

A Town Board meeting was held at Town Hall on April 1, 2021, in Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert A. Wicks, Supervisor
Peter Moore, Councilor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Jeffrey Kudarauskas, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roman Diamond, Councilor

OTHERS PRESENT: Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney; David Rahrle, Comptroller, Jerry Hole, Highway Superintendent, and several residents and guests.

Supervisor Wicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

Adoption of Minutes

RES#46/2021

Motion by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adopt the March 18, 2021 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTED OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER

MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING

RES#47/2021

Motion by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to open the public hearing at 7:01 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Supervisor Wicks: *Is there anyone wishing to speak for or against the proposed local law?*

Gene Dinsmore: *I just want to let you know that I oppose that idea, I believe that a resident would have more reason to protect my money than a non-resident. Okay, and most places we have had that law, since our present comptroller came in; not that we didn't trust him but he lived here. We stole him from McLane if I remember right. And he was a good comptroller. A good deal. Okay, the fact that you have not found any one of his caliber, I don't say that there's nobody in Lysander as qualified, I'm sure you would find one eventually, but I don't think it's that much of an emergency that you should need to change the law and go out of town; I think you should keep looking and find another way to cover until you find that person. That's just my option, you know, the quick and easy way is to change the law and go out of town and I understand that but I don't think it's that urgent a matter that you can't keep looking until you find the person you need. Okay, and I think you should also know that before this Comptroller came to us, the Town Clerk did all the work; so, it was just a bookkeeping job considered just a bookkeeping job at the time and I think that's probably why they pinched pennies and didn't want to pay him much in the beginning - it took him a long time to get the salary up where it belonged. Am I talking out of the realm of truth? Isn't that what happened? Eventually you got a salary out of it. I think you should look further before you change the law. Just my opinion. Thank you.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Is there anyone else looking to speak on this issue?*

Kevin Rode: *I know you gave a brief explanation at the last Board meeting or work session of why the Board decided to make the change - is the Board willing to explain the need to make the change at the public hearing? So that people have an understanding?*

Supervisor Wicks: *I planned on it.*

Mr. Rode: *It's hard for the public to ask questions when the board doesn't explain why they want to change a law.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Well I think I explained it at the last meeting. I'll do that again. I was looking to see what the comments were from the public first. We put it on a number of sites, and you can explain that Mr. Rahrle.*

Mr. Rahrle: *We put it on indeed.com we posted it on the NYS Department of Labor's website - we obviously advertised in the Messenger and we advertised in the Syracuse Post Standard. It was on Syracuse.com. So, it was in various locations.*

Supervisor Wicks: *FOA as well?*

Mr. Rahrle: *Which is NYS Finance Officers Association it was in their publication, and it was on their website. There were many eyes on it with people who have municipal experience seeing the ad.*

Supervisor Wicks: *So we did that, and we received approximately 30 applications.*

Mr. Rahrle: *I'd say 30.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Resumes, I'm sorry. Some very good resumes. And we looked through all of them, but when we were looking through them there was nobody that was meeting the criteria that – and I was referring to Mr. Rahrle on this – I mean I looked at the resumes as well, but I was looking to get his assistance, because he's the one that knows what the Comptroller needs. So he and I were both reviewing them, when we looked through them, essentially the same people, we came up with about ten or eleven and he might have had two different ones and I might have had two different ones, but essentially, we came up with the individual. We decided on an individual. Out of that we decided on an individual. And that individual is here tonight. I might as well introduce her. Her name is Therese Pearce. And she is with Mr. Rahrle right now. Ms. Pearce has her resume, it is just a glowing resume. And when Mr. Rahrle and I interviewed her, Mr. Rahrle thought I was going to offer the job right then and there. I mean because both he and I had the same opinion that Ms. Pearce is a perfect fit for what we need to do. Perfect. She has all the credentials; her resume was glowing - her background was glowing – she had everything that we needed to do. Now, in saying that, I talked to other Supervisors in the county. When I told them that Mr. Rahrle was retiring, every one of them said to the person – “You are going to have a hard time finding a Comptroller. It's very difficult out there, you're going to pay this, and you're going to do that. It's not easy to find somebody.” Well, let me tell you something. In my opinion I'll use a baseball analogy. We hit a home run on the first pitch with Ms. Pearce. She's been a Comptroller. That's how confident I am in her ability, and the way I feel that she's going to fit in here. And I'll let you explain yourself, Mr. Rahrle.*

Mr. Rahrle: *Well, I mean obviously we both came to the same conclusion and when I checked out Therese's references, the people I spoke with had glowing things to say about her performance, her professionalism and her abilities, so I think it will be a good fit for the town.*

Supervisor Wicks: *That's how we came to that conclusion.*

Mr. Rode: *That's fine. I just know that over the past eight years, ten, we went from having a full-time Comptroller, and then a part time comptroller, and I see we hired a person.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Well I mean she's right here.*

Mr. Rode: *I understand that. I'll get to that in public comments. Is this a full-time position? Part-time position?*

Supervisor Wicks: *It's the same hours and days that Mr. Rahrle is working with essentially the same salary. And why you see why we are going to appoint her to being the bookkeeper to the Supervisor, we knew when we put this budget together, last year's budget – we knew we were going to have to hire a comptroller. We didn't know how much we were going to have to spend. We got lucky that the lady that we are picking for the position was willing to work part time. I think we only had three people that even were willing to work part time and one of them wanted to work nights, which wasn't going to work with us. The rest of them were going to be full time personnel; well, if we were going to do a full time comptroller, we were looking into sharing that comptroller with the Town of Van Buren. That was not going to work out as well as having our own Comptroller.*

It just wasn't. But the fact that we found somebody willing to work the hours as Mr. Rahrle, again, like I said - it's like hitting a home run on the first pitch - it works out perfectly, and her credentials are outstanding. She's been a Comptroller, she's got all the experience she needs; the only difference is she hasn't had municipal experience, which is common for most of these positions, but that's why right now we are going to put her on as the bookkeeper, while Mr. Rahrle is still here. Mr. Rahrle is going through and he is going to train her on the nuances of municipal accounting. And then he is going to stay on our payroll – they are going to switch positions once he decides to retire; they are going to switch positions. He will become the bookkeeper and Ms. Pearce will become the Comptroller because we want to give her as much assistance and as much help as we can to make sure that she is successful in this position, and that includes training. So what we are doing now, is, she has been in this week - she is being trained this week, probably through the rest of the month - there's a couple of end of the year reporting that we have to send into the Comptroller that Mr. Rahrle is going to go through with Ms. Pearce and then he is going to come back at budget time, to work with the budget the first time through, and he will also be available by telephone, because we want all of our employees to be successful, and this is the way to do that. Now, that \$40,000 number, that's in there because that is what her salary is, but that's not what we are going to pay out – we have already budgeted for that amount of money for bookkeeper, or we budgeted less for the bookkeeper and for Comptroller.

Mr. Rode: *My other question is the Town of Lysander different than other towns that have, the - you know, residency requirement for Comptroller? I didn't read up on Town Law...*

Supervisor Wicks: *I don't think Van Buren's Comptroller is a resident to Van Buren.*

Mr. Rahrle: *No but they had passed a local law that you don't need to be a resident.*

Supervisor Wicks: *That's not uncommon. I mean in order to find the type of personnel that you need, we need to find, if we could find, somebody in our town that met our needs, we would have hired that person; we tried to do that, it wasn't possible. It wasn't possible to do that, that's why we had to pass this local law; so there are some positions that you just can't do it. You just cannot do it.*

Mr. Rode: *Okay. Thank you.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Okay. Alright. Anyone else? Okay.*

MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

RES#48/2021

Having heard all comments related to the public hearing, a motion was made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudauraskas to close the public hearing at 7:14 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudauraskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Citizens Comments

Kevin Rode of Greymoor Way asked about the CGI video motion. **Supervisor Wicks** stated that the motion is being taken off of the agenda, as he received several phone calls from businesses who had problems with the organization. Mr. Rode asked about the hiring practices of TOL, in regards to new hires being added to the agenda after they have already been hired. (In reference to the Bookkeeper/Comptroller). Mr. Rode stated that he has a problem with making motions or hiring people before they are voted upon. He said the prorating and hiring of people [seems to be done] without it being an emergency. He feels that the taxpayers should know they are approved and to start work the next week, unless there's some kind of emergency. He said that's a personal preference and he opposes voting on personnel after the fact.

Supervisor Wicks said that what some people consider an emergency is different. He personally thinks it is an emergency. He said that Mr. Rahrle is going to be retiring, and there is a \$6.3M budget which he [Supervisor Wicks] is not qualified to take over today. He said that in order to have a qualified Comptroller in the position is an emergency in his opinion, and TOL needs to get that person up to speed and trained as soon as possible. **Supervisor Wicks** said that normally he would agree with Mr. Rode; however, this was one of those things where the Supervisor can hire a Bookkeeper, as it's in the budget, and that is what he did. Further, he stated that the Comptroller position, is an important position, that to him is an emergency situation because we want to make sure that the taxpayers money is kept somebody is overseeing that money that is as qualified as we can get.

Ms. Pearce is a CPA, and was a Comptroller in the past, so she is more qualified than he is in that regard, so he wanted to hire her. That's why they did what they did. \$13,500 was budgeted for the Bookkeeper.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Wicks again stated that Ms. Pearce's resume is glowing, and her experience and education is impressive. He thinks TOL is lucky to have her, and stated that he is glad she attended the meeting.

Town Board Comments

The Town Board thanked people for attending the meeting. **Councilor Geraci** talked about 'small town America' disappearing, and being replaced by communities that you can't tell apart anymore. He that he is going to do everything he can to make sure that feeling doesn't get lost in Baldwinsville. He also said that COVID tore the country apart and in some ways it kept us from experiencing our small town. He hopes TOL can open the spray park this year. The Councilors are looking forward to the loosening of restrictions which stemmed from COVID.

Department Head Reports

Ms. Falcone stated that a motion is to be added to adopt the local law. The motion will be the last on the agenda.

Mr. Hole said that HW will be starting roadwork soon. **Supervisor Wicks** asked about Connell Terrace. Mr. Hole said they will begin as soon as the plans are finished and the survey is completed. He is hoping for a June start.

Regular Agenda Items

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE
TOL HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT PLAN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021**

RES#49/2021

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adopt the amendment to the Town of Lysander Health Reimbursement Account plan effective January 1, 2021.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO DECLARE THE COMPUTERS AND EQUIPMENT SURPLUS

RES#50/2021

Motion made by Councilor seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to declare the computers and equipment surplus, and to be disposed of through the electronic recycling program. *(The items have no value).*

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO APPOINT AMANDA RILEY TO THE
POSITION OF CLERK TO TOWN JUSTICE MANTIONE**

RES#51/2021

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to appoint Amanda Riley to the position of Clerk to Town Justice Mantione, part-time, at a maximum of 25 hours per week, effective April 5, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO AWARD THE CHASE CEMETERY MOWING AND TRIMMING RFP TO
BRIGHT VIEW LANDSCAPES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$505.00 PER MOW AND TRIM**

RES#52/2021

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to award the Chase Cemetery Mowing and Trimming RFP to Bright View Landscapes, d/b/a ProScapes in the amount of \$505.00 per mow and trim.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

The Town Clerk said there were seven RFP's sent out and one was received back.

MOTION TO APPOINT THERESE PEARCE AS BOOKKEEPER TO THE SUPERVISOR

RES#53/2021

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to appoint Therese Pearce on a part time basis as Bookkeeper to the Supervisor, effective March 30, 2021 at a rate of pay in the amount of \$40,000 per year, prorated to December 31, 2021.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Absent

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO SET THE PUNCH LIST SECURITY
FOR TIMBER BANKS SECTION 3 PHASE 4 AT \$31,000**

RES#54/2021

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to set the punch list security requirement for the Timber Banks Section 3 Phase 4 subdivision at \$31,000 per the Town Engineers letter dated March 31, 2021.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Absent

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO SET THE REQUIRED MAINTENANCE SECURITY
GUARANTEE FOR TIMBER BANKS SECTION 3 PHASE 4 AT \$70,856**

RES#55/2021

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Geraci to set the required maintenance security guarantee for Timber Banks Section 3 Phase 4 at \$70,856.00, 25% of the project value, per the Town Engineer’s Value of Improvements estimate included in his letter dated March 31, 2021.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Absent

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW NO. 2 TO ESTABLISH THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT
FOR THE APPOINTED POSITION OF TOWN OF LYSANDER COMPTROLLER**

RES#56/2021

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adopt a local law to establish the residency requirement for the appointed position of Town of Lysander Comptroller.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Absent

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

RES#57/2021

A motion was made by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 7:31 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of two individuals.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Absent

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

RES#58/2021

A motion was made by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Geraci to adjourn Executive Session at 8:04 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Absent		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

This is a true and complete recording
of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk