

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
February 9, 2018 commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Joseph Giordano, Supervisor  
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman  
Dorcey Crammond, Councilwoman  
Dave Woods, Councilman  
Matthew Fuller, Town Attorney  
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

**Absent:** Wayne Taylor, Councilman

**Others:** Jim Major, Jim Cawley, Mark Wright, John Bartlett, Bob Streeter, Adam Barber, Michael Watts, Dakota O'lcott, Adam Hurlburt, Jody Belden, Sal & Lori Barnao, Karla Vigliotti, Matt Watts, Bob Dedrick, Chad Jordan, Keeley-Rose Jordan, Jeff Cook, Dick Holroyd, Maria & Herb Tedford, Mitch Cole, Kara Blanchard, Peggy Robbins, Dick Patnode, Vic LaVallie, John Sharkey, Police Officer's Aaron Bush and Dennis Towne, and others.

Supervisor Giordano opened the meeting with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and continued with the following statement of apology.

This past Monday, I listened to those gathered in this room, who came to speak on behalf of Mike LaVallie. Your words and emotions did not fall on deaf ears. Since then, I have engaged in numerous conversations as I have worked to better understand the perspectives of what transpired.

As your elected supervisor, you have entrusted me with the care in handling our Town's day-to-day business affairs. I do not take this job lightly, as I am aware of the future implications which follow from my decisions as well as those brought before the Town Board. However, just as you have placed your trust in me, so too do I place my trust in my department heads and likewise they in their staff. The heated argument between Mike LaVallie and myself on January 29<sup>th</sup> was a result of having just learned moments earlier of his violation of the policy making authority of the Town Board, especially following his letter of resignation of interim police chief two weeks prior. I was in dismay, my emotions were raw and I reacted accordingly. It was a very human response. I know of Mike's reputation in his hometown, through the many people who have spoken to his upstanding character. At a time of crisis, he stepped up to the challenge of providing hope and some semblance of stability for a department that has had numerous setbacks prior to and during my tenure. I, too, am a hopeful person, always seeking to find long-standing solutions to challenges. It would not be an overstatement to say that the Ticonderoga Police Department has not functioned like a well-run organization for some time. And no amount of quick fixes are going to elevate the performance and function of this department without careful consideration of the current inner personnel dynamics, how they originated and evolved, and how each can be rectified moving forward. In a short seven months, we dealt with a multitude of personnel matters as well as a 5-month-long contract negotiation. It has been a roller-coaster ride for the officers as well as for their management. More importantly it has affected the level of service that our constituents expect from their tax-dollars.

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While Mike's and my vision for the future of this department may align, our approach to reaching that vision has not. As an example, it is true that the idea of designating an officer to solely handle investigations had been discussed and generally agreed upon, however, the terms and conditions of the pilot program had yet to be defined and approved prior to placing an officer into that assignment. Unfortunately, the handling of numerous issues over this time had taken its toll on our working relationship resulting in a breakdown in our communication.

Despite being upset on January 29<sup>th</sup>, I could have responded to this matter in a more appropriate manner. Mike's contribution to this community is numerous and valued, and I deeply regret the hurt and the way that Mike's departure from his interim police chief position here in Town came to an end.

As I indicated at Monday's Special Town Board meeting, I reached out to Mike and he responded, he was unable to talk at that time.

Introduction of new Officers Aaron Bush and Dennis Towne

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Zone 9 Police Academy graduated 12 new officers to our region and specifically two officers to the Ticonderoga Police Department. It is my honor this evening to present to you Patrolman Aaron Bush and Patrolman Dennis Towne and to share a few remarks from their ceremony.

I am a firm believer that we have the ability to create our destiny. That destiny is shaped by what we learn and what we practice. The academy has a tradition of selecting two individuals and for each to give a speech during graduation. The first speaker chosen by the newly graduated officers was one of their instructors. This year it was Detective Charlie Scott, who is nearing retirement this spring. Naturally, he reflected on his professional life spent in law enforcement and offered the following four pieces of advice to the new officers entering into service. First, as officers, your ability to think through a situation, especially when every second counts is critical to your success, so continue to develop and hone your muscle memory. Second, routine training is essential to your growth in law enforcement. Like many fields, education and experience build off each other as tactics are always evolving. Thirdly, find a healthy hobby or outlet in your off-hours to balance the stress that you will inevitably encounter while on duty. Practicing healthy activities is crucial to relieving stress so to maintain focus on the job. Lastly, your support system throughout all of your life is your family. They nurture you and you them. So, take care of them and they will of you.

The second speaker is the class leader, who is elected by his peers. This year's class leader is our very own Officer Towne. I have asked him to provide to me his speech to include in these minutes as I was moved by his eloquence in characterizing why he chose to become a police officer and what this job means to him. It was well-written and well-presented and I would encourage you to take the time to read them for yourself. Mostly, I want to convey my enthusiasm at the inspiration that you both bring to our Town and our Police Department. You represent the next generation of Ticonderoga Police Officers. Leadership knows no title. It presents itself to those willing and able to take

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the reins and inspire others to follow. Our department welcomes what you have to offer. And we thank you for rising to the challenge of serving and protecting our community.

Good afternoon; I'd like to welcome friends, family and esteemed guests to the 36th Commencement of the Zone 9 Police Academy. I'd like to start with a parable made by Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, made famous by the cinema "American Sniper."

"There's three types of people in the world: sheep, wolves and sheepdogs. Some people prefer to believe that evil doesn't exist in the world and if it ever darkened their doorstep they wouldn't know how to protect themselves. Those are the sheep. Then you've got the predators who use violence to prey on the weak. They are the wolves. And then there are those who are blessed with the gift of aggression, an overpowering need to protect the flock. These are the rare breed who live to confront the wolf. They are the sheepdogs." 6 months ago, the 11 individuals beside me made the conscious decision to protect "the flock" and become "sheepdogs."

Although this endeavor was not easy by any means, I, along with my fellow recruits would not hesitate to say this was a dream come true. The early morning PT and DT sessions; running in formation for miles, navigating Plattsburgh's city streets to diving onto the mat, sparring and handcuffing to exhaustion. We would get up battered and bruised, but were expected to do it all over again the next day. It was mind over matter. This training made us stronger and showed us the limits that our bodies can be pushed to. Physical fitness was an everyday requirement and regarded as a class of imperative importance because we were taught that although the duty belts we wear are equipped with an array of tools, not every fight is a gunfight, physical health is key.

The Police Academy is just the glossary to the book of Law Enforcement. Nevertheless hundreds of hours were spent in class studying Criminal Procedural Law, Penal Law, Vehicle and Traffic Law and many other topics required to become a Police Officer. It is up to us now to keep up on this rapidly evolving career. The highlights of the Academy were no doubt Range

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where thousands of rounds were fired to ensure our excellence with the weapons we are issued. Police Vehicle Operations, where countless hours of evasive maneuvers were performed so we can respond quickly and safely to those in distress. Active shooter class was an adrenaline rush, but also an eye opener. Being equipped with simunition rounds the stress of clearing rooms, stair cases and motor vehicles not knowing what's around the corner and the reality, being on your own has an effect on you even though it's a controlled environment. Here it was shown that having the ability to make quick decisions is key in this profession. Lastly, everyone's favorite day, more so the instructors was the day we learned how 2,000,000 scovill heat units felt like on O.C. day.

Being a Police Officer takes a lot of dedication, but I want to recognize the families and friends of these Officers in the audience. The sacrifices you will make because of their profession will test you. There will be nights you will have to sleep alone, plans made in advance, be cancelled and hot meals prepared, go cold. You will miss them on holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. You will have to endure hardships other families do not experience, but you are not like other families now, you are part of the Thin Blue Line Family.

I would also like to recognize the reality of this profession, the truth. A topic that isn't generally spoken of and that is the mental impact a career in Law Enforcement may have on a person. An unknown author stated "Those who fight monsters inevitably change." The person you see today will not be the same, what they are exposed to is not what an average person experiences in a lifetime. The compilation of incident after incident takes a toll. The peacekeepers become capable of some of the same characteristics as the monsters they face: rage, violence, lack of empathy and remorse. The difference is they keep those tendencies concealed, locked away in the depths of themselves and the only time these attributes are shown is to protect others and complete the task at hand.

The problem is, those "monster tendencies" can cause damage. A Police Officer is like a sponge, they absorb traumatic events and the stigma is that they're not to show emotion since it's

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seen as a sign of weakness. What I ask of you in the audience is if you see someone fighting from within' don't push them away, bring them in with love, empathy and guide them to the appropriate assistance that is needed. Sometimes the rescuers need the rescuing.

Some ask: why do it if you know the risk? The answer is simple: being a cop isn't just a job or just a paycheck. Being a cop is a calling. Something that was wired into our psyche long before this moment. We believe that helping others and confronting wrong doers is honorable, noble and just. The possible risks are implied and we are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for this belief.

Although there are negative risks to this career the good supersedes the bad by far. in my five weeks of field training I'd catch myself saying "I can't believe I'm getting paid to do this." You are truly contributing to something larger than yourself. You are looked up to by the young, old and you are trusted by them. You are perceived as a role model and held to a higher standard than the average citizen. You are there to help others. whether it's pushing a car out of a snow bank, changing a flat tire, giving a warning at a traffic stop or seeking justice for a victim of a crime. You are indebted to your community. Seldomly is it recognized, but we are also there to save lives. The individual who was just given a traffic ticket changed their reckless driving habit, That drunk driver who was stopped at that check point, was taken off the road before they could collide into another vehicle. That person who was about to rob a store decided not to because your patrol vehicle drove by, and that man who collapsed at home received CPR before EMT's arrived and came back to life. In Matthew's gospel, Chapter 5, Verse 9 from the words of Lord Jesus it states: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." We're doing God's work. We truly have the greatest job on Earth.

On August 14, 2017 we came into this academy as 12 separate individuals, but today we stand together as brothers and sisters in Law Enforcement. This academy was a melting pot of members in law enforcement that dedicated their time to ensure we got professional training. From the beat cops walking the city streets, the State Troopers from the highway, the ENCON Officers in the woods and the Forest Rangers in the High Peaks; they all converged on this

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academy and helped us because we now fall within' the Thin Blue Line. I want to thank them all including Academy Director Ron Santor, the Staff of the Zone 9 Police Academy along with Chief of Police Ken Parkinson and the Plattsburgh City Police Department, without them this wouldn't be possible.

Fellow recruits, we are moments away from receiving that badge, the shield of honor that protects our hearts, symbolizes our communities and the duty to serve and protect them. This badge carries with it great responsibility and now our lives are not our own, but at the public's call. Remember the oath you took and why you chose this profession. You have to breathe it, love it and be prepared to die for it. You are all that stands between order and chaos. I want to thank my fellow Officers for nominating me as your class leader, it has been an honor. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and friendships that will last a lifetime. Congratulations to the Graduates of the 36th Session of the Zone 9 Police Academy. As Sergeant Santor said: "Welcome to the greatest show on earth, you've got a front row seat

Message from Police Chief Mike Mawn for Town Board Meeting 2/8/18

I had hoped to attend the meeting today but cannot due to illness. I asked that the following statement be read into the minutes.

Six months ago your Town Board invested in 2 new Police Officers. Both residents of this town .This investment paid off quite well as before you stands the hope of the Ticonderoga Police Department going forward. These guys are already out in the streets making a difference. As the new Chief I bring my 25 years of police experience to the position and am very encouraged by the direction the department is headed. With support from Ticonderoga residents and the continued support of the Town Board, we expect to accomplish great things in the very near future, for the benefit of everyone. Thank You.

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Letter of appreciation - Highway Department

*Stephanie F. Mitchell  
P.O. Box 254  
Ticonderoga, New York 12883*

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Joseph M. Giordano  
Ticonderoga Town Supervisor  
132 Montcalm Street  
Ticonderoga, New York 12883

Dear Supervisor Giordano,

I feel compelled to write today to commend to you the outstanding service I have witnessed this past week by our Ticonderoga Highways Department.

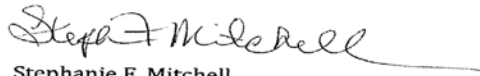
Not only did they do a fine job on Super Bowl night, missing one of the greatest games ever, but also now today with one of the largest storms this year! They are out in force and top-notch shape working to clear our roads and keep us safe. They are simply outstanding.

As I am sure you know, the highways department of any town can make or break it. It can be expensive and there can be mistakes. Nothing is ever perfect for everyone. That being said, your team demonstrates 110% effort and intent to do what is right and good. I have driven and seen the results. I have also seen your exhausted workers when I took them cinnamon cake to thank them the morning after the Super Bowl. First responders are never appreciated enough. And so I lift them up to you on behalf of many who felt so much appreciation after the Super Bowl storm.

Finally, I would like to say that without a strong highways department clearing and maintaining our roads, nothing happens. Our first responders cannot respond. Our businesses cannot operate. Our government cannot happen, and our children's education cannot happen. Those are the most obvious groups affected. And, as we are a large tourist area, it is important that we keep a strong presence regarding clean roads, maintenance and professional performance and visibility.

I have only been here a short while, less than a year in fact. But having lived in many states with a lot of snow, I can say that I am proud of our highways department. I feel safe and so thankful. I felt it important to write and let you know.

Sincerely,



Stephanie F. Mitchell

Councilman Woods added that it is not only what they are doing on the roads, there is a lot of prep and maintenance that goes into this before just preparing for these storms. He was up there the other day and it is just mass confusion trying to get stuff ready for the storm and that is part of keeping our roads clean, the preparation.

The Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce mixer always seems to fall on our regularly scheduled Thursday night board meeting so they wanted to make mention to all here that if this meeting ends early, you can join the Chamber at the Co-op from 5:30 to 7:30 and also wanted to share: When we shop our town, we grow our town and when we support our neighbors and local establishments we all win. It is our hope that you will join us at the Co-op this evening and continue to grow the many investments that we have right here in Ticonderoga.

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There will be a Disc Golf presentation at the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

Public Comment

Jeff Cook wanted to thank you for the apology, for what that is towards Mike, he has several questions in regards to Mike. When the phone call was made and the ultimatum was given to him to resign or be fired, was (again it was discussed Tuesday) that was done on your own, that wasn't done with discussing it with the Town Board from what you said....

Supervisor Giordano stated that he has numerous conversations with the Town Board and had two conversations with Mike that day...

Mr. Cook continued, when you called him up ....the first time.....

Supervisor Giordano stated that he had talked to some of the Town Board members.....

Mr. Cook stated that they talked with three of the Town board members that are here tonight and two of them said they didn't know about it...

Supervisor Giordano added that he had talked about them scheduling a special meeting to discuss what had transpired....

Mr. Cook stated ok, when you called him and told him that either resign or be fired they didn't know what the specifics of it was.

Supervisor Giordano stated that he had spoken to two or three other individuals of the authority a supervisor has regarding a situation such as this when people have disregarded the rules of the Town Board.

Mr. Cook continued .... during your apology as you said that you and Mike had discussed the investigator position a number of times and said something that you had come basically to an agreement about it, it was just that things hadn't been finalized.

Supervisor Giordano stated that we had agreed upon a need for an investigator, but we had not agreed upon other aspects of that.....

Mr. Cook asked if at anytime had you told Mike specifically to not do that?

Supervisor Giordano stated that he did not, as he recalls, did not do that, but he also did not seek his approval to do that and did not have the authority to do that .....

Mr. Cook agrees that he could not appoint somebody, he could assign somebody as apparently the Chief presently has assigned somebody to do exactly that...

Supervisor Giordano noted that there is a MOA on that .....



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Mr. Cook stated that the Chief has assigned somebody to do what Mike was threatened to be fired for, and he is presently doing that.....that was the explanation Tuesday in talking to you is if this matter of semantics meant - or the Chief has no position to appoint somebody, but he can assign somebody something, so that is exactly what is happening right now with the current Chief of Police is he is assigning somebody to do investigations, he is not appointing somebody, appointment would be through this board as a collective unit - not one individual. So the point is, when a individual on a board makes a decision so to speak like that, to the best of his knowledge, it is VOID and he thinks the town lawyer, maybe not right now, but can talk to you individually about that, as far as any one board member.... he knows when he was on the board, there were a couple of different things where one board member chose to do something and he looked into it and found out that even the supervisor is one vote on the board except for budget stuff. So the point being is, his resignation was forced, first of all - secondly, it should be VOIDed because of one persons requirement. It wasn't until after his resignation was forced that the letter came to the rest of the board, he doesn't know if it was accepted or whatever the case is, but he doesn't want to see a letter of resignation accepted as simply a letter of resignation and have no background on it. In his opinion it is VOID and he believes if you look in the law it is VOID, it doesn't hold water - the decision. Where you go from there is up to you.

Jim Major noted that when he saw in the minutes that there was going to be an apology he was going to stand up and rip this up, he thought that the apology was more on an attach on Mike as you continue to point out his deficiencies without recognizing what you did was worse and against policy. So he is going to read his letter.

**TO THE TOWN BOARD OF TICONDEROGA**

2/8/2018

Dear Town Board Members

It is with sadness and significant angst that I speak to you today. I feel personally hurt by our town Supervisor's recent action against a family member, not my family, but the family of Ticonderoga.

Ti has a problem. We, like many towns, have drugs and excessive alcohol usage which infects everything we do as a community. Recently a man was found on death's door in the street and apparently had been in a fight. I believe it's true that he was impaired and unfortunately, he later died.

These alcohol related events in the downtown are a nightly event in the evening during the Spring through the Fall and has been of concern to me as damage was also a nightly event. For years I have attempted to work with the police because of these continuing problems. For the first time, we had a Police Chief who was responsive and displayed a no-nonsense attitude towards these issues. I have developed a real appreciation for Mike and his hard work. He is a man who offered

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himself to solve some serious problems **and I believe was** successful at his task.

It's my understanding that Joe got into a heated argument, his words, with Mike and demanded that Mike either resign or be terminated and that he did so before getting authorization from the board. Mike felt so threatened that he resigned immediately. Then, it appears, Joe went to the board to cover his mistake obtaining their authorization to accept his resignation after the fact. It doesn't seem right, rather, it seems a cowardly act covering his own misdeed. **HE HAD NO RIGHT TO FIRE MIKE AND MIKE'S ACTION WAS NOT A FIRABLE OFFENSE**, it was a mistake that could have been corrected. Furthermore, it was a training moment!

Joe, we are a community, a family, and you have trashed a family member without cause. In my view, your actions would be a consideration to fire you because you did not follow procedure, and you showed, and continue to show, a total lack of caring, empathy, or concern for Mike and his reputation. All you have done is put up a wall and refuse to acknowledge your own failure and mistake.

I've tried to support you, explained away mistakes you've made to my friends, but I have lost all faith in you and in your judgment. Without some quick action on your part to fix the problem and the attack on Mike's good name, I will work to either remove you from office and/or help find a strong competitor for the next election.

Please fix it or resign. This town deserves better, the police force deserves better, Mike deserves better.

Thank you.  
Jim Major

Adam Hurlburt explained that he spoke Monday night in regards to Mike's alleged mishap with polices or procedures or whatever you want to call it. You said that you ratified the investigator's position with the new contract and it is out, that is why he's created a new position.

Supervisor Giordano stated that he had appointed the position which had been removed from the new contract.

Mr. Hurlburt stated that the new contract has not been signed so it is not even...

Supervisor Giordano stated that it has been ratified, he actually contacted the union and was told that once it has been ratified by a vote of the officers....

Mr. Hurlburt stated that it hasn't, what he understands is that the Ticonderoga Police Department hasn't accepted your contract...

Supervisor Giordano stated that the contract has been ratified...

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Mr. Hurlburt asked if you are now no longer working off the 2017 contract even though it has not been signed and is not binding...

Supervisor Giordano explained that the 2018-2019 contract is binding because it has been ratified, the formality of signing it comes after, but his understanding in talking with the police union representative and Michael Richardson it is binding from the time that you all had agreed to it...

Mr. Hurlburt thought that there had to be ink on paper in order for it to go forward..

Supervisor Giordano expressed that this is what he had thought also, but it is not the case.

Mr. Hurlburt wanted to clear that up, he did not think that Mike actually violated anything. There still is a clause in there that says he has sole discretion to appoint anybody to whatever position... with consultation (they both agree), he can talk to you all he wants and you can disagree with him, but he can do whatever he wants as the Chief of Police, it is his sole discretion to pick whoever he wants, this has happened before. The board didn't want a certain person and the Chief of Police says, I don't care and he picked who he wanted. You have to go along with it, it is in the collective bargaining unit.

Supervisor Giordano stated that because there is no assignment for investigator in the agreement it is a contract negotiated for terms of conditions.

Mr. Hurlburt asked how would you get in trouble if he did do that, you mentioned something about the union filing an injunction against the town. (Improper practice charge) why would they ever do that when it is something that benefits one of their union members....

Supervisor Giordano explained that you don't own the contract - they (union) do...

Mr. Hurlburt said, ok, - again, if you took something away from one of their members they would come after you, if you give something to one of their members, job well done, they don't have to do anything .....(inaudible). He is sure they would tell you to do a MOA after the fact, but he is sure they wouldn't come down on you and file any type of injunction or try to penalize their members.. The last thing, you guys are doing the same thing that he wanted to do.

Supervisor Giordano explained that he had scheduled the officers.....

Mr. Hurlburt continued... you are telling me that LaVallie had the manpower, he had the funding, but you still didn't agree with his decision to go ahead to do...

Supervisor Giordano stated that he didn't have the ok to do so...

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Mr. Hurlburt stated that this sounds like you are ok to do it, because you are doing it now. The only reason why you are not ok with it is because you didn't get to rubber stamp your name on it.

Supervisor Giordano stated that there were other terms and conditions that were offered that are not in your contract that were going to be in that MOA.

Mr. Hurlburt asked what was offered.

Supervisor Giordano stated compensation, which had not been negotiated.

Mr. Hurlburt agreed that this needs to be approved by the board, you just don't pay him. It could have been done after the fact.

Supervisor Giordano added that there were no terms and conditions that were understood before that person went into that, it is like you taking a job and not knowing what you are getting into....

Mr. Hurlburt stated that he did ..... from an outsider looking in.... he knows he doesn't work for this department anymore, but he is still closely involved and still cares about it and wants to see it succeed. From what he is seeing is, he thinks you were upset because he put his resignation in, you guys were banking on him working here long term, he was also hoping that he was going to be here long term, and when he did this you said alright, I'm done with him.

Supervisor Giordano agreed that he was basically making policy changes as he was heading out.

Mr. Hurlburt believes that you were more made because he was heading out and this was the .....

Supervisor Giordano stated that it was his decision as to what he wanted to do, we had talked about this before, in terms of what his future might or could be in Ticonderoga. He owns the commitment to whether he wanted to stay or not stay..

Mr. Hurlburt wanted to ask one more question - if what Mr. Cook brought up, being your decision, your calling him back saying either be terminated or resign - if you sit with consultation with the lawyer and he says yeah, Jeff's right, you can't do that - how are you going to rectify that? Are you going to offer LaVallie to finish out his time?

Supervisor Giordano stated that he doesn't know that that is right, it is a hypothetical that is unknown.

Jim Cawley started by saying that he spoke the other night and got a little emotional and heated, but he knows you are not from Ticonderoga and probably are not fully versed in how small Town's are, particularly one like Ticonderoga, but in his opinion because we

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are from Ticonderoga and we are from a small town, we have a national treasure here, because we do know everybody, we grew up here, we have a sense of community and how things should work and one of the things that he is very disappointed in you is that this was a situation again that comes down to semantics, you are saying that he didn't have the authority to do this, but the Chief can appoint somebody to do these duties, now as our leader, I would have expected you to say, hey, Mike come to my office, let's discuss this, not have things go in the direction that it went to where that evening at some point you said, you have to resign or be fired. That was completely uncalled for. He heard the letter and appreciates that you said what you said, but the one thing that he did not hear there was, I apologize, Mike. He didn't hear those words come out of your mouth and that is upsetting, because he knows Mike LaVallie and he is probably one of the best people to come out this community in a long time. You know he is on Main Street and he has talked to you, talked to Jim, talked to the police, we have had a lot of problems on Main Street in the last year that he has been there. He has a conservatively million dollars invested on that Main Street, you may not believe that, but he will hand you the map. Now, he had a couple of conversations with Mike, we have a big event coming up in May, we have already exceeded a thousand paid admissions for one weekend. So he is concerned about man power, he is concerned about leadership and he is worried about what is going to happen. He is just disappoint in you, he feels you let a lot of us down, needlessly when you could have just said Mike, you can't appoint somebody, but you can assign them. You should know that as well as the Police Chief. It should have been worked out privately. Instead, it is this big mess, and somebody that we all admire deeply has been smeared. There was an article that came out in the Post Star the other day and one of the first things that was brought up when you read the article is they have to question, was there some impropriety and his current employer has to say, no there wasn't and he is in great standing here. That hurt his reputation and is uncalled for. There is a lot of people in this room and a lot of people in this Town that are calling for your resignation are you aware of that? That is how much we care about people that are from here, these three are all from Ticonderoga and we have known them our whole lives, we have deep respect for you and your office. We don't want to be standing here and having this conversation, but we don't feel right anymore. He is asking you to think about that and the words that we do want to hear from you are, Mike LaVallie, I'm sorry. That is all he has to say right now.

John Bartlett from TMSP needs to change directions here a little bit. We are planning our 4th annual Winter Carnival, this is an event that provides family and kid games and activities that are principally at the Armory building, we collaborate with Silver Bay YMCA, the Festival Guild, Glens Falls National bank and the Arts to put the event on. It is a much needed break for kids to get out and it helps fight cabin fever, weather permitting and based on the weather we have had this week it looks promising for our outdoor activities like ice skating, broomball, snowmobile rides, snowshoeing, sledding. He will leave flyers if interested. (on bulletin board in lobby). The new item this year will be a fireworks display starting at 8:00 p.m. it will be the same vendor used for the 4th of July and set off in the same area. He would like to request the board close the street from Montcalm/Tower Avenue to the street just beyond the NCCC and if possible have the police department set up a detour that goes around NCCC on Cannonball Path.

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**11:00 - 3:00 PM: Carnival & Activities -Ticonderoga Armory &  
Recreational Areas**

Carnival Games, Bouncy House, Pirate Show, Full Face Art, Music, Crafts, Ice Skating, Broomball, Snowshoeing, Sledding, Snowmobile Rides, Snow Painting, Mini-Golf, Giveaways, & More!

*Snowmobile Rides can be accessed next to the Ticonderoga Little League Park. Outdoor activities weather dependent.*

**5:30 - 7:30 PM: Outdoor Campfire & Family Movie Night - Ticonderoga  
Armory**

Outdoor Campfire, Hot Chocolate, S'mores, Popcorn, & Family Movie!

**8:00 PM: Fireworks Over Bicentennial Park**

Fireworks display over Bicentennial Park.

In addition to the park a section of the road above the park will be closed for viewing.

*Kids Pirate Show at 1.1.:00 AM!*

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Outdoor activities are weather dependent. Information subject to change.

Dakota O'lcott would like touch back on the police department issue, he has a few questions or points. On the 6th (February) he submitted a FOIL request in regards to a possible contract with Chief Mawn, on Monday's meeting it was said that he didn't have one. He spoke with a few people and apparently Chief Mawn has told his staff that he has a one year contract, pending his waiver.

Supervisor Giordano doesn't believe that he has said this, it is not true.

Mr. O'lcott continued on Monday we discussed the use of the Police vehicle, he wanted to know what is going to come of that after that meeting and this meeting? He believes that this is not justified. It doesn't make sense to him, why .. he wouldn't want to be an officer in this town at a severe incident and he is coming from Brandt Lake to back him up, that is 30 - 45 minutes. That is a while, your officer could be dead by then to be honest. He just feels that that is not warranted, he feels like that is a waste of taxpayers money. He spoke to a few other people in this community that feel the same, so he wanted to know if this is part of his agreement as Chief to have that vehicle or is this something the town board decided. His last point, for now- Monday we discussed 3 possible police commissioners. He noticed that when talked on Monday that was going to be brought up tonight and it is not on the agenda and he would like to know if that is still being discussed.

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Councilman Woods explained that it was decided to appoint a Police Advisory Committee, he is Chairman of the Public Safety Committee which involves the Police Department so he is on this advisory and would like to appoint two outside members, Margaret Lauman and Jay Fortino. The supervisor is not on it, just those three.

Mr. O'lcott asked why can't someone with past law enforcement experience like Mike LaVallie or Jeff Cook be on the committee.

Councilman Woods explained that this was who he chose, he wanted someone from the Town, Margaret has been on the commission for years, and Jay just retired and he is community oriented and involved and he thought he would be a good choice.

Matt Watts asked when you had your executive session a week ago and you accepted Mike's resignation and appointed Mike Mawn chief, why was the public asked to come into your regular session. You did those appointments in regular session, there were 15 to 20 people standing outside, why were they not asked to come in so this could be public, were you trying to hide something or didn't want public backlash then or....

Supervisor Giordano stated no, given the circumstances under which we had just discussed he just pushed through.....

Mr. Watts asked if you can see how that can be perceived, like you are trying to cover something up....

Supervisor Giordano answered yes, it was not intended that way, it was just very emotional...

Mr. Watts asked when you did this memorandum of agreement, did that go through the board or is it just something that you made up...

Supervisor Giordano answered that this was something that was worked out between our labor relations and the unions bargaining unit. He signed it as a supervisor....

Mr. Watts asked then that this just didn't happen? This has been in the works for a while then. Not just since Mike made the mistake or the wrong terminology - it was already in the works, even though you said it really wasn't..

Supervisor Giordano explained that we had talked about bringing back investigator duties to the department, back when he was here, but as to how we were going to re-introduce that they had not come to an agreement on... that is where it had ended.

Dick Holroyd asked if the people in the Town been notified that the new water system is not going to be of the quality that they have presently? In other words, it is going to be a lot harder water than what they are experiencing right now. We have grade A water right now and that is not up to snuff compared to the Gooseneck and the Lake George Water

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system. Have you notified the people, that some people might not be able to drink it and some might have problems with ...

Supervisor Giordano noted that it is his understanding that it meets all the regulatory requirements for ...

Mr. Holroyd agreed that it can meet them, but it is hard and there is a difference in the quality of water. So it is a difference in what they would be expecting and quite possibly it might affect their water heaters, or something like that. Just like ethanol does to small gasoline motors. How many easements are outstanding in the installation of the pipeline?

Supervisor Giordano is not positive of this number..

Mr. Holroyd explained that at the last meeting, only one person had given permission for an easement. Since the Town is requesting an easement from these people, his advice to them would be let an attorney look at your paperwork and look at it very carefully and make sure it is written to your advantage to the people's advantage as town boards have been known to fudge the truth. If you question that particular statement he can give you a verbatim incident if you want to discuss it tonight. Eminent domain was mentioned if these easements are not signed and brought in on time. Now eminent domain is a very, very nasty word around here. The last eminent domain case lasted many years and cost the town over \$200,000.00. He doesn't know if people realize that eminent domain could be on the table if they don't sign and easement. Is that a possibility, would you take the use of eminent domain if two or three of those people did not sign their easements?

Supervisor Giordano does not know how to comment on this, he does not know the progress being made.

Mr. Holroyd answered ok, but the words were mentioned at the last water meeting. He just wants the people to know that the way the Town seems to fight eminent domain is to take you broke, they keep delaying and delaying and delaying and it costs you money all the time the Town delays. That was the process of the last eminent domain, which they lost. Be very careful about what you sign, because once you sign it, remember that you are giving up your rights to that property, you will now have a partnership on your property and the partnership is the Town of Ticonderoga. So be very, very careful what you sign when these easements come to you. Please, please if you value your home, if you value your property just make sure that there is an attorney involved in the process of you signing. It is not bad to sign them, but it might not be the best thing.

Michael Watts noted that unfortunately, he was not able to attend Monday nights meeting but it was brought to his attention that you denied the termination of Officer Ruby?

Supervisor Giordano can't and shouldn't have commented on a personnel matters.



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Mr. Watts explained that we have seen the letter and he was terminated back then and doesn't know what has transpired since then but he just wanted it to be noted that you were in correct in saying that on Monday night.

Chad Jordan has a few things to say about Mike LaVallie and he will start out by saying that he is the most stand up guy that there is, he is like the last boy scout in this town, and over policies to be cut loose like this he thinks is just a slap in the face. Not just to all these people in here but to the entire town, he has talked to many of people, he has lived here all of his life and his ancestors have been here since the 1830's, he is rooted in this place, deep like Mr. Cawley said. He knows people and they have not had a bad thing to say, we change policies every day, we do it at the fire house, we do it at the EMS and we do it all over. He does not see a reason that is justified or vindicated for this kind of abuse. We have had circuit chiefs here for a while and how do you think we are going to effectively add anything, unfortunately Michael LaVallie (inaudible) the fire police, because he is the Fire Police lieutenant and that is all disrupted and it sets of a chain of events to everybody that Mike works with like Mr. Cawley again. This has touched everybody on down through the schools, and everything, every department that is here has been affected. This is giving the Town Board a bad reputation, you go talk to the average working people, this is a joke, this is a slap in the face, because while you may think that those people out there that work for you are accountable, you are all accountable to us. This is a mistreatment of chiefs and it has happened for years. Further more, he thinks that this is a dictatorship. Anytime when somebody does not agree with somebody over something this piddly; his father always said there is no use crying over spilled milk. To whine and snivel because somebody doesn't agree, no two people are ever going to agree, the fact that Mike LaVallie is rooted here in this area, well liked, again like the last boy scout, everybody in the fire department trusts this guy emphatically and you don't. That scares the hell out of him, quite honestly, to say anything. Further more, he would just like to say that he believes that if it is possible, the police department becomes a police district, if that is possible. If so, that they will have their own district and be completely untied (?) from this board, like the fire department is, like the EMS could be if they became a district. Some thing needs to change because what is done and has been going on for years is not working and it is bothersome to a lot of people here and to force some one to resign over a policy he thinks is just a huge slap in the face.

Bob Dedrick would like to clarify this Advisory Police Committee - yourself (Dave), Jay and Margaret - would you be voiding the sole police commissioner?

Councilman Woods stated that he would stay on as sole police commissioner but he is not a part of this advisory committee. If something came up, we would review it first.

Mr. Dedrick stated that there will be a sole police commission (yes), are the roles .... clarify the roles - the different roles, he doesn't quite understand.... he knows what an advisory is and he knows what a police commissioner is....what are the delegation of duties..

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Supervisor Giordano stated that the sole commissioner is the supervisor, otherwise it is a three person commission. What we have done is the supervisor can create a committee and appoint someone to be the chair of that committee and have official members serve on that committee and provide oversight regarding public safety and police policy.

Mr. Dedrick stated to have a sole person in charge just sends up red flags to him, he just needs to say that.

Councilman Woods stated that the Town Board still has to approve...

Mr. Dedrick agreed but any position that is sole, sole police commissioner - say it over and over, sole police commission just doesn't ring .... to him it isn't right, but that is this board's decision and if that is what you want to live with that is fine. The second thing that he wants to do, he is always looking for a compromise and diplomacy, he thinks that somehow there needs to be some justification to Mike's dismissal. He asked this the other night and will ask again and he is really going to ask for your commitment, when the police chief test is given in March, of course you have to be one of the top three in order to be considered, if Mike LaVallie is one of the top three and he don't know what Mike's plan is, he may just say I don't want to work for the Town of Ticonderoga, that is his business, but if he is one of the top three and you know him very well, Dave, and if he would like to continue as a police chief would you consider him for that position?

The board answered yes.

Supervisor Giordano stated that this is the confusion that he is having because that was the whole plan all along. Mike came to the board back in November during budget season and said I don't want to stay. He continued to serve until we got through the budget season and there was talk about trying to see if we could try to make it work and then he eventually did resign.....

Mr. Dedrick stated well it was an ultimatum....

Supervisor Giordano stated that the first one was not an ultimatum....

Mr. Dedrick agreed yes, you are right and that is fine, there was a resignation in advance and he knew that.. all he cares about, good, right or wrong if he is one of the top three candidates... that is all he cares about....

Supervisor Giordano stated that there are always two sides to these stories and nobody knows this and he doesn't know what Mike has shared but he worked pretty hard to keep him here during those early months, he was even reluctant to assist during this time not knowing how that would be taking on a full-time job and this part-time job all along and it was trying to figure out how to make this work for him in the long term, because he's now committed to a different agency and to come back here, that is something that he has been trying to figure out and we talked numerous times and had lengthy conversations on how to make this work. This is not something that the Town Board said we don't want

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you, Mike has to say that he wanted this. It was a commitment thing on his part to say this is what I want, this is what I would like to do and this is what I would like to get in doing that and that never happened. He knows that you are all here and hitting him and he'll take that, he knows a lot of things that happened, he has his actions as part of this, but there is also another person in this and you have to talk to him to find out what his plan was. It is not that the board said no, we don't want him, of course not. For all the reasons that every one of you has stated in terms of his character, absolutely.

Mr. Dedrick added that if he planned on taking the test in March in the back of his mind, he would have liked to be Chief of Police here in Ticonderoga, that is his gut feeling. Why would you take the test if you didn't want to at least be considered for Chief of Police and he is not going to banter back and forth, he knows why he got done, he thinks in his mind, he would have loved to be a person that has lived in this town, that has always been dedicated and well respected by not only the police department as he said the community. He just wants to make sure that if Mike passes that test and is one of the top three that he is going to be considered.

Councilman Woods explained that he went and saw Mike personally, two or three times, just him and Mike, if he had said that he wanted the position he would have been here in a heart beat. He decided, he was up and down, back and forth, he didn't know whether..... the family commitment or... he said it wasn't a monetary thing, that is what he told him personally, it was more a family thing and then he said he was going to resign. Then he turned in his resignation and said he wasn't going to stay, but if he would have wanted it, he would have been here.

Mr. Dedrick whole heartedly agrees that you tried very hard to do that and Joe too, to keep him here. He is going to hope and pray that Mike passes that test, he is going to pray that Mike is one of the top 3 and he is going to pray that he is going to be our next Chief of Police and he thinks that would be the best thing to happen to this community.

John Sharkey must admit that he hasn't followed this situation until like maybe this past Tuesday, and he doesn't really want to talk about that. He is a deacon at the Cornerstone Alliance Church and he wants people to know that we have been praying for this Town, for our Supervisor, for our Town Board, for our Police Department and what we pray for is that we have effective leadership, you know our leaders should have wisdom, we pray for their safety, and things like that. We pray for their family, and which there is a sacrifice to their lives and their children. So he was heartened by Bob's statement that we need to pray, he is going to be personally praying for them and he would urge everybody to say your prayers. He appreciates your apology, maybe some don't accept it but, Joe, that was a really wise way to settle everybody's emotions, but pray for our community, our departments and our businesses. He prays for our businesses. He just wants you to know that we, our church is praying for you and that is all he wants to say.

Mr. Watts stated that he is not trying to attack you or anything, but he has talked to a lot of department heads and just something for you to take back and think about, the department heads that he has talked to have all had the same thing said to him and that is

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you are micromanaging them. You are micromanaging everything and maybe he is speaking out of place for Mike but that was one of the things that Mike had said, he felt that you were micromanaging everything that he was doing and that was one of the reasons that he was getting done now. He still planned on taking the test, but that was one of the reasons that he was getting done was..... he is sure that there is a lot more to it, like you said there are two sides to every story and the truth is somewhere in the middle, but just something to think about...look back at yourself and think that you know... is there something that I can do different because he has heard that from department heads that have left, and he has heard it from current department heads that this is what is going on and a lot of the issues and stuff. He doesn't work for you, he doesn't see what they are doing or you are doing and stuff, that is just what he is getting for feed back. Thank you.

Bob Streeter stated briefly that his concern in all of this besides from the Mike LaVallie situation which is just... he likes the guy, is that the lines of communication need to be open. We have had for a number of years, no media really to speak of in Town, we are here not and we would like to be part of this community and the other side of that coin is that even though he hasn't lived here for a lot of years, he has stayed in touch with everybody and made a lot of friends, has a lot of friends, he has friends here that go back to kindergarten in this town. He is fairly well connected and to be perfectly honest with you, he probably knew about this situation about 30 seconds after it happened. Which is nice and all that, but he really would have thought that there would have been a press release, there would be some kind of a statement, there would be a phone call, there would be something that said the Town has taken this action and we have a new police chief and instead, none of that happened and we just never really got the information until he had to stick his neck out and say this is what happened. He really didn't want to be put in that position to be perfectly honest with you, it's not what I really want to be doing in his life. He should be out selling advertising, not doing this. So his point is that there should be a line of communication between the board and the media and if he is the only media in town, well that is fine, but he is not really, we have other media. He had hoped some of them would have showed tonight, but again, just, you talk about transparency in the campaign, transparency is one of those things that most often particularly in government transparency happens through the lens of the press. What he can tell you honestly, is that he hasn't enjoyed any of this, in fact he is going to take a step forward and apologize to you Joe, because he got heated and got mad this week and probably said some things that he shouldn't have said and he probably got a little out of line, so he is going to apologize to you just as he hopes in some point in time you can apologize to Mike. He doesn't enjoy any of this, this is not what he came here for, you talked about talking about the good things in Ticonderoga and that has been his plan all along. He reached out when he first came here and talked about wanting to sit down and have a talk of the town and talk about how we are doing good things in this community and that is really where his heart is and really where he wants to spend his time, but he has to be further honest and for whatever reason that he has not been able to find the news director that he had hoped to find for this position and so he has been forced to fill it and he is probably very under qualified. So by the same token, it is a job that he has to do and in his estimation, his job as news director as a media owner is to shine the flashlight on what is happening - good, bad and ugly. We are going to have mornings when he is going to

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have to talk about somebody getting arrested, he has said it before, if he gets arrested, it is going to make the news. Trust him, it will be the lead on the morning news. That is the way it goes, he doesn't care who you are, it is going to be on the news. Aside from that, all this could be solved by simply setting down and having a conversation. He extended that to you, and he would like you to know that he is at a point with this where he is not about being angry anymore, he is about telling the truth, that is what he is after.

Whatever that is, good, bad or ugly, he doesn't care - he just wants to tell the truth. He will tell the truth about him, he will tell the truth about everybody else, he doesn't care, it is the truth. John (Sharkey), he appreciates you coming tonight, eight years ago he found the lord himself, it has been an interesting transition for him and he has spent the last seven years of his life when the church doors opened he was there, he was the first one there and he was the last one out the door. He believes in Jesus, he believes in fairness and he believes in the truth. He has made mistakes in his life and he has paid the price for those mistakes and has admitted those mistakes and all he asks is that we all do the same. If you give me that little life line, this is what is going on, and let him report it, you have his cooperation, when I don't get that, he has to dig. You force him to dig and that is really all he has to say.

Supervisor Giordano explained that when he ran for this position it was not something that his family was in support of. He had talked to a few people in town, one was Bob Dedrick and he said to him, Joe don't run for this position under one issue and he talked with another person that is no longer with us and he told him to keep these five things in mind as you lead, facts, be firm, be fair, be polite and consistent. When he took office it was like he took a jump - walked off a 10 meter platform into a big diving well and it took him months before he was able to resurface. You don't come into this position to do this job, especially on a two year term and expect to be able to make massive changes. The public would like to see that, but the reality is this is an overwhelming task to take on. It is an overwhelming task because you have to learn all the things that you don't know and what you don't know you have to figure out who to talk to so you can know those things, and it is hard to know what you don't know and it is hard to find them. His only comparison to that is his background is not in government, his background is in engineering. So when he took a job at Boeing as an acoustic engineer he had to learn the software, the terminology, the acronyms, the programming, the mentality of people who had been doing this for decades and it was enough to make you go to work and have the thought of it just ..... your eyes were just heavy and it would put you to sleep. He thinks that you all have been there at some point in your life with school and whatever, it is just too much. He came on and everything was as it was, it was just kind of you walk in and everything just kind of happened until he started receiving - you mention micromanaging - things starting coming to him that he had to take action on. The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) issued a report saying that you have issues in your finance department, you need to take ownership of this and as a supervisor the ball is in your court and you need to do something. It was at that point, that it became very apparent to him that it can't just be business as usual. All of you in here want to see the success of this Town, you want to see it move into the future, you want a thriving economic vitality in Town. You want these problems which have been pervasive for many years to be fixed, so he is an outsider, but if you went to the Town that he came

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from and the places that he's been, in his opinion, you would get the same type of reputation you are talking about Mike LaVallie from people who would speak about him and it is hard from this side - there are always two sides to every story - it is hard to listen to what you are saying and not think that you aren't thinking about this from his perspective. When he wrote this, he gave himself that opportunity and said he really needs to feel what all of you are experiencing with what has happened. We might not agree on the outcome, but certainly the way in which it was handled from, he gets that, he sees that and he ..... he has so many thoughts, but he goes back to Matt's (Watts) comment about micromanaging and he thinks to himself, the water project (as an example) that project has been here since the early 90's, filtration avoidance has been here that long and how many different Town Board's and Town Supervisor's and so forth have just kind of kicked it down the road. So he came in and it was very apparent that time had run out, the federal government was now involved and we are not going to be able to push that any further, so you call that micromanagement, that is your definition of it. To him you have to figure out how to lead the Town through these different instances and different situations and that is all he has done. He has put in a ton of hours into this job, he does not know what your perception is of this job, but there is just a lot of knowledge that you have to learn to be able to do things that you have to do. There is a lot of reading and understanding of what has been done in the past and how come it hasn't come to fruition now and just saying do it, ... (inaudible) he doesn't know if he has seen any of you at any of these committee meetings trying to help with the activities, help with the actions that we need. You talk about communication, yeah he values communication, but he also values teamwork and people that want to help out and we need all of that here. He doesn't know where we go from here, he is trying to figure out his own course as you all are, not only with this issue but every issue and it would be wonderful to be able to have more people who want to participate. Jim (Cawley) you came here and talked numerous times about how come we can't do something downtown.....

Mr. Cawley is agreeing with what you are saying. The one thing that everybody in Ticonderoga needs to start focusing on is that it takes a Town to make a Town. It is not just these people that we put here it is all of us - everyone of us. He puts his money where his mouth is, he has picked up a broom, he sweeps the streets, he pushes a wheelbarrow, people ridicule him. We are trying to clean the streets, they will throw cigarettes at us, every weekend.... we put out money where our mouth is. Yes, we will have disagreements like this and we will have bumps in the road, but it takes an entire Town to make this Town and maybe this is what we needed. Maybe we needed this roadblock, this little stumble to unify us a little bit more, he doesn't know, he doesn't have the answers. But the one suggestion that I can give to you Joe, because you are not from Ticonderoga and you are an outsider is look at the heart that you have around you, use that heart, take it inside and let it be your strength. It is what you need.

Supervisor Giordano agrees absolutely, but a leader has to be able to figure out how to pull a lot of resources together and direct it somewhere and it is not that - you made a comment that he didn't have a heart the other day.....

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Mr. Cawley interrupted to say that he did not say that, he said find the humanity in the moment, that is what he was trying to tell you.. Mike is a local guy and you guys wanted him in that job and he understands that whatever happened, it was heated and it happened, but ... he has been in entertainment for 31 years and if you think traveling around the country trying to keep a band organized is any different than this, you are out of you mind, it is like working with all of these different mindsets and everybody has their own opinion about how things should go, he gets all of that. But at the end of the day, you are the guy that makes the decision so you have to do your best to make the right decision, he understands that, but he is asking you to govern with a little more heart.. we are talking about an issue of semantics with Mike, he could appoint this but he couldn't make the appointment. All you had to do, as he said before, is pull him aside and give him the guidance that he needs and that is what we need from you as a leader. A little more of that heart, because Mike should still be in that job right now. Yes, he was wavering, he had personal issues, we all do. He wasn't sure because of the leadership for him wasn't right there from the Town. No matter what your meetings or your discussions, that is what was going on with Mike from what he can gather from talking to his family and friends. So he is just asking you, yes he agrees with you, it takes all of us and he would like to see everybody get off their butts and start pitching in and start making their jobs a little bit easier because in the end it will make our lives a whole lot easier folks. It really is, do you want the stores filled, start shopping here. So we want a police chief from Ticonderoga, he doesn't want one from Warren County, if we are going to pay one from Warren County that means he is going to take that money out of Essex County.. if we have local wanting these jobs and they are qualified, he doesn't care if they are officers, he doesn't care if they are sanitation, he doesn't care if they are highway, he wants the local people to be looked at long and hard before we decide to hire somebody from outside of Ticonderoga. Please, any position. We need to think about Ticonderoga and we need to put Ticonderoga first. We need to start looking towards the future because it is falling away from us. Ticonderoga is stagnating.....when you folks were his age, you had more in Ticonderoga than he has, he thinks we can all agree on that. Stagnation is we don't move forward or back. We have gone so far back, we have hardly anything here now.

Supervisor Giordano asked if that means in two years you would be willing to fill this seat and take the reins as a lo....

Mr. Cawley stated yes it does, it doesn't mean he wants to, but will he accept the challenge - absolutely.

Supervisor Giordano stated that this great, he looks at his position here as someone that came from the outside with a different perspective to help make some movement in things that haven't had a lot of movement. That is how he sees his position. He loves this community, he has lived in a city, he grew up in a Town that was about this size and in the course of his lifetime it doubled - tripled and he left and went and lived in Seattle for eight years and he loved that, but this is a wonderful place to raise a family, to development relationships and he sees an opportunity to apply what he has to solving some of the problems that the Town has not been able to really solve. The water thing to

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him just seems like in his wheel house. These other things maybe not so much, but we are going to take them on because they need to be done. Just like the solar issue, we moved it then we stopped it because we don't have a foundational zoning plan that really can help to solve that problem. It is not that we want to be antagonistic or just... this board represents the community and often times it takes unfortunately things like this or moving certain things to get people to come in and say hey they don't want this. That is kind of backwards. We really, going back to Bob's comment, communication - that was one of the things when he came on that he wanted to do a newsletter but he had to first understand what the issues before he could even do a newsletter to even know what to communicate. That is his plan for this year because it definitely needs to be there, there isn't and hasn't been enough information going out and trying to figure out how all these pieces work. There is a lot hear and...

Mr. Cawley agrees that you do not have an easy job, nobody that is elected here does. Or anywhere in this country, it is a rough road, it really is. As he said, maybe we need to look at ourselves and when these things happen we need to start finding answers as a whole community. You are right, this room should be completely filled, this building should be filled. Every time you have a meeting, you should be able to stand up here and do what he is doing, you should be able to talk sensibly and we shouldn't be fighting, we shouldn't be arguing, we should be standing up for what we believe and we should be finding ways together to solve it. He does not know how else to say it. He is not a politician, he doesn't want to be a politician....that is all he has to say.

Supervisor Giordano doesn't believe that he is either, he is a practical person.....

Mr. Major mentioned that you talk about support, personally he has spent 100's of hours on the planning board developing a new zoning code. Which wasn't supported, so everything he did and the board did was just trashed instantly as soon as we were done. He spent a lot of time trying to get help for the police department and he was ignored, even though he was bending over backwards offering free space for 20 years, so he has this fundamental mistrust that you have to overcome and he thinks a lot of people in the community feel the same way. There is a fundamental distrust because promises aren't upheld. Unfortunately, this hassle that you had with Mike adds to this distrust. If Mike had taken the job and quit his other job and then he was canned, what the hell would he do. So he doesn't know how you do it, but he thinks that is your challenge.

Vic LaVallee would like to congratulate Mr. Woods and Mrs. Cooper, the new members of this board, they have been long term members of our community and it is nice to see you here and he will be here to support you.

Report of Committees

Public Safety - Dave Woods, Councilman

Ticonderoga Public Safety Meeting  
January 29, 2018



**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
February 9, 2018 commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

5:00 P.M.

The following attended, Mike Mawn, Dale Quesnel Jr, Fred Hunsdon Sr, Maria Thetford, Marianne Rapple, John Bartlett, Joyce Cooper, Laura and Mark Wright, Sean Mascarenas, Mark Belden, Heath Towne, Matt Watts, Margaret Lauman, Dave Woods, Ross Kelly, Bill Ball, Danielle Holman, Joe Giordano and Wayne Taylor

- Pledge to the flag
- Public Participation, some questions arose about the placement of the dirty needle collection box. The committee will consider some alternate locations for this box and any further ones to be installed.
- Sergeant Quesnel stated that the heaviest accumulations of needles had been found in the Star Trek parking lot, restrooms at Stewarts and in the landscaped areas at the Ti Fed Credit Union.
- Laura Wright spoke stating that the idea of the collection box was to get needles off the streets one at a time. She felt that if the box had collected one needle that was a success.
- Ross Kelly suggested that Ti seek out data from other communities where the needle collection had been successful.
- Laura Wright spoke of the county effort involving dirty needle exchanges. She said that this did not solve the problem but that the participants are given clean needles and encouraged to seek out treatment.
- Fred Hunsdon thinks that anyone seeing the drop boxes would see evidence of a town trying to clean itself up.
- Maria Thetford questioned who was responsible for disgusting garbage dumpsters that had been placed by private vendors on town property. Bill Ball will follow up and issue citations if necessary.
- Matt Watts spoke of the recent replacement of Michael LaVallie as Chief of the Ti PD. He felt that it was unnecessary and unfortunate as he sees Michael's leadership having turned the PD around.
- Bill Ball spoke of his efforts to clean up the burned up boat storage building on Lake George Ave, stating that he was going to be meeting with owner the next day.
- Meeting adjourned 5:40 PM

Highway/Transfer Station - Wayne Taylor, Councilman ( reported by Councilman Woods)

Ticonderoga Highway Meeting  
01/25/18 8:00 AM

Present: Sal Barnao, John Deming, Dave Woods, Don Paige, Jim Dougan, Joe Coley,  
Tom Hudon, Walt Worth, Joe Giordano, Joyce Cooper, Laura Wright, Dawn Labratore,  
Dave Iuliano, Jamie Backus and Wayne Taylor Sr.

- The meeting opened with the pledge to our nations flag.
- The committee reviewed the 12/27/17 Highway Meeting minutes and accepted them as presented.

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- Jim Dougan of Essex Co DPW spoke to the committee about providing assistance to the town with an evaluation of the current highway building. He stated that with his background in construction management and estimating along with the help of Todd Hodgson that a straightforward evaluation can happen. Councilman Taylor really appreciates having input from a professional staff where there is no impetus to sell the town a bill of goods. Jim went on to say that when a building maintenance project approaches the 50% cost of replacement that it invokes a completely different set of design requirements.
- Based on his initial assessment he thinks that the building could be rehabilitated with a series of phased repair projects. He questioned the committee as to what they saw as priorities for such a plan. It was decided that the building immediately needs an oil water separator. When washing occurs inside the building code requires a separator before the water can be discharged into a municipal sewer. It was then determined that beyond that the evaluation should include an energy conservation plan as well as addressing any further health and safety concerns.
- Joe Coley spoke the committee about how poorly the sidewalks and streets are being maintained this winter. He complained specifically about the sidewalks on John St. Sal Barnao said that he would immediately look and take action on this.
- Jamie Backus, Tom Hudon, Walt Worth and Dawn Labratore spoke on behalf of the Adirondack Trail riders snowmobile club, requesting the town's endorsement of a proposed trail corridor extending through several areas. The proposal would include the construction of a bridge across the inlet to Penfield Pond.
- The club went on to request the town's assistance in determining the status of the Casino and Hall Rds. According to their report, their contention is that these are still viable town roads and should not be gated. Councilman Taylor reminded them that under highway law, Sal Barnao has the sole authority over such matters and any request to evaluate or change a road status would have to originate from his office.
- Sal said that these roads are not listed on the current town highway inventory, which would indicate that given their depiction on an 1876 map and their absence from the current inventory that some action had taken place. John Deming said that the town did not have any documentation showing ownership of these roads. So the question remains did the town take any action since 1876? More research will need to take place before anything happens on this.
- The committee discussed Sal's recent request to add an 8<sup>th</sup> person to the highway department. He said that in order to maintain the current parks system it would

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
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require adding a laborer at the rate currently in the CBA. He stated that this person could be utilized in the winter as a plow operator. He currently has eight routes and seven drivers. Sal himself plowing one route. He spoke of any upset requiring him to stop plowing and intervene. The committee felt that given what Sal was willing to do with this person and that the person could be utilized fully throughout the year that the request seemed reasonable. Councilman Taylor asked about whether there was funding in the current highway budget to cover this additional cost. Sal said that in his original budget there was money for this.

- 
- Motion to adjourn by John Deming, second by Dave Woods
  
- Next Highway Meeting 02/22/18 at 8:00 a.m.
  
- Meeting adjourned 09:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Taylor, 02/08/18

Airport - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor

**TICONDEROGA AIRPORT 4B6  
7 February 2018**

The meeting started at 0835, with the pledge, in the Town Hall. Jon Hanna, Fred Hunsdon, Ernie Tobin by phone, Joe Giordano, and Roger Nolfé attended. A new card reader has been installed and the phone line repaired, Fuel sales for January totaled 146 gallons. Roger will clean and test the old reader.

Roger will contact AFSCO about starting the work late winter or early spring when the weather permits. The heating unit in the motor box will be checked when the new track is installed. A discussion on what to do when we have heavy snow and ice and the gate has trouble operating. The new gate will require removing the parking spaces from the East side of the lot for truck access.

The cracks in the taxiway and apron need to be filled, Jon will check on a hot tar kettle to fill the gaps for the spring.

A silt fence is required on the east side of the airport.

Orkin will supply an estimate for rodent proofing the vault.

The road department is still working on the grate for the East side fence.

Ernie will follow up with the FAA on the status of the night landing approach.

Jon will swap out the landing light breaker. Marc Miller will be checking the lighting system in the spring.

Land for the taxi way is still under investigation.

The fuel price will be kept at \$4.65 per gallon for the winter season. We have received our NY gasoline registration number.

Roger talked about the NYSDOT grant program for building hangers at the airport.

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
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Next monthly meeting will be 0830, Wednesday, 7 March, at the town hall.  
Submitted by Jon Hanna

Building & Grounds - Dave Woods, Councilman

Parks, Recreation, Historical Lands, Beach, Monuments, & Cemeteries - Joyce Cooper,  
Councilwoman

**Buildings and Grounds, Parks and Recreation Committee  
Minutes for January 16, 2018 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Dave Woods. Present were Dave Woods, Joyce Cooper, Jerry Cooper, Bill Dolback, and Maria Tedford. Also present were community member Issac Pendell and Armory custodian Fred Hurlburt.

**Parks and Recreation**

Issac Pendell attended as a representative of a group proposing to set up a permanent 18 hole Disc Golf Course in Ticonderoga's Recreational Park as well as possibly along a section of La Chute Trail. He noted Disc Golf is a family sport which follows the same scoring as a golf game. Wire baskets attached to permanent poles serve as the "holes". Consideration of the multiple uses of our park will help determine hole location. The only cost for players would be a set of the four "golf discs" used in play.

The committee was receptive to his proposal but asked that a member of his group to return to a committee meeting with more information including the following: proposed locations for the "holes" as well as the number of holes to be placed initially; the overall cost of this project; and most importantly, who will be provide the funds for this project.

Discussion regarding Isaac's proposal led to a discussion regarding the need for a master map showing Bicentennial Park, Recreational Park and La Chute Trail. It is hard for the committee to make decisions or ask town departments to do projects when exact locations and designated use areas are not clear. Creation of a master map should be considered.

Maria expressed concern regarding the present location of the new needle drop box in the scenic area of La Chute Trail behind the library. PRIDE will research a new location for this box.

**Buildings and Grounds**

Armory Custodian Fred Hurlburt attended to give an update on some issues regarding the multiple uses of the building. The Town Youth Program has noise issues due to their location in the building. However, it has been determined that sound proofing is not an option.

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
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There has also been an issue with thermostats on the main floor being left at a high temperature overnight or vandalized. In the Senior Citizen room the thermostat does not seem to work and a portable heater is being used. The town is contacting a heating contractor to fix these problems.

Joyce Cooper noted the external lighting on the north and west sides of the building is inadequate for our youth and senior citizens. Fred and Dave will check to see if all exterior lights are working.

It was noted an emergency generator is still needed. Maria Tedford said PRIDE will look into potential grants to provide funds to purchase one. Designation of the Armory as an Emergency Shelter was also discussed. This building with limited parking, kitchen facilities, rest rooms and accessibility does not appear to be the best location. Questions were raised regarding who selects the location and whether the Ticonderoga Elementary/Middle School was ever considered. Joyce and Maria will look into this.

The committee was adjourned following these discussions.

Addendum:

Current members of this committee are Co-Chairs Dave Woods & Joyce Cooper as well as Jerry Cooper, Marianne Rapple & Maria Tedford (representing PRIDE), Tonya Thompson, and Bill Dolback. The committee co-chairs have recently invited Nancy Kelley to join the committee. She is considering the invitation.

**Resolution #41-2018** brought by Joyce Cooper, seconded by Dave Woods to appoint Nancy Kelley to the Parks, Recreation and the Building & Grounds committee. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #42-2018** brought by Joyce Cooper, seconded by Joseph Giordano to close down Montcalm Street at Tower Avenue to the street just beyond the NCCC and if possible have the police department set up a detour that goes around NCCC on Cannonball Path on March 3, 2018 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. for a fireworks display. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorsey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Black Watch Memorial Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Dec. 28, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 9:37 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 am.

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
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**Members Present:** John McDonald, Steve Boyce, Cheryl O'Connor, Linda

Cunningham **Others Present:** Heather Johns, Library Manager; Ann Westervelt,

Friends of the Library

**Review of the Minutes:** Steve Boyce moved that the minutes be accepted. Cheryl O'Connor seconded; all were in favor.

**Report of the Director:**

- Heather reported that the sidewalks were not shoveled after the last snow. The person who usually does it was on vacation. Vicki shoveled and put down salt, but there should be a replacement available or provisions made by the Town.
- There is a wheelchair patron who is a regular user of the library, and has difficulty getting the outside door open. We need to find out when an inspection was done on the facility and if we were in compliance of handicap regulations. We may need to have an inspection done to see if we are up to code. The patron also said that it would be better to have a handicap parking spot on Carnegie Street instead of Montcalm Street. It is often too difficult for her to get out of her vehicle.
- The Board of Trustee's meeting schedule for 2018 was distributed. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month except November.
- A copy of the budget for 2018 was passed out.
- A question arose about closing the library in bad weather. It was decided that the Board should make the call. It should be automatic if a state of emergency was called.
- The Security Company is looking into the status of the alarm batteries. The fire alarms have been going off, especially at night.

**Report of the Town:** no report. We need to determine who our Town representative is.

**Report of the Friends:** A new printer is being leased and should arrive soon.

Human Services: Youth/Seniors - Dorcey Crammond, Councilwoman

**Ticonderoga Youth Commission  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

| <b>Expenses</b> |               |                    |                                    |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Where</b>  | <b>Amount (\$)</b> | <b>Details</b>                     |
| 1/2/2018        | Walmart       | 33.49              | snacks                             |
| 1/9/2018        | Walmart       | 49.21              | cups, snacks, water, game supplies |
| 1/10/2018       | Walmart       | 3.71               | salt, bananas, cucumber            |
|                 | <b>Total:</b> | <b>86.41</b>       |                                    |

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Regular Town Board Meeting held on  
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| <b>Date</b>        | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Special Notes</b>                       |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| 12/18/2017         | 43                |  |
| 12/19/2017         | 46                | Popsicle snowflakes                        |
| 12/20/2017         | 52                | Ballon tennis                              |
| 12/21/2017         | Closed            | Early dismissal                            |
| 12/22/17 to 1/1/18 | Closed            | Winter break                               |
| 1/2/2018           | 49                | Blanket volleyball, sign painting          |
| 1/3/2018           | 46                | Handprint sign, juggling                   |
| 1/4/2018           | 38                | Glitter slime, bracelets, volleyball       |
| 1/5/2018           | 33                | Tribond riddles, puzzle wars, cat's cradle |
| 1/8/2018           | 46                | Glitter art, prep for carpet               |
| 1/9/2018           | 44                | Minute to Win It games                     |
| 1/10/2018          | 36                | DIY paint making                           |
| 1/11/2018          | 48                | Checkers                                   |
| 1/12/2018          | 40                |  |

**Upcoming Dates**

- a. February 19-February 23: Program Closed for Mid-Winter Break
  - b. February 26: Program Closed
  - c. Possible day in end of January/beginning of February
2. Official Resignations: for Corinna Woods and Taylor Bolton. We will need a new hire.
3. Ski program has had their first day on the mountain (1/7/18):
- a. "Hi all, glad to tell you that today went well. We had 20 kids on the bus which is light but it was cold. We had about 10 kids not join us for various reasons. The parents who joined us were fantastic and our new kids were great!! Kim yaw drive today and worked hard on getting the bus warm and ready. The conditions though cold were unbelievably gorgeous and clear! Starting a half hour later was the perfect call. By afternoon it was not so bad and the kids did a wonderful job of dressing appropriately. Very proud of them! No injuries or even reports of frostbite so they ready did great! Have a good week - we skip the holiday weekend and have the program in two weeks. Thanks Helen Barton Benedict"
4. Beach and Summer Program paperwork will start soon. Do we have ideas for who will be in charge of these areas?
5. Extras (with the commission's approval):
- a. Girl Scouts wants to do meetings on Thursdays during the after school program.

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- i. 6 weeks long, \$25 registration fee (there are grants available), they will provide 2 adults, start in February.
- b. Samantha Davis (4H) wants to do activities on Tuesdays.
  - i. Every child can be involved in activity if they want to be, whether they are registered or not. STEM, health and wellness activities, etc.
- c. Patty Reid to do basket weaving/crochet with the kids on Wednesdays.
  - i. She will provide materials and can take a small group (older grades).
- d. Besides volunteer forms and use of facilities, is there anything else needed to do this?
- e. Goal: Increase communication and cooperation with the teen center and the community of the Town and harbor mentorship while encouraging the youth to obtain skills and uncover talents in a fun and safe atmosphere.

Submitted:

Cassandra Potter-Grimsley  
Recreation Supervisor

**Resolution #43-2018** brought by Dorcey Crammond, seconded by Dave Woods to appoint Herb Tedford to the Ticonderoga Youth Commission. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed - none. Carried.**

Seniors  
February 2018

The TAS meeting was held January 31 @ the Armory.

Requests: After complaints that the ceiling heater in the senior room was not working, Supervisor Giordano had it checked out and found out that the thermostat were not working properly. New parts have been ordered and this will be fixed.

There are not enough electrical outlets in the senior rooms. This will also be taken care of.

Gayle is looking into some trip ideas for 2018 and would welcome any suggestions.

Pickle Ball, Walking and ROM classes are still very popular and well attended. Stop by the Armory to pick up a schedule and news letter with other updates and suggestions.

The senior center will be closed February 19th in honor of Presidents Day.



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We are still expecting the new Senior Bus to be delivered this month.

Supervisor Giordano did explain that it appears the bus delivery is getting pushed out to March, they have had a record year of orders and they are trying to expedite our order to get it to us by March.

Respectfully submitted, Dorsey Crammond, Councilwoman

Economic Development - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor

No meeting

Public Works - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor

**Town of Ticonderoga  
Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2018 – 9:30 am**

**Present:** Supervisor Giordano, Derrick Fleury, Tracy Smith, Wayne Taylor, Sr.,  
Matt Fuller (*Town Attorney*)

**Others:** Greg Swart (AES), Brad Noviski (AES); Fred Hammann, Peggy Robbins,  
Dick Holroyd, Jeff Cook, Joyce Cooper

**Pledge**

Supervisor Giordano opened the meeting with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

Dick Holroyd – Letter from the Town to residents in Chilson and Eagle Lake

1. Dick expressed his frustrations and concerns over the letter that was received from the Town in regard to the decommissioning of Gooseneck pond as a drinking water source by June 24, 2025.
  - a. Matt explained that the letter was not drafted by the Town, it was generated by the DOJ and required to be sent to Chilson and Eagle Lake residents by January 31, 2018.
    - i. Supervisor Giordano stated that the DOJ is now involved as the Town did not move quickly enough in previous years with meeting the regulatory issues. However, the Town is currently doing due diligence to be sure that residents receive properly treated drinking water.
  - b. Dick inquired about the costs associated with an alternative drinking water source.

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- i. After much discussion, the Committee explained that currently cost estimates are not available. A Map Plan and Report will need to be done, and that will inform the decision about drinking water options. The Town will work with the Chilson and Eagle Lake residents to keep costs down as much as possible.
2. Peggy Robbins – 74 Champlain Avenue
  - a. Peggy addressed the Committee and stated that she has recently purchased 74 Champlain Avenue. She inquired as to why the property is being charged full water and sewer rates when it has been unoccupied and deemed unlivable by the Codes Department.
    - i. Matt commented that as the Town does not bill on actual usage through meters, there will always be a flat fee for in district users for the services.
3. Fred Hammann – 61 Park Avenue (Combined into 65 Park Avenue)
  - a. Mr. Hammann explained that he purchased 61 Park Avenue and has removed the house that was on the property. He had hoped that he would not receive a water/sewer bill for the property as there is no longer a house on it. He also commented that he has combined the property with his residence at 65 Park Avenue.
    - i. The Committee informed Mr. Hammann that until the assessment roll reflects the changes for the property, the bill amount would remain the same.
      1. Supervisor Giordano commented that the Town is working towards a clearer policy on the EDU system which is what determines charges.
4. Security for the Well Building
  - a. A security vendor needs to be chosen for the Well Building.
    - i. Matt commented that the Town would need to follow the procurement policy.
    - ii. Greg commented that a Town Board Resolution would be needed once a vendor is chosen, but this is not holding up the project from moving forward.
5. Anthony Reale – Vacant parcel Tax map #160.35-1-3.001 on Black Point Road
  - a. Currently Mr. Reale is being charged .10 of O&M and 1 full debt for his vacant parcel as it was noted as a buildable lot. However, upon further review by the Assessor it was discovered that this lot should have been noted as a non-buildable lot and therefore not be charged for the O&M or

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*debt fee (as per the November 2002 Engineer's Report for the Black Point Road District).*

- i. As this was an error on the Town's behalf, the Committee recommends to the Town Board to refund the amount paid for the first quarter 2018 bill of \$117.61, and to make the account inactive.
6. Barbara Peria – Questioned the billing for her parcels on Black Point Road
  - a. Mrs. Peria and the Town Clerk had discussed her parcels on Black Point Road, and there was confusion as to how many accounts she is responsible to pay for. It was initially assumed that she was being charged for an account that should have been inactive, so the topic was added to the Committee's agenda.
    - i. After further review of her accounts, the Town's records are correct, and the Town Clerk had a discussion with Mrs. Peria to clarify the matter.
      1. No further action is required.
7. John Reale – Property along Cannonball Path
  - a. Supervisor Giordano had previously spoken with Mr. Reale in regard to the property along Cannonball Path, and how the use of property may impact the GIGP project.
    - i. Pending further discussion, the Committee will wait until after the GIGP project is completed to make decisions on the property.
8. Adirondack Meat Packing Company
  - a. No one is occupying the building, and the water has been shut off.
    - i. Matt commented that the building cannot reopen until it is back up to code with the water and sewer.

**Water Project Discussion:**

1. Matt put together a summary of deadlines that was taken from the pending DOJ consent decree and expressed how crucial it is to stay on top of the deadlines. A brief discussion took place about the importance of tracking the information and that he, AES and the Town should discuss the timelines regularly.
2. Derrick is continuing to deliver easements to property owners, but mentioned that there have been some questions that he cannot answer. Matt mentioned that if a separate meeting for property owners is needed, it could be set up.
3. DOH – AES is waiting for final comments from the DOH.
4. APA – The APA is all set.

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5. Army Corps of Engineers – Goes with the water supply permit
6. DEC – Working through the well permit but it’s almost ready to go. It includes the SPDES Permit for the chlorine analyzer.
7. SHPO – All set.

**Sewer Project Discussion:**

1. GIGP Project
  - a. Greg received a quote from a contractor to do pipe inspections. The immediate need is to get access to the catch basin at the Hydro Plant.

**Adjourn**

Supervisor Giordano adjourned the Water/Sewer Committee Meeting at 11:00 am.

The next Water/Sewer Committee Meeting is set for Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

**Resolution #44-2018** brought by Dave Woods, seconded by Joseph Giordano to go out to bid on the Water Supply Project and advertise in the Press Republican, the Post Star and the Sun. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

TICONDEROGA TOWN BOARD  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW YORK

Resolution No. 44-2018  
Adopted February 8, 2018  
Introduced by Dave Woods  
who moved its adoption  
Seconded by Joseph Giordano

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR WELL FIELD  
CONTROL BUILDING (AES PROJECT 4323) DWSRF #17163, NORTH STREET  
ROAD WATER MAIN RECONSTRUCTION (Includes Rt. 74 Water Main  
Reconstruction) NYS DOH DWSRF #17163 and FEMA-4020-DR-NY PA ID 031-  
73891-00 PW 6009 (AES PROJECT 4324), and CHILSON WATER TANK  
CONSTRUCTION NYS DWSRF #17163 (AES PROJECT 4326)

WHEREAS, the Town of Ticonderoga (“Town”), on behalf of water  
districts 9N and 74 Water District (SW01), Street Road Water District (SW02),  
Alexandra Water District No. 1(SW03), Homeland Water District (SW04),

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Alexandra Water District No. 2(SW05), Central Water District (SW06), Park Avenue Water District (SW07) and Shore Airport Water District (SW09) and out of district users connected thereto, operates a public water system; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board acknowledges that it inherited the public water system from its predecessor, the Village of Ticonderoga, resulting in significant required repairs and regulatory compliance issues which must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, the Town is currently under consent from the New York State Department of Health (“DOH”) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) concerning certain deficiencies in the Town’s public water system; and

WHEREAS, the Town, with the assistance of its engineering consultant, AES Northeast PLLC of Plattsburgh, New York, has developed a water system project to address required compliance with the DOH and EPA orders identified in project manuals and associated documents as WELL FIELD CONTROL BUILDING (AES PROJECT 4323) DWSRF #17163, NORTH STREET ROAD WATER MAIN RECONSTRUCTION (Includes Rt. 74 Water Main Reconstruction) NYS DOH DWSRF #17163 and FEMA-4020-DR-NY PA ID 031-73891-00 PW 6009 (AES PROJECT 4324), and CHILSON WATER TANK CONSTRUCTION NYS DWSRF #17163 (AES PROJECT 4326) (hereinafter the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, the Town has sought and obtained grants, including but not limited to \$600,000 in New York State Community Development Block Grant program funds, up to \$2.0 million in NYS Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant assistance, up to \$1.0 million in NY Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), as well as zero percent financing through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, in order to fund the Projects to gain compliance with the above referenced orders; and

WHEREAS, the orders have resulted in a certain enforcement action to be lodged by the United States Department of Justice, for the United States

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Environmental Protection Agency, and New York State by and through the New York Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the Town, and representatives of the Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Health have negotiated a certain consent decree, which was previously approved by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is required to let the Projects for bid prior to March 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, plans, specifications, construction details, project manuals, contract documents and other related bid documents have been prepared for the Town relative to the Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board does wish to authorize the solicitation of bids for the Projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Town hereby authorizes the solicitation of bids for the Projects as developed by the Town's engineers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the solicitation of bids in substantially the forms drafted by the Town's counsel and engineers, subject to reasonable additions and changes as recommended by them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bids be returned on or before a date certain as may be set by the Town Supervisor upon consultation with the Town's engineers and counsel, it being the Town Board's understanding that said date will be set in coordination with approvals for the Projects, and such further date as may be extended by approval of the Town Supervisor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Joseph Giordano, Supervisor   | Aye |
| Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman    | Aye |
| Wayne Taylor, Councilman      | Aye |
| Dorcey Crammond, Councilwoman | Aye |
| Dave Woods, Councilman        | Aye |

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**Resolution #45-2018** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Dorcey Crammond to refund the 2018 1st quarter billing to Anthony Reale and amend the account to show future billings represent a non-buildable vacant parcel for tax map #160.35-1-3.001 on Black Point Road. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

Health Insurance - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor  
No meeting.

Contract Negotiations - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor  
Nothing at this time.

I.T. /Cable T.V. - Joseph Giordano, Supervisor  
Nothing to report.

Resolutions for Consideration

**Resolution #46-2018** brought by Dave Woods, seconded by Dorcey Crammond to accept the minutes of Regular TB meeting held on January 18, 2018, the Financial meeting held on January 25, 2018, the Special TB Meeting held on January 29, 2018 and the Special TB Meeting held on February 5, 2018. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #47-2018** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Joyce Cooper opposing the Taxable NYS Owned Land Conversion to PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) programs. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**OPPOSITION TO TAXABLE NYS OWNED LAND CONVERSION TO  
PILOTS**

**WHEREAS**, State-owned lands are currently assessed by the local municipality where the State land is located, and  
**WHEREAS**, Governor Andrew Cuomo is proposing to convert the local assessment of taxable State-owned land into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes ("PILOT") program based on existing tax amounts to be increased each year by the allowable levy growth factor, and  
**WHEREAS**, said payment change will result in loss of local assessment of taxable State-owned as well as loss in tax

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revenue to local municipalities due to changes in value not reflected in a PILOT agreement,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Ticonderoga that the assessments of taxable State-owned land should remain under control of the local municipality where such property is located and is hereby opposed to New York State converting the assessment of taxable State-owned land into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town/County Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a copy of said Resolution to the following persons:

**Governor Andrew Cuomo  
NYS Senator Elizabeth Little  
NYS Assemblyman Daniel Stec**

**Resolution #48-2018** brought by Dave Woods, seconded by Dorcey Crammond to endorse PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc. in its application to NYS Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the NY Main Street Technical Assistance Program. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed - none. Carried.**

Resolution by the Town of Ticonderoga approving and endorsing PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc. in its application to NYS Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the New York Main Street Technical Assistance Program.

WHEREAS, PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc. desires to apply for \$20,000 in financial assistance through the 2017 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street Technical Assistance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the application proposes funding to assist the Cobbler's Bench building owners to complete a building reuse and renovation study; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed funding will contribute to ongoing community revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.



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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Ticonderoga approves and endorses the 2017 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street Program for assistance prepared and to be submitted by PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc.

Passed by the following vote of all The Town of Ticonderoga Town Board Members voting in favor thereof:

Affirmative Town of Ticonderoga Town Board Members:

Affirmative: 4  
Negative: 0  
Absent: 1

I, Tonya M. Thompson, do hereby certify that resolution 48-2018 was passed at a meeting of the Town Board held on February 8, 2018, and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting and on file, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

**Resolution #49-2018** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Dorcey Crammond to authorize the following budget adjustments:

- o A.2210 Youth Ski Program (new Revenue collected) \$350.00
- o A.7310.400 ORDA-Youth Ski Program Appropriation \$350.00
- o A.9089.800 Other Employee Benefits (Pd by Retiree) \$214.00

**All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed - none. Carried.**

**Resolution #50-2018** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Dave Woods to authorize the following budget transfers:

- o A.9050.800 Unemployment Insurance \$3,307.00
- o A.0230.003 Capital Reserves Unemployment Ins -\$3,307.00
- o DA.1910.400 Highway Unallocated Insurance \$15,824.00
- o DA.1989.400 Highway Contingency -\$15,824.00
- o SS05.1910.400 Central Sewer Unallocated Insurance \$5,229.00
- o SS05.1989.400 Central Sewer Contingency -\$5,229.00

**All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed - none. Carried.**

**Resolution #51-2018** brought by Joseph Giordano, seconded by Joyce Cooper to authorize the General Fund to lend Capital Projects funds until Long-Term Financing and/or Grant funding is received:

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- A.0391 General - Due From other Funds \$251,626.00
- H49.0630 GIGP Stream Daylighting - Due To General \$126,237.00
- H50.0630 WQIP/WWTP Upgrades - Due to General \$125,099.00
- H55.0630 DASNY/SAM Comm. Bldg Reno. - Due to General \$290.00

**All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #52-2018** brought by Dorcey Crammond, seconded by Dave Woods to pay Abstract #2 of 2018. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

| <b>Abstract</b>  | <b>Board Meeting Date 2/8/18</b> |                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|                  |                                  |                     |
| <b>1/19/2018</b> | Gross Payroll PP#2               | \$110,991.19        |
| <b>2/2/2018</b>  | Gross Payroll PP#3               | \$88,944.34         |
|                  | <b>Trust &amp; Agency Totals</b> | <b>\$199,935.53</b> |

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
|                        | Pre-Pays General |
| <b>Abstract 2/8/18</b> |                  |

| General Wire-Transfers |                                     |              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
|                        | General (A)                         | \$141,321.53 |
|                        | CD21 LISC Zombie                    | \$0.00       |
|                        | Highway (DA)                        | \$143,583.95 |
|                        | H17 - C/P Ticonderoga Airport       |              |
|                        | H36 - C/P Chilson Res. Replacement  | \$29,420.00  |
|                        | H45 - C/P Equipment Purchase        |              |
|                        | H49 - GIGP Daylight Streaming       | \$750.00     |
|                        | H50 - C/P WQIP WWTP Disinfection    | \$476,350.96 |
|                        | H53 - Clean Water Main Project      |              |
|                        | H54 - LaChute Signage Grant         |              |
|                        | H55 - DASNY/SAM Grant Comm.Bldg.    | \$56,525.00  |
|                        | H56 - Sewer Pollution Right to Know |              |
|                        | SF01- Ticonderoga Fire District     | \$505,243.00 |
|                        | SF02 - Chilson Fire District        |              |
|                        | Claymore Sewer District (SS01)      | \$48.53      |
|                        | Park Ave Sewer District (SS02)      | \$9,593.10   |
|                        | Alex Ave Sewer District (SS03)      | \$6,435.65   |

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|  |                                     |                       |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Homelands Sewer Dist (SS04)         | \$3,310.76            |
|  | Central Sewer (SS05)                | \$42,812.21           |
|  | Commerce Park Sewer (SS06)          | \$13,174.95           |
|  | Delano Point Sewer (SS07)           | \$4,812.42            |
|  | Baldwin Road Sewer Dist (SS08)      | \$6,433.92            |
|  | Black Point Road Sewer (SS09)       | \$17,555.92           |
|  | Hague Road Sewer (SS10)             | \$2,032.56            |
|  | 9N & 74 Sewer (SS11)                | \$4,589.23            |
|  | 9N & 74 Water (SW01)                | \$12,710.98           |
|  | Street Road Water (SW02)            | \$5,252.38            |
|  | Alex Avenue I Water District (SW03) | \$5,208.00            |
|  | Homelands Water District (SW04)     | \$2,064.60            |
|  | Alex Ave II Water District (SW05)   | \$8,063.10            |
|  | Central Water (SW06)                | \$30,039.69           |
|  | Park Ave Water Dist (SW07)          | \$6,133.35            |
|  | Shore Airport Water (SW09)          | \$17,458.53           |
|  | <b>Multi Account Total</b>          | <b>\$1,550,924.32</b> |

**Total Expenditures**

**\$1,750,859.85**

Supervisor Giordano wanted to touch base on two items that were talked about earlier during the public comment. One had to do with the commission, it doesn't necessarily need a resolution but back in June the Town Board made a resolution transferring the authority to the supervisor as the Sole Commissioner of course with the exception of budget. That title is synonymous with the Town Supervisor in terms of the roles and responsibilities, so the role that the supervisor has as with the Water/Wastewater Superintendent is again synonymous with the police commission and police chief. It was deemed at that time that the three person commission was not effective on a day to day matter in terms of handling issues promptly and professionally so the decision was to move to sole police commissioner. We have had some conversations since the meeting this past Monday and in accordance with Town Law the town Supervisor has the right to create committees, so we were going to create a citizens advisory police committee to provide insight into the sole commission and the police chief regarding public safety and police policy. As the Supervisor and the powers appointed to that person, he hereby appoints Dave Woods to be the chair of that committee and Dave would like to recommend Margaret Lauman and Jay Fortino to serve as members of that committee. They will hereby meet on an as needed basis for the stated purpose above namely to provide insight to the sole commission and police chief regarding public safety and public policy and of course the meetings will be posted as the other meetings are on line so they can be vetted by the public.

The use of the police vehicle by Chief Mawn for traveling back and forth from Brandt Lake, so he had a conversation with Chief Mawn as to the use and it was a decision that

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he thought was well within the realm of the Chiefs request in terms of critical incidents and police matters. His ability to be able to get to a situation, not necessarily to be there to assist the officers given the time span it would take to get him there, but being able to be there as an incident commander for assisting in the investigation at the scene as well as the commissioners, it seemed that it was a very necessary role for him to have to be able to get there in a timely manner. He is going to be using the surplused vehicle. It does not have a computer in it and in terms also of insurance coming from that distance in a personal vehicle there are some liability concerns and his insurance regarding the speed in which he can travel and also arriving at the scene or having to go past the scene to go get a police vehicle at the department and then driving back to a scene, his request is well within the realm of understanding and he supports him on that. This does not require a resolution but would like to state that.

Councilman Woods would like to ask, we have this advisory committee now and you are still on as sole commissioner, we will still need board approval.

Supervisor Giordano answered yes, the supervisor is there to handle the day to day operations, it is essentially a different title but is one in the same. For personnel or policy policies, obviously you are on the public safety board as well, so anything that the public might have concerns with they can bring to you and you would say hey, we need more foot traffic or officers on LaChute so that would come to the advisory committee and then brought to the commissioner and the police chief to try to get that in place. You are the chair and can call those meetings as you see fit and provide the dialogue of what the community would like to see and what needs to be enacted. It is no different for anyone else as well, he handles the policies so anyone is welcome to come in and share their concerns and so forth regarding how things are being done.

Report of Department Heads

Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

The annual audit of the Town's court has been completed and now the board needs to resolve to accept those satisfactory findings.

**Resolution #53-2018** brought by Joyce Cooper, seconded by Dorcey Crammond to accept the satisfactory findings of the 2017 Ticonderoga Court Audit. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dorcey Crammond - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

Matthew Fuller, Town Attorney

Would like to remind the board on the Consent Decree that we have pending right now with the Department of Justice. There are two supplemental environmental projects (SEP), you will hear about these over the next few years. One of them is our Alert System, to notice a broken water line or public hearings, etc. The other is a drug take back program, so the Town board needs to put together a committee or something to

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oversee kicking that project off. The Consent Decree hasn't been filed yet, but it will be and that is going to kick in. That is part of our efforts, to come up with a group that is going to help stepping forward with that.

Supervisor Giordano wanted to share that there was a press conference up in E'town today with Dan Stec and Senator Little who announced their support of a bill for first responders. There has been a lot of talk about the need for EMS in our county, every Town is struggling with this financially and finding qualified personnel, so this is a pretty important bill that provides flexibility to counties to help create special taxing districts to allow for monies to be gathered for these hurdles to be overcome in terms of handling dropped calls and a lot of communities face not having someone respond when the call does come in. We've had a couple of meetings in Crown Point between Crown Point, Moriah and Ti talking about some of these issues and the challenges of getting people to go through the training. It is a lot of hours and a lot of money required to get someone trained and a lot of this is done voluntarily so if we can - if this goes through and get a special taxing district we can actually provide some funding for them to make a more viable option for someone can actually be paid to do that.

Public Comment

Mr. Cook wanted to make a couple of comments - in order to have a board meeting, you have to have a quorum and you have done a number of resolutions tonight to add someone to the Youth Commission that went through - a resolution, someone seconded it and it was voted on. The same way with the Parks Committee, same process. With Dave being chair of this police advisory.... it is still a committee. You can call it what you want, it is a committee. Why did somebody have to make a first and second for Dorcey's resolution, for Joyce's resolution and you just decided to assign people to that in regards to .... he doesn't understand that. His point being that he doesn't have a problem at all with these people being on it, that is not the point, but the point is it is exactly what was done with Mike LaVallie's situation. It was taken on by yourself and it wasn't brought in front of the board, in other words, right now until you change it - him having that committee that you just assigned, it doesn't exist until you do exactly what you did with Dorcey and with Joyce. Then that committee would exist, ok - that is how you make it legal. Again, going back to what happened with Mike, it was not legal to be done. You made a comment to somebody after he had spoke that you didn't think that that was the case, you looked over at the lawyer and said I don't think that is the case - ok. It is the case, that is the reason why you set someone up on a committee to make a personnel change even if it is not with an employee, even it is with somebody on a committee that is going to be impacting the town. You do it by a resolution, you do it by a first and a second, you do it by a vote by people present and that is exactly what you did. So you need to do that for the police advisory board and his question is why wasn't that done on the case of Mike LaVallie, being told to resign or be fired. That is his question and he doesn't know if you will ever answer it or not, but that is the question that we have. We had a lot of conversation we had all sorts of different things, questions, talk about things. You said a number of things, whatever, we - he understands completely how inundated you are with business - ok, he knows by far how busy it is in the Town that people don't

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understand. The point being is, you have to do this with this, why wasn't it done with Mike. If that is the legal way to do business with the Town, why was that not done with Mike.

Mr. Hurlburt wanted to touch base on why people don't show up here. He thinks that a lot of people don't show up here is there has been discussion twice this week and he feels it has fallen on deaf ears. He thinks that you are hearing it and are then disregarding it, for whatever reason that may be he didn't get an answer, .....why would people show up here and waste two hours of their life if we never get any answers any questions that we have and then we go rolling into the next board meeting and we just kind of roll over what happened last week and nothing - nobody gets any answers, that is what he is saying. He knows that it has been touched on the Chief taking the vehicle home, a lot of agencies do it, it is what it is, does he think it is right to go out of county on the Town - no, no here no there, he did express his displeasure with it and again it kind of got rolled over. He doesn't even think that got voted on, not sure if it has too, he knows when he went to trainings he had to have it voted on from his meal expenditures to permission for him to leave the county. So this one was kind of like, oh, he's got it. He doesn't know how that runs, but would like to say that a lot more people would probably show up here and participate if we actually got answers to some of the questions that we presented. He doesn't expect you to have them right off the bat, you never know what we are going to ask you, but at some point, at some meeting theses things need to be answered and need to be addressed.

Mr. Jordan has a question, he would like to know what this committee knows about any thing to do with police? It doesn't seem logical to have some group of people that doesn't know anything about anything to do with it. Why not have someone like Mr. Cook or somebody who has experience in that, at least one person to give you the inside view on how.... now you are chopping the behinds of the citizens because we - the taxpayers are going to be paying money..... this guys lives 25 miles away could be 30 depending on where he lives, to and from that is about 60 miles back and forth and that is just one day. We are going to be paying the wear and tear on the tires, and all of that, when you had a guy right here in town easily, readily available and you shut him out. He is perplexed.

Councilwoman Crammond interrupted - you say that we aren't listening and we aren't answering... you are getting answers and they just go right out of your head. Mr. LaVallie had already handed in his resignation to us, each one of us, in a letter that he would be leaving here February 25th, that he would be leaving us, that he was resigning the position and going back to his job full-time. Everything was done here to try to persuade him to stay with us, we wanted him to stay with us, it was his choice not to and then you turn around and say we should have him here. He didn't want to be here, even until he was asked to resign here.....You are given answers, you just don't like the answers you get....

Mr. Jordan asked why was he still going to take the Chiefs test.

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Councilwoman Crammond answered that we have now idea, maybe there is some other place he was .....

Mr. Hurlburt stated that it is February 8th, he should still be working here for another 20 days....

Councilwoman Crammond again stated that you are given answers, it's just that you don't like the answers you get....

Mr. Cook started that the problem is .....

Councilwoman Crammond continued to say that the answer doesn't suit what you want to hear, Jeff. You have been here just as long as she has and you know this stuff and it is very aggravating when you do your damn best to try to help people and think you are doing the right thing for the tax payers, we are all taxpayers too.

Mr. Cook stated that he didn't say you weren't, he is saying that you had no knowledge until after the fact, that is what he is saying and that is what you told him...

Mr. Hurlburt stated that we are not accusing the board, we are saying one man acted outside of his legal authority to make a decision for the board that had no.....

Mr. Cook agreed and interrupted that this has nothing to do with any personal attack, even on him (Joe) we are not personally attacking.... (inaudible)

Councilwoman Crammond stated that you are personally attacking him, you absolutely are....

Councilman Woods stated, yes, you are.

Councilwoman Crammond continued you are because you didn't like what the response.

Councilman Woods asked Mr. Cook, how many times have you been in arguments with people and lost your temper, there isn't one person in this room that hasn't had an argument and said stuff that they regret, that is exactly what happened here. He said he regretted it, you have and everybody in this room has. What the hell is the difference from any one of us sitting down here.

Mr. Cook stated you are right, he has been upset and talked to people like that, whatever, the same as everybody here has, he understands. The difference being is that it didn't affect legality, it didn't affect somebody's lively hood and it didn't affect somebody's view of somebody in the public.

Councilman Woods asked why can't you let this go, he said he wished it hadn't had gone down that way...he has told you 100 times, but you guys just keep pursuing it and there are people in this room that he knows had the same situation, they are throwing stones....

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Mr. Cooks stated that we aren't throwing stones, he hasn't admitted one single thing that he has done wrong, that is what the point is. The only thing that we are talking about, the only thing, just like when he stood up there a minute ago, the base issue is you just did things legally, he did something illegally. All he has to do is admit that, that is all. Everything else is just banter....

Supervisor Giordano asked what he did illegally, just so he knows in which your statement is.....

Mr. Cook answered did you make a resolution....

Supervisor Giordano stated that we have done that, the Town had done certain things because we have always done resolutions and so forth before and he has talked to the person who had assisted us with doing this and they said this is what you say and he did it.

Mr. Fuller stated that it is Town law Section 63, the board may determine its rules and procedure and the Supervisor may from time to time appoint one or more committees consisting of members of the board to aid and assist the board in the performance of its duties. Traditionally, you have had resolutions to create committees, but legally you do not. That is a power invested in the Town Supervisor. To say that it was illegal, that would be wrong.

Councilman Woods stated to make you feel better, we could make a resolution.

Mr. Cook stated that this is all he was expecting of that. What his point was is that there was no resolution to fire Mike. Does that mean the Supervisor alone can dismiss a person? Can one individual on the Town Board, if Dorcey wants to go and fire someone, can she go and say resign or your fired?

Mr. Fuller stated that you would have to consult with the Town Supervisor, Dorcey is not the Town Supervisor. What you are asking is can there be circumstances where a board may consult as they did in what they believe was an emergency situation?? Yes, they could do that.

Mr. Cook asked - and you may not be able to answer this - and I may be completely wrong, his question is can the supervisor just decide to fire somebody and not have any input from the board.

Mr. Fuller stated that this is not a yes or no answer ....

Mr. Cook does not understand how somebody employed - regardless if it is Joe, Bob Dedrick, Deb Malaney... do they have the authority to simply say resign or I'm firing you...



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Mr. Fuller answered yes, he is not going to get into specifics with you but to answer that question of does that authority exist, yes. Then you have to get into a multitude of specifics with different classifications of employees and different employees that he is not going to go through.

Mr. Cook is just wondering if this fits it, that is all...

Councilman Woods stated that he bets \$5.00 that if Mike LaVallie was sitting right here, he would have put a stop to all of this. You know it and I know it, he wouldn't have let this go on. Everybody in here thinks the world of him, including him, he went through hell and back to try to get him to stay here and if he would have been here he wouldn't let any of this happen to him the way you guys are coming on about it. Do you think he would?

Mr. Cook stated that he can't say what he is thinking any more than Joe can say what he....

Councilman Woods stated that it is unfortunate what happened, but you have to let it go. Everybody makes mistakes.....

Mr. Watts (?) stated that he hasn't admitted that he made a mistake, that is the point.

Councilwoman Cooper asked if you want a public flogging...

Mr. Watts just asks for an apology (inaudible conversations)

Councilwoman Cooper stated - listen to you, are you being civil?

Mr. Watts stated that it is all we ask is he apologize and say he was wrong...

Councilwoman Cooper believes he has done that...

Councilwoman Crammond agreed, he did that in his letter that he read tonight...

Mr. Dedrick stated that he is going to leave for the night, but he wants to thank you very much for serving, he has been in your shoes and knows what kind of a job it is, Matt you are a hell of a lawyer. Thank you very much, it is a thankless job. He wishes that there was one requirement and he has told Joe this and he told Bill Grinnell the same thing, he wishes there was one requirement to be supervisor of the Town of Ticonderoga and that would be to spend at least two years on the Town board, and he is afraid that Jimmy Cawley is going to make the same mistake. He knows his heart is in the right place, but to walk into that position with all the work that you have to do and every committee that you have to be on top of, to walk into there the first day is asinine. You really need to be here, you need to be in your shoes, you need to learn the system, you have to understand the laws, work through things get some experience and then move on to Supervisor.

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Councilman Woods stated that you warned him and he is still overwhelmed.

Mr. Dedrick asked if anyone of you guys could walk into the supervisor position, absolutely not and he cautioned Joe and cautioned Billy and will caution Jimmy the same thing, he isn't going to listen to him, but boy he'll tell you that experience is all there is to it. Thank you very much for serving.

Mr. Streeter accepts your apology, further he would like to say that there have been many times in his life, including recently, where he lost his temper and said things that he was ashamed of afterwards and if that is what happened then he accepts that. The only thing that he would like to say is, he read the article in the Post Star and sadly they attributed us in that article which was a double edged sword and if he could make any suggestion in the world to you, he would suggest and do what he did when he screwed up this last time. He went around and apologized to everybody, but he thinks you could really heal the hearts of everybody that has been here at the last couple of meetings by simply making a statement. That statement is fine, release it as a press release, but we need to make clear, whatever happened, it happened in the heat of the moment and Mike LaVallie is not a bad guy. That needs to be done publically and if you do that you will get these people behind you, that is all it takes. They just want to protect their friend and want to protect the guys that has been protecting them for all these years and has taken care of them. That is all they want, all any of them want. From a guy that was born and raised here, he is telling you that when you say you are from Ticonderoga - that is the reason he came back here - when you say you are from Ticonderoga to him and he has met people from Ticonderoga in Hawaii and Los Angeles and every other place, when you say you are from Ticonderoga bond and it happens instantly, this is a great place to live. This is a wonderful place. It is a place I came to invest money in, I place I came to talk about the positive aspects of and he is sadly sorry that this last week unfolded the way it was and if he could do it over again, he wouldn't do it the same way. He apologizes to you and he accepts your apology. Thank you for serving. Let's make some changes, let's open up, let's communicate and lets just get this thing done because we are all here for the same reasons.

Peggy Robbins is here to talk about the water bill, so her understanding is, no matter what, like it or not, that is what the bill is going to be. There is no... because your house doesn't have an occupy license, saying that you are not allowed to live in it and nobody is living in it, that is what the water bill is no matter what. Is that the understanding, it is what it is and like it. There is no change in that? That house has no occupy license, she has it, it says no occupy and for the life of her she can't understand that and if that is set, well Ed's plan was to buy some houses, fix them up and sell them, to make Ticonderoga a better place to live, instead of having dumps or empty houses all over the place. If that is the fact, and she also has a problem with the full price on ..... at the meeting you are told that you will have to pay a year back of water bill, which she understands - the 2% plus the penalty fees you get jabbed with... you know we are trying to help the town, she doesn't understand why the doesn't have a problem screwing you. She really feels like she is being screwed, we are paying a full water bill when nobody lives there and they are not allowed to live in the house. We are fixing the house and then we have to go and

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give you more money for an occupy license, so the moral of the story is, don't buy any tax houses because the Town really doesn't care if it is a ghost town or not. Like you try to help the town, not destroy it or rip it off. She feels like she is getting ripped off, she really does, she doesn't like paying for stuff she doesn't get. She isn't saying that she shouldn't be paying something, but there shouldn't be - you own this, you pay this now. IF you own a house and the pipes go by your house, not that you are using it, they just go by you will have to pay. She doesn't think that is right and thinks that should be changed. You will hear me on death's ear until there..... she can't even get on the internet of this Town and find out how much the water bill is going to be. Let's say if you buy a property, how much is the water bill going to be. There is no set price for any ... she couldn't find it on the website.

Supervisor Giordano stated that we have a billing office that can help you with that.

Mrs. Robbins says, ok, I have to go to the billing office and find out all of that. To find out how much that water bill is for that house. That is not fair, that house isn't being used, no water is being used, so you shouldn't be charged.....

Supervisor Giordano agrees with the frustration.....

Mrs. Robbins knows that you keep telling her that, and she is sick and tired of hearing that. She doesn't want to hear that anymore. She wants actions, she wants to know, who comes up with the water bill in the first place, oh, the budget does. You determine how much money you need and that is how you come up with it. Well, how do you figure out if that house is empty that you will get money from that house? Why is that included in the budget.

Supervisor Giordano explained that this is the system that we operate under....

Mrs. Robbins stated that it is the wrong system....it is not fair..... so we are never going to change it then, it is what it is, it is black and white....

Supervisor Giordano tried to interject ..... a number of years ago there was a 4.6 million dollar grant offered to put water meters in, if you had a water meter on that property right now you would be paying the same thing comparably to what you are paying in electricity.....

Mrs. Robbins stated that you would not be paying usage on it....

Supervisor Giordano stated that you .....

Mrs. Robbins interrupted stating that she is not saying that she should pay something, she is saying that she shouldn't pay the full amount....

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Supervisor Giordano continued that if we had a water metering system here, you would have a connection charge, a monthly charge and for the amount of water you would use that is how much you would pay....

Mrs. Robbins stated, trust me, I came from the City of Philadelphia, she knows exactly how a water bill works....she knows how meters work because she paid her water bill every month down in the City of Philadelphia, her problem is she is not using the water and she doesn't feel as though she should have to pay full price for something that she isn't getting and when she does get an occupy license then you can go back to \$211.50 she doesn't have a problem with that, the water will be used. Just because the I have access to the pipe, and she doesn't even have access to it because she doesn't have access to live in that house.....

Supervisor Giordano stated that you have the benefit tapped into your house, you have a benefit to water whether you have the.....

Mrs. Robbins stated she lives up in Chilson and she swears to god, she doesn't have a water bill and she best not get a god damn water bill... she has two wells on her property and two septic tanks so she does not.... she knows there are water issues up there... but she is not paying a water bill.... you know she wanted to retire in this Town and as more time goes by she doesn't want to, her husband loves this town, he went to school in this Town. We came here and vacationed, and she learned to love this Town and she doesn't want to leave this Town, but she will tell you right now she is not going to be retired and be house broke again like she did when she first started because she doesn't have an income we just have our social security and our little old savings.... so it is so obvious.....she doesn't want to retire here anymore and that is so sad because she thinks her house is beautiful and she likes her house and she is comfortable with her house, but she will tell you right now.... she feels like you are stealing from her, she really does. That water bill is outrageous for not receiving any water and it is not allowed to use the water. So she thinks that something should be changed with the water department or whatever you call yourselves, utility usage or whatever, it should be something different than you live there and she doesn't want to hear that it is in the budget and that is just the way it is. She doesn't want to hear that, that is not fair and if you think that is fair or you don't think that is fair then she is nuts. She is paying for something that she is not getting.

Supervisor Giordano stated that this policy was set before any of us were sitting here and we are just abiding by the policy and we are trying to work through it to come up with a more comprehensive policy that doesn't exist right now. He understands your frustration, if we had a water meter system here you would not be complaining, he gets it. The Town had that option and it didn't take it, so now we are left with what we have and what we have is everyone pays, if you are a single person family and over here you have a family of five they are paying the same amount for water....

Mrs. Robbins stated that she doesn't have a problem with that....

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Supervisor Giordano continued - ok, you are tapped into the system and because you are tapped into the system you are deemed to be a user and that is paying user rate.....

Mrs. Robbins stated that she shouldn't be tagged at as a house that doesn't have an occupy license, the house has no occupy license. Nobody cares about that....that is the way it is.....that is not the way it should be, that is not fair, it is really not fair. So how can we get that changed or are we not changing that.....

Supervisor Giordano stated that we are trying to change it, that is one of the things that this board needs to sit down in a workshop and come up with new policy, that policy is old and it needs to be updated, we know there are a lot of deficiencies there, but in lieu of having a solution for everyone, you are left making these individual choices every time something comes up and that is not fair either. So the Town is working towards a more robust policy for it's water and sewer use. That is all that he can say about it.

Councilwoman Cooper ask what are the people told when they buy these homes at tax sales.

Supervisor Giordano stated buyer beware - if you have the money to buy it you are taking the liability of buying a property and all the risks that go with it. So if you are interested in that property, you need to ..... (inaudible) the town is collecting money to operate its system to benefit the people of the town.... The Town takes on these special districts, provide these services because individuals can't necessarily, if you can't drill a well because you don't have any water there, then where will you get your water from? So the Town, way back when, started developing these districts to help provide the service such as water or sewer and so this is something that the Town can function to provide that service for and you pay into it. It just so happens that that house that you bought at tax sale is attached to the district and because it is attached to the district, it doesn't have an special exemptions, unless other things are done to make it special, you are attached to it. He knows that it has a do not occupy sign to it, but that still doesn't .....(inaudible) that is something that can be discussed in the policy moving forward.....

Mrs. Robbins stated that she is not saying that she doesn't want to pay, cause obviously... she is saying that she shouldn't have pay the normal amount of a house that is lived in... she isn't saying that she doesn't want pay nothing...

Supervisor Giordano expressed that he gets the fairness part, there are other entities out there that are also paying different rates than other ones but the same type of business and that is not fair either and in lieu of making individual changes we are trying to come up with a policy that says ok - this is how business is going to happen moving forward. If you are this type of business, this is what you get charged, if you are this type this is what you get charge and moving forward in a more holistic view point rather than having one person coming in and complaining that I should be charged this and having the board sit here and make a determination as to whether you should be charged that and the next time someone else comes in and doing the same thing....

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Mrs. Robbins stated that she is not asking you to do nothing, she is asking you to change the way the policy is. That is ....

Supervisor Giordano stated that this is what we are working on...

Mrs. Robbins stated ok, but she is not young and she would like to see it.....she does not have the patience for it. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

AGENDA  
As of 2/16/2018 5:26 PM

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Opening Remarks -- Announcements:**

An Apology to Mike LaVallie  
Congratulations to Police Academy Graduates  
Note of Thanks to Highway Dept.  
TACC Mixer at the TNFC  
Disc Golf Presentation

Board of Health – no report

**Public Comment** (time limit 2 minutes per speaker)

**Public Hearing**

**Department Heads**

**Committee reports:**

Public Safety DW

Highway / Transfer Station WT

Airport JG

Building Grounds Parks Rec Library DW/JC

RESOLUTION to add Nancy Kelley to the Building Grounds Parks Rec Library  
Committee

Human Services: Youth/Seniors DC

RESOLUTION to add Herb Tedford to the Youth Commission

Economic Development JG

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Public Works JG

RESOLUTION to go out to Bid on the Water Supply Project

RESOLUTION to refund 2018 1sr Qtr billing and amend account to show future  
billings represent a non-buildable vacant parcel at 383 Black Point Road

Health Insurance JG

Contract negotiations JG

I.T. / Cable T.V. JG

**Resolutions:**

RESOLUTION to accept/correct minutes of Regular TB Meeting January 18,  
2018, January 25, 2018 finance meeting, the Special TB Meeting January 29,  
2018 and the Special TB Meeting February 5, 2018

RESOLUTION in Opposition to Taxable NYS Owned Land Conversion to  
PILOTs

RESOLUTION approving and endorsing PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc. in its  
application to NYS Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the New  
York Main Street Technical Assistance Program

RESOLUTION authorizing the following budget adjustments

- A.2210 Youth Ski Program (new Revenue collected)  
\$350.00
- A.7310.400 ORDA-Youth Ski Program Appropriation  
\$350.00
- A.9089.800 Other Employee Benefits (Pd by Retiree)  
\$214.00

RESOLUTION authorizing the following budget transfers

- A.9050.800 Unemployment Insurance  
\$3,307.00

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- A.0230.003                  Capital Reserves Unemployment Ins                  -  
    \$3,307.00
- DA.1910.400                  Highway Unallocated Insurance  
    \$15,824.00
- DA.1989.400                  Highway Contingency    -  
    \$15,824.00
- SS05.1910.400                  Central Sewer Unallocated Insurance  
    \$5,229.00
- SS05.1989.400                  Central Sewer Contingency    -  
    \$5,229.00

RESOLUTION authorizing General Fund to lend Capital Projects funds until  
Long-Term Financing and/or Grant funding is received.

- A.0391                  General - Due From other Funds  
    \$251,626.00
- H49.0630                  GIGP Stream Daylighting - Due To General  
    \$126,237.00
- H50.0630                  WQIP/WWTP Upgrades - Due to General  
    \$125,099.00
- H55.0630                  DASNY/SAM Comm. Bldg Reno. - Due to General  
    \$290.00

RESOLUTION to Pay the Abstract

Town Clerk, Tonya Thompson

Attorney, Matt Fuller

**Public Comment – Please Stand and State Your Name**

Adjourn the Town Board Meeting