

TOWN OF ROSENDALE
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM followed by the pledge. A moment of silence was observed for Raymond T. Hines and Eleanor M. Meigel.

Present:	Supervisor	Jeanne L. Walsh
	Councilmember	Ashley Sweeney
	Councilmember	Carrie Wykoff
	Councilman	Kenneth Hassett

Excused:	Councilman	Joseph Havranek
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Supervisor Walsh congratulated all the local officials who won and Marc Cassidy.

Public Comments/Community Events – Supervisor Walsh said there are some people who would like to make a comment and be advised this is not a Public Hearing for the Safety Tower.

Bill Harkin – Susan Street – He said he was shocked that he was just finding out about the cell tower proposal. He said that he understood that there are limited legal reasons for notice of this proposal. Supervisor Walsh said this project is in the planning stages and anytime something like this happens we are not going to put information out to the public until the public hearing happens. She said the County is saying this will happen sometime in January. Supervisor Walsh said she did know that there is a public good clause that the County is talking about, but the town will also make sure that the neighbors are notified. This is something that the Planning Board does for things and even though it's not going to the Planning Board the town can still take this step. Bill asked if this was regarding the publication for the public. Supervisor Walsh said yes so that the town knows it doesn't pass anyone by.

Connie Harkin – Susan Street – She said she has lived here for 35 years, and she said it would have been nice if they were notified about the balloon test as a common courtesy as the town's neighbors are a little disappointed. She said she is glad to hear that the town will keep everyone notified of what is going on in the future. Connie also asked how many cell towers are going to be in a residential neighborhood. Supervisor Walsh said she knows they have talked about putting cell service on the town, but it is not a cell tower it is a radio tower for emergency services. This is so that the emergency personnel can communicate with each other so that is a different kind of process and that's why this is a county project, and the notifications are in their hands, everything's been in their hands. They approached the town and had no knowledge of what was going on until they told the town. The town is going along these steps at the same time as the public. Bill Harkin asked if it is being pushed as a radio tower. Supervisor Walsh said it is a radio tower. Bill Harkin said that it is going to be a cell tower and Connie Harkin asked if the town is going to get money from the carriers. Supervisor Walsh said that must be negotiated with the council. She also said that there will be room for 2 cell service companies. It is a radio tower and if the cell service does not happen

the tower would be there anyway. Supervisor Walsh said this started back when hurricane Irene hit and there was not good communication. Emergency services were all operating blind without any communication. Councilman Hassett said there are a total of 4 radio towers in the area and the whole idea is to interconnect these towers throughout the county. He said in our area down the hill from here is a dead spot and can't have any communication with anyone on the other side of the hill. Connie Harkin also said that there have been comments about bats in the area and to be aware. Supervisor Walsh said every project in Rosendale the bats are always evaluated because there are endangered species here.

Aubrey Van Aken – Susan Street – She said every time she has talked to Dennis Doyle, he doesn't want to answer any of her questions. She said she did thank him because he called her about rescheduling the balloon test. Dennis also told her about the public hearing in January. She said she would like to know ahead of time what was going on before it was too late. She also said she has asked Dennis what other places they have looked, and he couldn't answer her questions. Aubrey asked if they looked at the Community College or other higher points. She is also concerned this is going to be used as cell towers all well. Supervisor Walsh said that cell service is also needed. Aubrey said she wants everyone to think that this isn't their backyard. Councilmember Wykoff said that it is the backyard of this facility. Supervisor Walsh said she understands everyone's concerns and is listening to what everyone has to say, but this is something that is proposed to the town. The County came to the town because they felt this was the best site along with several other places in the County and the town must entertain it because she was here during Hurricane Irene and it is not just the Fire Departments, it's the Highway Departments, Police Departments and ambulances. There are people that can't get service during an emergency and that is the reason the County presented this to the town. There have been changes that the town asked for in the design and their plan. Supervisor Walsh said she is willing to let everyone express their concerns, but it will be important for everyone to attend the Public Hearing because that is when everything goes on record for the project. Supervisor Walsh said she can make a list of the questions so she can talk to the County, but she must go to them as well. The town must work with the County as well and Supervisor Walsh said she has been approached by the Highway Department and Police Department that the town needs to have better communication. The town also must consider their needs as well. Supervisor Walsh said they must weigh the public good with the concerns everyone has. Councilman Hassett said the town can make a commitment that this is going to be a transparent process as it moves forward to get the information. He also said if the town gets more information prior to the Public Hearing it will be put on the website. Supervisor Walsh said she is not sure of what the regulations are when something is considered public good as far as notifications are concerned, but the town can say they will notify everyone in the neighborhood.

Marc Cassidy – Rosendale Resident - asked if this tower falls under the town communication act. Supervisor Walsh said she did not know. Marc said the Planning Board voted to not allow cellular communication companies to continue to put up their devices on the tower. Supervisor Walsh said she thinks it's based on if there is another place it can be put then they can't put it there. Marc said that there was a problem with a cancer cluster. Councilman Hassett asked if this was the Maple Hill Tower. Marc said yes. Councilman Hassett said he thinks it was around 1999 there was a cancer

concern about a cancer cluster in that area. There was a study done and identified cancer in that area, but a conclusion was made that there was not one common answer.

Barbara Weyent – Cottekill Road – Barbara said from what she heard this seems already decided. Supervisor Walsh said nothing is decided and there is no contract and is just a study. The two towns passed a resolution that would allow the County to do a study. Right now, the County has permission to come on the property and do the test holes, a balloon test and to look and evaluate to design something that might go there. Barbara asked if the eminent domain being employed here. Supervisor Walsh said the two towns own it together about 35 acres. Barbara asked if there would be lights on it since it will be 190 feet high. Supervisor Walsh said until the plans are done the town won't know and there are probably regulations that must be followed. Barbara said she values the unpolluted light sharp theater of the sky. Supervisor Walsh said there is a code in the town about dark sky compliance and will be investigated. Barbara said since it is going to be 190 feet high and there are other higher sites. Supervisor Walsh said they are not going to identify someone's property and since this is town owned, they looked here. Supervisor Walsh said she is sure the County has looked at several locations and the balloon test must be done to do the visual part of it.

Marisa Podes – Cottekill Road – Marisa said she was disappointed to find out about everything by hearing the noise of digging for the soil tests. She said she knows there is going to be a Public Hearing and there was a public hearing that is listed on the town website. Supervisor Walsh said there was not a public Hearing, it was just a presentation at a Town Board Meeting. Supervisor Walsh said a Public Hearing is where the Public can engage and a presentation is someone presenting something to the Town Board. Supervisor Walsh said the town's diligence was done, which is putting it on the website and Facebook and having the balloon test advertised. The Public Hearing is about listening to these kinds of comments and evaluating the pros and cons. Marisa said it is very challenging navigating the website. Supervisor Walsh said she explained to her where to go and Marisa replied if she hadn't spoken to her, she wouldn't know where to go. Supervisor Walsh said the public notices are posted on a weekly basis and anyone who is interested on what is going on in the town should take some time periodically and look at the public notices and find some of these things happening. The Town Clerk said there is a subscribe button at the top of the website and anything that is posted will get emailed to them. Marisa said asked once the County comes and presents to the town will the town and Marbletown be deciding. Supervisor Walsh replied when the County comes back everything about the project should be known at the time and there will be a Public Hearing so all questions can be answered. She said right now the town doesn't have all the answers as they are looking into everything. Public hearings are very important because that is the time the public can come forward with anything they need to speak about. Supervisor Walsh said modifications can be made to make it more palatable and that is what happens during a public hearing. Marisa said she thinks everyone understands there is a need for it and there is a lack of cell service and 911 needs everyone to be safe, but she feels there are other locations. Supervisor Walsh said the balloon test may show that it may not be very visible in the middle of a 35-acre parcel.

Patchin Podes – Cottekill Road – Patchin said this location use to be a nice quiet school and shut down by 3:00 PM and now there are 2 town halls, Police Department, Courthouse, Board Meetings,

Pickleball and Rich Parate is saying the towns want to put a highway garage up. Patchin said he was woken up last week by the construction of the cell tower. He asked how many entities can be put on this piece of property. Supervisor Walsh said it is town property and the infrastructure that is needed for the town to function. He asked if there was a time at night that everything shuts down. Supervisor Walsh said if there is a storm or something the Highway would be going out and about, but the Police Department doesn't operate overnight, and the building isn't being used in the middle of the night.

Tim Williams – Michael Drive – He asked if there was an agreement. Supervisor Walsh said there is no agreement. He asked if there will be designs by the time of the public hearing. He asked if there were any studies done on property value. Supervisor Walsh said that is not a typical thing that is done and right now they are looking at what construction needs to be done to put the tower there.

Paul Fargione – Risa Lane – Paul asked if there is going to be more than one public hearing. Supervisor Walsh said it can be asked to keep the public hearing open, but as far as she knows there is only one. Sometimes it is kept open for a period for written comments. Everything that is needed to know about the project will be at the public hearing.

The Town Clerk opened the Tax Cap Override Public Hearing at 6:44 PM. Supervisor Walsh said the cap is going over this year due to increases in insurance and retirement and to have an ambulance service.

The Town Clerk opened the High Falls Water District Budget Public Hearing at 6:46 PM.

The Town Clerk opened the Town of Rosendale Budget Public Hearing at 6:48 PM.

Supervisor Walsh asked if anyone had any comments with no response. Supervisor Walsh went through the changes made to the budget with the Town Board.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to hire Melinda Wright as Deputy Tax Collector at \$18.00 per hour per diem effective 1/2/2025, 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to hire Matthew Alberta as Laborer at \$18.50 per hour for 40 hours per week effective 11/12/2024, 2nd by Councilman Hassett. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to hire Nathanael Burger as MEO at \$19.00 per hour for 40 hours per week effective 11/12/2024, 2nd by Councilman Hassett. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to accept the resignation of Travis Merrick from Police effective 10/29/2024, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to accept the resignation of Gary Jacobson from the ZBA effective 2/28/2024, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

1. Speaker – Lisa Jerkowski – Site Plan for Viking Run; Supervisor Walsh is everything was in order for the event. Chief Sharrfrick said that they are short on manpower but will make it work though an email. Supervisor Walsh asked if they had permission from the St. Peters Church as there has been a lot of parking issues there. Lisa said yes, they did get approval. Supervisor Walsh asked to get something in writing, so the town has it on file. Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve the Viking run with the fee being waved and a letter of approval from the St. Peter’s Church, 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
2. Speaker – Ann Sarrantonio – Site Plan Frozendale – Supervisor Walsh asked if there was a list of who is having what that day. Ann said yes, she will get all the information to us in a flyer. Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve Frozendale with the fee waived and getting a flyer of events, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
3. Resolution 11-2024-#1 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Water & Sewer Clerk to accept any payments received up until November 1, 2024, and those accounts will be removed from the attached list, 2nd by Councilman Hassett. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
4. Resolution 11-2024-#2 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Barton & Loguidice for supplement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project, 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
5. Resolution 11-2024-#3 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Agreement with Barton & Loguidice for the Sand Hill Water Tank Replacement Project, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
6. Resolution 11-2024-#4 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the lease agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions for the Town Hall, 2nd Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.
7. Resolution 11-2024-#5 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the rental agreements with Uniforms, USA Inc., 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override at 7:19 PM, 2nd by Councilman Hassett. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the High Falls Water District Budget at 7:21 PM, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Town of Rosendale Budget at 7:23 PM, 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to audit bills, 2nd by Councilmember Sweeney. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

AUDIT OF BILLS

GENERAL FUND	ABSTRACT 11	VOUCHER #315-357	\$50,684.58
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HIGHWAY FUND	ABSTRACT 11	VOUCHER #168-183	\$17,763.45
	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHER #314	\$70,778.92
WATER FUND	ABSTRACT 11	VOUCHER #135-150	\$3,380.95
SEWER FUND	ABSTRACT 11	VOUCHER #123-136	\$1,574.69
RMC FUND	ABSTRACT 11	VOUCHER #189-793	\$427.28

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE:
4 YES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Donald
Town Clerk