

Town of Austerlitz
Public Hearing/Regular Town Board Meeting
October 19, 2023

Present: Robert Lagonia, Town Supervisor, Christopher Schober, Jere Wrightsman, Maureen Wilson, Town Board Members, Susan Haag, Town Clerk

Town Board Member Greg Vogler on vacation. Highway Superintendent Peter Fitzpatrick absent due to illness.

Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano, present.

Public Hearing for the 2024 Town of Austerlitz Preliminary Budget called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Town Clerk Haag advised that the public hearing notice was duly advertised as prescribed by law.

Supervisor Lagonia noted the following:
2024 Austerlitz Budget Summary

1. Property taxes are raised 1.73%, below the state mandated tax cap of 2%.
2. Property taxes only fund approximately 36% of all town expenditures.
3. General Fund: Expenditures and revenues in 2024 are up \$88,500 (or 11.5%) to \$855,500. Increases in expenditures are mainly due to salary increases (6% to all employees except the town justices and the highway employees - see below), an allocation to paint the town hall, funding towards a property assessment revaluation, a return to full contingent funding, an increase for attorney fees, and the inclusion of the Climate Committee Coordinator's compensation. These are partially offset by a reduction to our Comp Planner fees as we expect this project to complete in the first half of 2024. Revenues increases are mostly a result of investing strategy changes to take advantage of much higher short-term CD rates, and anticipated increases in revenue from building permits and fines and forfeitures.
4. Highway Fund. Expenditures and revenue in 2024 minus state funding are up \$9,123 or about 1.2%. Each of the Highway personnel will receive their contracted pay raise plus an additional \$1/hour due to the high rates of inflation the past few years and to stay competitive with the compensation being given by other towns in Columbia County. These increases are partially offset by expected increases in sales tax revenue and lower, more accurate budgeting for health insurance.

Town Board Maureen Wilson questioned the amount budgeted for enhanced patrol noting that in past this line item has been depleted. Should this line-item amount be increased to accommodate more patrol since there are many people in Town who are concerned with speeding. M. Wilson also questioned where the patrols sit. Supervisor Lagonia noted that he has had a discussion with the County Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department is down 13 people so coverage is struggling. The current plan is for the patrol to sit part of the time on the Taconic State Parkway and part of the time in Town. When a new contract is signed next year, the Town can be more specific as to where the patrols happen. Supervisor Lagonia continued that there is no room in the budget for an increase. The State Police do spend time in Town. Supervisor Lagonia will speak with the Sheriff about the coverage and where to sit for speeders. Town Board Member Chris Schober asked if the Town has to pay out of pocket anytime the Sheriff comes to the Town to which Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town does not pay for routine visits.

Member Wilson would also like the Town to purchase another speed sign which can be put in plenty of places. Town Board Member Jere Wrightsman noted that one of the current speed signs in on Punsit Road. M. Wilson remembers that the last one cost around \$2800.00 and the money that the Town makes from speeding fines can pay for this since this would be used for public safety. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town does have some money that can be used for an additional speed sign. Next year the new Town Board can discuss.

Member Wilson questioned a roll over that was reported on Route 203 by Fire Hill Road. Supervisor Lagonia will look into it.

A question arose whether there is enough budgeted for Town Code Enforcement since more enforcement is needed. Supervisor Lagonia advised that this is a bigger discussion to have before the end of the year. The Town does not need to budget more, but rather make sure more attention is given to enforcement issues.

Chet David noted that with the amount of speeding that goes on in Town, the roads are dangerous. There are at least three dangerous intersections on State Route 203 alone. There is not enough patrolling and the speeds are not being controlled. There needs to be more signage on the roads and more attention to speeding. Supervisor Lagonia noted that the Town is trying to be proactive and hears what Member Wilson is saying. Member Wilson has been spearheading meetings with the State for more road signage and the Town is using the speed signs. Supervisor Lagonia has made some phone calls to the Sheriff's Department and is getting some attention and he will continue to have conversations. Supervisor Lagonia will also check in with Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick to see where he is placing the speed signs and what the plan is going forward. Again, the Town needs to remember that the Columbia County Sheriff's Department is short staffed.

Further discussion was heard concerning options and how speed signs work.

Member Wrightsman noted that the line item titled NYSERDA Grant A3004, is not a correct place to take out money for the payment of the Climate Smart Coordinator. The Scout Fund provided the grant money for this. The name of line item A3004 will be changed to NYSERDA Grant and Climate Smart Grant Fund.

All those wishing to be heard were heard.

A motion to close the public hearing for the 2024 Town of Austerlitz Preliminary Budget was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Public Hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

Public Hearing for Local Law #2-2023 Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Town Clerk Haag advised that the public hearing notice was duly advertised as prescribed by law.

Supervisor Lagonia read the intent section from the proposed local law and noted that Columbia County adopted this same type of law.

Attorney for the Town, Joseph Catalano advised the firefighter exemption is a 10% exemption if you have 2 years of service in a volunteer position in the Town in which you live. The senior citizen exemption increases the income levels for entitlement to keep current with State levels. Both of these sections mirror the County's law.

Town Board Member Chris Schober questions what the projections are for lost income with these exemptions in place. Supervisor Lagonia noted no projections have been done. Member Wilson believes giving these exemptions is the least the Town can do for those who serve.

Deborah Oleynek questioned the parameters for the firefighter exemption and was told the firefighter exemption is a 10% exemption if you have 2 years of service in a volunteer position in the Town in which you live. Further explanation was given on un-remarried surviving spouses.

All those wishing to be heard were heard.

A motion to close the public hearing for Local Law #2-2023 was made by C. Schober and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1. Public Hearing closed at 6:49 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the September 21, 2023 Meeting minutes was made by J. Wrightsman and second by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Auditing of Accounts and Claims

A motion to authorize payment of the October General Fund, #388-416 in the amount of \$27,444.69 and Highway Fund, #170-186 in the amount of \$21,428.21 was made by M. Wilson and seconded by J. Wrightsman.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 4:1.

Reports

Supervisor's Report

Monthly Cash Disbursement Report for the Month of September 2023 submitted. There is roughly \$2.5 million in the bank. No anomalies in the line items.

For the Broadband project, Consolidated Communications is finished with their part. Mid-Hudson Cablevision had some issues getting permits for poles, but that has since been remedied. Mid-Hudson Cablevision will begin work soon.

The Dugway Road Bridge Project is complete and Colarusso did a great job. Supervisor Lagonia thanked A. Colarusso and Son noting that Dugway Road was only closed for a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, at night people were moving the caution barriers and barricades and driving over the bridge. Everyone is fortunate that no one was injured.

On a County level, Supervisor Lagonia is still working on the County budget which is close to completion. The process has been very challenging in trying to cut areas due to the deficit. The survey done for County Fire Companies will come out soon with suggestions similar to those heard in the Emergency Ambulance Service survey. The County would like to see a central system, but that probably will not happen. This is a very long road. The Town of Austerlitz has a contract with the Chatham Rescue Squad as do other Towns. The problem is that all the Towns involved pay differently for the services and this is not an equitable solution. The process was discussed.

Supervisor Lagonia reminds the Town Board to retrieve their CPR Certificates that were emailed out recently.

Highway Report:

The Dugway Project looks great and has gone smoothly. Very pleased!
We will be submitting this to the CHIPs program for repayment early next year.

The State Conference of Highway Superintendents was a worthwhile trip. Some topics discussed were the CHIPs program rules, budgeting, and salt usage.

The crew has been busy with replacing a few more rotten culverts, and adding material to several roads. Specifically, Spencer, Old Macedonia and Bloody Hollow are dramatically improved. They are currently working on the Fall grading/tune-up and started the blowing of leaves then clearing ditches before the winter season starts.

The new Grader tires we ordered what seems like months ago are due in any day now. We are excited by the idea of having tread again!!

I'm pricing and expect to purchase an additional more powerful leaf blower soon. Our current one works well on the road surface but not great for the ditches. A more powerful one with a better nozzle would greatly improve our ability to efficiently blow leaves out of ditches and culverts. This is our greatest challenge in keeping the water flowing freely in the ditches and limiting storm damage.

We will be submitting our summer paving projects for the next CHIPs reimbursement soon.

Won't be long and we'll be mounting plow frames and eating turkey! Hope everyone is well.

End of Report

The Town Board discussed purchasing a leaf blower. Member Wrightsman will chat with Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick about Climate Smart options before he makes a purchase.

Town Clerk Report for the month of September, 2023 submitted.

No Planning Board Report for the month of October, 2023 submitted. The Planning Board did not meet.

No Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Report.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Report for the month of September, 2023 was submitted.

Justice Cassuto Justice Court Report for the month of September, 2023 submitted.

Justice Grubin Justice Court Report for the month of September, 2023 submitted.

Dog Control Report for the month of September, 2023 submitted.

Climate Smart Report for the month of September, 2023 submitted. Chair Wrightsman reiterated the grant section of the report noting that grant money could be awarded to the Town for replacing the Highway Garage boiler and expanding the solar array, as well as, purchasing heat pumps for the Town History Center. Discussion was heard noting that the Town has already garnered bids for the Town History Center heat pump and subsequently deciding this was not the way to go and concentration should be on the Highway Garage component. Town Board Member Chris Schober noted that the grant deadline is November 21st. Timing might be an issue so the easier path is to request money for the Town History Center heat pump. Member Wilson noted that the windows in the History Center are bad and those should be replaced first. Member Wrightsman noted that there is NYSERDA money available for that type of situation. Discussion continued on options available and if a proposal could be put together in time to make the deadline.

Member Wilson has been attending sessions provided by the Cornell Cooperative Extension concerning protecting a Town against potential storms.

The Climate Smart Committee will host the Repair Café again next year.

A motion was made to accept the monthly reports by M. Wilson and seconded by C. Schober.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

Correspondence

Charles Vander Weit: Requests that the speed limit on Punsit Road be decreased to 25 MPH.

Sheldon Rappaport: Thanks the Town Board for installing the 30 MPH signs on Punsit Road so quickly.

NYMIR: After visiting the Town of Austerlitz suggests that the Town consider utilizing a Facility use Form that includes a Hold Harmless and Indemnification clause in favor of the municipality, as well as, requiring a Certificate of Insurance from the organization wishing to use the facility. This form should be reviewed by the Town's legal counsel. A sample form is available from the NYMIR management.

Attorney Catalano will reach out to NYMIR to get their form and see where this would be applicable for the Town since Town Hall use and contractors are already covered.

Unfinished Business

Local Law #2-2023, Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption

Local Law #2-2023 Volunteer Ambulance Workers real Property Tax Exemption

Resolution #41 - 2023, Adoption of Local Law 2 of 2023

A motion to adopt Resolution #41 - 2023, Adoption of Local Law 2 of 2023 was made by M. Wilson and seconded by R. Lagonia.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been informed that a recent amendment to the Real Property Tax Law allows local governments to provide a real property tax exemption for individuals who serve as volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the invaluable public service these volunteer first responders perform and the dedication they have to volunteer their time for such service; and

WHEREAS, given that the State has provided such authority for the first time and in recognition of these individuals as well as to encourage others to volunteer, the Town Board desires to make available such exemptions as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has also been informed that the County of Columbia has increased the income levels for which seniors and disabled persons may receive a partial exemption on County real property taxes and the Town Board desires to increase these income levels as well for Town tax purposes; and

WHEREAS, counsel for the Town prepared a proposed Town Local Law (introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2023) to address the new real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers and increasing the income levels for seniors and disabled persons who own property in the Town of Austerlitz and the proposed law was reviewed and discussed by the Town Board at a meeting of the Town Board held on September 21, 2023 at which time the Town Board formerly introduced the proposed Law and scheduled a public hearing for October 19th; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023 was duly held on October 19, 2023 and, after providing the public with an opportunity to make comments on said Law, the hearing was closed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is prepared to take action on the proposed law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

