



Town of Tusten Town Board Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

6:30 PM

ZOOM ID: 890 1678 4280

Venue: Tusten Community Hall, 210 Bridge Street

PRESENT

Supervisor Bernard Johnson
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger
Councilman Greg Triggs
Councilman Kevin McDonough
Councilman Bruce Gettel

OTHERS PRESENT

Town Clerk Crystal Weston, Deputy Town Clerk Leigh Delaney
Attorney to the Town Ken Klein, Tusten Youth members Kelly Agar, Lauren Smith, Ashely VanBenschoten, Jocelyn Strumpfler, DeEtte Saul; approximately 60 members from the public in person and 23 on zoom

OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Presentations

Tusten Youth Commission – Kelly Agar, TYC Treasurer

We thought it would be a good time to give a little presentation to the community and the board. We know some questions arose over the last few meetings about what is the Tusten Youth and Who do you serve in the community? How are you funded? Where do you spend those moneys? So, we put together some information and we thought, I'll answer some of those questions. So, my name is Kelly Agar. I am part of the Youth Commission and I'm also the bookkeeper for the Town of Tusten. The Tusten Youth Commission was created in 1985, and it was then it became a town committee and interestingly the original board members were Art Hawker, Margie Tenbus, Ron Scheuren, Pastor Beck, Pat Feagles, Betty Gettle, Ralph Huebner, Elaine Giguere, Tom Barnes and Eileen Falk. So, the mission of the testing youth is to provide the youth of our town and community with new, exciting experiences. It is to promote healthy relationships between peers and families. It is to encourage positive community engagement, participation and collaboration. All the Tusten Youth members have always been volunteers, they are appointed and approved by the town board. The town board has two liaisons to the youth committee currently, that is Jane Luchsinger and Greg Triggs. The Tusten Youth Board has nine seats, right now, six of them are filled and we are always looking for volunteers. If anyone's interested, let us know. I want to introduce you to

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the current board, there are some faces that you probably don't see, and they deserve the recognition because they put a lot of the work in. Crystal Weston is the Tusten Town clerk since 2017, she is our chair, she has been a member since 2013. She is a mom of four. Lauren Smith, in our audience tonight, is a special education teacher, she is our vice chair. She has been a member since 2016 and is a mom of two. My name is Kelly Agar and the bookkeeper and confidential secretary to the supervisor since 2020. I am the treasurer and Tusten Youth and I've been a member since 2013 and a mom of two. DeEtte Saul, many of you probably know from the mail route. She is a Narrowsburg postal carrier, she is our secretary. She has been a member since 2013 and is a mom of three. Newer to the board is Ashley VanBenschoten, she's an elementary teacher, a board member since 2022 and a mom of two children. And lastly is Jocelyn Strumpfner. Many of you may also know she works for the Town of Tusten as our court clerk, our building clerk, and also our water sewer clerk. She's worked for the town since 2003. She's been a member of Tusten Youth since 2006, and she's a mom of one. I know there were a lot of questions on our funding and it can be a confusing process if you're not familiar with how the youth organization works. Tusten Youth Commission is funded in part by County of Sullivan and New York State Office of Family Services through the Sullivan County Youth Bureau, as well as the town of Tusten and always we receive donations from our community. Now, the way we receive our funding is directly from the town. The town allocates funds in the town budget and this is essentially fronting the Tusten Youth Commission the money for the events. The Trust and Youth Commission Board is responsible for completing extensive annual paperwork for this entire grant. We have to fill out a grant application. In this application, we do have to complete a narrative and, in the narrative, we have to in detail talk about our target population participation outcomes, program design and schedules of our operations, monitoring events, the evaluation programming staff, whether it be paid or volunteer, your agency's mission, and also past accomplishments. Just to let you know what I said, the Tusten Youth Commission feels this paperwork out it is primarily done by the chair, at least since we've been very active in the board and become officers. So that would be Crystal and I help her as needed as I can to complete the paperwork. But she is our primary contact with the youth services in the county. Once Tusten Youth completes this narrative, not the narrative itself, not paperwork per se, but like any grant, she seeks approval from the Town Board to apply for a grant, we get that approval, it is submitted to the county and then the Town, not Tusten Youth, the town will receive a letter from the county indicating the amount that the Town of Tusten is eligible to receive as a reimbursement. So, this grant is a reimbursable grant. You have to spend the funds and then you'll get the money back. So, remember, the town board has already budgeted a certain amount of money without knowing that exact number, usually based off of past years, but it's not a guarantee. So, at that point, our events are now happening throughout the year. To jump to the finishing paperwork for the grant and the reimbursement, this is the responsibility of the Tusten Youth Commission board members. This is something we do all help with gathering, it's a lot of work. We have to submit for all the events that we want to get money back from, all the paperwork attached to it. So, we have to keep track of all of our receipts that we purchased for anything. Our bank statements our canceled checks, the participant demographics, we keep track through a registration process of the age of the children, and this always goes back to the target population. They want to know all the demographics that are of our youth. This then the actual assembling usually falls to our chair. Again, I will assist if it's needed. It is then submitted to the county. The Youth Service Board collects it and then it goes to the county audit department and the county audit department, their job is, to example that they audit it. They make sure we submitted everything we're trying to get the funds back for. Sometimes we forget something, then it gets a kickback. So that can be a lot of going back and forth. Once it's correct and it's accepted, they let us know. Paperwork is filled out. It's signed off on by the town supervisor that this is

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the claim and it is all correct, officially submitted, and then eventually the town again, the Town of Tusten not Tusten Youth, receives a check for the reimbursement. So, I hope that helps a little bit. And how do you get your money? Where did that come from? I know it's a little confusing. So, any time anyone has a question, you're more than welcome to shoot us an email. Give us a call. And that's how that's done. Now how do we spend the money? I know that was also a concern and a question. So, at the beginning of the year, we had our annual meeting in January. We reached out to all of our members. Like I said, there's six of us right now and we throw the ideas out, come to the meetings prepared. As you know, we're all moms so we don't have a lot of time so these are always after work meetings, usually 630. Have ideas. Please do your research. So come with some good information. And then we get together and we just discuss it. What have we already done? Is this maybe too soon to go to the Bronx Zoo? Because we went there two years ago. It's that sort of back and forth. But something very important is we have to look at that narrative that we've submitted to the county, do these events that we're researching and discussing meet our narrative. So, like I have already mentioned, have we done similar events? Were they successful? Maybe it was a poor turnout, so maybe we won't try it again. Are we meeting the needs of all of our youth in the community? And by that there are dietary needs we have to think about. We've taken a trip to Boston and we were enclosed on a bus, we had some peanut allergies, so we really had to be very mindful of who was sitting where, and what snacks you're bringing on the bus. There are sensory needs, kids on the spectrum, physical needs, disabilities, emotional, mental. We try to be very aware so that the events we do can serve any and all children and what they require. Also, something important to consider is financial needs. Not everybody can afford a trip. And if we take a trip, for example, to an amusement park, we can pay part of the youth fee. But their family still has to purchase the tickets for \$89. They still have to be able to have a vehicle and have gas money to get down to Hershey, Pennsylvania, and back, so it's not meeting the needs of all the families. It's something we have discussed at length, and there was a point in time where it was mostly for Tusten Youth that's also based on the amount of active board members we have because a community event or hands on event takes a lot of volunteers. We do essentially have four types of trips. We have group trips, which I just mentioned. And in that the Tusten Youth Commission will pay for a Tusten child or Tusten youth what is a Tusten Youth. You must reside in the town of Tusten or own property in the Town of Tusten. So, this also includes second homeowners who don't go to school here and sometimes will think they're not eligible. But they are. They have to go home. So even if they come here once a year, their children are entitled to everything we host. That includes renters. It's okay that they don't pay taxes. They're children because they live here are still eligible. So, for our regions, those are the kids we're paying for. However, we usually get a break through breaks or something similar to people we always meet that their parents, of course, are going to go with them. We always say We're not responsible for your children on a group event, so you need a legal guardian. We have a registration process. We have paperwork that needs to be filled out with all the legal releases, all their information, their age. Are you a Tusten resident? All that information, we keep that on file for every event. But because we have a group rate, we will offer that group rate to the public at large. So, this enables my daughter's best friend who goes to Sullivan West and lives in Jeffersonville, well, they can still come at the group rate, but we're not paying our funds for child. We have community events which most of you are aware of. We have 4th of July, Christmas, Logging Days we do participate in. These are events we don't pay by the head in discussions with the youth service, they love to see these events because part of the funds we receive are state funds and they love to see us supporting the community at large events, 4th of July is of course our biggest and I'll get to detail that a little bit later. But the more children we can serve within the county, within the state, we have gotten great feedback from youth services. But again, that's not by the head of an event let's just say as \$1,000, you

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may have 25 Tusten Youth there who are still enjoying it, but maybe 15 or 25 Jeffersonville kids came, they're all enjoying that together.

Weekly programing is something else we've done. We had Fort Delaware kids camp last summer, I think it was, which was very successful. This is where we are sending the kids somewhere and there's a programing and it's on a weekly basis. This is a lot of volunteer hours, but and it depends on the program itself. Fort Delaware, we paid by the head, just Tusten Youth for that one. It was a rotating schedule. We've also partnered with the Tusten and Social this year for an extensive weekly program and we'll talk more on that later. But it's been very successful, so it's still new in our scope of programing and then individualized. This came about in 2020 when the pandemic hit, So, we had to change how we did everything. We reached out to the county. What are the guidelines? What can we do? And we're very proud to say we were one of the few youth groups in the entirety of Sullivan County to continue programing. We met all the guidelines and New York State and we created kits. We were able to social distance and still get the kids involved. We did STEM kits, our kids Lego kits, sports kits for the kids where we did a registration. This is for Tusten Youth only. We did a registration process. We went shopping. We put the kids together. We contacted the parents and we had contactless pickup, whether it was at the Town Hall, outside or we left it on the front porch and then we interacted with them online. Sometimes it was zoom, sometimes we got a contest, show us what you made for your art project. So, we were really proud of that project. We don't we don't really do that too much anymore unless it's attached to a holiday. Sometimes we do gingerbread kits for Tusten Youth around Christmastime or something for Halloween. What we've found, though, after COVID is that the needs of the children changed. They after dealing with two years of quarantine, social distancing. Dealing with the sickness itself and the virus, homeschooling mask wearing. When we did finally start to socialize in small groups, we saw a rise of anxiety, depression and one of the most impactful. They forgot how to socialize. There was a generation of children who have never socialized. They should have been in school for two years already. They didn't know how to communicate with other children. So suddenly we're trying to get back to normal and put these events together and we saw a huge need for more community programing. So that's really why you see, if you have all the Tusten Youth, the rise in community programing and how that's grown and grown, because they just grew and we didn't know what would happen. But you start one year small and then the next it just grows and suddenly we're like, oh gosh, without growing mainstream, you know? So, we went to Fort Delaware for a current event because there were just so many people and it was wonderful, successful. So that's essentially what our events are, how we get, you know, promote them to the children. And we can't go over all the events we've done, of course. But this year I can lay out for you the Tusten Youth that we have actually served, who's in the community now and in the budget for that. How we find the kids, though. And I know some people have said to us, isn't there like a book, a registration book? No. So it's just word of mouth is and we're always open to suggestions from the community. I remember when my child's 15 years ago, someone said, you should go talk to Jocelyn at the Town Hall. They'll pay for your kid to go to Great Wolf Lodge. And I thought, who does that? Nobody does that because there's not an official flier, so to speak. So, it's word of mouth. So, we have a lot of regulars, but then we'll have a parent walk in and maybe they're here for the weekend from Manhattan for the weekend home and say, I heard about you. That's how we get the kids in there. And the mailroom is always telling people about Tusten Youth, Jocelyn, and the building department. She sees the new people coming in. I know Barry Becker has always telling people when he sells a house and Dawn the same thing. So there really isn't an official registration outlet. We register per event; we can tell you how many kids went to that event. I can't give a solid number. How many Tusten Youth are there? Outside of

