

Meeting of the Town Board, Town of Yorktown held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598.

Present: Edward A. Lachterman, Deputy Supervisor
Sergio Esposito, Councilman
Patrick J. Murphy, Councilman

Also Present: Diana L. Quast, Town Clerk
Adam Rodriguez, Town Attorney

Tardy: Luciana Haughwout, Councilwoman

TOWN BOARD MEETING

Deputy Supervisor Ed Lachterman called the meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Town Board moved into Executive Session to discuss individual personnel matters, litigation, and negotiations with the Town Attorney. Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Town Board moved out of Executive Session and proceeded with the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Esposito led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman asked for a moment of silence to remember those who were lost to violence, a special remembrance for those US Marines who were lost during the Battle of Iwo Jima that took place 79 years ago yesterday. He also asked to remember our first responders and those who serve our country in the military.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Town Board introduced themselves, as well as Town Clerk Diana Quast, and Adam Rodriguez, Town Attorney.

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman reported on recent Town events and announcements.

- Congratulations to Mohegan Lake Volunteer Fire Department on their 102nd Award Dinner. He spoke of the longevity of the volunteers, specifically three 50-year members: Bob Conklin, Kenneth Whelan, and Timothy Humphrey. He thanked all of the volunteer firefighters who serve our community.
- Yorktown had its third “death by dealer” arrest, thanks to the work of one of our Yorktown detectives. Deputy Supervisor Lachterman explained that the term “death by dealer” refers to when someone passes away due to a fatal overdose; the police are able to track back to the person who dealt the drugs. He said that this sends a message to the drug industry in our area that Yorktown is not the place to deal drugs. He mentioned the Hope Not Handcuffs program offered through the police department.
- On March 15th the American Legion will be celebrating their 105th anniversary. Post 1009 will be holding an Open House on March 15 from 4:00-7:00 PM where you can meet local veterans and see memorabilia from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. Refreshments will be served.

REPORT FROM TOWN OFFICIALS

Members of the Town Board reported on recent Town events and announcements.

Councilman Murphy announced that the Yorktown School District overwhelmingly passed Proposition One and Proposition Two, as he announced at a previous Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Esposito announced the grand opening of a new restaurant, Sushi Express. He discussed his and Councilman Murphy’s attendance at the Annual Association of Towns conference held in New York City.

AUTHORIZE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CIVIL SERVICES EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, CONCERNING THE PAY SCALE FOR THE POSITION OF TEMPORARY WATER MAINTENANCE FOREPERSON
RESOLUTION #141

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

RESOLVED, the Deputy Supervisor is authorized to execute an agreement with the Civil Services Employees Association, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Westchester County Local 860, CSEA Unit 9181, concerning the pay scale for the position of temporary Water Maintenance Foreperson.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPOINT TERESA DELANEY TO THE POSITION OF ASSESSMENT CLERK IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
RESOLUTION #142

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Teresa Delaney is hereby appointed provisionally as an Assessment Clerk, job class code 0089-01, effective March 4, 2024, to be paid from Yorktown CSEA Salary Schedule A-1, Group 10, Step 1, which is \$63,251.00 annually with benefits, such as, sick days, personal days, and floating holidays to follow the CSEA agreement,

BE IT RESOLVED, contingent upon successful completion of a drug test,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Teresa Delaney will report to work at the Assessors' Office, on March 4, 2024 and this date will be used as the first date of employment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, probationary time for provisional hires adheres to Civil Service Law updated September 2023.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPOINT CARLA ESPOSITO TO THE POSITION OF OFFICE ASSISTANT (AUTO SYSTEMS) IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT
RESOLUTION #143

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Carla Esposito of Yorktown Heights, NY, is hereby appointed probationary Office Assistant (auto systems) job class code 0750-01, from Eligible List No. 02-140, effective February 21, 2024 to be paid from Yorktown CSEA Salary Schedule A1, Group 8, Step 2, which is \$60,800.00 annually, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment is subject to a probationary period of not less than 12 nor more than 52 weeks, commencing on the first date of appointment on December 11, 2023 in the same title as per NYS Legislation.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPOINT NICHOLAS FASCE TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC IN THE CENTRAL GARAGE
RESOLUTION #144

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Nicholas Fasce is hereby promoted as a Senior Automotive Mechanic, job class code 0484-02, effective February 26, 2024, in the Central Garage Department to be paid from Yorktown CSEA Salary Schedule A, Group 13, Step 1 which is \$70,849.00 annually with benefits, such as, sick days, personal days, and floating holidays to follow the CSEA agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment is subject to a probationary period of not less than 12 nor more than 52 weeks, commencing on the first date of appointment on February 26, 2024.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPOINT ANTHONY VERDE TO THE POSITION OF AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC IN THE CENTRAL GARAGE
RESOLUTION #145

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Anthony Verde of Mahopac, NY, is hereby appointed Automotive Mechanic, job class code 0481-02, effective March 11, 2024 to be paid from Yorktown CSEA Salary Schedule A, Group 12, Step 1 which is \$67,644 annually,

BE IT RESOLVED, contingent upon successful completion of a drug test and reference checks,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Anthony Verde will report to work at the Central Garage Department on March 11, 2024, and this date will be used as the first date of appointment,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment is subject to a probationary period of not less than 12 nor more than 52 weeks, commencing on the first date of appointment on March 11, 2024.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE COMPTROLLER TO PROCESS THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFER FOR THE SEWER DEPARTMENT
RESOLUTION #146

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$15,000.00 from Yorktown Sewer (OS.9901.0904) to Maintenance and Repair Pump Station (OS.8130.0462), and, be it further

RESOLVED, that \$2,000.00 be transferred from Yorktown Sewer (OS.9901.0904) to Alarm Service (OS.8130.0421).

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AMEND RESOLUTION 65 OF 2024 AUTHORIZING DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SITE DESIGN CONSULTANTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROVISION OF ON-CALL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES
RESOLUTION #147

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

RESOLVED, that the Deputy Supervisor is authorized to execute an agreement with Site Design Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the provision of on-call engineering consultant services in connection with the Granite Knolls Sports Complex. The term of the agreement shall cover January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK AND DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS REGION ONE ANNUAL MEETING AND TRAINING CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION #148

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Whereas, sufficient funds exist in the Town Clerk's conference/training line to cover the cost of expenses, including lodging and conference, now

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk have permission to attend the 2024 International Institute of Municipal Clerks Region One Annual Meeting and Training Conference to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts from March 24-26, 2024.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GRANICUS, INC. TO PROVIDE WEBCASTING SERVICES TO THE TOWN OF YORKTOWN
RESOLUTION #149

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

RESOLVED, that the Deputy Supervisor is authorized to sign a Service Agreement with Granicus Inc. to provide webcasting services to the Town of Yorktown for a period of 12 months beginning March 17, 2024 ending March 16, 2025 at a cost of \$10,595.73

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE A BID FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PICKLEBALL COURTS AT GRANITE KNOLLS SPORTS AND RECREATION COMPLEX
RESOLUTION #150

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Resolved, that the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise a Bid for the Rehabilitation of the Pickleball Courts at Granite Knolls Sports and Recreation Complex.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPROVE EXTENSION OF SERVICES AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR RECORDING AND CABLECASTING SERVICES FOR TOM SCIANGULA
RESOLUTION #151

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Resolved, effective January 1, 2024, the following fees will be paid to Tom Sciangula for recording and cablecasting services:

Town Board Meetings and Town Board Work Sessions	\$225.00
Planning Board Meetings	\$225.00
Zoning Board Meetings	\$200.00
Senior Advisory Board Meetings	\$200.00
All other meetings held in Boardroom	\$200.00
Yorktown Supervisor Show	\$125.00
Town Board Meetings held outside of Boardroom	\$300.00

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

APPROVE EXTENSION OF SERVICES FOR CARY VIGILANTE FOR BROADCASTING SERVICES
RESOLUTION #152

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Resolved, the Town Board extends the services of Cary Vigilante for broadcasting services from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 at a rate of \$550.00 per month.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH NCI
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ANSWERING SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2024
RESOLUTION #153

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the Deputy Supervisor to execute an agreement with NCI Emergency Response Answering Service for the year 2024 at the yearly amount of \$1,634.00 for the Yorktown Consolidated Water District.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman stated that Councilman Murphy would recuse himself from voting on the following resolutions regarding Underhill Farm. Councilman Murphy's recusal is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

AUTHORIZED DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GREGORY
DIETRICH PRESERVATION CONSULTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HISTORIC
& CULTURAL RESOURCE PLANNING SERVICES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS
RESOLUTION #154

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilwoman Haughwout,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Yorktown has solicited proposals for historic & cultural resource planning services for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town received proposals from the following prospective consultants:

Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting
New York, N.Y.

Historical Perspectives, Inc.
Westport, Conn.

Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture & Preservation, LLP
Albany, N.Y.

WHEREAS, the proposals of all of the respondents were reviewed to determine the qualifications of each respondent, their understanding of the scope of work, the appropriateness of their proposed schedules, and the adequacy of their proposed cost proposals for the required services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to enter into an agreement with Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting to perform historic & cultural resource planning services on individual project proposals, on an as needed basis, and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Yorktown is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting for the purpose of providing historic & cultural resource planning services on an as needed basis for individual project proposals, the costs thereof to be determined for each project pursuant to a schedule of hourly rates provided within each agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the costs, where applicable, shall be charged to, and borne by, each individual projects' applicant or sponsor.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE GREGORY DIETRICH PRESERVATION CONSULTING TO PERFORM A
CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEW FOR THE PROPOSED UNDERHILL FARM PROJECT
RESOLUTION #155

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilwoman Haughwout,

WHEREAS, the Planning Board of the Town of Yorktown desires to have a cultural resource review of the proposed Underhill Farm Project located at 370 Underhill Avenue in Yorktown Heights, also known as Section 48.06, Block 1, Lot 30 on the Town of Yorktown Tax Map; and

WHEREAS, Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting, a historic resource consulting firm, has entered into an agreement with the Town of Yorktown to provide these services on an on-call basis which was authorized by the Town Board by resolution on February 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting. has submitted a proposal dated February 16, 2024 to perform a cultural resource review pursuant to said on-call agreement for an amount not to exceed \$6,200.00; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Yorktown is hereby authorized to engage Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting. under the on-call agreement with the Town of Yorktown for the purpose of reviewing the cultural resources for the Underhill Farm project, in an amount not to exceed \$6,200.00 for this review, and that the total cost shall be reimbursed by the applicant as part of the cost of the application's review.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO ENTER INTO A RESTRICTIVE COVENANT AGREEMENT WITH UNDERHILL SOUNDVIEW, LLC
RESOLUTION #156

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilwoman Haughwout,

RESOLVED, the Deputy Supervisor is authorized to enter into a Restrictive Covenant Agreement with Underhill Soundview, LLC, concerning the property at 370 Underhill Avenue Yorktown Heights, New York, Tax Map of the Town of Yorktown as Section: 48.06 Parcel: 1 Lot: 30 ("Property"), where Underhill Soundview, LLC agrees that: (a) the Main Building shall not be demolished without the written consent of the Town Board; (b) except as set forth in the Site Plan (as may be amended from time to time by the Planning Board), the Property's stone wall on Underhill Avenue and N.Y.S. Route 1181 (and its associated gates and pillars), entry drive and pond, shall not be modified or demolished without the written approval of the Town Board; and (c) any rehabilitation of the Main Building shall be subject to written approval of the Planning Board of the Town of Yorktown.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE AND UTILIZE \$1900 FROM THE TREE BANK FUND FOR THE PLANTING OF TREES AT THE GARDEN OF HOPE
RESOLUTION #157

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Resolved, the Comptroller is authorized to release and the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation is authorized to utilize \$1,900 from the Tree Bank Fund for the planting of trees on Town property at the Garden of Hope at the Willow Park.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

After passing the resolutions, Councilwoman Haughwout left the Town Board Meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSISTANT CURATOR FOR THE YORKTOWN MUSEUM

Town Clerk Diana Quast introduced Amy Swan, the new Assistant Curator for the Yorktown Museum. Clerk Quast stated that she is looking forward to working with Ms. Swann and her expertise in digitizing archival information for the Town. Ms. Swann thanked her predecessors who established the museum and she hopes to build and expand upon that foundation. She spoke about what she would like to do for the museum: updating the rooms, visual aids for storytelling, creating a video walk-through for some of the historic houses, implement QR codes for audio descriptions, adding more materials for children. Ms. Swann also spoke about programs and events she would like to organize. The research room will be made more inviting to be able to hold meetings with the

different groups that are connected to the library. Ms. Swan also said that she would like to make the gift shop a destination. Ms. Swan said that she would like to hold a celebration for the museum's sixtieth anniversary in 2026.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman said that the Yorktown Museum is a great attraction that has been a little under-utilized in the past. He thanked Town Clerk Quast for the work she has been putting in to "dress up" the museum. Clerk Quast talked about the work the interns are doing at the museum.

POET LAUREATE

John McMullen, Poet Laureate, read an original poem "2024."

WETLAND PERMIT 3167 LINCOLN DRIVE

Gabrielle Salman, architect for the project, said that the project is for the construction of a 14'x14' deck for an existing house that involves a wetland. She said that they have appeared before all of the appropriate boards and addressed the question regarding the foundation of the deck. Deputy Supervisor Lachterman reviewed the comments received during the referral process.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR WETLAND PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 3167 LINCOLN DRIVE

RESOLUTION #158

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy,

Resolved, that a public hearing is to be set for March 12, 2024 to consider the wetland permit application submitted for the construction of a deck at 3167 Lincoln Drive, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547.

Lachterman, Esposito, Haughwout, Murphy Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public spoke:

- Susan Siegel, resident, questioned the resolutions about Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting and asked why the Town would this firm when last year they contracted with two other consulting groups (Historical Perspectives and Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture & Preservation). She asked why one of these two was not used. Ms. Siegel asked if the covenant that the Deputy Supervisor read was the entire covenant. She also asked about the status of the fluoride plant.
- Jay Kopstein, resident, asked about the two moratoriums that were introduced last week (Smoke & Vape Shops and Large-scale Energy Systems). He said he would like to see these passed as quickly as possible.

Upon motion made by Councilman Esposito, seconded by Councilman Murphy, Open Floor for Public Comment was closed.

Director of Planning John Tegeder addressed Ms. Siegel's questions about the historic consultants. He said that all three of the respondents at the time of the RFP were qualified, including Gregory Dietrich; the other two seemed the most appropriate because one was steeped in cultural resources and one had a little bit more architectural construction in the preservation industry background. Mr. Tegeder said that Thaler Reilly Wilson is no longer available and there is some review that needs to be done on the architectural side, and while he is not an architect, unlike Historical Perspectives, Gregory Dietrich is trained in historic preservation. Mr. Tegeder said Gregory Dietrich is not trained as an architect, but his qualifications are in the same "language" and understands it very well. He said that in lieu of Thaler Reilly, he recommended Gregory Dietrich to the Town Board.

Parks & Recreation Superintendent James Martorano, Jr. said the pickleball courts were laid over existing tennis courts and proper drainage was never put underneath the courts. He said that the courts that have drainage fare much better than those that do not (cited the basketball court at Railroad Station). Superintendent Martorano said that cracking is already beginning to appear at the pickleball courts. He and Deputy Supervisor Lachterman spoke about doing the job correctly and learn from past mistakes.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman stated that the software problem is still an issue at the fluoride plant and the programmer has not yet given a date for completion.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman agreed with Mr. Kopstein about getting the two moratoriums in place as soon as possible.

Town Attorney Adam Rodriguez said Ms. Siegel could submit a FOIL request for the fully executed covenant.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman asked Ken Belfer, Mohegan Lake Homeowners Association, to speak about what is upcoming for Mohegan Lake this year. Mr. Belfer said Lake Day has been scheduled for July 13 (rain date July 14). He said that he would be giving the deputy supervisor a contract to sign for the annual treatments of the lake that had been bid out and awarded and the contract is forthcoming. Deputy Supervisor Lachterman asked when algae level readings are done on the lake and Mr. Belfer said that it happens year round, generally weekly, and they are keeping a close eye on it. Mr. Belfer said that last year they had a collaboration State University of New York College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry and did a research project with them. They are preparing a report that they will be presenting jointly with Mr. Belfer's group at the New York State Federation of Lake Associations Conference in May. Mr. Belfer said that they are expecting to get a microscope from them again this year, which will allow them to look at what is happening in the water and know when blue-green algae is starting to proliferate. He said that more serious monitoring would begin approximately in mid-March, depending upon how cold it is. He said that they want to make as strategic a decision as possible about turning on the aeration system, which is very important but is costly to run.

Mr. Belfer said the big thing they are working on is very experimental – think of it as “probiotics” for the lake. It is the introduction of healthy aerobic bacteria that eats away at the muck at the bottom of the lake. He said the problem with that is the DEC cannot “wrap their arms around it” as a method and are skeptical. He said the worst part is that they are just waking up to this when they found out that it was being used in Lake Peekskill and subsequently put a stop to it. He said that many communities, including golf courses, are using it – all without permits. He said that he requested a pre-permit application meeting with DEC in November last year to learn about the Lake Peekskill experience and why they rejected that and to find out what was needed for them to apply for a permit. He said that about two weeks ago he finally was able to find out from DEC what was needed before having a pre-permit application meeting. Mr. Belfer said he submitted the documents and is now waiting for a response. Mr. Belfer said what they are hoping to do is try this as an experiment and try to get a university involved to help them do the research so that they can demonstrate if it worked or did not work.

REPORT FROM NYS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 94

Assemblyman Matthew Slater addressed the Town Board with updates from Albany. He said that he thinks it is important that our partners on the county, state, and federal levels provide direct information to the Town Board and the community so that they understand some of the decisions that are being made and also how those decisions may impact Yorktown.

Assemblyman Slater said that Governor Hochul's proposed state budget now stands at \$235 billion. He said he would like to talk about a few key items.

Public Education Funding

The budget calls for a more than 50% cut to state public school funding. He reported that Lakeland School District did well – a \$1.14 million increase. However, Yorktown School District would see a decrease of \$352,000. He said this is a result of Governor Hochul's removal of the hold harmless provision, which basically protects school systems from getting less than the previous year. When there is a decrease in state aid, school districts and municipalities could potentially look to the taxpayers to help make up the difference. Assemblyman Slater said that this cut is a shortfall of about \$300 million, although he said they feel that they can make up this difference as they go through the budgetary process.

Roads

Assemblyman Slater said that local roads matter. He said that the Yorktown Highway Department has done a phenomenal job making sure we have safe and passable roads. In her budget, Governor Hochul has proposed a cut to local roads of \$100 million that includes a \$60 million cut to CHIPS (a

direct impact on the Highway Department). He said that the public is going to begin to hear about the federal infrastructure money that is going to start to flow – this is going to start to happen later this year. Assemblyman Slater said that 90% of our local roads will not qualify for those dollars, which makes the CHIPS money all that more important. He said that he and his colleagues are proposing not only to restore the \$60 million cut to CHIPS but are looking to increase the CHIPS money by an extra \$200 million. He said that the cost of construction over the last three years, it has risen by approximately 60%.

Veterans Services

Governor Hochul’s budget proposes to cut veterans services by \$2.5 million. He said that last year they led the fight in restoring those dollars, which they won. Assemblyman Slater said he is very confident that they will be able to do the same this year. He explained how the cuts would affect veterans, especially in Putnam County.

Free Lunch and Breakfast Program

Assemblyman Slater said that neither the Lakeland nor Yorktown School Districts have qualified for the free breakfast and lunch programs. He said that he has had conversations with Dr. Hattar, Superintendent of the Yorktown Schools about how hunger affects students learning abilities. The cost in the budget would be \$60 million and this should be a priority.

Migrant Funding

Assemblyman Slater said the Governor has proposed \$2.4 billion to help New York City with their ongoing migrant crisis. New York City Mayor Eric Adams testified at their budget hearing in Albany and requested an additional half a billion on top of the \$2.4 billion. Assemblyman Slater said that we must be aware of our priorities when considering where cuts are being proposed.

Assemblyman Slater said that forecasting is underway. Revenue is expected to come in higher than what the Governor had projected. He said that this is a good thing for the State and a good sign for the economy overall. Assemblyman Slater said that we are still dealing with an affordability crisis. Last week New York State was ranked as the most taxed state in the country.

Assemblyman Slater said that he has been advocating for everyone to be cognizant of the Environmental Bond Act because those dollars are going to start to flow later this year, in particularly regarding harmful algae blooms. Resiliency dollars may also be available, and he mentioned Lake Osceola as a possible recipient.

Assemblyman Slater spoke about Executive Order 30 that was signed in July 2023. This order deals with identifying pro-housing communities and instead of forcing policies onto us against our will, they are now withholding dollars unless you “play their game.” He said that there are about 129 communities that have sent letters of intent to be recognized as pro-housing communities. He believes that Yorktown qualifies for this, considering the housing projects that are being proposed. He then discussed the criteria for qualification. He said that this will now be mandatory in order to qualify for various funds that may be available.

Legislative Issues

Assemblyman Slater said that the cost of childcare is through the roof. He said that they have been working with various childcare providers to see how it could be made more affordable and said that one of the ways is to offer property tax exemptions for childcare facilities.

Assemblyman Slater said that they are also trying to help the seniors. He said that if you are a retiree and draw down more than \$20,000 from a non-public pension (IRA, annuity), New York State taxes you. He said that this amount has not changed since its inception. In comparison, New Jersey’s limit is \$100,000. He said that they have offered legislation to adjust this amount to help the seniors and retirees.

Assemblyman Slater thanked Deputy Supervisor Lachterman and Councilman Esposito for attending their Opioid and Fentanyl Roundtable that was held at Town Hall in January. He said that they spoke about his “Death by Dealer” bill and that he has heard that from law enforcement across the board that this legislation is pivotal for the fight against opioid and fentanyl.

Assemblyman Slater said that Senator Fernandez has a bill that deals with a Sober Housing Taskforce to investigate matters with sober housing because they are not regulated. He said there is a bill that

has been introduced to start up the taskforce again. Assemblyman Slater said that he believes this is very important to look in to regulating these homes and making sure they are actually helping people with their recovery.

Assemblyman Slater said that he was very happy to be able to deliver \$5.2 million, in conjunction with Senator Harckham, for the Route 202 paving (from the Taconic Parkway all the way to the four corners). He said that they were also able to secure a \$75,000 grant for the Yorktown Volunteer Fire Department.

Deputy Supervisor Lachterman thanked Assemblyman Slater for coming to the meeting and a discussion ensued with the assemblyman regarding the topics he presented.

ADJOURN MEETING

Upon motion made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Esposito, the Town Board meeting was adjourned.

DIANA L. QUAST, TOWN CLERK
MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK
TOWN OF YORKTOWN