

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
August 9, 2023

The Town of Manlius Town Board held a hybrid meeting with in-person attendees and virtual attendees. The meeting was live streamed on the Town Facebook page and the Town YouTube Channel. The recording of the meeting can be viewed here;
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3pS9-uTiX4l7aEgciGEVSA>

Supervisor Deer presided, and the following Board members were present:

Sara Bollinger, Councilor
Elaine Denton, Councilor
Heather Waters, Councilor
Alissa Italiano, Councilor
William Nicholson, Councilor
Katelyn M. Kriesel, Councilor

The following Town Officers were present: Tim Frateschi, Attorney for the Town. Ann Oot, Town Manager. Allison Weber, Town Clerk. Jason Cassalia, Police Chief, Tom Poitras, Code Officer. Maria Lenway, Comptroller. Kayandra Blythe, Deputy Town Manager.

The following Town Officers Attending Virtually: Councilor Waters (In attendance but not voting)

1. Attendees

In-Person Meeting Attendees: Tim Kelly, Fayetteville. Dave Barnwell, Manlius. Michael Nesci, E. Syracuse. Casey Cleary, Fayetteville. Craig Dudczak, Fayetteville. Charles Bruer, Fayetteville. Brody Smith, Syracuse. Joe Messineo, Manlius. Cheryl & Mark Matt, Fayetteville. Stephen Benson, Manlius. Tom Bassett, Manlius. Mike Friend, Manlius. Mary Teska, Fayetteville. Barb Wilson, Manlius. John Boyd, Fayetteville. Brad Sauve, Manlius.

Virtual Meeting Attendees: Arnold Poltenson, Jane Elizabeth Brown, Andrea Scamehorn, Warren Linhart, Peggy Kurtz.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Deer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Councilor Italiano led the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Deer welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending.

3. 6:31 PM Open Podium

Town Clerk Weber read aloud a statement from Robert Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler submitted a letter in opposition to the petition for the ward system. Mr. Wheeler's letter discussed the cost of the special election, the GOP forcing the election at this time to get lower turnout and the GOP causing increased costs to the taxpayers. Mr. Wheeler stated that the Chair of the GOP in Manlius was concerned with the cost of the comprehensive plan and is costing the taxpayers the expense of a special election. Mr. Wheeler discussed why the ward system is not a good system for the town.

Jospeh Messineo, Manlius, asked the Town Board to submit responses to the questions submitted to the Town Board regarding the Skyridge Water District.

Mr. Messineo stated that state law and the town code require that the Town should have a Board of Ethics and asked the Town Board to form a Board of Ethics.

Tom Bassett, Manlius, spoke about the petition submitted for the ward system. Mr. Bassett discussed the cost of a special election, the poor timing of the petition and further stated that the merits of a ward system should be discussed.

Mike Nesci, E. Syracuse, stated that he is disappointed that there was not more discussion around the issue (the ward system & the petition). Mr. Nesci stated that there should have been more public involvement with the petition and if inclusivity matters it would have been put on the ballot in the general election.

Casey Cleary-Hammarstedt, Fayetteville, stated that she views these petitions as a divisive political action by Tim Kelly Chair of the Manlius Republican Committee and candidate for Town Supervisor. Ms. Cleary Hammarstedt stated that studying the viability of a ward system was in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Cleary Hammarstedt stated that she does not agree with this approach and this style of leadership. Ms. Cleary Hammarstedt encouraged the Town Board to study and improve the petition process.

John Boyd, Fayetteville, spoke in opposition to the ward system. Mr. Boyd stated that the ward system could give a dangerous platform to radical individuals and discussed how the ward system would make that possible, Mr. Boyd stated that we cannot allow this in our community.

Barb Wilson, Manlius, stated that Tim Kelly's statement in Syracuse.com stating that it has nothing to do with political affiliation and that it has to do with fair representation. Ms. Wilson stated that as a voter she does not think this petition is fair. Ms. Wilson discussed why the petition submitted is not fair and further stated that no one seems to understand what the petition means. Ms. Wilson stated that the petition is not fiscally responsible.

Craig Dudczak, Fayetteville, asked questions about the petition and the validation of the signatures.

4. 6:58 PM Joule Community Energy – Clean Energy Program

Peggy Kurtz, Joule Energy, gave a presentation on community based clean energy programs.

The Town Board asked questions and discussed community based solar. The Town Board tabled the matter for further consideration.

5. 7:28 PM Twin Ponds – Planned Unit Development (PUD) Request – 5440 N Burdick Street

Brody Smith, Attorney for the Applicant, gave a presentation on the Planned Use Development Request for 5440 N Burdick Street, Fayetteville and reviewed the district language.

The Town Board and the applicant discussed affordable housing and how it relates to the PUD.

Councilor Italiano asked questions about the affordable housing proposed in the application. The Town Board will submit an appendix to the applicant for more clarity.

Brian Bouchard, Engineer for the Applicant, presented the district map and discussed proposed uses.

The Town Board discussed the proposed town roadway and right of way.

Councilor Italiano made a motion, seconded by Councilor Kriesel, to refer the PUD request made by Twin Ponds Housing for the project known as Twin Ponds for the parcel located at 5440 Burdick St. to the Town of Manlius Planning Board and the Onondaga County Planning Board

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Kriesel.

Nayes: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

6. 8:09 PM Garden Park Senior Apartments – Planned Unit Development (PUD) Request – Highbridge Street - Tabled

7. 8:10 PM Cemetery Budget Line Item

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Denton, to create expenditure account A00.5.8810.100 Cemeteries – Personal Services.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Kriesel.

Nayes: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Denton, to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$495.00 from A00.5.8810.400 Cemeteries Contractual to A00.5.8810.100 Cemeteries Personal Services.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Kriesel.

Nayes: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

8. 8:11 PM Humana Group Medicare Advantage Plan Renewal

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Kriesel, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2024 Humana Group Medicare Advantage Plan Renewal as presented.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

9. 8:13 PM Petition for a Permissive Referendum to Establish a Ward District

Town Clerk Weber stated that she has accepted the petitions and submitted a letter outlining her decision.

Supervisor Deer reviewed what will be required for the Town Board to hold a special election,

Supervisor Deer outlined the following:

1. The Town Board will set an exact date for the election.
2. The Town Board will work with the Board of Elections for the use of their voting machines.
3. The Town Board must find and employ election inspectors for the day of the election.
4. The law requires an eight-hour continuous time between 8AM and 8PM for the election.
5. The default polling place will be Town Hall. The Town could have additional polling locations and extend to more than eight hours.
6. The Town Board is reviewing options and understanding that each addition (time & place) will add to the cost.
7. If the Town Board does not set up a board of registrars, there will be no early voting and no absentee ballots. Without the Board of Registrars, you must be in town to vote.
8. You must be able to appear at Town Hall for either the Board of Registrars and election day or election day only if there is no Board of Registrars. There is no options for residents that are unable to travel to the Town Hall or for residents who are out of town.
9. The Town Board does not have the option of moving this to the November ballot because of when the petitions were filed.
10. If the ward system is approved the Board of Elections would be charged with drawing the maps and every town councilor will have their terms expire at the end of 2025.

The Town Board discussed the different options of running a special election as the Onondaga County Board of Elections is not allowed to run this election. It was also discussed what the ward system would change for the town.

Councilor Italiano stated that she feels that the way this is happening is voter suppression.

Councilor Nicholson stated that exploring the option of the ward system was identified in the Comprehensive Plan and it would be better to do this in a way where the Town could explore all of the contingencies instead of having to make abrupt decisions.

Supervisor Deer and Town Clerk Weber discussed the notification process for the special election. Town Clerk Weber stated that she was advised that the Town cannot send out a townwide mailing because the Town could be open to liability if even one residence is missed. Town Clerk Weber stated that she will be sending out notifications through all of the other channels.

Councilor Italiano stated that she believes this is a calculated move by the people who submitted the petitions as the people who submitted the petitions speak at every meeting.

Supervisor Deer stated that the Town Board will work towards having a resolution prepared for the next meeting to set the date and parameters for the special election.

10. 8:30 PM Recreation Department New Hire

Councilor Italiano made a motion, seconded by Councilor Bollinger, to hire Tyler Delaney at a rate of \$15.75 per hour as a recreation attendant.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

11. 8:31 PM Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2023, and (July 12, 2023, Tabled)

Councilor Denton made a motion, seconded by Councilor Italiano, to approve the June 28, 2023, minutes as presented by Town Clerk Weber.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

12. 8:32 LaBella Associates Engineering Consultants – Engagement Letter

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Nicholson, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the engagement letter with LaBella Associates contingent upon legal review.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

16. 8:32 PM Approval of Abstract # 15

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Nicholson, to approve Abstract # 15 in the amount of \$561,974.99 as submitted by Town Clerk Weber.

TOWN OF MANLIUS		
Fund Summary		
Abstract # 15 - 2023		
CODE	FUND	TOTALS
A	General Fund Townwide	\$300,319.51
B	General Fund Part Town	\$5,823.03
DA	Highway Fund Townwide	\$71,920.82
DB	Highway Fund Part Town	\$174,092.28
CM3	Sustainable Manlius	\$625.00
SL1	Overhead Lighting District	\$1,608.89
SL2	Underground Lighting	\$2,227.31
SL3	Entry Lighting	\$106.64
SL4	Garden Park Lighting	\$677.86
SL5	Ratnour Bridge Lighting	\$2,439.26
SR1	Trash	\$185.87
SR2	Brush	\$185.87

SW3	Skyridge Water District	\$1,762.65
	Total	\$561,974.99

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

17. Adjournment

By motion made by Councilor Italiano and seconded by Councilor Bollinger, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular session at 8:36 PM.

Ayes: Supervisor Deer, Councilor Nicholson, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Italiano, Councilor Kriesel.

Nays: 0 All in Favor. Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Allison A. Weber
Town Clerk