

The February 1, 2023, meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Town Supervisor Tollisen in the A. James Bold Meeting Room with the following members present:

Kevin J. Tollisen, Supervisor -Excused
Paul L. Hotaling, Deputy Supervisor
John P. Wasielewski, Councilman
Jeremy W. Connors, Councilman
Eric A. Catricala, Councilman
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney - Excused
Cathy L. Drobny, Deputy Town Attorney
Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Councilman Connors, would you please address the public and then we will stand for the pledge.

Councilman Connors: Thank you, Deputy Supervisor. Before we start the meeting, I just want to remember Paul McInerney. Paul was a great civil servant, employed by the Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District and the Waterford Police Department. He was a member of the Waterford Fire Department for many years. I had the opportunity to work alongside with him for over two decades. He passed away last evening at a young age due to some complications. Please keep Paul, the McInerney's and his extended family in our thoughts and prayers. I just wanted to acknowledge him in all that he did not only for the Town of Halfmoon and the Town of Waterford and all of the lives that he touched. Again, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESENTATION: ASSESSOR FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER & AMBULANCE WORKERS TAX EXEMPTION

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: The first thing on the agenda this evening is a presentation, Ms. Zarelli.

AnnMarie Zarelli, Town Assessor: Good evening.

On Dec. 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed legislation that creates an opt-in for all local governments to provide a 10% property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers (L 2022, ch 670, § 1).

This partial tax exemption is not automatic. If a jurisdiction is considering adopting the exemption, it needs to conduct a public hearing. Each taxing entity needs to determine if it is economically feasible to offer the exemption which will cause a shift in taxes to those that do not qualify for the exemption.

Whether they will opt-in or not, if so they need to pass a resolution that is forwarded to the Assessor's attention as well as the Director of Real Property in Saratoga and the State.
 The minimum service term requirement for eligibility — two years at minimum, five years at most.

The taxing jurisdictions can also opt –in to providing that the property tax exemption becomes permanent to the volunteer firefighter/ambulance worker homeowner after 20 years of service so long as the residence remains the volunteer's primary residence.

The law also allows localities to extend this tax exemption for the lifetime of a surviving, un-remarried spouse of a deceased volunteer. For this exemption to apply to an un-remarried spouse, the deceased volunteer must have served for at least 20 years and received the exemption for the subject property prior to his or her death. In the event of a line-of-duty death of a volunteer, an un-remarried spouse is eligible to have the partial tax exemption remain so long as the deceased volunteer was an enrolled member of a volunteer fire company or ambulance service for at least five years and, as above,

received the exemption for such property prior to the line-of-duty death and that the un-remarried spouse stays in the home that benefitted from the exemption.

Eligibility:

- The service term as defined by the taxing entity (2-5 years)
- The property must be owned by the volunteer.
- The property must be the primary residence of the volunteer.
- The property must be located within in the jurisdiction served by the fire company.
- The property must be used exclusively for the volunteer's residential purposes, or if for mixed purposes, only the volunteer's residential portion is entitled to the exemption;
- The authority having jurisdiction must certify that the volunteer is a member of the fire company. Each fire company would have to provide an active roster roll to the Assessor regarding status each March 1st. That initial roster would have to include up to the last five years' worth of active members. The time period of eligibility would have to be however many years of service by March 1st of any given year. That roll would need to be received in a timely manner for anyone to receive the exemption.

The Director of Real Property is bringing the exemption in front of the County Supervisors this year for possible adoption for the 2024 Roll Year.

Example:

The County opts in for 2024.

Your home is assessed at \$200,000.

10% is \$20,000

Current County Tax Rate: 0.0738600 per thousand

Taxes owed County Line before Exemption: \$14.77

Taxes owed County Line with Exemption: \$13.29

Savings: \$1.48

Current NYS Mandate Rate: 4.43681100 per thousand

Taxes Owed NYS Mandate before Exemption: \$887.36

Taxes Owed NYS Mandate Line with Exemption: \$798.63

Savings: \$88.73

If Halfmoon opts-in for the Highway line:

Current highway tax rate: \$1.315 per thousand

Taxes owed Highway Line before Exemption: \$263

Taxes owed Highway line with Exemption: \$236.70

Savings: \$26.30

Potential savings if Town & County Opt-in: \$116.51

The department of taxation and finance notified the three school districts by sending an email to their Superintendent, business manager and board president. I have also reached out to the school districts business managers regarding this exemption.

The Mechanicville School District has replied that they are not looking to opt-in at this time. The Waterford-Halfmoon Central School District & Shenendehowa have not responded to any inquiries. Since it requires a public hearing and discussion, the earliest viable year it would be passed would be 2024 for any significant savings.

Once a local government opts in, application for the exemption is filed with the assessor for the town the fire company is located by taxable status date which is March 1st every year.

All owners must sign the application.

However, **you cannot claim the \$200 state income tax credit on your IT -245 if you register for the exemption.** Senator James Tedesco is a supporter of a bill that is looking to increase the NYS income tax credit from \$200 to \$500.

Ms. Zarelli: This is really all that I know right now. This would be for the 2024 roll year, not this tax year. If the school districts opt in, the first savings would be September 2024. If the town and county opt in the first savings would be January 2025.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Are there any questions from the Board?

Councilman Wasielewski: Thank you for your work on this AnnMarie.

Ms. Zarelli: I will keep you updated as I receive more information from New York State. It is an on-going process.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Thank you. I'd like to recognize the exemption of Supervisor Tollisen and Attorney Murphy this evening.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

The "BUY A BRICK" program for the Halfmoon Veterans Walk of Honor at the Halfmoon Veterans Memorial in the Town Park is now accepting orders. Create a lasting tribute for your veteran. For more information please call 371-7410 ext. 2200 or visit our website www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov.

FARMER'S MARKET: Every Wednesday from 3-6 in the Town Hall Foyer. Come visit our local farms, crafters, and vendors that will be on hand every week.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING: February 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Bold Meeting Room. The public is welcome to attend.

WINTER CAMP: Tuesday-Friday, February 21-24 from 8:30am to 3:30pm at Halfmoon Town Hall with daily field trips. For more information contact Ross MacNeil at 518-371-7410 ext. 2274 or rmacneil@townofhalfmoon.org.

YELLOW RIBBON DAY: REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS on Monday, April 10th at 11 AM at the Veterans Memorial Park, 162 Rte. 236. Donations to the Blue Star Mothers are used to make Freedom Boxes to our deployed troops. Donation boxes are in Town Hall Foyer.

TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Board Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of month at 7:00pm. Pre-meeting at 6:15 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals: 1st Monday of month at 7:00 pm. Pre-meeting at 6:45pm

Planning Board Meeting: 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Pre-meeting at 6:15 pm (If the Holiday falls on a Monday, the meeting will be held on the next day, Tuesday).

Trails & Open Space Committee: 3rd Monday of the 3rd month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise announced. (If the Holiday falls on that Monday, the meeting will be held on the next day, Tuesday). The proposed dates are 1/17, 4/17, 7/17, and 10/16.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of agenda topics)

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Kevin J. Tollisen (Town Supervisor) Excused

Paul Hotaling (Deputy Town Supervisor): (1) Chair of Personnel Committee (2) Ethics Committee, (3) Chair of Infrastructure & Safety (Water, Highway, Building & Maintenance) (4) Co-Chair for Character Counts, (5) Liaison to Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

John Wasielewski (Town Board Member): (1) Liaison to Planning Board, (2) Chair of Committee of Emergency Services and Public Safety, (3) Liaison to Animal Control and related services

I have no report this evening.

Jeremy Connors (Town Board Member): (1) Liaison to Zoning Board; (2) Chair of Business and Economic Development Committee (3) Chair for Not-for-Profit Organizations, (4) Liaison to Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

I have just a couple of things. Tomorrow will be the first Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Meeting. It will be here in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at 6:00pm. Planning will be here, multiple representatives from our community to look at our Comprehensive Plan and begin this very important process. These meetings are open to the public, however public comment is not going to be taken at these meetings. There will be public comment when we have our public hearings.

Second, the Halfmoon Girls' Softball is doing a fundraiser at Chipotle at 2 Wade Road in Latham, Saturday February 4th from 4-8. They do these fundraiser's quite often to raise money for the girls to get out and play softball and to learn great skills. That is all that I have.

Eric Catricala: (1) Co-Liaison to Planning Board, (2) Co- Chair of Business and Economic Development Committee (3) Chair for Parks and Athletic Organizations, (4) Chair for Recreation (5) Co-Chair for Character Counts, (6) Liaison to Trails and Open Space Committee

Thank you. We have a cold snap coming, so please look out for your neighbors and pets. Thank you.

Lynda Bryan (Town Clerk): (1) Chair of Senior Programs, (2) Chair of Committee on Historical Archives

I just have one thing this evening. Supervisor Tollisen asked me to look into getting the Senior Center to have a Halfmoon address. I just received the news today that the Senior Center's new address will be 2B Halfmoon Town Plaza. The building faces Lower Newtown Road and hence has a Waterford address. They currently have a Box that they have to go the Post Office to get their mail. This will be much easier.

Dana Cunniff (Receiver of Taxes): (1) Chair of Committee on Residents Relations

Lyn Murphy, Esq., (Town Attorney) Excused

Cathy Drobny, Esq. (Town Attorney) I have nothing this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of agenda topics) No one came forward.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Department Reports and the monthly Department Manager Reports are listed and can be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office. We do ask our Department Managers to provide monthly reports in addition to having Department Manager monthly meetings that we all discuss the important things that go on in each of the offices.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS –

1. Town Clerk Total Fees Submitted to the Supervisor - \$6,224.84
2. Senior Express Total # Rides – 481 Total # Meals - 435

DEPARTMENT MANAGER MONTHLY REPORTS – (Can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office) Building & Grounds, Highway Department, Town Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received from the Town Planning Board Resolutions approved at the January 23, 2023, meeting: Change of Use/Tenant Application for Trutovic Hobbies, Farm to Market Storage Center, Building 6C, 40 Farm to Market Road, for Mr. Paint, Farm to Market Storage Center, Building 5A, 40 Farm to Market Road, for Cartwheels Gymnastics Center, 4 Enterprise Avenue, for Seasonal Outside Use at the Home Depot, 4 Halfmoon Crossing, for Marley Gift & Tobacco, 1525 Route 9, for Accord Automotive, 1514 & 1516 Crescent Road, for a Site Plan Application for the Toyota Service Building Addition, 202 NYS Route 146, Regarding a Positive Recommendation for the Dawson Senior Center PDD, Pruyne Hill Road & Farm to Market Road, and a DENIAL of a Special Use Permit for the Hickok Duplex, 4 & 6 Lansing Lane.

Received & Filed

2. Received from the Town of Stillwater notification of their Notice of Application for Site Plan Review Special Use Permit for Telecommunications Facility Application of Cello Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, 45 West Street, Stillwater.

Received & Filed

3. Received from the Halfmoon Celebrations Committee a thank you card with their gratitude for the Town of Halfmoon's support for 2022. They had a very successful year making smiles for thousands of children.

Received & Filed

4. Received from Governor Kathy Hochul an announcement that the State Dept of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Grant Program awarded the Town of Halfmoon \$232,000 for the Erie Canal Towpath Trail Link. It will complete a 4,175' bike trail segment along the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway.

Received & Filed

5. Received from NYS Dept. of Public Service Commission and Consumer Advocate will hold virtual public forums on Jan. 31, 2023 and in-person on Feb. 1, 2023 to solicit input & comments regarding billing, meter reading & service issues for NYSEG customers. For more information go to www.dps.ny.gov click "Search" and enter the number (23-00068).

