

February 12, 2019

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sparta was held February 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Supervisor Mark Schuster, Deputy Supervisor Glenn Kreiley, Council Deb Halpenny, Mark Caldwell and Bill Smith.

Minutes of the Organizational meeting were read. A motion was made by Bill Smith and seconded by Deb Halpenny to accept the minutes as read. All voted yes. Carried.

Minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting were read. A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Mark Caldwell to accept the minutes as read. All voted yes. Carried.

Town Historian Mary Jo Marks reviewed her report.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Glenn Kreiley to acknowledge that the Town Board reviewed and completed SEQR Part 3. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Mark Caldwell and seconded by Bill Smith to adopt the following SEQR Resolution regarding Town of Sparta New York Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sparta (hereinafter the “Town”) commissioned the completion of an Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is proposing to adopt the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan, Completed by Elan, George Frantz & Hunt Engineers, Architect & Land Surveyors, PC, dated November 2018 (collectively, the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is obligated under SEQRA and corresponding regulations to review the Project, and if necessary, undertake a review of the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project before undertaking the same; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is the appropriate agency to be the lead agency to undertake the project review under SEQRA; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon an examination of 6 NYCRR § 617.4 and § 617.5, the Town classified the Project as a Type I Action and that such activities include pertinent section(s) of § 617.4(b). A Full Environmental Assessment Form was prepared for the Project, and pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.6(b)(3), coordinated review was undertaken by the Town and no objections were received regarding the Town serving as lead agency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby makes the following findings:

The Project consists of the adoption of the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan that was developed to maintain and enhance the local agricultural economy, preserve the Town’s land/water and other environmental resources and to educate the public about the importance and benefits of agriculture in the Town.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that:

The Town Board hereby designates itself lead agency pursuant to 6 NYCRR

§ 617.6(b)(2) and § 617.6(b)(3) with respect to the Project.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that:

Based upon an examination of the components of the Project, the Full Environmental Assessment Form, and the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c), and based upon its knowledge of the areas including and surrounding the Project site, and discussions with professionals retained by the Town, the Town Board, as lead agency, hereby makes the following determinations with respect to the Project pursuant to SEQRA:

- A. The Project constitutes a Type I Action.
- B. Based upon review by the Town Board of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, any input provided by other involved agencies, and other necessary criteria set forth in SEQRA, the Town Board hereby finds and determines that the Project will result in no significant impacts and, therefore, (a) the action is not one which “may include the potential for at least one significant adverse environmental impact,” (b) “there will be no significant adverse environmental impacts,” and (c) no “environmental impact statement” need be prepared, as such quoted terms are defined in SEQRA. This determination constitutes a negative declaration for purposes of SEQRA and it has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
- C. A copy of this resolution, together with notice of negative declaration, shall be placed on file in the office of the Town Clerk where the same shall be available for public inspection during business hours and such notice of negative declaration shall be filed in such offices, posted in such places and published in such manner as shall be necessary to conform to the requirements of SEQRA.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Bill Smith and seconded by Deb Halpenny to adopt the 2018 Town of Sparta Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Sparta began the development of an Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan in November of 2015, to provide the community and local decision-makers with a guide upon which future agricultural and farmland management and preservation efforts may be based; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan process under the direction of a Steering Committee has resulted in the Draft of 2019 Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the community to adopt the Plan, recognizing that it not only identifies a unified policy for farmland protection, but also provides an action-oriented framework for the achievement of such policy in cooperation with local agricultural operators, the county, and state; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board adopts the 2019 Town of Sparta Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Plan hereby serves as a complement to the Town of Sparta Comprehensive Plan for future land use and decision-making purposes.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Glenn Kreiley and seconded by Mark Caldwell to recommend to forward AFPP State Commissioner of Ag and Markets for final approval. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Mark Schuster to nominate Linda Hartzell as Senior Citizen of the Year. All voted yes. Carried.

General Bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$45,861.21.  
Highway Bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$57,616.17.  
Street Light Bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$152.76.

A motion was made by Mark Caldwell and seconded by Deb Halpenny to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Glenn Kreiley to move out of Executive Session. All voted yes. Carried. No action was taken.

Councilman Mark(Donald) Caldwell submitted his resignation to the Sparta Town Board effective February 13, 2019.

Michael Scollon submitted his resignation to the Sparta Town Planning Board effective February 12, 2019.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Bill Smith to appoint Linda Carney to the Sparta Town Planning Board. Term to expire 12/31/2023. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Glenn Kreiley and seconded by Bill Smith to appoint Daniel Maloney to the fill the vacancy of Town Councilmember effective February 13, 2019. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Glenn Kreiley and seconded by Deb Halpenny to hire Michael Kuhn as a full time Highway Department Employee to start February 18, 2019. Salary to be set at \$17.00 per hour. Probationary Period to be six (6) months. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Bill Smith to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Carried.

Next regular meeting will be held March 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

TOWN CLERK  
Sheila Duffy