

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandville was held via Zoom video and telephone conferencing with Supervisor Williams presiding as permitted by the Executive Order of the Governor of the State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members present:

Supervisor, Thomas A. Williams
Councilman, Jay E. Cobb
Councilman, Jeffrey D. Guido
Councilman, Theodore V. Testa
Councilman, Douglas E. Withey
Town Clerk, Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella

Others present were: Town Attorney, John A. DelVecchio; Deputy Town Clerk, Abigail Albrow; and News Reporter, Colin Spencer from the *Cortland Standard*.

Supervisor Williams called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of all Board members in attendance.

Supervisor Williams explained the meeting was called to discuss a few items. The most pressing was to discuss the \$862,000 Empire State Development (ESD) Grant awarded to the Town nearly 2-1/2 years ago for the Phase 1 of the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex. He explained that the last part of the process was for the ESD to allow for a public comment period, which began October 15, 2020 and expired November 14, 2020. Comments were submitted by one citizen in the Town in which ESD drafted a response.

Supervisor Williams indicated that he emailed the members of the Board the draft response from the ESD, which he and Laura Cassalia from the Town's engineering firm, CHA, agreed on. He read the following aloud from the ESD response:

"After review and consideration of the comments received during the public comment period, ESD staff continues to believe that the Project is consistent with the goals of the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council's plan to promote Cortland as a tourism and recreation destination. ESD staff believes that the concerns raised during the public comment period are adequately addressed by the Town."

Supervisor Williams

While he and Engineer Cassalia agreed to sign off of the response, Supervisor Williams stated it was important for the Board to make comments in support of their findings. He explained that Attorney DelVecchio drafted a resolution for the Board's consideration, which also read aloud.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT AND AGREEMENT WITH THE
RESPONSES THAT EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)
PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE
CORTLANDVILLE GUTCHESS LUMBER SPORTS
COMPLEX PHASE 1 CAPITAL – REGIONAL COUNCIL
CAPITAL FUND

Motion by Councilman Testa

Seconded by Councilman Guido

VOTES: AYE – Williams, Cobb, Guido, Testa, Withey NAY – 0

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandville convened at a Special Meeting to address Cortlandville Gutches Lumber Sports Complex Phase 1 Capital - Regional Council Capital Fund, and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Town Board addressed the "Draft" dated December 17, 2020 of The Empire State Development ("ESD") staff regarding a comment submitted by a member of the public via email on November 11, 2020, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, after consideration, the Town Board is in support and agreement with the responses that the ESD provided to the public comments and further requests that the ESD Directors grant the requested action set forth in the said "Draft."

Supervisor Williams indicated that he was assured that once the ESD Board of Directors meet and affirm the project plan the grant money should be on its way to the Town.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Purchase Agreement between the Lime Hollow Nature Center and the Town of Cortlandville for the purchase of 2.5 acres of property located at 3118 Gracie Road (tax map #105.00-01-37.000). Supervisor Williams apprised the Board the Town now has an executed lease agreement, which would allow Attorney DelVecchio to move forward obtaining an abstract of title for the property.

Councilman Withey asked if the purchase agreement required a permissive referendum because it included a lease. He also asked if the purchase agreement locked the Town into constructing a building and mentioned that the commitment was to provide bathrooms, parking and shelter for fifty people.

Attorney DelVecchio explained that the purchase of the property (for \$1.00) does not require permissive referendum, however what will require a permissive referendum is the lease agreement. The purchase of the property is contingent on a lease agreement, which has not been drafted. He explained that his plan was to order an abstract of title that will be required prior to facilitating the purchase. The next item to address is the storage building.

Attorney DelVecchio explained that there is a provision in the purchase agreement that the Town Board has to give approval in order for the storage building, parking, shelter and such. If the approval does not happen then the purchase agreement is not valid. Supervisor Williams reiterated that at this time the purchase agreement gives Attorney DelVecchio the ability to order an abstract of title. Councilman Withey stated he was comfortable with the answer provided and had no further questions.

On another note, Supervisor Williams was happy to announce that the 3rd quarter sales tax revenue was received and was \$174,000 more than what was projected in the 2020 budget. The Town would also be receiving a much larger mortgage tax than anticipated. The Board was pleased to hear the positive news.

Supervisor Williams updated the Board on the Town's efforts to combat COVID-19 and how to structure Town government in the upcoming months to remain open and provide a safe environment for the public and the Town employees. He and other officials/employees spent a considerable amount of time discussing solutions and responses to what could be one of the worst month's medically in the country's history due to the pandemic. He wanted the Board to be aware that a considerable amount of money was being spent on cleaning supplies and equipment which the Board would see in upcoming vouchers.

Supervisor Williams encouraged customers to utilize the Town drop box and the mail as much as possible this winter, especially with regard to the upcoming tax collection season. He mentioned that he and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector were taking a hard look at additional precautions that can be taken to prevent possible exposures resulting in the closure of offices, including a change in configuration of personnel.

Supervisor Williams added that Water & Sewer Sup't. Alteri has been spending a lot of time working to provide a solution regarding security for the Town; one that will cost less money than an addition to the building. Sup't. Alteri devised a plan to repurpose the existing building. Further discussion would occur on the plan at a later date.

Councilman Withey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cobb, to adjourn the Special Meeting. All voting aye, the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella, RMC
Town Clerk
Town of Cortlandville

*Note:

The draft version of this meeting was submitted to the Town Board for their review on December 11, 2020.
The final version of this meeting was approved as written at the Town Board meeting of _____.