- a) The public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023 has been duly held and closed and those who wished to be heard regarding said proposed law had a full and fair opportunity to be heard. The Town Board has considered all comments made.
- b) The Town Board determines that the adoption of the proposed Local Law is an action that is identified as a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as local legislation involving continuing agency administration, and, as such, further environmental review is not required.
- c) The Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 2 of 2023 of the Town of Austerlitz, entitled, “Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption.”
- d) The Town Board hereby requests that the Town Clerk prepare said Law for filing and that it be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- e) This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz, in the County of Columbia, as follows:

A local law entitled, “Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption”:

ARTICLE 1. Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption

SECTION 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose

In recognition of the public service and dedication of emergency responders, it is the intent of the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz to provide for a new real property tax exemption to qualifying firefighters and ambulance workers as set forth in Real Property Tax Law § 466-a and to be codified in a new Article of Chapter 175, entitled, “Taxation,” in the Town Code of the Town of Austerlitz.

The Town Board understands that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is an important issue facing the Town of Austerlitz as well as many communities in the area and that maintaining effective emergency response depends on the volunteers for those positions.

The Town Board recognizes that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing a number of communities in Columbia County and that maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.

The provision of real property tax exemptions is one appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-minded men and women that serve the public on a volunteer basis.

The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law to read as follows.

Section 2. Real Property Tax Exemption.

Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the Town of Austerlitz shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten (10) percent of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

Section 3. Qualifications.

Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service if:

- (a) the applicant resides in the Town of Austerlitz and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the Town,
- (b) the real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant,
- (c) the real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law.
- (d) the applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least two (2) years or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two (2) years.

Section 4. Continuation of eligibility requirements.

The applicant shall maintain continual eligibility for the exemption by being a continuously active member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service. An active member shall meet the requirements for active service as defined by each incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service. Annual attestation by such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service is required to maintain this exemption.

Section 5. Twenty year active members.

Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active service, as defined in Section 3 hereof, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer

fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten (10) percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Austerlitz.

Section 6. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty.
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years.
3. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

Section 7. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with at least Twenty Years of Service.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker with twenty (20) years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service.
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years.
3. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

Section 8. Application process.

1. Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the Assessor of the Town of Austerlitz on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
2. The Assessor of the Town of Austerlitz shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Local Law.

Section 9. No diminution of current benefits.

No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

ARTICLE II. Increasing Exemption Levels for Disabled Persons with Low Income

Section 1. Exemption Levels

That portion of Town of Austerlitz Local Law No. 1 of 2007 as codified in section 175-7 of the Austerlitz Town Code is hereby amended and said section 175-7(A) and (B) shall be repealed and replaced in its entirety as follows:

175-7: To be eligible for the exemption authorized by such § 459-c and implemented by this article, the maximum income of such person shall not exceed \$34,000 to qualify for the 50% exemption. For the purposes of this exemption, income shall be measured after deducting medical expenses and prescription drug costs. Medical expenses and prescription drug costs associated with nonreconstructive cosmetic surgery shall not be deductible. Any such person having a higher income shall be eligible for a partial exemption in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Annual Income Level</u>	<u>Percentage of Exemption</u>
Up to \$34,000	50%
\$34,000.01 - 34,999.99	45%
\$35,000.00 - 35,999.99	40%
\$36,000.00 - 36,999.99	35%
\$37,000.00 - 37,899.99	30%
\$37,900.00 - 38,799.99	25%
\$38,800.00 - 39,699.99	20%
\$39,700.00 - 40,599.99	15%
\$40,600.00 - 41,499.99	10%
\$41,500.00 - 42,399.99	5%

ARTICLE III. Increasing Exemption Levels for Senior Citizens

Section 1. Exemption Levels

That portion of Town of Austerlitz Local Law No. 2 of 2007 as codified in section 175-10 of the Austerlitz Town Code is hereby amended and said section 175-10(A) and (B) shall be repealed and replaced in its entirety as follows:

175-7: To be eligible for the exemption authorized by such § 459-c and implemented by this article, the maximum income of such person shall not exceed \$34,000 to qualify for the 50% exemption. For the purposes of this exemption, income shall be measured after deducting medical expenses and prescription drug costs. Medical expenses and prescription drug costs associated with nonreconstructive cosmetic surgery shall not be deductible. Any such person having a higher income shall be eligible for a partial exemption in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Annual Income Level</u>	<u>Percentage of Exemption</u>
Up to \$34,000	50%
\$34,000.01 - 34,999.99	45%
\$35,000.00 - 35,999.99	40%
\$36,000.00 - 36,999.99	35%
\$37,000.00 - 37,899.99	30%
\$37,900.00 - 38,799.99	25%
\$38,800.00 - 39,699.99	20%
\$39,700.00 - 40,599.99	15%
\$40,600.00 - 41,499.99	10%
\$41,500.00 - 42,399.99	5%

ARTICLE IV. Repealer and Effective Date

Section 1. Repealer

Any prior local law, or portion thereof, currently in existence which is inconsistent with the terms of this local law is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect on January 1, 2024 and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.

END OF LAW

2024 Town of Austerlitz Preliminary Budget Resolution #42-2023, Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

A motion to adopt Resolution #42-2023, Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was made by R. Lagonia and seconded by M. Wilson.

R. Lagonia: yes

G. Vogler: absent

C. Schober : yes

M. Wilson: yes

J. Wrightsman: yes

Motion carried 4:1.

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of the Town of Austerlitz prepared a Tentative Budget for the Town's fiscal year 2024 and presented that Tentative Budget to the Town Clerk and the members of the Town Board at a meeting of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the Tentative Budget and has discussed and analyzed it with the Town Supervisor, and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2023 the Town Board adopted the Tentative Budget with no changes made by the Town Board as the Preliminary Budget and scheduled a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for October 19, 2023 at 6:15 pm; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget has been duly held and closed with comments made at the public hearing, the Town Board is prepared to adopt the Final Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Austerlitz hereby adopts the Preliminary Budget as the Final Budget for the fiscal year of 2024 of the Town of Austerlitz.

New Business

2023 Annual Tree Lighting

The Town will hold the Annual Tree Lighting on the green the first Friday in December and will confirm the start time at a later date.

Columbia County Environmental Management Council Nomination for Appointment

A motion to nominate Cara Humphrey as the Town of Austerlitz' Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council was made by C. Schober and seconded by J. Wrightsman.
R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: absent
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 4:1.

Attorney for the Town Joseph Catalano advised that the Planning Board will be discussing land use applications that go to the Columbia County Planning Board for recommendations. If there is an application that needs to be submitted for review, but is not submitted, this could be a jurisdictional defect. Most applications that come before the Planning Board are minor and come back with no recommendations. The County Planning Board is willing to put together an agreement to exempt some projects from referral. This agreement must be presented to the Town Board for approval. The Planning Board will discuss and submit a list of application types that could be considered exempt.

Public Comment

Kyle Reed asked general policy budget questions concerning issues between the Town and the County. Governance questions concerning bidding and procurement policies. Discussed options to use the grant money for. K. Reed noted that the Cornell Cooperative Extension program proposed to the Towns and the County, was to bring people together to sit down and try to look going forward where areas of vulnerability are for power outages and flooding. This would help to make a plan to go forward with. Supervisor Lagonia asked K. Reed to attend meetings at the County to see how governance works on that level. K. Reed noted that LaBranche Road looks great and thanked Highway Superintendent Fitzpatrick.

Deb Oleynek asked that after Thanksgiving a note be put on the sign out front of Town Hall concerning the Annual Tree Lighting.

Supervisor Lagonia noted that the tennis court will be resurfaced in the spring adding lines for one pickle ball court.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Wilson and seconded by J. Wrightsman.
R. Lagonia: yes
G. Vogler: absent
C. Schober : yes
M. Wilson: yes
J. Wrightsman: yes
Motion carried 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Haag, Town Clerk