Received & Filed

6. Received from the Building, Planning & Development Department, notification that they are in receipt of a Special Use Permit application for Hickok Duplex, 4 & 6 Lansing Lane, and Milczarek Subdivision, 12 English Road.

Received & Filed

7. Received from the Building, Planning & Development Department, notification that they are in receipt of a Special Use Permit application for the lands of Tang Subdivision & Duplex, 20 Stone Quarry Road – Minor Subdivision & Special Use Permit (Duplex).

Received & Filed

8. Received from Rachel Wait, her letter of resignation as part-time Clerk for the Justice Office effective January 24, 2023.

Received & Filed

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 68-2023

**Offered by Councilman Wasielewski, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Town Clerk Bryan**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the minutes of Town Board Meeting of January 18, 2023, as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-2023

**Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Catricala: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Highway Superintendent Bryans**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into 3-year agreements with Southworth-Milton, Inc. d/b/a Milton Cat to provide inspections and preventive maintenance to equipment owned by the Town of Halfmoon, in the not to exceed amount of \$62,690.83, and hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute said agreements, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

RESOLUTION NO. 70-2023

**Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Catricala: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Highway Superintendent Bryans**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to purchase a 2024 dump/plow truck from Tracey Road Equipment, Inc. pursuant to Onondaga County bid #8996 in the not to exceed amount of \$232,076.90 and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the purchase, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: This is a great addition to our Highway Department. Thank you to the Highway crew for your hard work. You've been doing a great job keeping our roads safe and clear.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-2023

**Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Wasielewski: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Highway Superintendent Bryans**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to purchase a 2023 Ford F-550 regular cab as detailed in the proposal dated January 13, 2023, from Van Bortel Ford pursuant to Onondaga County bid ONGOV-106-19 in the not to exceed amount of \$73,707.45 and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the purchase, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Again, another great addition to our fleet.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-2023

**Offered by Councilman Wasielewski, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Building, Planning Development Coordinator Harris**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Laurie Barton as an alternate to the Town of Halfmoon Planning Board, subject to the review and approval of the Town Supervisor.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Laurie is another addition to our staff.

RESOLUTION NO. 73-2023

Offered by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Wasielewski: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Highway Superintendent Bryans

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to repair a 2010 Mack GU713 at Gabrielli Truck Sales in the not to exceed amount of \$10,994.45 and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the repairs, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

RESOLUTION NO. 74-2023

Offered by Councilman Wasielewski, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Director of Water Tironi

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby schedules a Public Hearing for the February 15, 2023, Town Board meeting, in the A. James Bold Room, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as their agenda allows, to discuss authorizing an expenditure in the not to exceed amount of \$375,000.00 from Water Capital Reserve fund for the replacement of the existing water main on Brigantine Drive, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Thank you to our Water Department for all of the repairs and keeping things going.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-2023

Offered by Councilman Wasielewski, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Assessor Zarelli

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby schedules a Public Hearing for the February 15, 2023, Town Board meeting, in the A. James Bold Room, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as their agenda allows, to discuss authorizing a Local Law enacting Real Property Tax Law §466a granting a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: Again, thank you Ms. Zarelli for all your hard work on this.

RESOLUTION NO. 76-2023

Offered by Councilman Wasielewski, seconded by Councilman Connors: Approved by the vote of the Board: Ayes: Hotaling, Wasielewski, Connors, & Catricala
Resolution Introduced by Supervisor Tollisen

RESOLVED, that that the Town Board authorizing the Town Supervisor to award the Donovan Ayotte Firefighter of the Year Award based on committee's recommendation, said name to be announced at one of the Department's annual installation banquets.

Deputy Supervisor Hotaling: I have to speak out on this for a minute. Donovan was a great employee of our Water Department. The day before he passed, I called him to check on an issue in town. He showed up, took care of it, he was very professional and that was the way he was. He was always looking out for everyone else. Anyone who gets this award, that's a blessing. I want to thank our Town Board for doing this. It is a great honor.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of non-agenda items) No one had any comments.

There being no further business to discuss or resolve on a motion by Councilman Connors and seconded by Councilman Catricala, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk