

Supervisor Holdridge explained that this is a yearly formality that the Town and most other Towns do to reserve the right to override the tax cap. He clarified that while the tentative budget is currently below the tax cap, this law would provide the ability to override it in case of a catastrophe. He emphasized that passing this local law does not automatically override the tax cap or mean that they will be going over the tax cap.

No comments were received from the public.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Becker to close the public hearing at 7:28pm.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ADOPT LOCAL LAW 12, A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE 2026 TAX CAP.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to adopt Local Law 12, A Local Law To Override The 2026 Tax Cap.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & ZONING AMENDMENTS

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay at 7:29pm to open the Public Hearing on the Draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan And Zoning Amendments.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

Supervisor Holdridge read an introduction statement detailing how the Town's comprehensive plan committee met for most of a year to produce the draft plan, which was accepted in January. He explained that comprehensive plans are general in nature and may include designation of land uses, goals and policies for various areas including agricultural, historic, and natural resource protection, transportation systems, housing needs, community facilities, recreation, and strategies for improving the local economy.

Supervisor Holdridge noted that the accompanying zoning amendments implement several of the plan's short-term goals, including expansion of agricultural uses to incorporate agritourism, refining ridgeline protections and cluster subdivisions, and developing regulations for energy storage systems. The amendments bring application processes for the Planning and Zoning Boards into greater conformity with New York State law. He mentioned that all documents are available on the Town website for review, and that these amendments are just one step in a continuing process to implement the plan's goals.

Supervisor Holdridge acknowledged those who worked on the comprehensive plan, including Richard Logothetis, David Stevenson, Matt Woods, Tracy Schuh, Veronica Mott, Councilman Bob Courtenay, Councilman Larry Dysinger, and Town Attorney Elizabeth Cassidy, as well as planner Kristen O'Donnell from Lanc & Tully.

As he opened the floor for comments, he requested everyone to try to stay within a three-minute limit to allow all comments to be heard.

Jordan Conway from the law firm Whiteman, Osterman, and Hannah spoke on behalf of their client, Congregation Heichal Torah. She explained that the organization owns property at 162 Troutbrook Road, used as a children's religious camp (formerly Camp Monroe). Conway stated that they had received a notice of violation from the Town in March 2025 for an alleged unlawful change of use, and their appeal to the Zoning Board had been adjourned until the new zoning laws are adopted. Ms. Conway noted that under current zoning, Camp Monroe is considered a preexisting legal nonconforming use, as religious uses are not allowed in the AR-3 zone, which she stated conflicts with federal law, including the US Constitution and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. She acknowledged that the proposed zoning amendments fix this issue by allowing religious institutions in all zoning districts in Chester.

Ms. Conway offered several recommendations for the definition of "religious institution" and related special use standards:

- Expand the definition to include religious camps, schools, and retreat facilities
- Remove the phrase "architecturally designed" from the definition
- Eliminate the requirement that religious institutions conduct services on a regular basis
- Avoid limiting accessory uses of religious institutions to a specific list

- Remove requirements that effectively limit where religious institutions can locate, such as requiring access to state/county roads or connection to public sewer and water
- Remove the requirement that all religious uses be located on a contiguous site
- Include religious schools under religious institution, not under standards for schools of general instruction

Ms. Conway concluded by stating that their client intends to come before the planning Board once the zoning laws are enacted to ensure they are fully compliant.

Matt Woods, representing the Town of Chester Comprehensive Plan Committee, stated that the committee's comments had been submitted to the Town Board via email.

Tracy Schuh, who has provided input over many years and encouraged public participation, emphasized the importance of comprehensive planning, noting that community needs change over time. Ms. Schuh asked about the process after the public hearing closed and whether written comments would continue to be accepted, as residents might need time to digest the information. Ms. Schuh mentioned that she had submitted feedback on behalf of the nonprofit The Preservation Collective regarding buffers, landscaping inconsistencies, solar and battery storage facilities, special use permits, and planning with nature in mind. Her main concern was whether the changes would be sufficient when the moratorium is lifted to address public concerns and prepare the Town for new development. She hoped the Planning Board would provide more feedback based on their experiences with past projects.

Town Attorney Cassidy addressed Ms. Schuh's process question, suggesting the Board close the public hearing subject to a 10-day window to receive written comments. She explained that the Board would then schedule a work session to review all comments before redlining the document. If changes were substantial, a second public hearing would be held.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to close the public hearing at 7:50pm, subject to a 10-day written comment window.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

Supervisor Holdridge thanked those who commented and worked on the comprehensive plan, acknowledging the painstaking effort involved. He noted that while there wouldn't always be agreement on everything, the result was a much better updated document than the previous plan from about 10 years ago.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Dysinger, representing the Chester Conservation Advisory Council, announced their Repair Cafe on Saturday, October 25th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Senior Center. She explained that local volunteers would be available to fix broken items including electrical repairs, gluing, sewing, knife sharpening, pottery repair, and jewelry repair. Ms. Dysinger noted this would be their third repair cafe, with the last one helping 93 people. She mentioned that the last repair would be accepted at 1:30 PM and asked that people not bring gas or diesel-powered items for insurance purposes. Supervisor Holdridge thanked Jane and the Conservation Advisory Council for their work, noting they have been very active since the beginning of 2024.

Chris Maurer, Creamery Pond Road, spoke on snow removal responsibilities for the new sidewalks along Kings Highway. She clarified that under New York State premises liability law, property owners adjacent to public sidewalks are responsible for clearing snow and ice. She noted that while Chester's code lacks a specific snow removal clause, it prohibits conditions endangering public safety, which courts interpret to include uncleared sidewalks. She stated that businesses, residents, and institutions along Kings Highway and Pine Hill Road must clear their adjacent sidewalks to avoid fines and liability. Regarding the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center, Ms. Maurer stated that Orange County would be responsible for snow removal after acquiring the property. She opposed creating a sidewalk tax district, arguing it would unfairly tax residents for responsibilities assigned to property owners. Supervisor Holdridge mentioned there was still disagreement on how to move forward with sidewalk maintenance, and the agenda item would be tabled until the full Board was present. Town Attorney Cassidy clarified that while the Town and County had authorized the sale of the Performing Arts Center, the Town still owned it pending finalization of the contract.

Alex Jamieson, DeRose Lane, questioned several aspects of the 2026 budget, particularly regarding the \$1,340,000 allocated for the purchase of the Performing Arts Center (PAC). He asked whether there was a resolution stating that money received from the County for the PAC would go toward associated debt. He also questioned why \$50,000 in expenses related to the PAC remained in the budget if it was being sold. Supervisor Holdridge and Comptroller

Meyer explained that when the budget was crafted, they anticipated a closing date later than this year, so expenses and revenues for the PAC were included. They confirmed that the full debt of the Performing Arts Center would be paid off with proceeds from the sale. Mr. Jamieson also asked about approximately \$800,000 in "bond proceeds" in the budget. Comptroller Meyer explained these were for projects planned for the coming year, such as the Pond Road culvert. Mr. Jamieson expressed concern about fund balances, suggesting that officials might be looking to raise taxes to grow fund balances, which he argued could only be done by overtaxing residents. Supervisor Holdridge clarified that his goal of increasing fund balances was not to overtax residents but to use less fund balance to balance budgets over time. He explained that the majority of fund balance usage in the budget was for single-purchase items, which follows the state comptroller's recommendations.

Robert Klein, Hudson Street, commented on counting the revenue from the sale of the Sugar Loaf PAC as revenue. He argued that the sale of an asset should not be counted as revenue and that all money from the sale should be used to pay off debt. He suggested that accounting for this revenue unfairly lowered the tax rate without lowering the related debt. Supervisor Holdridge reiterated that the full debt of the Performing Arts Center would be paid off by the proceeds of the sale as soon as possible.

Dylan Skriloff, The Chronicle, asked whether the debt for the PAC would be paid all at once. Supervisor Holdridge confirmed it would be paid as soon as bond counsel allows, likely in one or two payments, with approximately \$400,000-\$500,000 left over that would be included in the budget.

REPORTS

Supervisor Holdridge announced that after six years of effort, Governor Kathy Hochul had signed the community preservation fund bill into law the previous Friday. This bill allows the Town to hold a referendum for Chester residents to decide whether to establish a community preservation fund, which would create a real estate transfer tax paid by buyers of new homes. The funds collected would allow the Town to purchase development rights for properties, open spaces, historical sites, or agricultural land. Supervisor Holdridge compared it to Warwick's community preservation fund, which has been in place for about 20 years and has shaped how that Town looks and feels today. He announced that a press conference would be held the following Monday at 11 AM at Knapp's View to discuss future steps, with Assemblyman Brian Maher expected to attend.

Town Clerk Zappala announced the Congregate Dining program, which will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Senior Center, beginning Tuesday, October 28th. The program is open to seniors aged 60 and over, with meals served at approximately 12 PM. She also mentioned the Trunk or Treat event scheduled for Saturday at the Sugar Loaf PAC beginning at 11 AM, featuring a witch's parade.

Council Member Becker thanked the Highway Department for cleaning roadways, noting they were making a second round of cleanups. He mentioned that most of his time had been spent working on budget meetings with different departments.

Council Member Dysinger thanked the Highway Department for cleaning up at Knapp's View. He reported that some of the Board had interviewed Laura Mosher for the Planning Board and agreed she would be a good fit.

Supervisor Holdridge reported that the Highway Department had worked on a new project for the Senior Center in Chester Commons parking lot, installing six new senior/veteran parking spots with plans to add six more. He also announced that new field lights had been installed at Chester Commons Park to bring back night events, particularly "Friday Night Lights" for high school football. He secured a \$20,000 grant from Tetz, a local mining/quarry company, to cover the cost of pole and box installation, eliminating the need to use Parkland funds for that purpose.

RESOLUTION TO GRANT TEMPORARY HOTEL/MOTEL/AIRBNB LATE FEE WAIVER TO CHERYL D'CRUZ

Supervisor Holdridge explained that Cheryl D'Cruz made a good faith effort but unfortunately didn't submit the right payment, through no fault of her own. The Board agreed to a temporary late fee waiver while waiting for the rest of the payment to come through, with a specific date by which she would pay.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to pass the resolution for the late fee waiver.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT SECURITY CAMERA INSTALLATION QUOTE FOR THE OAK DR PARK IN WALTON LAKE ESTATES

The quote from Gridless Power at \$16,627.50 was presented. Supervisor Holdridge noted that the Board had received an explanation from Sergeant Vitale and a breakdown of costs. This would be paid for through leftover funds from the cash reserve for security cameras.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to approve the security camera installation by Gridless Power at \$16,627.50 through cash reserves.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

Supervisor Holdridge noted that this would provide security camera coverage for Oak Drive Park, completing coverage for all three major parks in Town, along with Carpenter Park and Chester Commons.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$2,000 FROM FUND BALANCE FOR THE BALANCE OF SECURITY CAMERA INSTALLATION COST AT THE OAK DR PARK IN WALTON LAKE ESTATES

Supervisor Holdridge explained that the amount of money left over in cash reserves did not cover the full cost of the security camera installation, requiring allocation of up to \$2,000 from fund balance.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to allocate up to \$2,000 from fund balance to the Oak Park security camera purchase.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

SUGAR LOAF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR BILLBOARD USE

This item concerned the use of the Town billboard for a Halloween in the Hamlet Announcement Banner. A legal opinion had been obtained indicating the Town could allow this use.

Council Member Becker expressed opposition to using billboards for this purpose, arguing it gave an unfair advantage to the Sugar Loaf Chamber because they had someone who could create the artwork. He noted that other community organizations like Kiwanis don't have the same access. Becker also raised concerns about a non-Town employee having control over what goes on the billboard without Board approval.

Supervisor Holdridge acknowledged the concern about non-employees controlling billboard content but disagreed about allowing the Chamber's request, noting that other organizations had been granted similar access in the past.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to approve the billboard use request from the Sugar Loaf Chamber of Commerce.

VOTE: AYES(2): Holdridge, Courtenay, NAYS(1): Becker, ABSTAINED(1): Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

The motion failed.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT LAURA MOSHER TO THE PLANNING BOARD

Council Members Becker and Dysinger reported that they had interviewed Laura Mosher along with Council Member Courtenay. They found her very outgoing with a good background and believed she would be a great asset to the Planning Board. They noted she also had the recommendation of the Planning Board itself.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to appoint Laura Mosher to the planning Board.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NEW PANEL & BOOSTER FOR WALTON LAKE WATER DISTRICT

The request was to approve the purchase of a new panel and booster for the Walton Lake Water District, to be paid from the \$130,000 Senator Skoufis grant awarded in 2021 but not executed until 2024. Supervisor Holdridge thanked Council Member Becker for his work in obtaining the grant.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to apply the purchase in the amount of \$47,676.00 for the panel and booster to the \$130,000 Skoufis grant.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger to apply a previously approved expense in the amount of \$7,193.00 to the \$130,000 Skoufis grant.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE VARIOUS WATER DEPARTMENT PURCHASES FOR WALTON LAKE WATER DISTRICT

A request was received from the Water Department to approve \$25,994.56 (the lowest bid from Core and Main) for water main products, pipes and fittings. This would also be paid from the \$130,000 Skoufis grant.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to approve the pipes and fittings purchase from Core and Main in the amount of \$25,994.56 and apply to the \$130,000 Skoufis grant.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

BUDGET MODIFICATION - \$3,000 FOR SENIOR CENTER UTILITIES

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay seconded by Council Member Becker to accept the following budget modification:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
<u>General</u>			
Senior Center Utilities	3,000	A1621.421	A0599

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE SECRETARY TO THE POLICE CHIEF POSITION

Supervisor Holdridge explained this position was being created through the HELPS program to solve the issue of a permanent position at the Police Department. The Board had confirmed with the Police Chief that he approved this approach.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to create the position of Secretary to the Police Chief.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT GABRIELLE GUASTAMACCHIA TO SECRETARY TO THE POLICE CHIEF

Supervisor Holdridge emphasized that this was not a new hire but a transfer of an existing employee to a new position at the same rate of pay, using the HELPS program. He had received confirmation from Gabrielle that she was in agreement with this change.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to appoint Gabrielle Guastamacchia to the position of Secretary to the Police Chief.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF KATHLEEN MORAN

Kathleen Moran submitted her letter of retirement from the Town of Chester, effective April 8, 2026. In her letter, she expressed gratitude for working with the Town for 35 years, noting it had been a wonderful experience with outstanding colleagues and dedicated justices.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to accept the resignation of Kathleen Moran, effective April 8, 2026.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

OC NY ARTS COUNCIL SLPAC RENTAL FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THEIR EVENT ON NOVEMBER 8TH

The Orange County New York Arts Council requested a rental fee waiver for an event at the Performing Arts Center on November 8th. Supervisor Holdridge noted that the Board had approved similar requests in the past, and that the organization would still be responsible for the cleaning fee.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay seconded by Council Member Becker to accept the fee waiver request.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE LOCAL LAW DISCUSSION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Supervisor Holdridge to table this agenda item until the full Board could be present to resolve the issue on how to proceed with sidewalk maintenance.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT 2026 PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL SERVICES BY LAW OFFICE OF ELIZABETH CASSIDY, PLLC

The proposal included a \$150 increase in monthly retainer and a \$15 per hour increase for services beyond the retainer. Board Members expressed satisfaction with the service provided by Town Attorney Cassidy.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Supervisor Holdridge to accept the 2026 proposal from Elizabeth Cassidy, PLLC.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana **ADOPTED**

CHANGES TO THE 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Supervisor Holdridge explained that the tentative budget was constructed by him as budget officer along with the accounting department and Comptroller Neil Meyer. The Board proceeded to discuss and vote on numerous changes to create the preliminary budget in conjunction with the following spreadsheet:

Account	Description	Add/(Subtract)	Preliminary	Updated Preliminary	Explanation
A1355-461	Assessor Fuel & Vehicle Repairs	200	400	600	For New Brakes
A6772-442	Recreation Congregate Dining	16,500	6,500	23,000	The Town reimbursed up to 30K for Congregate Dining
A2706-000	Grants from Local Governments	30,000	10,000	40,000	Add congregate Dining
A7110-200	Parks Equipment	500	4,500	5,000	Add Full Cost of Aerator
A7140-2000	Parks & Playgrounds Equipment	95,000	-	95,000	Sidewalks at Carpenter Park
A2706-000	Grants from Local Governments	95,000	40,000	135,000	Sidewalks at Carpenter Park
A1110-100	Justice Court Salary	(40,000)	410,000	370,000	Employee Retirement
A7110-100	Parks Personal Services	(23,765)	319,765	296,000	Eliminate Additional Parks Employee
A0599	Appropriated Fund Balance	(25,000)	50,000	25,000	Decrease use of Appropriated Fund Balance
A1110-100	Justice Court Salary	1,857	370,000	371,857	Raise for Judges bringing them both to 35K
	Supervisor Personal Services	(3,720)	337,000	333,280	Reduce Supervisors Salary
B3620-472	Building Dept Postage & Publications	800	800	1,600	Based on 2025 Mailings
B3620-473	Building Dept Membership Dues	700	1,300	2,000	Two Individuals to maintain licenses
B3120-100	Police Personal Services	56,518	2,716,680	2,773,198	Reserve to Account – Settlement of the Union Contract
B1255-000	Registrar Fees	750	1,250	2,000	Error in Tentative Budget
B3120-200	Police Equipment	900			Halligan Tools OC Spray
B3120-200	Police Equipment				
		500			
B3120-200	Police Equipment Summary	1,400	177,150	178,550	Total
DB5110-490	Road Repair & Maintenance	214,000	1,425,000	1,639,000	Increase due to surrey Road Culvert
DB5710-000	Bond Proceeds	214,000	650,000	864,000	Increase due to surrey Road Culvert
SW4-8320-200	Sugar Loaf P&P Equip	45,000	5,000	50,000	New Well

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger

- Adding \$200 to assessor fuel and vehicle repairs for new brakes

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Adding \$16,500 for recreation congregate dining, which will be reimbursed up to \$30,000, making it budget neutral

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker.

- Adding \$30,000 to grants from local governments revenue line

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger

- Adding \$500 to parks equipment for an aerator

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger

- Adding \$95,000 to parks and playgrounds equipment for ADA pathways grant from Orange County, with corresponding revenue line

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker

- Subtracting \$40,000 from justice court salary for employee retirement

VOTE: AYES:(3) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, NAYS(1): Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Eliminating additional parks employee, saving \$23,765

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker

- Reducing appropriated fund balance in A fund from \$50,000 to \$25,000

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Supervisor Holdridge

- Adding \$1,857 to justice court salary to raise judges to \$35,000 each (they had not had a raise in 4 years)

VOTE: AYES:(3) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, NAYS(1): Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Reducing supervisor personal services by \$3,720 to keep salary at current rate

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Increasing building department postage and publication by \$800

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Adding \$700 to building department Membership, dues and transportation to maintain licenses

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker

- Adding \$56,518 in anticipation of union contract

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Becker

- Increasing registrar fees by \$750 to make it \$2,000 in the preliminary budget

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Adding \$900 to police equipment for Halligan tools

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Dysinger, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Adding \$500 to police equipment for pepper spray

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay

- Adding \$214,000 for Surrey Road culvert (to be covered by bond)

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Dysinger.

- Adding corresponding \$214,000 to bond proceeds revenue

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger

- Adding \$45,000 for new Sugar Loaf well

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY made by Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Dysinger.

- Appropriating fund balance from Sugarloaf Water District to cover most of the well cost

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

Council Member Dysinger noted that the ambulance expense remained an outstanding issue. Supervisor Holdridge explained he planned to provide a breakdown from Empress EMS regarding what a draft agreement would look like if the Town provided an ambulance rig, including cost savings from billing. He mentioned they had already received a \$48,000 grant from Senator Skoufis for some of the equipment.

Council Member Becker mentioned that security cameras for police (red dot sights) at \$12,500 had been discussed but was not included in the current changes. The Board agreed to hold off on this expense until they could see how much room remained under the tax cap.

With these changes, the budget would be approximately \$57,000-\$58,000 under the tax cap.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Holdridge thanked the Board for being in agreement with most of the tentative budget and for setting a preliminary budget that remained under the tax cap even with the changes.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Supervisor Holdridge to accept the 2026 preliminary budget.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO SET THE 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

After discussion about scheduling conflicts, including the planning Board meeting and Election Day, the Board agreed to hold the public hearing on November 5th at 6:00 PM. Attorney Cassidy explained that the hearing needed to begin before November 6th but could be continued to a later date if needed.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Dysinger to set the public hearing for November 5th at 6:00 PM.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

Supervisor Holdridge thanked the Town Board for working with him on the process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Dysinger to enter Executive Session at 9:10pm for personnel matters.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:20pm.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

New Business

SLPAC FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR NATIVE VOICES EVENT ON NOVEMBER 28TH

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to accept the fee waiver request.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE \$33,000 PIPELINING BID FROM AROLD CONSTRUCTION

The Highway Department requested approval for a change order for the pipelining project on Dawn Court for \$33,000 under the same bid as the existing project to avoid higher costs of rebidding. Council Member Becker clarified that this would be a slip lining that would not require digging up the pipe, avoiding disruption to fences, trees, and other obstacles.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Becker, seconded by Council Member Courtenay to approve the change order request.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REFUND FOR MRS. CLAUS RECREATIONAL TRIP

A trip had been canceled, requiring refunds to be issued to those who had already paid.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to approve the refunds.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

The Board also addressed an additional personnel item not placed on the agenda:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT JULIE TO SENIOR SECRETARY POSITION VIA HELPS PROGRAM

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Holdridge, seconded by Council Member Courtenay. to appoint Julie to the senior secretary position at the same rate of pay.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

The Board also scheduled a work session for November 12th at 4:30 PM to discuss the comprehensive plan and zoning amendments' comments.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to set the work session for November 12th at 4:30 PM

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

One public comment was received online from Charlotte Henry, who wrote: "Exceptionally well done budget presentation. Bravo, Brandon, and your amazing team." Supervisor Holdridge thanked Charlotte for her comment.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Council Member Courtenay, seconded by Council Member Becker to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm.

VOTE: AYES:(4) Holdridge, Becker, Courtenay, Dysinger, ABSENT(1): Ardisana ADOPTED

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Zappala, RMC
Town Clerk
2025-10-22