

October 27, 2021

MINUTES

**EDEN TOWN BOARD MEETING AND WORK SESSION**  
**2795 East Church Street**  
**Eden, NY 14057**  
**October 27, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

MELISSA HARTMAN	-	SUPERVISOR
RICHARD VENTRY	-	COUNCILPERSON
SUSAN WILHELM	-	COUNCILPERSON
MICHAEL BYRNES	-	COUNCILPERSON
GARY SAM	-	COUNCILPERSON

**DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT:**

Dave Rice	-	Code Enforcement Officer
Robert Pietrocarlo	-	Assessor
Susan Pratt	-	Assessor
Susan Johnson	-	Assessor

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Emily Hawkins	-	Town Clerk
Lisa Winter	-	Bookkeeper
Marlene Grunder	-	Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order:**

Supervisor Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Hearing of Visitors on Agenda Items:** There were none.

**New & Unfinished Business:**

**1. Approve Fire Budget as Town Budget:**

The Public Hearing was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and there were no visitors present to be heard.

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to approve the 2022 Fire Budget as part of the 2022 Town Budget in the amount of \$461,858.00 or \$1.27 per thousand; seconded by Councilperson Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**2. Approve Douglas Scheu to Board of Assessment Review:**

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to approve Douglas Scheu to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5-year term beginning October 1, 2021; seconded by Councilperson Sam; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**3. Approval to Add Unpaid Water Bills to the Tax Warrant:**

**MOTION** was made by Councilperson Wilhelm to include \$341.60 in unpaid 2021 refuse charges to the 2022 Town and County tax bills and to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign Letter of Authorization and any other paperwork required; seconded by Councilperson Ventry; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**4. Recreation Staff Appointments:**

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to make the following recreation staff appointments; Cheryl Carpenter as a certified lifeguard at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, Shana Cole as a certified lifeguard at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, Isabelle Marchitte as a certified lifeguard at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, Paris Smith as a certified lifeguard at a rate of \$12.50 per hour; seconded by Councilperson Sam; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Work Session:**

**1. Part-Time Senior Coordinator:**

Supervisor Hartman began the work session by outlining the proposal for a part-time senior coordinator.

- Bring back and run Erie County Senior Services Stay Fit Dining program 2-3 days per week
- Facilitate Senior vehicle schedule
- Utilize Senior Services programming
- 2018 Master Plan identified need of more senior services in town
- Preliminary Budget would need to be reviewed to add position

Discussion Points:

- Location for Stay Fit Dining: St. Johns, Fire Hall, EMS, Town Hall (would require kitchen updates) are all possible options
- Reach out to County Senior Services to see what else they offer and get more information on the program
- Current Senior Card Coordination takes 3-4 hours per week

**\*\*Volunteers are needed for Senior Car Driver\*\***

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to open the Public Hearing for the 2022 Preliminary Budget; seconded by Councilperson Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary budget of the town of Eden, Erie County, New York, for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2022 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of the said Town Hall 2795 East Church Street in said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons at all reasonable hours. FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of said Town of Eden will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Town Hall at 7:15pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, and that at such hearing any persons may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled, or for or against the preliminary budget as compiled, or for or against any items for items herein contained. AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the section 108 of the Town Law that the following are proposed yearly salaries of the Town Officers of this Town, to wit:

Supervisor: \$51,619

Councilmen (4 each): \$12,358

Superintendent of the Highways: \$83,785

Town Clerk: \$43,792

Supervisor Hartman gave additional information on the preliminary 2022 budget.

There was no one present to be heard.

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to close the Public Hearing for the 2022 Preliminary Budget and open the Public Hearing for proposed local law 3-2021 to abolish the board of three elected assessors and to substitute a single appointed assessor; seconded by Councilperson Ventry; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The public hearing was opened at 7:24 PM.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Eden Town Board in the Eden Town Hall, 2795 East Church Street, Eden, New York on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 at 7:20 P.M. Local Time, for the purpose of considering the adoption of proposed Local Law #3-2021, being a local law to abolish the board of three elected assessors in the Town of Eden and to substitute therefore a single appointed assessor to be appointed pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 310. Copies of the proposed local law are available for public review in the Office of the Eden Town Clerk. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Supervisor Hartman began the public hearing by discussing the reasons of moving to an appointed assessor.

- Proven to be good government, 94% of Towns in NYS have an appointed assessor
- Efficiency and consistency in the office, working with one person
- Town could see potential savings and further savings with the possibility of shared services
- Appointed to 6-year term compared to 4-year elected term
- Appointed assessor is trained and certified and completes yearly continuing education requirements
- Supported by two out of three current elected assessors

The following residents spoke regarding the proposed local law;

Elmer Ploetz – 2687 West Church St;

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- Public does not want job outsourced, appointed will outsource work from qualified people within the town
- Put to permissive referendum in 2023 and let voters decide

Larry Huntoon, 2184 Ferrier Rd;

- Would like to hear from current assessors
- Consider 1 elected person instead of 3

Mary Jo Hultquist, 8605 Hammond Dr;

- Supports appointed over elected position
- More training, more availability, no politics

Bob Pietrocarlo, 3145 Cherry Ln;

- NYS Certified Assessor for 20 years
- Petition against appointed assessor was signed and submitted at the 10/10/21 Town Board Meeting
- Current office gives personal service, consistent property assessments, notification of deadlines
- One person does not decide assessment, it is decided amongst three

Susan Pratt, 3299 Wepax Rd;

- 14 years as an elected assessor in the Town of Eden
- Idea of appointed assessor has been talked about for many years
- Although there are three elected assessors, they mostly work independently of each other and are often time the only assessor in the office
- An appointed assessor would bring consistency into the office
- Person hired should be a resident

Susan Johnson, 2990 Hillbrook Dr;

- Clerk since 2015 and now elected assessor
- Took two years to completed the required training
- Approve of switching to an elected assessor, qualified person to work 19 hours per week to keep consistency in the office

Mona Huggins, 9422 Sisson Hwy;

- Consider position of a single elected assessor; still need training and continuing education

Dave Pew, 3989 Schuster Rd;

- Against moving to appointed position, put to public vote

Frank Shattuck, 9288 Sauer Rd;

- In favor of three assessors

The following residents asked additional questions:

Gary Eye, 3764 Eckhardt Rd.

Ed Krycia, 7332 East Eden Rd.

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to close the Public Hearing for proposed local law 3-2021 to abolish the board of three elected assessors and to substitute a single appointed assessor and open the Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override; seconded by Councilperson Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The public hearing was opened at 8:14 PM.

Supervisor Hartman stated that the Town is not going over the Tax Cap.

No one was present to be heard.

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to close the Public Hearing and open the Town Board Meeting; seconded by Councilperson Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:15 PM.

Addition discussion was had regarding the position of Part-Time Senior Coordinator.

**2. Noise Ordinance:**

Increase in noise ordinance complaints over the last year, Code Review Committee is looking at and updating Town Code in response.

Dave Rice, Code Enforcement Officer gave an up-date to the Town Board;

- Noise Ordinance Code is used for enforcement of public entertainment and off-road vehicles
- Code Review Committee has broken the existing code into three sections and are working on each section individually.
- Goal is to have the codes to the Town Board in the beginning of 2022 and completion for March or April of 2022

**3. Agenda in Pennysaver:**

The Town Board discussed the additional of Town Board Meeting Agendas being put into the Pennysaver as this was requested by members of the public. The cost for two monthly agenda at 1/3 page each would have an added average cost \$3,960 per year which is not currently budgeted for.

**Hearing of Visitors:**

Dan Malarky, West Church St.; Gave information on a free access channel through Spectrum where Town could show their agenda items.

**MOTION** was made by Supervisor Hartman to adjourn the Town Board Meeting; seconded by Councilperson Sam; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Emily Hawkins, Town Clerk