills.

Also of those present was Town Resident Myke Keller. Mr. Keller stated that he would like permit amount information from the August meeting added to the Minutes. Mr. Keller inquired to Councilman Tibbitts about 3 positions that were created and the Town Supervisor appointed to. Mr. Keller inquired if said positions were community positions and if the community was notified of said positions Councilman Tibbitts stated he doesn't know. Mr. Keller stated that the Comprehensive Plan states that the town was looking to obtain a Grant Writer at no cost. Mr. Keller stated that in 2016 the Supervisor was appointed as

Grant Writer at a significant cost. Mr. Keller inquired if the Supervisor is re-elected will he forego the Grant Writer salary. Supervisor Christian stated that the board will decide on the Grant Writer position at the first of the year.

Councilwoman Parker inquired to whether the Town Board is at a meeting or is on trial for something. Mr. Keller stated that he read the minutes and was asking questions for clarification.

Supervisor Christian stated that he obtained a \$3,000,000 grant for the water department. Mr. Keller stated that he is not saying its bad. He is wondering why the town fills positions inhouse and without advertising to the public. Supervisor Christian stated that the town follows civil service procedure. Mr. Keller spoke about neighboring town supervisors and their salaries. Mr. Keller claimed that New Hartford Supervisor made \$27,846.00, Westmoreland Supervisor made \$19,522.00 and Town of Paris Supervisor made \$58,919.00. Bookkeeper Kimberly Roberts stated that the information was not correct. Supervisor Christian stated that the other supervisors hold multiple positions as well.

Also of those present was Resident Marijane Stahl. Ms. Stahl spoke about recently completed roadwork in the Village of Clayville. Ms. Stahl shared her concerns with the area between her driveway and the road being in disrepair. Ms. Stahl shared photos of her concerns with the Town Board. Supervisor Christian informed Ms. Stahl that he would follow up with her after she attends the Village Meeting.

Also of those present was Town Resident Shad Crowe. Mr. Crowe stated he has lived here almost his whole life and that his father served on this very board. Mr. Crowe inquired to Supervisor Christian's Supervisor Salary. Supervisor Christian stated that his supervisor salary is right around \$29,000.00 per year. Mr. Crowe spoke about standard of living stating that his family would struggle on \$29,000.00 per year. Mr. Crowe spoke about prior Town Supervisors positions the held and hours they worked. Mr. Crowe stated that he doesn't remember prior Town Supervisors being required to tell the town their hours worked. Mr. Crowes stated that the Town's main concern is the work being done.

Also of those present was Town Resident Kristy Christian. Mrs. Christian stated that her husband Supervisor Christian cares deeply for the Town and showed it during COVID by going to work when others stayed home. Mrs. Christian expressed her concerns with the School Board's behavior on social media. Mrs. Christian stated that the School Superintendent David Stayton is present at this meeting, maybe he can give a lesson in social media etiquette to the School Board Members.

Also of those present was Town Resident Chris Madore. Mr. Madore inquired about Town Supervisors from other Towns having multiple positions. Mr. Madore stated he believes other town supervisors hold multiple positions. Mr. Madore stated that his understanding is that most of the positions are not livable wages yet a full time person is needed.

Town Resident Myke Keller stated that he was concerned with why many employees at the Town of Paris have multiple positions and the positions are not offered to the public. Mr. Keller inquired about employee qualifications before hiring and how many positions does one employee need.

Also of those present was Town Resident Heidi Crowe, Mrs. Crowe inquired if there is strong desire for these town jobs and if Town Resident Myke Keller was rejected from working for the Town of Paris. Mr. Keller stated that he was not aware of any jobs. Town Resident Shad Crowe stated that it is not easy to fill positions for low wages.

Supervisor Christian stated that the Town of Paris is running well besides for a codes matter that was caused by a resident not following New York State Codes. Mr. Christian stated that this matter has

caused residents including school board members to take sides. Mr. Christian stated that the Town does a lot for the School.

Assessor Pat Terns stated that she has been working for the Town of Paris for 35 years and all of a sudden there is an interest in her job. Ms. Terns stated she can't see anyone doing some of her jobs for \$8,000.00 per year when she is here full time.

Councilman Fahy thanked Assessor Pat Terns for a job well done.

Water and Sewer Maintainer Robert Evans inquired to what the Town offers the School. Supervisor Christian stated that the Town of Paris stores salt for ice control, sweeps parking lots, approves grants. Supervisor Christian spoke about negativity on social media. Mr. Evans inquired if the school has an alternate Cross Country Course. Sauquoit Superintendent and Town Resident David Stayton stated that he is not aware of an alternate Course. Supervisor Christian stated that the Town of Paris hosts the School's annual Bonfire as well as fireworks. Mr. Christian stated that the town also deals with the aftermath of these events should there be any conflict or fighting. Mr. Stayton stated that the School appreciates the town's support of the bonfire. Supervisor Christian thanked Sauquoit School Superintendent Stayton for attending the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board Meetings. Mr. Christian stated that he has not spoken with Mr. Stayton since Mr. Stayton has taken office and that Mr. Stayton sends other people to conduct business. Mr. Stayton stated that he is not sure what Supervisor Christian means by sending other people. Mr. Stayton informed those present that the school board members are not representing the school when making comments on social media. Supervisor Christian informed Mr. Stayton that the School Board Members are always representing the school as they were elected into their positions.

Supervisor Communications:

Councilwoman Parker offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Tibbitts.

(RESOLUTION NO.74)

RESOLVED, that the Paris Town Board hereby approves the following Budget Amendments.

