The November 02, 2022 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
Paul L. Hotaling, Councilman
John P. Wasielewski, Councilman
Jeremy W. Connors, Councilman
Eric A. Catricala, Councilman
Lyn A. Murphy, Town Attorney
Cathy L. Drobny, Deputy Town Attorney - Excused
Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk

# PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE

## PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Tollisen: The first item on the agenda this evening is a public hearing for the 2023 Town of Halfmoon budget. Would anyone like the public hearing notice read? Hearing from no one the public hearing was opened.

OPEN: 7:03 pm

Supervisor Tollisen: Just to recap the 2023 Budget Highlights, as I have said at the first meeting with the presentation of the budget, historically the Town of Halfmoon has three sources of revenue for the town budget, mortgage tax, sales tax and we also have a Highway tax. The budget figures that we do every year are based upon statistical data. We look at trends, we look at years past, we look at ways we can compare over a five-year period to formulate the budget. This is the 44th year that there is no general fund town tax to be levied to the residents of Halfmoon. There is a raise scheduled for our town employees of \$2,500 per employees, full-time or part-time equaling a \$1.20 per hour. The raise is higher than what was slated for during the five-year compensation plan that we created. That was based upon the economy and based upon the inflationary numbers and things of that nature.

The 2023 budget reflects an increase in general fund approximately \$430,000 over the 2022 budget. As everyone is acutely aware, in 2022 our budget was very crisp because of Covid and we didn't know what was going on with that. Overall, the town budget has increased about 4.12%. We continue to provide services for our seniors. We have daily senior programs for recreational and educational matters, we have nutritional programs, day to day activities, plan trips and have our senior vehicles that is vital to town seniors to take them to doctor appointments, shopping and whatever is needed to aid in their daily living.

We have had 370 children enrolled in our Summer Recreation Program and the program will continue next year with even more activities and field trips for the children. The Character Counts Program is integrated into our programing which is a very active program that helps those who are in need throughout the year. The Town continues to partner with CAPTAIN, the YMCA, Center for the Family and CareLinks. These are organizations that provide front line services and help to our residents and will continue into the 2023 budget.

We continue to seek grant funding for many of our projects. Our Bond rating continues to be AA Stable. The rating reflects very strong economy, we have strong budgetary performances anchored by sales tax/sizeable reserves. With respect to the original 2023 Tentative Budget that was submitted to the Preliminary Budget, there are very slight changes that are made to it, I went over that in the premeeting. Highway had an \$88 change for cost in unemployment insurance and the revenue number went up \$9, so I think that there is a \$21 difference in that. There

was a change in the water budget due to an EDU change which is just over one EDU of \$158. Other than that, the Town budget has stayed the same with respect to the Preliminary Budget, the Comptroller Bonnie is here with us, our Deputy Comptroller Laurie is with us as well, they are the ones who do the hard work, so thank you very much for your hard work on the budget, but throughout the year too!

As I report to the Board regularly, we're very fortunate in Halfmoon that we have conservative budgeting, we don't spend unnecessarily, but we do invest heavy in infrastructure, paving, culvert repairs and replacements, water projects, we are adding several water projects right now. Even with all that spending, we are paying cash for a lot of those things. We are projected to have a very positive surplus again at the end of this year based upon the data we have received to date. I am happy to report, and I will be happy to be criticized all day long to continue to budget conservatively and save money for our town.

So, that is where we are with the town budget. Are there any questions from the Board?

Councilman Connors: I just have one thing, Mr. Supervisor. I just want to thank the Comptroller's Office as well as you and your staff for presenting another well thought out, conservative budget that focuses on the needs of the town. This is an arduous process that comes to us annually, but this just goes to show that fiscal responsibility of yourself, this Board, all the departments and the department heads for being able to successfully navigate fiscal responsibility during a pandemic and now to continue to have surpluses where others do not. So, congratulations to everyone involved in this!

Supervisor Tollisen: Are there any questions or comments from the public? (No one replied)

Supervisor Tollisen: Again, my sincere thanks to Comptroller Hatter and Deputy Comptroller Sullivan on their hard work.

Supervisor Tollisen: At this point I will close the public hearing.

CLOSED: 7:12pm

### PRESENTATION: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Supervisor Tollisen: Next I will ask Mr. Harris, our Director to come forward and give the Board a comprehensive plan update.

Director Harris: Thank you Supervisor Tollisen. The Supervisor asked me to provide an update on something that he started discussing probably about a year ago with me, the need to follow up to the wide scale zoning and code amendments that were done in 2019 that resulted from a zoning and comprehensive planning update committee that met around 2013 to 2017 and culminating in 2019 with a number of changes to our zoning, road dedication procedures, our codes and various ways our town deals with development. The next step is about a year ago we started working with our town engineers with developing a plan to update a wide upscale update, to our comprehensive plan. This summer, he and I and our staff worked with MJ Engineering on a scope of services which was then adopted by this Board in early October and authorized the town to proceed with the scope from MJ Engineers. I had several e-mails and conversations from our team that is on board at MJ Engineering to get going with that. The new budget in 2023 that funds the effort for the comprehensive plan. As you know these things do take time, effort, and money, of course. I appreciate the Board's support going into next year with

this effort. With that, I want to give the Board a quick overview of the first steps that will occur with the comprehensive plan update. It's mainly two things. Right now MJ Engineering is working on all of the background info, data with the census information, all of the updates that have been done in the last decade to our zoning, the way development has changed in town, the patterns and putting that all together. That's the background information.

The other part is to establish a comprehensive plan update committee. The Supervisor has asked me to develop a suggested list of participants. The committee will be the appointment of the Board like the Organizational meeting in January. I will put together a list of potential members to that committee who will be a sounding board for you as the Town Board on the ideas, information, input that we receive from the public and various interest groups that will end up being some recommendations for you to consider at the end of the day.

The comprehensive plan committee, right now is proposed to have 13 members: a Town Board member, the Planning Board Chairman or his designee, the Zoning Board Chairman or her designee, a member of our Trails & Open Space Committee, Town Historian or her designee, a representative of the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, and I will consult with Pete Bardunias on that, a business representative, a resident or business owner in the town that has a business and come from that perspective sharing their ideas, and I am proposing three resident representatives. We are aiming towards a geographical diversity of our town, the three main areas in town, I will call it the northern part of town, the central area of town and the southern area of town. But, as of tomorrow, we will be soliciting resumes and letters of interest from residents of town to participate on the committee with a deadline of December 15th with an eye towards this Board looking at the resumes and make a decision as part of the Organizational meeting.

From there, MJ Engineers is planning to have a kickoff with the committee and most likely in this room, open to the public and will discuss with the committee a schedule and outlining of the scope of services and get input from the committee on meetings, public hearings, public workshops and a laundry list of ideas as we brainstorm and kick that meeting off.

So, very quickly, MJ Engineers is already working on the background information. We are looking to get a committee put together over the next month, and once December 15<sup>th</sup> comes, I think that the Board members and the Supervisor will have the resumes and decide on a full 13-member committee.

Supervisor Tollisen: Thanks very much. Are there any questions or comments from the Board? (No questions or comments) Thank you.

# **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.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Donations will be collected in Town Hall until Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. Baskets will be put together and delivered on Saturday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at

11:00am. If you would like to help please contact Ross MacNeil in the Recreation Department or by calling (518) 371-7410 ext. 2274.

SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Will be held Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm. They will have wonderful crafts quilting, woodworking, Grandma's Treasures & the Best Baked Goods in Town! Come out and support our seniors!

JINGLE BELL BASH & MARETPLACE ON CANDY CANE LANE: Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1pm-5pm at the Town Complex. Fun filled day for the kids with Pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Sleigh Rides, Craft making & so much more & Outdoor Holiday Shopping for the Big Kids!

HOLIDAY MEMORIES MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY: Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm at eth Abele Memorial Park, Harris Road.

AN EVENING WITH MRS. CLAUS AND FRIENDS, Hear Christmas stories told by Mrs. Claus and get Cookies & Milk from her Friends! Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Town Hall Foyer.

# **TOWN MEETINGS:**

Town Board Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 and Open Space Committee: 11/21/22, at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of agenda topics)

## REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Kevin J. Tollisen (Town Supervisor)

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

Last Wednesday, the Supervisor and I got to attend an event hosted by Senator Daphne Jordan at the Fairways, called Woman of Distinction. A young lady from Mechanicville was the recipient and her name is Megan Quinlan. I bring that up because, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, 14 years ago, she partnered with Mike Raucci and that was the start of our food drive. She has always included us, anything the Town has needed, she has reached out to help. I wanted to publicly congratulate her.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am we will be putting the food baskets together for Thanksgiving and delivering them to Halfmoon homes around 11:00 am. If anybody is available, please come out and help. Thank you.

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

Thank you, Mr. Supervisor. I just wanted to thank you and the residents that came out for the beautiful Veterans Ceremony in the Town Park this past Saturday. It seems to get better every year. It is a very meaningful and dignified ceremony that I appreciate as a veteran, and I really thank the Town for what they do there. Thank you.

Jeremy Connors (Town Board Member): (1) Liaison to Zoning Board; (2) Liaison to Trails and Open Space Committee, (3) Chair of Business and Economic Development Committee (4) Chair for Not For Profit Organizations

Thank you. I have no report this evening, Mr. Supervisor.

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

Thank you. I have no report this evening.

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

Excused

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

Lyn Murphy, Esq., (Town Attorney)

I would ask if the Board would consideration a resolution:

## **RESOLUTION NO. 319-2022**

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Buffalo Intelligent Technology Systems, LLC, to provide Routing Box services associated with transportation services offered by the Town of Halfmoon, in the not to exceed amount of \$340.00 per month, and hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said agreement, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Cathy Drobny, Esq. (Town Attorney) Excused

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

Supervisor Tollisen: 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. Senior Express Total # Rides – 461
- Total # Meals 432
- 2. Town Clerk Total Fees Submitted to the Supervisor \$9,598.81

- 3. Building
  Total # Permits 64 Total Fees Submitted to the Supervisor \$15,232.50
- 4. Fire Inspections
  Total # Inspections 39 Total Fees Submitted to the Supervisor \$2,740

DEPARTMENT MANAGER MONTHLY REPORTS – (Can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office) Buildings & Grounds, Assessors, Animal Control, Water Department, Highway Department, Receiver of Taxes, Town Clerk

## CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Received from the Town Planning Board Resolutions approved at the October 24, 2022, meeting: Change of Use/Tenant Application for Rollin' Smoke Hand Crafted BBQ, 1613 Route 9 and for a Minor Subdivision (Lot-Line Adjustment) for Lands of Crescent Commons PDD, 17 Circle Labe & 1475 Route 9. Received & Filed
- 2. Received from the Clifton Park Halfmoon Fire District #1, their 2023 Adopted Budget Summary.

  Received & Filed
- 3. Received from the Halfmoon Waterford Fire District #1, their 2023 Adopted Budget. Received & Filed
- 4. Received from the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services, the Assessor's Report for the Assessment Roll completed in 2022.

  Received & Filed
- 5. Received from the Trails & Open Space Committee Topics of their July 18, 2022 meeting: Updates on Grant projects, Town Sponsored Trail Walks on the Zim Smith and Champlain Canalway Trail, Vosburgh & Swatling Falls Preserve Status, Hanks Hollow, Creekview Estates, Betts Farm, Mott Orchard active PDD's but no trail work yet. Open discussion. Received & Filed
- 6. Received from Shenendehowa Central Schools, an invitation to join them in recognizing those who have served our country and community with a Veterans Day program in the High School East Auditorium on Thursday, Nov.10<sup>th</sup> at 8:40 am.

Received & Filed

- 7. Received from the Superintendent of Highways, notification that they will be resuming their winter hours of operation, Monday through Friday 7:00am -3:00pm. Received & Filed
- 8. Received from the West Crescent Fire District, their 2023 Adopted Budget Summary.

Received & Filed

**NEW BUSINESS** 

**RESOLUTION NO. 313-2022** 

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

Resolution Introduced by Town Clerk Bryan

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the minutes of Town Board Meeting of October 19, 2022, as presented.

# **RESOLUTION NO. 314-2022**

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

Resolution Introduced by Superintendent of Highways Bryans

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Highway Department to enter into an Agreement with Precision Trenchless, LLC. for CIPP lining and CCTV of 20 LF of 30" pipe, in Glen Meadows in the not to exceed amount of \$15,599.00 utilizing the and Onondaga County Contract #0000004284, and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the work detailed in the Agreement, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 315-2022**

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon is cognizant of their obligation to be fiscally responsible when determining the appropriate disposition of a vehicle that is no longer of use to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town has consistently sought an effective way to insure that obsolete vehicles are disposed of in a manner that garners the most return on the original investment made to obtain the vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Building, Planning and Development Coordinator has determined that a 2014 Ford F-150 with Vin #1FTFX1EF9EKG35044 currently owned by the Town of Halfmoon is a vehicle that should be sold or otherwise disposed of as it is no longer of use to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town has an Agreement with Auctions International to place vehicles that are no longer of use to the Town out for bid; and

WHEREAS, the Building, Planning and Development Coordinator has the training and experience to determine what items should be placed on the Auction website and what items should be otherwise disposed; and

WHEREAS the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to remove the vehicle from the Town's Asset Inventory list and insurance coverage;

# NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. That the Building, Planning and Development Coordinator may dispose of a 2014 Ford F-150 by placing it on Auctions International.
- 2. That the Town Clerk shall update both the Town's Asset Inventory list and insurance coverage

3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

DATED: November 2, 2022

# LYNDA BRYAN, TOWN CLERK TOWN OF HALFMOON

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 316-2022**

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

Resolution Introduced by Personal Computer Technician Mikol

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Tyler Technologies for ERP Pro powered by Incode, ERP Pro 9 Customer Relationship Management Suite, and related services in the not to exceed amount of \$29,999.00, and hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute said agreement, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 317-2022**

