

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

Date: Monday, March 20, 2023
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Board Room
Meeting: Special Meeting
5:00-5:55 PM

At the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held this date, the following were present: Mayor Paul A. Maroun, Trustees Leon LeBlanc, David Maroun, Jason McClain and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain.

Absent from the Special Meeting was Trustee Eric Shaheen.

Also present were Town of Tupper Lake representatives Supervisor Rick Dattola, Councilman John Gillis, Councilwomen Mary Fontana and Tracy Luton and Highway Superintendent William Dechene. From the Village were Department of Public Works Superintendent Robert Degrace, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard, Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie, Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards, TLCSD Superintendent of Schools Daniel Bower, Goff Nelson Memorial Library Courtney Carey, residents Bruce Van Vranken, Lorraine Bassett, Kelly and Reese Fleury and News Reporter Dan McClelland.

**Call Special Meeting
To Order**

Mayor Maroun called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00 pm for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the Village and Town of Tupper Lake.

Mayor Maroun

Mayor Maroun welcomed everyone to the first of many meetings between the two local governments and asked each board member to share their ideas on ways the two could share their resources for the taxpayers in our non-existing growing tax base.

Trustee McClain

Trustee McClain stated he felt an area that could be shared town wide is the Park.

**Councilwoman
Luton**

Councilwoman Luton stated she felt we should continue our efforts with Electric, Water and Sewer services but that we are the gateway to a recreation Mecca and we should further explore that.

**Councilwoman
Fontana**

Councilwoman Fontana stated she felt we should look at debt consolidation, tax levy growth and tax base growth, tackling infrastructure issues and updating our tupperlakeny.com website.

Trustee Maroun

Trustee Maroun added we are on the right path to invest in our park, it brings a lot of tourist and now we professional club teams. We also received a grant to replace the two sets of exterior bleachers. He stated he feels Billy Dechene and Bob Degrace are already working great together but we need to explore winter venues like snowmobiling and additional cross country skiing opportunities in the winter and golf tournaments in the summer.

**Councilman
Gillis**

Councilman Gillis stated the two boards need to do some strategic planning to have the town and village crews work together and we also need to update our planning and zoning, it has been in the works for sometime now.

Trustee LeBlanc

Trustee LeBlanc stated he has been involved with local government for over 15 years and the highway and public works have a great working relationship and utilize each other all the time. He did state he would like to see us explore upgrading a street together like Washington Street, village, town, state and county should be able to tackle a street like that in one summer season if we put our heads together.

Superintendent Dan Bower

Superintendent Dan Bower stated he works very closely with the Village and the Village Police Department who provides School Resource Officers (SRO) under a contract to the school for added security for our students. He stated we have great volunteers like our volunteer firefighters and rescue workers, we should continue to share our great pool of volunteers and labor pools if a project arises.

Public Comment:
Lorraine Bassett

Resident Lorraine Bassett stated she has seen growth in the town but how are the two boards going to grow economically?

Mayor Paul Maroun

Mayor Paul Maroun stated he believes it is through projects like the development of the mountain, redevelopment of the former OWD and the DRI.

Bruce VanVranken

Resident Bruce VanVranken stated he feels the board should address ongoing problems like the conditions of houses in the village, they need paint, cleaning and zoning concerns. Second he feels we need to help support restraints to stay open and be reliable. Third we need to increase employment opportunities here, are there plan to bring back factories or blue collar jobs? Housing options are minimal; he would like to sell his home but doesn't feel there are options to downsize that would be up to his standards to rent. He wonders how land banks would affect our community in the future. Lastly, he would like us to address the condition of zombie homes in our community.

Herbert Kentile

Town employee Herbert Kentile entered the Special Meeting at 5:41 pm.

Supervisor
Dattola

Supervisor Dattola stated the Town is expanding Little Wolf Beach, providing irrigation to 6 of the 9 lower holes at the Golf Course, upgrades to the Aaron Maddox Hall through a NY Forward Grant, improvements to Setting Pole Dam and Little Wolf Dam, Water and Sewer District improvements and a shining star for the Town of a recreational department that had a successful year with the Summer Day Camp, Brewski, Octupper Fest, Brewski, Tinman and Celebrate Tupper Lake events.

Councilwoman
Luton

Councilwoman Luton started she would like to see technical trade school opportunities available in Tupper Lake.

Mayor Maroun stated this was the first of many meeting between the boards as we continue to work together to further advance the community and he thanked everyone for taking the time attend.

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:55 pm. (Carried 4-0)

Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer