

**Village of Tupper Lake  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes**

Date: March 18, 2024  
Location: Board Room  
Meeting: Public Hearing & Regular Monthly 5:45-6:53 PM

At the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held this date, the following were present: Mayor Mary Fontana, Trustees Leon LeBlanc, Eric Shaheen, Jason McClain, David Maroun and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain.

Also present were Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards (Via Zoom), Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard, Department of Public Works Superintendent Robert Degrace, Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie, Fire Chief Royce Cole, Residents Reese and Kelly Fleury, Jason Rolley, Michael Vaillancourt, Barbara Denis, and News Reporters Oliver Reil and Dan McClelland (Via Zoom).

Call Public Hearing  
To Order

Mayor Fontana called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 pm for the purpose of hearing comments from the public concerning a Moratorium on Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations with in the Village and Town of Tupper Lake.

Dan McClelland

Questioned Inquiries

Local News Reporter Dan McClelland asked if there have been any recent inquiries if it was allowed.

Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie stated he was asked by our Code Official and thought it prudent to revisit the local law to ensure our residents keep the benefit of our cheap power for residential needs.

Close Public  
Hearing

Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Proulx to close the public hearing since there were no other questions or comments at 5:56 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Call Monthly Meeting  
To Order

Mayor Fontana called the Monthly Meeting to order and established the agenda at 6:00 pm.

Pledge & Moment  
Of Silence

Pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence and prayer for the safe return of missing teen Colin Gillis.

Public Comment  
Period:

Jason Rolley

Questioned Migrant  
Rumor

Sunmount Employee and Resident Jason Rolley asked the Mayor if the rumors were true that the Governor was completing repairs to one of the buildings at Sunmount in preparation of placing migrants to the Sunmount Campus.

Mayor Fontana stated those rumors were not true and Franklin County is not a sanctuary county and on-line it had been incorrectly listed as one. She stated we would follow Franklin County's rule and state we are not supportive of placement of migrants on the Sunmount Campus.

Pro Housing Community

Program Resolution Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to support the following Pro Housing Community Resolution in support with the Town of Tupper Lake as presented:

**PRO HOUSING COMMUNITY PROGRAM  
RESOLUTION No.: 031824A**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Tupper Lake (hereinafter “local government”) believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being;

**WHEREAS**, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

**WHEREAS**, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Village of Tupper Lake, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

Carried (5-0)

Board Minutes

Approved

Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the board minutes from February 20, 2024. (Carried 5-0)

Local Law #1-2024

Moratorium on Commercial  
Cryptocurrency Mining

In Tupper Lake

Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to formally approve Local Law #1-2024 placing a moratorium on commercial cryptocurrency mining in Tupper Lake. (Carried 5-0)

Treasurer:

Approve Warrant

Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the March 18, 2024 warrant in the amount of \$133,851.06 for payment of the bills and abstracts for the month of February 2024. (Carried 5-0)

Review Cash

Position

Review the monthly cash position for February 29, 2024.

Ratify 3-Year SIB  
For \$77,000

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to formally ratify the bond sale to Greene County Commercial Bank for the \$77,000.00 3-Year SIB for DPW Equipment at an interest rate of 4.25%. (Carried 5-0)

NYS Retirement  
Standard Workday

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to formally establish the standard workday of 6 hours for retirement purposes as required by the New York State Retirement for elected and appointed officials. (Carried 5-0)

Code Enforcement:  
Accept February  
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the February 2024 Monthly Code Report as presented. (Carried 5-0)

Miscellaneous  
Updates

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards advised the board his annual in-service schooling was completed earlier this month in Lake Placid. In addition, Town Attorney Kirk Gagnier has completed the new drafted Zoning Code and a joint village/town public hearing has been scheduled for May 1, 2024 at the Town of Tupper Lake. He will have the drafted document to us by our April meeting.

Police:  
Accept February  
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the February 2024 Monthly Police Report. (Carried 5-0)

Municipal Park  
Vandalism

Trustee LeBlanc asked the Police Chief about the recent vandalism in the Municipal Park and if the culprits have been identified and charged. He also asked if he was planning moving the shift around.

The Chief of Police advised he hasn't had the time to work on it due to the Eclipse planning but he will report back at our next meeting.

Fire:  
Accept February  
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to approve the February 2024 Monthly Fire Report. (Carried 5-0)

Executive Session  
Request

Fire Chief Royce Cole asked if he could have brief Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

DPW:  
DPW Schooling  
Ithaca New York

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to authorize the DPW Superintendent Robert Degrace to attend the 2024 Highway School in Ithaca, New York June 3-5, 2024. (Carried 5-0)

Miscellaneous  
Updates

Department of Public Works Superintendent Robert Degrace advised the board that his crews are hauling sand and getting the sweeper ready for sand pick-up in hopes of an early spring.

Electric:  
Miscellaneous  
Updates

Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie advised the board that his crews will be working in the Washington Street area cutting the tree line and replacing the old glass cutouts with polymer. After that he plans to tackle Little Wolf to replace 8-poles. Letter will be dropped at each resident's door before work will be commenced.

Commercial Cryptocurrency Comments	Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie advised the board that Commercial Cryptocurrency is not good for Tupper Lake, they use tons of electric computers that run on their own, and they usually rent empty buildings and employ 1-2 people and make a profit on the backs of our rate payers.
Rail Road Project Update	<p>Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie advised the board that the NYS DOT Rail Road Project has awarded all contracts, the transformer is on its way, waiting for Eclipse to pass and then they will coordinate with them.</p> <p>The 3-phase improvement is an exceptional cost and an exceptional need. When we take a transformer in, it starts to depreciate, the paperwork is a nightmare. Weydman Electric is on the hook for the cost of the transformer, once it is installed it is an asset for the department and it becomes our property, it is to our benefit to cost share with the contractor Weydman Electric</p>
Electric Department: Accept February Monthly Report	Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee McClain to approve the March 2024 Monthly Electric Report as presented. (Carried 5-0)
W/WW: W/S District Agreement With Town of Tupper Lake Amendment	Motion by Trustee Shaheen, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to formally approve and authorize Mayor Fontana to execute an amendment to a water and sewer district agreement with the Town of Tupper Lake for Sewer District No. 1, Extension Number 1 (Pitchfork Pond Road) as presented. (Carried 5-0)
WWTP & Pump Station 3 Change Orders MA Bongiovanni Change Orders	Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to formally approve Change Order #2-7 for \$18,000.00, Change Order #2-8 for \$21,108.00 and Change Order #2-9 for \$13,000.00 for MA Bongiovanni for the WWTP & Pump Station 3 Mechanical Contract. (Carried 5-0)
Weydman Electrical, Inc. Change Order	Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to formally approve Change Order #3-6 for \$3,435.00 for Weydman Electrical, Inc. for the WWTP & Pump Station 3 Electrical Contract. (Carried 5-0)
Ratify Certificates of Substantial Completion	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to formally ratify Certificates of Substantial Completion for MA Bongiovanni, Inc. and Weydman Electrical, Inc. as presented. (Carried 5-0)
Into Executive Session	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to enter Executive Session at 6:20 pm for the purpose of discussing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. (Carried 5-0)
Exit Executive Session	Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to exit Executive Session at 6:52 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. (Carried 5-0)

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Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer