

December 13, 2022

**Public Hearing**  
**Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**  
Held at the Cuba Town Hall, 15 Water Street, Cuba, NY 14727

**Present:**

Supervisor: Lee James  
Council Persons: Melodie Farwell, Bill Beck  
Also Present: Allesia Heslin, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Highway Superintendent, Dustin Burch, Chief of Police  
Absent: Aaron Appleby, Ambulance Administrator, Jacob James, Council Person

L. James explained that the purpose of the hearing was to make sure the town is compliant with New York State building codes. The local law would allow for the administration and enforcement of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code in the Town of Cuba. The local law would have to be adopted for the Town of Cuba to continue to issue building permits.

The decision was made to leave the public hearing open and come back to the issue later in the meeting.

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba**  
Held at the Cuba Town Hall, 15 Water Street, Cuba, NY 14727

**Present:**

Supervisor: Lee James  
Council Persons: Melodie Farwell, Bill Beck  
Also Present: Allesia Heslin, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Highway Superintendent, Dustin Burch, Chief of Police  
Absent: Aaron Appleby, Ambulance Administrator, Jacob James, Council Person

Supervisor James called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 pm.

**Public Comments:** Mary Raymond wished the board a Merry Christmas and reminded everyone that the Wreaths Across America event is taking place Saturday, December 17, 2022 with a parade at 11:30 and the laying of the wreaths ceremony at 12.

Mary Raymond passed along the following from Mary Lindquest. Mary would like to thank the community for their sponsorships of the wreaths. There were so many that there is a good start for next year. If you would like to donate a wreath between December 17<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> you will be sponsoring two wreaths for the price of one.

**Board Comments:** Farwell wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Beck thanked the Town and Village for all their work with Small Town Christmas and all the Bicentennial events. Beck would like the Board to consider updating Cuba's slogan and he suggested using a quote from Dave Crowley, "Cuba was a place built by people with vision and hope."

**Supervisor Comments:**

- L. James will speak with the Village to see if the updated slogan can be incorporated into the comprehensive plan.
- L. James emphasized the need to look ahead to 2023 and figure out how the Town is going to continue to prosper with Great Lakes Cheese leaving Cuba and how to bring in new industry and to continue growth

along Main Street and other areas. We need to look at the comprehensive plan and the vision and use that as a guide to be stronger and better in 2023.

- L. James noted that we are losing two long term police officers, Dave Bentley and James Galatio, at the end of the year. James wanted to acknowledge their years of service and dedication to the community and will be preparing a proclamation to present to them before the end of the year.

**Minutes for 11/07/2022, Supervisor's Report for November & General & Highway Abstracts for December:**

When asked, board members responded yes, they had reviewed the minutes, reports and abstracts.

**The Supervisor's Report** showed the general fund received \$20,293.74. The highway fund received \$992.81. Disbursements include \$90,812.74 for general and \$147,065.87 for highway.

**The December Abstract #12** dispersed \$86,138.02 from the General Fund and \$48,744.60 from the Highway Fund. On the motion of Beck and seconded by Farwell the reports were accepted as presented.

**Clerk Comments:**

- Heslin received a letter from the Board of Elections that James Galatio won the Town Justice position and William Beck won the Council Person seat
- Heslin received a letter concerning charge backs to the Town from the Board of Legislators for tax supplies. The Town of Cuba will be charged \$2,718.00
- Tom Cucchiaro of the Board of Assessment review resigned, effective December 9, 2022. On the Motion of Beck, seconded by Farwell the resignation was accepted. All in favor, passed.
- Heslin presented information concerning videoconferencing the board meetings. If the Town wishes to continue to videoconference a local law must be passed to do so. The discussion was tabled until the new year.

**Assessor's Comments:**

- L. James asked to close the public hearing on local law #2. On the motion of Farwell, seconded by Beck.
- Motion was made to pass local law #2 by Beck, seconded by Farwell. All in favor, passed.
- ENPM has finished evaluating and analyzing the Town's property data/inventory. Minor changes noted in the file were made as necessary, major changes will be discussed with the assessor before updating. A physical inspection of each parcel was completed. New photographs have been provided for all pertinent properties. ENPM has reviewed and processed approximately 330 responses to the property inventory questionnaires. Three years of pertinent individual sales have been analyzed for validity and changes in the property inventory have been made. An analysis has been completed of the town's sales data and statistics in anticipation of preparing the land tables and valuation models for the neighborhoods established in town. ENPM will continue with the property analysis and the processing of appropriate changes. The residential and commercial valuation process should take three to four weeks and once completed will be thoroughly reviewed by ENPM staff and then made available to the assessor for his review.

**Police Department Comments:** In the month of November the department conducted 35 traffic stops, 8 in the Town, 8 in the Village, 2 on the Lake, 0 on I-86 for a total of 18 uniform traffic tickets issued. 13 motor vehicle accidents occurred, 8 in the Town, 4 in the Village, 1 on the Lake, and 0 on I-86. There were 149 calls for service.

- Walt Mackney will be leaving for another position
- Dave Bentley will be retiring 1/1/2023 and James Galatio will be retiring December 23, 2022, there are events planned to recognize their service and dedication to the community
- Travis Radomski has completed taser training

**Ambulance Comments:** The Cuba Ambulance Service responded to a total of 28 calls to service in November of 2022. 23 of those calls were taken to Olean General Hospital, 3 were taken to Jones Memorial Hospital and 2 were sign offs, 0 was mutual aid, 0 were standby, 0 were taken by Mercy Flight and 0 was DOA. 7 of these calls were critical care with Cuba handling 4 and Olean 10/MTS handling 3. 9 of these calls were in the Village of Cuba, 11 were in the Town of Cuba, 3 were on the lake, 0 was mutual aid to Friendship, 0 was mutual aid to Clarksville, 5 were to New Hudson and 0 were on I-86.

- EMT class starts the beginning of January. We are looking for new members to take and also have members that may recertify their EMT.
- The state DOH will be inspecting the ambulance squad in the next month or so. Everything is in order for this.
- Appleby has asked permission to hire five new applicants that are willing to take the EMT class in January. Pending successful background checks permission was granted on the motion of Farwell, seconded by Beck. All in favor, passed.

**Highway Comments:**

- Put up snow fence
- Plowed snow 7 days
- Finished black top patching
- Put plows and wings on trucks

**Equipment Repairs:**

- Had serpentine belt fixed 2013 Freightliner
- Put new S cam, S cam tube, S cam bushing, spider and brakes on Peterbilt
- Had 2015 Freightliner box and frame painted
- Put new Slack adjusters and dust shields on 2015 Freightliner

The grader was moved out of the garage and the wheels are now locked up due to issues in the transmission. The highway department does not have the tools to do the repair themselves. The grader is now 30 years old and a decision needs to be made whether it is worth it to fix it or to purchase a used one.

Smith spoke with Harvey about accessing the lake dam through Smith Road Cemetery. Crews will be able to access the area that needs to be repaired and the electric company will be trimming dead trees away from the lines.

L. James spoke with Terry Forward of the Amvets about possibly having a work day to clean up Smith Road Cemetery.

Mary Lindquest asked permission to install a flag pole at the Smith Road Cemetery as it is the only cemetery in Cuba with out one. Discussion continued on possible repairs to stones and clean up and who would be interested in getting involved.

**Sewer Committee:** L. James took calls about alarms going off around the lake due to the loss of power in the Town. Harvey was able to make repairs to all the panels.

**Facilities:**

- The parking lot fence will be repaired, it was hit with a plow.
- Frank Haas has finished work in the offices putting up a wall for the court clerk office, putting in new windows for the court clerk and the town clerk and touching up paint.
- Discussion was had about painting the town hall now that Frank has finished his work.

**Dog Control Comments:**

- 11/10 report of dog running loose on Wolf Creek Road, Town of Clarksville
- 11/16 report of dog running loose on West Main
- 11/24 car vs dog on County Road 20. Tried to transport dog to Orchard Park vet.
- 12/2 dog loose on West Main
- 12/9 dog running around Giant parking lot.
- 12/12 dog bite on Keller Hill Road.

Sweet will be resigning at the end of February. A wanted ad will be published.

**Code Enforcement Comments:** Reed will be holding office hours every Saturday 9am-12pm

**Bicentennial Committee:** Cookbooks, mugs and puzzles are still for sale at the Opera House.

**New Business:**

- A special meeting was scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to close out 2022.
- Shannon Albert has requested the Town contribute to the Chamberlain Park Playground. The topic was tabled until the special meeting on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

- Omni Solar has requested a 180-day extension. Omni had to negotiate with National Grid regarding pole placement. The Town received a package from Hodgson Ross approving tax incentives for equipment. Work should be able to be finished early in the spring if the extension is granted. Omni will post a BOND for the road and decommissioning. On the motion of Beck, seconded by Farwell. All in favor, passed.
- Discussion continued on possible schedule changes to accommodate council person McGraw. The topic was tabled until the organizational meeting in 2023.
- L. James received a letter and retainer agreement from Richardson & Pullen's office. The hourly rate for legal services is increasing from \$160 an hour to \$180. The topic was tabled until the organizational meeting in 2023.

With no further business to discuss, Farwell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Beck. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Allesia A. Heslin, Town Clerk