

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD

**TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD,
STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168
JANUARY 15, 2024**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by *Philip Roder* at **7:10 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Philip (PJ) Roder

(X) Council Diana Clark

(X) Council Kyle Kidney

(X) Council John E. DeFreest Jr.

(X) Council Tammy Madden (appointed 1/15/2024)

(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman

(X) High. Superin. Alden Goodermote

(X) Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established.

3 from the Public were present

RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF THE YEAR 2024

APPOINTING LONG-TIME TOWN RESIDENT

TAMMY MADDEN TO THE TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, Everett D. Madden passed away in November 2023, immediately following his re-election to the Town Board, which would have been his second term of service to the Town in that capacity;

WHEREAS, as the result of the unfortunate passing of Everett D. Madden there exists a vacancy on the Town Board pending a future special election;

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to fill that vacancy following its consideration of possible persons to sit in that role;

WHEREAS, Tammy Madden is a long-time resident of the Town of Stephentown and was married to Everett D. Madden for 42 years and during that marriage helped raise four children in Stephentown and is now the grandmother of five;

WHEREAS, Tammy Madden has been a prominent and leading member of the Stephentown community, including having served as an officer and an emergency medical technician for the Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department, during that time assisting at countless musters, block dances, dinners and other Fire Department events;

WHEREAS, Tammy Madden has also served the Stephentown community by being a current member of the Board of the Stephentown Historical Society;

WHEREAS, Tammy Madden, a track and field state champion during while in high school in Vermont, has also served the greater Stephentown community by at one time assisting the Berlin High School Track and Field team;

WHEREAS, Tammy Madden, a graduate of Hudson Valley Community College, helped operate Madden's Service Center for many years with her late husband Everett, and also worked at Jiminy Peak, Berkshire Farm Center and Darrow School;

WHEREAS, a person of many talents, Tammy is skilled at making crafts, quilts and beautiful cakes for friends and families and even delivered a baby who is now a missionary around the world;

WHEREAS, following careful consideration, it is the collective belief of this Town Board that Tammy Madden, who meets all qualifications to serve on the Town Board, is also uniquely qualified to fill the enormous shoes left by Everett D. Madden;

WHEREAS, Tammy's reputation is of a person that is always the first person to help when she sees that someone needs help and, in furtherance thereof, Tammy has agreed to serve the residents of the Town by serving on the Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Tammy Madden is hereby appointed, pursuant to Town Law section 64(5) effective immediately, to the Town Board for a term that shall end on December 31, 2024.

Motioned By: Supervisor Roder

Seconded By: Council Clark

Votes: 4 Aye 0 Nay

Supervisor Roder executed the Oath of Office to Council Tammy Madden. Council T. Madden joins the Town Board at the podium for official Town business.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

- Claim #1-24 through #38-24 in the amount of **\$58,345.88 to be approved from the General Account**
- Claim #1-24 through #16-24 in the amount of **\$26,964.87 to be approved from the Highway Account**
- For a **Total of \$85,310.75** audited and approved by the Town Board.

MOTION BY: CLARK **SECONDED BY: KIDNEY**
VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

Minutes of the **December 18, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting** were approved by the Town Board as written.

MOTION BY: KIDNEY **SECONDED BY: CLARK**
VOTES OF: 3 AYE 0 NAY 2 ABSTAINED (MADDEN, DEFREEST)

Minutes of the **JANUARY 1, 2024 Organizational Meeting** were approved by the Town Board as written.

MOTION BY: KIDNEY **SECONDED BY: CLARK**
VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 1 ABSTAINED (MADDEN)

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: The Town Clerk turned over the sum of **\$1,760.55** to the Supervisor for the month of **DECEMBER 2023**.

JUSTICE COURT REPORT: The distribution from the office of the State Comptroller, Justice Court Fund to the Town of Stephentown for the month of **November** was **1,177.00**.

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: The Transfer Station deposited a total of **\$13,459.00** for the month of **DECEMBER 2023**.

Bags: \$11,807.00	C&D & Metal: \$1,250.00	Tires: \$57.00
Stickers: \$360.00	Appl. & Electronics: \$60.00	Propane Tanks: \$0

ACCOUNT TOTALS:

GENERAL \$875,335.29	HIGHWAY \$785,860.91
GENERAL RESERVE FUND \$859,481.02	HIGHWAY RESERVE FUND \$655,384.29
BEACON ESCROW \$ 885.19	BEACON ESCROW FOR PLANT (BOND) \$5,000 & \$70,000
ARPA \$192,434.96	

Supervisor Roder reported a Sale Tax check was received roughly \$104k, mortgage check was roughly \$27k, which was lower than expected. Rough end of the year numbers for 2023 look pretty good, for the General fund roughly \$50k to the good and for the Highway roughly \$89k to the good. NYSEG has been great with communicating during the recent power outages. Still have some folks without power. The County provided water and dry ice on Saturday. There is an error with the Berlin School District School Taxes. It is affecting those mainly with ESCROWS. Spoke to the School Board, they reported that the County will be issuing new bills and all late fees will be waived. There was 362 residents affected in Stephentown alone, there are other Town's in this district that will see the impact as well.

Assessor VanDeusen reported that if it wasn't caught mortgage payments will go up after an ESCROW Analysis.

Town Clerk Hoffman reported that anyone with Rocket Mortgage or Quicken will hopefully be sorted out before they run the ESCROW Analysis in November for New York State.

Supervisor Roder reported that the Tax Office is unable to accept partial payments, which also becomes an issue and some residents who paid with check or cash it may have affected as well. Please pay attention to your tax bills and what you have paid.

Superintendent Goodermote reported out on the winter storms and that Firetower Road is still without power.

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD AND TOWN OFFICES:

RESOLUTION #21-24

TOWN APPOINTMENTS FOR VACANT POSITIONS

WHEREAS: certain appointments by the Town Board are necessary to conduct the town business for 2024, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the following one (1) year appointments be made, expiring Dec.31, 2024;

Transfer Station Substitutes:

1. Gene Mikit
2. Phyllis DeFreest
3. Robert Marigliano

And a Planning Board Member (5 year Term to expire Dec. 31st, 2028): Derrick Gardner

and further be it,

RESOLVED: that the Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for all vacant positions. Letters of interest and resumes are due to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 11:00AM on Friday, February 9, 2024.

MOTION BY: RODER

SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

**RESOLUTION NO. 22 OF THE YEAR 2024 OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF DETERMINATION ON FREY FOIL APPEAL**

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been designated to serve as the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Appeal Officer;

WHEREAS, the Town Board is in receipt of such an appeal by Marc Frey, dated January 2, 2024 and received via first-class mail on January 3, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board hereby authorizes the issuance of a decision denying the aforementioned FOIL appeal and authorizes Town Supervisor Philip Roder to execute said determination on behalf of the Town Board.

MOTION BY: MADDEN

SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reminder to All Participants who would like to speak: please raise your hand prior to speaking and announce your name and the Town you are a resident of. There is a 3-to-5-minute window for each speaker per Resolution 1 of the fiscal year any disruptive conduct will be addressed at any meeting if the Town Board is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible. The Chair (Town Supervisor) may recess the meeting or order the person, group or groups of persons willfully disrupting the meeting to leave the meeting or to be removed from the meeting. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board, repetitiously addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board from conducting its business.

Library Director Roppolo reported that the Library had power and opened early and stayed open late for

folks. Provided a Youth Commission update – 2/2 was Teen Night – Chinese New Year theme. Working on a date for Easter Party, was wondering if there was any update on the Fire Hall and the usage for Summer Camp.

Supervisor Roder reported that he spoke with Henry Zwack on using the Pavilion for the Summer Camp. We will still rent porta potties. They were looking to get power at the pavilion, we may need to put up a temporary fence to block the creek. Reported that he would be sending out an email to both K. Roppolo and H. Zwack to come up with a plan for camp and particular dates on using the building.

Library Director Roppolo inquired if they would be willing to allow campers to use the building in the event of bad weather, and is the Kitchen available to store the food from the County Food Program.

Supervisor Roder believes they are willing to allow the usage of the facility in the event of bad weather, hoping the electricity will be installed before camp starts and the Town can purchase a Refrigerator.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:00PM

MOTION BY: RODER

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF:

5 AYE

0 NAY

0 ABSTAINED

The next **Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168.

The next **Regular Meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM** at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168.

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk