

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 8, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The Town of East Fishkill's Town Board Meeting on October 8, 2020 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor D'Alessandro.

**Roll the Call:** Supervisor D'Alessandro asked Town Clerk Hurray, to call the rolls.

Board Members in attendance:

Peter	Thomas	Emanuele	Anil	Nicolas
Cassidy	Franco	Marinero	Beephan	D'Alessandro

Also in attendance:

Thomas Wood, Attorney; Scott Bryant, Engineer; Chief Bellino, East Fishkill Police Department. Clerk Hurray was attending via video.

**Comments from the Public on agenda items:**

Supervisor D'Alessandro asked if there was anyone from the public to speak on any of the agenda items. There were no comments.

**Resolutions:**

**Authorize the Declaration of the Town Board as Lead Agency with regard to the application from Blue Water Reality for a Special Reuse Permit**

**(BLUE WATER GROUP WEST CAMPUS LEAD AGENCY)**

**WHEREAS**, Blue Water Group has applied for a Reuse Special Permit and Site Plan approval for the West Campus (Tax Grid #s:6355-00-501905, 6355-00-854904 and 6356-04-606028; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reuse Permit is issued by the Town Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board does hereby declare itself the Lead Agency concerning the Blue Water Application for a Reuse Special Permit and Site Plan on the above site.

Motion to authorize the declaration of the Town Board as Lead Agency with regard to the application from Blue Water Reality for a Special Reuse Permit: Board Member Cassidy. Seconded: Board Member Beephan. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Authorize the Hiring of One Police Officer**

**(APPOINTING POLICE OFFICER)**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Police Chief has identified the need to hire a Police Officer in the Town of East Fishkill; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources approved a candidate for transfer to our agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has interviewed the eligible candidate, recommended by the Town Police Chief; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Brendon Ercoli is hereby appointed to the position of Police Officer at the annual salary of \$47,171, effective October 14, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, such person shall serve the required probationary period set forth in the Rules for the Classified Civil Service of Dutchess County.

Motion to authorize the hiring of one Police Officer: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Cassidy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Police Chief Bellino issued Officer Brendon Ercoli his shield. Supervisor D'Alessandro congratulated him.

**Motion for close the voting meeting: Time:** Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:07 PM: Board Member Cassidy. Seconded: Board Member Beephan. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated he was not looking forward to working on this budget because of the decreases in income due to Covid. He is very proud of the budget he is putting forward and thanked everyone for their help on it. With the special districts included it is proposed to be about a \$24.59 million budget. East Fishkill has never broken the New York State mandated tax, and he is happy to say that this budget includes that, and they will not be breaking the tax cap again. They are not appropriating any fund balance to the budget. Since he has been Supervisor, they have not appropriated any fund balance towards any of the budgets and they have been growing the fund balance. The

total of all the fund balance accounts including Highway Fund, General Fund, and Recreation Fund is about \$3.9 million. That is the Town's savings account. The town has very little town debt. They retired a bond last year and this year the debt is down to about \$1.6 million total townwide. That does not include special districts. Without special districts they are at about \$20 million for the town budget, so to have \$1.6 million debt with the town is excellent. Covid did cost a loss of revenue. They won't know exactly how much until the end of the year. They did plan early on to do mitigation to curb spending and save money. Several employees took an early buyout for retirement and those people were not replaced with new hires. This budget has no reduction in services for 2021. All elected officials will have 0% raise. Paving and drainage was increased by \$200,000. The roads are in need of repair and they are trying to increase that budget line each year. The typical property owner will pay approximately 1.77% more than last year. On an average home \$350,000 it's an additional \$19 in tax. He reviewed the charts to explain how taxes were allocated and how the money was spent as well as a comparison to surrounding towns with full-time police departments. We have the lowest tax rate in Dutchess County. East Fishkill has the third lowest tax rates in all of Dutchess County including towns that do not have police departments. He stated the public hearing on the budget would be on October 22.

Comptroller Pozniak stated that in the 2020 budget they have appropriated between \$20,310,000 between general fund and Highway fund. In the 2021 budget between those two funds they have appropriated \$20,260,000. They have reduced the expected spending by \$50,000. The tax increases are to compensate for of the revenue losses. Between General and Highway they are expecting to increase from \$13,477,000 to \$13,846,000. Some of that increase comes from new construction. Of the remainder is paid for by the existing parcels, all of which averages out to about \$19-\$20 per parcel per year.

Board Member Franco thanked Supervisor D'Alessandro and Comptroller Pozniak for all their work on the budget. He is very thankful they were able to stay below the tax cap. He reviewed the work force percentage. He asked about the fund balance. Comptroller Pozniak stated the fund is at 3.2 million and he would like to see it at 3.5 million. Highway should be between \$500,000 and a million dollars. There is room to grow in both funds. The Town is in a good spot. Paving is a topic that is talked about often and they do want to build up those funds. The unknown is always something to be concerned about.

Board Member Beephan stated they have been worried about the budget issues since April and thanks to the Supervisor and Comptroller they are in great shape. Paving is definitely a concern they are working on.

Board Member Marinaro stated he is very pleased with the way things are

going with the Town finances. He stated a lot of that is due to the Supervisor and Comptroller watching the finances. Everyone on the Board has worked to address spending and is aware of what the priorities are. The budget looks solid. Someday he would like to be able to tell the community that one year there will be no tax increases. Everyone complains about the school tax amount, and he has tried to address that, but it hasn't worked yet. He reviewed prior school budget amounts. He thanked all the Town employees.

Supervisor D'Alessandro spoke with the supervisors and mayors of Wappingers, Poughkeepsie, and Fishkill villages and towns and they all agree to have a representative from their town boards be a WCSD liaison and to attend several meetings a year, including their budget meetings. He thanked the Comptroller and his staff. Supervisor D'Alessandro also thanked all the employees for going above and beyond.

Board Member Cassidy stated he is very happy with the budget. They are getting a lot done. Every department has been helping out and stepping up.

A resident stated that in Delaware when you reach the age of 65, you no longer pay school taxes. He asked how they do that. Board Member Beephan stated that several assembly members have a bill into the state legislature for that. Unfortunately, they don't have the majority support. The resident asked how they make up the review and Supervisor D'Alessandro stated from the residents under 65. Board Member Marinaro stated the other problem in the state has unions that guard over the retirement systems. The whole system would have to change. Attorney Wood stated they all have unfunded mandates, but the schools also have to deal with specific class sizes as well.

**Motion to close the work session: Time:** Motion to adjourn the work session at 7:48 PM: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Beephan. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Town Board Meetings:**            **Regular Meeting: October 22, 2020**

Respectfully submitted by Julie J. Beyer on behalf of Town Clerk Carol A. Hurray – October 19, 2020