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

WHEREAS, the developer of Plant Road Estates Subdivision (a/k/a Orchard Pointe), a residential project, would like to dedicate Empire Court and related easements, to the Town of Halfmoon; and

WHEREAS the Town of Halfmoon will accept the road and easements with conditions; and

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLVED, that the duly convened Town Board hereby accepts for road dedication Empire Court (tax map #272.4-1-99) in Phase 2 (Construction Phase 3) of the Plant Road Estates Subdivision (a/k/a Orchard Pointe) with conditions; and it is further

RESOLVED, that all the other standards as set by the Town of Halfmoon Roadway Dedication Procedure have been satisfied, subject to the review and final approval of the Town Highway Superintendent for road improvements and the Town Attorney for the Deed descriptions, closing papers, title insurance, letters of credit, proof of payment of all taxes due; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Attorney be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary and related documents in connection with the road dedication and easements; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Halfmoon shall not issue more than one (1) certificates of occupancy or maintain, plow or otherwise care for the roads until proof of recording of all necessary documents with the County Clerk's office are received; and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 318-2022**

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Comptroller to make the attached Creation of Appropriations.

A resolution is necessary to create the following budget amendment of appropriations and revenues in the Special Revenue Fund for engineering fees for on-site quality These funds are developer's monies held in escrow by the Town in a regular checking account and used for the payment of costs for that particular project. This resolution is necessary to comply with proper accounting procedures as set forth by NYS Department of Audit and Control.

DEBIT:

Revenues

25-980

\$2,045.00

Subsidiary: Home & Community Services

\$2,045.00

CREDIT:

**Appropriations** 

25-960

\$2,045.00

Subsidiary: Engineering Contractors Inspections

25-5-1440.40

25-4-2189.00

\$2,045.00

Information Only: The above was derived from the following breakdown of charges to be paid on November 10, 2022, Abstract for engineering and related fees.

NAME	AMOUNT
Bridgewater Solar subdivision 1&2	\$1,955.00
Robleno Parking Lot Expansion	\$90.00
Total	\$2,045.00

# PUBLIC COMMENT (for discussion of non-agenda items)

John Mitchell, 6 Meldon Court: I am your servant on the Trails and Open Space Committee. We have three major trails in Town:

- Zim Smith Trail
- Champlain Canalway Trail
- Erie Canalway Trail

The last time I spoke with you about the National Recreational Trails, I am afraid that I was not very well educated and that time, but I am better educated now. Mohawk-Hudson Towpath Scenic Byway, which is a National Recognition of a major historical artifact. The National Recreational Trail is parallel to that and the Department of State actually designated the NRT status to the Champlain Canalway Trail. I thought that they only did 2.5 to 3 miles and that was done back 15-20 years ago, no, they did the whole 8 miles! So, forget about any extension, we're there.

Likewise, if I posture to do something to the Zim Smith, Jason Kemper is way ahead of us, he nailed it. The whole thing from Mechanicville to Ballston Spa. Kudos to you guys.

In the same domain, we have had great success with three trail walks this fall. Thank you, we appreciate that. Certainly, hope that you continue that for next year.

Councilman Wasielewski: Let's do it again next year!

I saw PJ's work in the Vosburgh Preserve. I thought that I was going to end up on the other side. Well, I didn't, I ended up 90% of the way. These nature preserves will be available for walking also and that is a great thing. We will talk about it more in the future.

Next item of my concern is membership. Unfortunately, the active members of the Trails and Open Space Committee is three of us.

Supervisor Tollisen: So, John, the individual who asked to join, I spoke to the Board at the pre-meeting and there is interest there with Bill. So, we will be adding him onto the committee.

John Mitchell: Both Jeff Slater and Bill Herman.

Supervisor Tollisen: If Jeff Slater is interested, just have him drop me an e-mail. I talked to Bill on the phone quite a bit and asked him to send me a letter of interest via e-mail, which he did. We will add him into the next agenda. If Mr. Slater is interested as well, just have him shoot me an e-mail and we can add that to the agenda. Have anyone who interested to shoot me an e-mail.

John Mitchell: I appreciate your support.

Supervisor Tollisen: John, we thank you for your hard work on the committee. We really appreciate it.

Councilman Connors: Wonderful, as always.

Supervisor Tollisen: John, the other thing that we talked about, I talked with the CDTC Director, they have an Echo counter for the trails, so her and I will be speaking about it. It is a little box that gets installed on the trails. It has wi-fi and collects the data and supposed to differentiate between a bicyclist and a pedestrian. We will be working with them to try to do some of that. It seems that it can produce some good data. It is something that we will look at long term, but it will certainly allow us to

Note that the Zim Smith Trail is still being used but the bathrooms are closed. We have portable toilets there because of the continued use of the trail and we wanted to make sure that we had something there.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynda A. Bryan, Town Clerk