

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

Date: Monday, December 5, 2022
Start: 5:15 PM
Location: Board Room, 53 Park Street, Tupper Lake, NY
Meeting: Public Hearings & Special Meeting
Time: 5:15-5:46 PM

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

Also present were Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie, Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards, Retired Meter Serviceman James Moody, Resident Stephen Weber, News Reporters Dan McClelland and Aaron Marbone (Via Zoom).

**Call the 1st Public Hearing
To Order**
Mayor Maroun called the Public Hearing to order for the purpose of hearing comments from the public concerning proposed revisions to the Village of Tupper Lake's Electric Rates and read aloud the legal notice published in the *Tupper Lake Free Press* on November 23rd and November 30th of 2022.

Mayor Maroun
Mayor Maroun started the discussion by saying that we have been working with the New York Power Authority for over two (2) years to implement a much needed rate increase. The proposed rates we are reviewing this evening are the result of bi-weekly meetings with NYPA and our Municipal Accountant William Freitag. He further explained that rates were initially designed to carry the municipality for 5-7 years, our last rate increase was January of 2015; we are now getting ready to start our 8th year.

He then opened the floor to the public for comment.

Stephen Weber
Chaney Avenue resident Mr. Stephen Weber asked what plans the Municipal Electric had for reinvesting in our system.

**Superintendent
Michael Dominie**
Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie gave a brief history of the needed substation capital improvements and aging infrastructure needing replacement and upgrading which would be addressed first as well as being able to afford the rising costs and supply chain delays related to inflation for materials needed to complete those capital improvements to the system.

Stephen Weber
Mr. Stephen Weber also asked if the Village has looked into programs to help residents with their utility bills.

**Superintendent
Michael Dominie**
Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie explained that his department works closely with the Franklin Count HEAP Department as well as participate in the NYS IEEP Program that offers incentives and rebates for Tupper Lake residents to invest in energy efficiency improvements to their homes. In addition, we also work with several local organizations that offer monetary assistance for customers such as Catholic Charities, Red Cross and the Tupper Lake Ecumenical Group.

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Mary A. Casagrain Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain advised the board that a resident inquired earlier in the week whether or not the Village Board would consider reinstating our Electric Heat Moratorium in the future to contain peak demand charges during the colder months.

Superintendent

Michael Dominie

Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie explained that our former peak users are no longer in business here such as the former OWD/Altrista Plastics Plant and the Big Tupper Ski Slope. In the last fiscal year we exceeded our cheap hydro power allotment three (3) times and the rest of the year we are no where near our capacity.

He speculated that since the Federal Government has invested billions in Green Technology that he believes the New York Power Authority probably wouldn't allow us to reinstate the electric heating moratorium because of those investments encouraging Americas to abandon fossil fuel dependency.

Stephen Weber

Mr. Stephen Weber also asked if the Village has looked into wind and solar power as an alternative heating supply for residents.

Superintendent

Michael Dominie

Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie explained that a wind and/or solar power investment would be more costly per kWh in comparison. For example our residents pay less than 5 cents a kilowatt compared to wind and solar which in the market is around 7 to 9 cents a kilowatt not to mention the initial investment that we would never recoup.

Mayor Maroun

Mayor Maroun asked if anyone else would like to offer their comments.

James Moody

Retired Electric Meter Serviceman, James Moody stated he was present to offer his support of the proposed electric rate increase because he was employed by the Village of Tupper Lake during the last two rate increases and worked closely on those proposals. He stated Electric Superintendent Michael Dominie did a wonderful job explaining everything and didn't have any additional comments.

Hold 1st Public Hearing

Open

Mayor Maroun announced that he would hold the revisions to the Village of Tupper Lake Municipal Electric Rates open until the close of the second hearing for the purpose of replacing the Uniform Building Code.

Call the 2nd Public Hearing

To Order

Mayor Maroun called the Public Hearing to order for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on the replacement of Chapter 23 providing for the Administrative and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code as proposed for the Village of Tupper Lake and read aloud the legal notice published in the *Tupper Lake Free Press* on November 23rd 2022.

Code Enforcement

Officer Peter Edwards Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards informed the board and public that the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code gets replaced routinely when it is necessary to enforce changes to the code, the last time it was updated was 2010.

Close Public Hearings

5:41 pm Trustee McClain called the Public Hearings to a close at 5:41 pm after there were no other comments, seconded by Trustee Maroun. (Carried 5-0)

Call Special Meeting to Order and Agenda Established

Mayor Maroun called the Special Meeting to order and established the agenda at 5:42 pm.

Formally Accept Revisions of the Electric Rates as Proposed

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to formally accept the proposed revisions of the electric rates for the Village of Tupper Lake Electric Municipal Electric System. (Carried 5-0)

Formally Adopt Local Law #6-2022

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to formally adopt Local Law #6-2022 for the replacement of Chapter 23 of the Village of Tupper Lake's code providing for the Administrative and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code as proposed. (Carried 5-0)

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to adjourn at 5:46 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer