



**Town Clerk**  
Leonard J. Perfetti

# Town of Union

**Town Board**  
Richard A. Materese, *Supervisor*  
Thomas R. Augostini, *Councilman*  
Frank J. Bertoni, *Councilman*  
Sandra C. Bauman, *Councilwoman*  
Heather R. Staley, *Councilwoman*

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## TOWN OF UNION BOARD MEETING

March 3, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of Town of Union was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Board Room, 3111 East Main Street, Endwell, New York and via Zoom. There will be a full transcription of this meeting on the Town website at a later date.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Richard A. Materese, Councilman Thomas R. Augostini, Councilman Frank J. Bertoni, Councilwoman Sandra C. Bauman, Councilwoman Heather R. Staley.

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Town Attorney Alan J. Pope, Town Clerk Leonard J. Perfetti, Deputy Town Clerk Rebecca Kruczkowski, Planning Director Sara Zubalsky-Peer.

Also in attendance was Deputy Broome County Executive Kevin McManus, County Legislator Jason Shaw, Alternate Zoning Board member Amanda Dorrell.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese asked for a moment of silence for Fred Durfee, a 44 year Town employee who passed away just after retiring.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

BIDS: None.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Augostini, seconded by Bertoni to approve the Minutes of the Regular Town of Union Board Meeting held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.  
Carried.

At this time, Supervisor Richard A. Materese welcomed County Legislator Jason Shaw and, for the last time to give the State of the County address, Broome County Deputy Executive



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Kevin McManus. He congratulated Kevin on his retirement and wished him good luck in whatever his future brings.

Kevin McManus, Broome County Deputy Executive, thanked the Board for allowing him to present the State of the County address. He also thanked Jason Shaw for coming tonight. He said that Jason is his Legislator and they work together closely on things that matter to our community. He invited Jason to step in and fill in where he would like to.

Mr. McManus said they are recognizing all the heroes at the County that have performed admirably throughout the pandemic. He said everyone knows, of course, of the great jobs the Health Department under the direction of Rebecca Kaufman and the Office of Emergency Services under the direction of Mike Ponticiello have done, but some of our other departments were very creatively utilized during the pandemic. Such as the Office for Aging employees who were calling people over the age of 65 to get their vaccinations, and the Parks and Recreation employees who usually work in the Arena who did contact tracing, along with people from the library, etc.

He pointed out a few things –

Over 1 million pieces of PPE procurement donations were dropped off for the community; contact tracing started out with 3 employees and it expanded at one point, to over 75 employees contacting people to trace their whereabouts; and they had unprecedented luck and great cooperation working with schools, superintendents and a lot of businesses during the pandemic.

He said they asked their Emergency Services Department to help come up with a way to deliver testing, and within two days they came up with the creative idea of using a BC Transit bus that was stripped and made into a mobile testing site, which we think will probably transition into a mobile vaccination site. He said Broome County is sitting at 20% of those vaccinated, whereas, the State's average is at 15%, and they are receiving more vaccinations each week. They opened a mass vaccination site at Broome Community College that they believe will work very well.

Mr. McManus said the local economy is coming back and he is happy to say that collectively with the legislation, they have had a part in that. He said they have a great working relationship with them and they could not have made it any easier to manage a pandemic. He is proud to say that they have been a great partner. People can question if working across the party lines could work at the State or Federal government level; we have made it work in Broome County, working together to make sure our County government works, and to tackle the pandemic together.

He went on to say the unemployment rate is coming down, our sales tax is coming back and the median housing prices are up almost 30%. The funding from the State that was to be cut by 20%, is now being brought down to 5%. The County has had their third straight tax cut and the fund balance was up to 14 million dollars before the pandemic. He said they never



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took money from the municipalities from 2011-2016 with negotiations that went back and forth. He said they take pride in working together to not have to do that. He said there are exciting new things coming down the line in Broome County Government.

He said Broome County Executive Jason Garner has a breakdown of all the federal stimulus money that is coming into the County, which can be emailed to the Board. The Town of Union is looking at possibly a 29 million dollar (unofficial) target. He said let's hope that some type of stimulus passes, because we think it is important to get back to where we were before the pandemic. He said no one in Emergency Services or the Health Department ever dreamed that they would have the cost that occurred from just battling this pandemic.

He asked Jason Shaw if he had anything to add.

County Legislator Jason Shaw said that when County Executive Jason Garner gave the whole speech, he, of course, went deeper into all these things that Kevin discussed. He said when it comes to the Town of Union, the number you heard will really make a difference, so you can fill your budget holes. He said if there is anything that we can do to make it happen, we will.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese asked if the 29 million, or whatever amount that it ends up being, would have stipulations or strings attached on how to use it, or would we have to use it to take care of problems we had during the pandemic.

Mr. McManus said he is not aware of any stipulations at this point.

Mr. Shaw said he knows that the CARES Act had a number of uses that it could only be used for. He said he is not aware of any stipulations at this time for this stimulus money.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese thanked Deputy Executive Kevin McManus and Legislator Jason Shaw for their overview of the County address.

### HEARING OF VISITORS:

Supervisor Richard A. Materese read the following Proclamation:

#### ***In Celebration of Dominick Porretta***

**WHEREAS**, Dominick Porretta, born and raised in Pofi, Italy, with his four siblings, immigrated to America through Ellis Island with his mother and twin siblings at the age of sixteen, and

**WHEREAS**, Dominick married his wife Pauline, raised three children, built his own home, and continued to keep his Italian traditions alive through regularly preparing homemade cannoli shells, wine and pasta, and



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**WHEREAS**, Dominick became an active member of his community, working at UE High School's ticket booth, volunteering at the Italian Feast Days and other church events, joining the Knights of Columbus, and meeting with fellow retirees for a morning cup of coffee, and

**WHEREAS**, Dominick continues to drive, keep up his lawn care and house work with Pauline, and is always looking forward to visits from his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who live out of town.

**Now, Therefore**, the Town of Union Board wishes to join family, friends and fellow citizens in celebrating Mr. Dominick Porretta on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

David Porretta on behalf of his Father and family, thanked the Board for honoring his Father tonight.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese said he will get the Proclamation out in the mail and wished both his Mom and Dad well.

As no one else wished to speak, Supervisor Richard A. Materese closed the first Hearing of Visitors.

### COMMUNICATIONS FOR FILING:

Moved by Augustini, seconded by Bertoni to receive and file the following communications:

1. Charter Communications channel changes.
2. Letter from Tom & Gladys Butler regarding the repaving of Kemp Drive this year and a concern of parking on both sides of the street creating a problem for the plows to get through.
3. 239 Review Submission Form from the Village of Endicott regarding Altura at Skye View Heights, 105 1/2 Skye Island Drive, Endicott, changing it from Suburban Single Family (SSF) to Planned Unit Development (PUD).  
Carried.

### COMMUNICATIONS FOR ACTION:

1. Moved by Augustini, seconded by Bertoni to refer the letter from Michael Kunzman requesting a refund for a building permit of a new home that is not going to take place to Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for Codes and Ordinances Daria Golazeski.  
Carried.
2. Moved by Augustini, seconded by Bertoni to refer the letter from Endwell Fire Department requesting "No Parking" signs be installed on Valley Street due to fire trucks having





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(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes to approve Change Order 1 for the contract with Whitmore Fence Co. Inc. to extend the contract through August 2, 2021 and increase the price to \$43,768.00; the Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, or other town official so designated by the Town Board will be authorized to sign all documentation required to implement this contract amendment.)

Res. by Augustini, seconded by Bertoni.  
The Resolution was adopted.

Vote: All yes.

### HEARING OF VISITORS:

Terri Farrell, 404 Hazel Avenue, Endicott, thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk. She said they are planning the first ever Arbor Day event in Endicott and is excited to be working with a former colleague of hers from the Environmental Service and Forestry School, Lori Brokovitch of the Davy Resource Group. Ms. Brokovitch has worked with the City of Binghamton to help them become a Tree City USA, and through the Shade Tree Commission for 20 years to protect their trees and earn several grants. She said the goal of this Arbor Day event would be for us to work towards becoming a Tree City USA. She said the event is 1 of 4 criteria of which would include either the Village of Endicott or the Town of Union to show that they are doing any tree work or maintenance of trees to earn points towards this distinction. The event will include seedling give away, a poster contest and providing educational material. Councilwoman Heather R. Staley will read a proclamation. The tree committee members include Nicole Wolf, Superintendent of Union Endicott Schools; Biology teachers, and student ambassadors that meet weekly. The event will be held on May 1, 2021 at Glendale Park with a time to be determined, and will follow CDC guidelines for social distancing. She said this committee came about because healthy trees were cut down on South Street and residents were upset. She also said it is a great opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of trees and once we become a Tree City USA, we can obtain greater recognition and receive funding for projects regarding trees.

Councilwoman Heather R. Staley clarified that the trees on South Street were cut down by the Village of Endicott not the Town of Union.

As no one wished to speak, Supervisor Richard A. Materese closed the second Hearing of Visitors.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE: None.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese said in 4-H UNITY e-News for January-February 2021, highlighting our CYFAR Sustainable Communities Projects, 4-H Urban Neighborhoods Improved Through Youth, UNITY Endicott and UNITY Rochester. He congratulated the CCE Broome 4-H UNITY Endicott team, Kelly Mabree, Asia Ambler and Cindi Conway, on all their



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extraordinary efforts during COVID to discover innovative ways to program virtually, to create new community partnerships, recruit new Teen Leaders and continue establishing the groundwork for long-term sustainability. He said keep up the good work.

### ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Augostini, seconded by Bertoni to adjourn the meeting.  
Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Leonard J. Perfetti  
Town Clerk

LJP/bk