

**Town of Andes
Regular Meeting
December 12th, 2023, 6:00PM
Andes Town Hall and Via Zoom**

Present:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Supervisor Wayland ‘Bud’ Gladstone | Councilman Ritchie Gabriel |
| Councilman Thomas Hall | Town Clerk Carol Ames |
| Councilman Dale Cole | |
| Highway Superintendent John Bouton-Absent & Excused | |
| Code Enforcement Officer Alfred Mohr | |

Others:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Mike O’Toole | Elizabeth DeFalco |
| Peter Calvert | Eric Van Benschoten |
| Robert Abbate | Peter Ames |

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM

Pledge:

The pledge of allegiance was led and recited by Councilman Cole

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the November Regular Meeting Minutes made by Councilman Gabriel, seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor:

-Robert Abbate- Speaking about Zoning Law:

Mr. Abbate and the committee have been working to organize, update and revise Andes Zoning Laws. Councilman Ritchie Gabriel is on board and working with the committee. Mr. Abbate is asking for a 2-year moratorium to catch up on updates and corrections to the Zoning Laws. The moratorium would put a 2-year hold on developing “green space” which includes farmland, solar, parking camping and land over 5 acres. Other towns have done this to have time to research and revise Zoning Laws. Andes could have the option of tackling the Zoning Law issues all at once or in increments. This way the major issues could be dealt with first. When the Zoning Law revisions are completed, a Public Hearing will be needed to present them to the town.

Another factor that needs to be addressed are Historical District rules that were made 30 years ago but were never integrated into the official Andes Zoning Law. This would ensure that the aesthetic of Andes would stay consistent and prevent things like big commercial stores from opening in the Historical District.

Code Enforcement Officer Alfred Mohr added that Zoning Law does not cover how many houses can be built on a parcel of land or what kind of houses and this should be added into Zoning Law.

Supervisor Gladstone said that the town will need to consult with the town lawyer, Mr. Merzig on the best way to proceed with revising Zoning Laws would be and we will revisit the topic at the next board meeting.

Eric Van Benschoten added that the Town Comprehensive Plan also needs to be reviewed and left an updated draft with Town Clerk Carol Ames. The draft is available to view in the Office of the Town Clerk.

-Michael O’Toole, speaking about starting a radio station in Andes:

The FCC has opened the right to low power FM stations. Mr. O’Toole would like to file for Andes to have a low power FM station and a license to construct a radio tower. The tower does not need to be tall and can be constructed on private land. Dirty Girl Farm has offered to put the tower on their land. The radio station would be used for public safety and hopefully could evolve into more. It runs on less than 15 volts. According to the FCC the radio station cannot be monetized. The station would be good for weather and emergency announcements and would have a phone number residents could call for information. Even just a morning and evening broadcast of 15 minutes each would be beneficial as a start-up.

Supervisor Gladstone asked what obligation the town would have if the radio station is agreed upon.

Mr. O’Toole explained that the only things the town would have to permit are the location of the radio tower and a place to put the studio.

Eric Van Benschoten asked what radius the radio tower would cover.

Mr. O’Toole answered that it would cover a radius of 3.5 miles because anything over this radius could encroach upon other stations in the area. 2 potential stations are currently being looked at. This would require a radio tower of only 60 feet.

Councilman Gabriel added that Bramley Mountain has recently set up a radio station and getting in touch with them might be a good resource for information.

Mr. O’Toole added that radio stations are great for towns like Andes that have no wi-fi in town. Supervisor Gladstone said this would be a good resource for the school to use as an education class.

Movement for Mike O’Toole to apply with the FCC for a radio station in Andes made by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Gabriel. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor

| Date Ck Rec’d | Check Details | Amount |
|----------------------|--|---------------|
| 11/30 | Justice Thomas Joyce | \$361.00 |
| 11/30 | Justice Nicholas Burton | \$100.00 |
| 11/7 | Anonymous Pool Donation | \$18,000.00 |
| 11/21 | State of NY Taxation and Finance | \$830.00 |
| 11/14 | Delaware County-Election Reimbursement | \$4100.00 |

-Streetscape Committee met to discuss the town’s kiosk.

Peter Ames explained that Debra Mamaro will be creating a painting of the town which will show all the building locations on Main Street. The kiosk will include a QR code which could be scanned on visitors’ phones to see what businesses are currently operating in each building as well as an updated list of events happening in Andes.

Councilman Gabriel asked if the kiosk would be something like a Welcoming Center.

Peter Ames answered that it would be like a Welcome Center, but also with online access so it can be updated easily with any changes that may occur. Mr. Ames then explained that the town has 2 websites which he will combine into 1 to make things a lot easier. The website will also be a “.gov” site which will make it more official for a local government entity.

-The main street benches have been removed and are in the process of being repainted.

-Thank you to the Stars and Stripes Committee for putting up Christmas decorations in town. Thank you to Bob and Debbie Abbate.

-T-Mobile and Version are interested in putting a cell tower in Andes. Right now, they are interested in putting it on municipal property. Will keep everyone posted on the progress.

-Thank you to Mike O’Toole for pitching the Radio station project. This could be a great educational tool, especially for Andes Central School.

-I would like to issue a reminder that seasonal parking rules are in effect in the hamlet. No parking on town roads during snowstorms to make room for DOT to clear the snow. All violators will be towed.

-There has been a sizeable anonymous donation made to the Andes Pool by a former Andes Resident. I would like to thank the anonymous donor for the contribution of \$18,000.00 which will go to fixing the Andes Pool so it will be ready for this coming summer season.

Sincerely,
Wayland “Bud” Gladstone

Highway Report
(See attached)

CEO/Building Inspector
(See attached)

Town Calendar:

December

| Date | Item | Department |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 12/11 | Planning Board Meeting 7:00PM | Planning |
| 12/12 | Town Board Meeting 6:00PM | Town Board |
| 12/25 | Town Hall Closed Christmas | Building, Assessor, and Town Clerk |
| 12/18 | Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 7:00PM | Zoning |
| 12/31 | Town Hall Closed New Year's Eve | Building, Assessor, and Town Clerk |

January

| Date | Item | Department |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1/2 | 2024 Organizational Meeting and January Town Board Meeting 6:00PM | Town Board |
| 1/2 | Annual Appointments Boards and Committees | Supervisor |
| 1/2 | Review of Policies | Town Board |
| 1/8 | Planning Board Meeting 7:30PM | Planning |
| 1/15 | Town Hall Closed MLK Jr. Day | Building, Assessor, and Town Clerk |
| 1/22 | Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 7:00PM | Zoning |

February

| Date | Item | Department |
|-------------|--|--|
| 2/13 | Establishment of 2024 Spring Bids for approval at February Meeting | Highway Superintendent/ Town Clerk |
| 2/13 | Town Board Meeting 6:00PM | Town Board |
| 2/13 | Annual Accounting | Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Supervisor's Bookkeeper, and Justices |
| 2/10 | April Water Bills Mailed | District Clerk |
| 2/12 | Planning Board Meeting 7:00PM | Planning |
| 2/19 | Town Hall Closed President's Day | Building, Assessor, and Town Clerk |
| 2/26 | Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 7:00PM | Zoning |

Motions:

Motion to approve the November Supervisor's Financial Report, Town Clerk's Financial Report, and Justice's Financial Report, made by Councilman Gabriel, Seconded by Councilman Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolutions:

Resolution 7 of 2023 Authorization to close the 2023 Books for the Town and Districts

(see attached)

Approval of Bills:

Motion to approve General Warrants: 259-287, \$10,029.79

Highway Warrants: 287-305, \$48,091.69

WWTP Warrants: 134-142, \$28,395.23

Water Warrants: 113-119, \$10,792.61 made by Councilman Gabriel. Seconded by Councilman Cole. All in favor. Motion carried.

Districts:

(See attached)

Public Comment/Questions:

Peter Calvert: The Christmas Parade this year held by The Andes Hotel was a huge success and it's a good thing for the town.

Councilman Gabriel: There was no traffic control for the parade. The Fire Department should be asked to control traffic flow for the next parade.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hall. Seconded by Councilman Gabriel. All in Favor.
Meeting adjourned at 6:52PM