- Transfer \$9,500.00 from A1989.4 General Contingency to A7020.1 Personnel Services.
- Transfer \$14,000.00 from A511 Appropriated Reserves to A7020.4 Recreation Contractual.
- Transfer \$14,000.00 from A200 Cash to A232 (#8002774470) Park Reserve Account

The Board voted as follows:

Supervisor Christian	-	Aye
Councilman Tuttle	-	Aye
Councilman Tibbitts	-	Aye
Councilman Fahy	-	Aye
Councilwoman Parker	-	Aye

Said Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Fahy offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

(RESOLUTION NO.75)

RESOLVED, that the Paris Town Board hereby approves the following Budget Amendments.

- Transfer \$55,000.00 from DB511 Appropriated Reserves to DB5110.4 General Repairs.

- Transfer \$55,000.00 from DB200 Cash to DB231(#8002774512) Highway Reserve Account.

The Board voted as follows:

Supervisor Christian	-	Aye
Councilman Tuttle	-	Aye
Councilman Tibbitts	-	Aye
Councilman Fahy	-	Aye
Councilwoman Parker	-	Aye

Said Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Supervisor Christian spoke about a speed limit issue on Summit Road brought to his attention by Town Resident Ed Jones. Highway Superintendent James Canaguier stated that Mr. Jones should collect signatures to petition Oneida County for a speed study being that Summit Road is a county road.

Supervisor Christian stated that based on town residents not receiving information in the mail on the Comprehensive Plan survey, the town has rescheduled its informational meeting to October 4th, 2023 from 6 -8 PM. A link to the survey is also available on the Towns Website.

Supervisor Christian spoke about approving the ESSA – Funded Programs for the Sauquoit School as well as hosting the Sauquoit Schools Bonfire on September 22nd, 2023. Mr. Christian spoke about his discussion with the Sauquoit Valley PTO for a future “Touch the Trucks” event hosted by the Town of Paris on April 20th 2024.

Town Clerk Communications:

Town Clerk Michael Williamson informed those present that the Town is awaiting a scheduled date for the removal and replacement of the Town Park Gazebo roof. Mr. Williamson also informed those present that new swings have been installed at the Town Park.

Supervisor Christian updated those present on the conditions of the pools.

Budget Officer Communications:

Budget Officer Danielle Munn-Remeczyk informed those present that she sees no concerns year to date on the current 2023 budget and that the 2024 budget estimates are due on September 20, 2023.

Highway Communications:

Highway Superintendent James Canaguier updated those present on the bridges being worked on in Town stating that the detours have been removed and that the Clayville bridge is awaiting sidewalks and landscaping. Mr. Canaguier also stated that the pavement markings have been done with the assistance of Oneida County. Superintendent Canaguier and Supervisor Christian to do a walkthrough of the new bridge work.

Highway Superintendent Canaguier informed those present that Highway employee Steve Snyder has resigned as of September 8, 2023, said position to be posted soon.

Councilwoman Parker offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Tibbitts.

(RESOLUTION NO.76)

RESOLVED, that the Paris Town Board hereby accepts Highway Employee Steve Snyder’s resignation effective September 8, 2023.

The Board voted as follows:

Supervisor Christian	-	Aye
Councilman Tuttle	-	Aye
Councilman Tibbitts	-	Aye
Councilman Fahy	-	Aye
Councilwoman Parker	-	Aye

Said Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilwoman Parker offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Tuttle.

(RESOLUTION NO.77)

RESOLVED, that the Paris Town Board hereby agrees to purchase a New Holland Backhoe B110D SLA CP 4WD T4B at a cost not to exceed \$116,745.00 from Clinton Tractor based on New York State Contract.

The Board voted as follows:

Supervisor Christian	-	Aye
Councilman Tuttle	-	Aye
Councilman Tibbitts	-	Aye
Councilman Fahy	-	Aye
Councilwoman Parker	-	Aye

Said Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Water/ Sewer Communications:

Water and Sewer Superintendent Joe Inglis informed those present that the Town is awaiting parts before installing the pit less adapter.

Assessor Communications:

Assessor Pat Terns informed those present that the School has sent out its tax bills, if anyone has questions about their star check they need to reach out to the State.

Codes Communications:

Codes and Zoning Enforcement Officer Gina LaMonte updated those present on year to date building permits and operating permits issued.

Ms. LaMonte informed those present that Planning Board Member Charlie Newell has resigned and that the Planning Board will pick a candidate for its new member.

Councilman Fahy offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Tibbitts.

(RESOLUTION NO.78)

RESOLVED, that the Paris Town Board hereby accepts Planning Board Member Charlie Newell’s resignation effective September 12, 2023 with regret.

The Board voted as follows:

Supervisor Christian	-	Aye
Councilman Tuttle	-	Aye
Councilman Tibbitts	-	Aye
Councilman Fahy	-	Aye
Councilwoman Parker	-	Aye

Said Resolution was declared unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Highway Superintendent Canaguier informed those present that Valley Signs has prepared the new town hall sign and will install it this week.

All vouchers were previously reviewed.

Councilman Fahy made a motion to pay bills as reviewed, Seconded by Councilman Tibbitts. Vote 5 Ayes.

Vouchers abstracts were presented to the Board for their review and signature:

Lighting District	\$ 2,051.01
Highway	\$ 95,352.80
Highway Outside	\$ 221,752.08
General	\$ 31,408.19
Water Bond	\$ 10,000.00
Sauquoit Water	\$ 56,984.94
Trust & Agency	\$ 5,915.17
General Outside	\$ 1,153.05

There being no further business to come before the Board, Councilwoman Parker made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:45 PM, seconded by Councilman Tibbitts. Vote 5 Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Williamson, Town Clerk

September 15, 2023