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going by the Census Bureau, which I think was 200. Jane helped with that 1 to 71 and 2020, 2020 estimate. It's a five year estimate as well. Okay. And we did reach out to Sullivan West for a number. We didn't know how many children from Tusten are enrolled in Sullivan West. So, this will be Kindergarten through senior year, that 147 students from Tusten. For this year, January, February and March are winter months. We should, I should tell you about the budget. We do create a budget. The budget is very fluid. It's always changing and not only based on funds, but based on our availability as volunteers. But we'll get to that around Halloween and Christmas. And this winter we did skiing, tubing, snowboarding that included tickets, rental lessons. And this was just for our seniors. We budgeted it by \$500 because we don't know how people will respond to that. We serve 25 Tusten Youth and their families. Our \$500 budget was blown out of the water because we spent \$1,142 on it because we didn't want to turn the kids away. So that meant we readjust. We looked at the movies that was going to be a \$600 budget, so we took movies away. This is another reason we don't like to put our entire schedule out for the community, because things change that way. March was a big month. We saw the beginning of our weekly programming and our first partnership with Tusten Social. There was no budget for this because it was a pop-up idea, Greta came to us, Tusten Social had this idea and we saw the need for it. So, we said, okay, let's do it. We budgeted, I want to say \$200 and we help with STEMs. We set it up where the kids take the Sullivan West bus after school here to Town Hall. Some parents drop them off. We have programming for the middle school, high school kids in the beginning. And then at 4:30, an entire bus of kids unloads up here every week. So that ran from March to June, the very first session. And it served 450 children over seven weekly programs. It was a very successful that was in partnership with Bethel on Main. They provided the art aspects and lessons social organize that and funded it with Bethel on Main. That was a true partnership. April, May and June we did a group trip, which we haven't done in quite a while. Hershey Park was agreed on. We budgeted 20 \$500. Again, went over budget. We had a good turnout. We spent on Tusten Youth, children, \$3,082.80, and that served 54 Tusten Youth. However, as I mentioned, it's a group rate and we do open it to the community, family members and friends. They sign up with us. Even if you're a student in Jeffersonville and your family wants to farm, you still have to fill out a form. You have to sign all our legal releases, give all the information, and we are passed through for their money. So even though we are paying for them, we collect their money with everybody else goes into our bank account. We pay the one big amount to Hershey Park and that amount was \$7,611. So, it was a good turnout and we were happy with that. Finding an event that appeals to all ages has been near impossible. So that's a lot of times why you'll see the numbers fluctuate, seeing that it doesn't do much for ages five and below. But we had a lot of six and up I'd say. That also saw the continuation of working with the Tusten Social. We did a summer youth program as well. We tried to be outside as much as possible down at the park as weather would allow. That was a five-week session and we didn't know how it would go. We usually see a dip in numbers in summertime just because families are traveling. It's vacation time. A lot of kids, even if they're not on vacation they go to day camp and mom and dad goes to work. So, there were a lot of children that participate, but we still served 175 kids. Every year we do the Wayne County Fair. That, again, is strictly for Tusten Youth. We served 49 Tusten Youth. We budgeted 500 and we spent \$588. That was pretty close. Moving in to the summer. Obviously, 4th of July wants to be aware of it. That's a big one in cost. We budgeted this year \$4,000 from donations from the businesses and individuals in our community. We received \$16,000 to help put this event on. We also work with the Chamber of Commerce. They sponsor a good portion of the event as well, but the total event costs that first and the Youth Commission wrote a check for \$24,000. And we did go over budget. We spent \$7,482 of Tusten Youth Commission funds on that event, and we serve between 700 and 1,000 children. Those are the numbers we submitted to the county. September, the continuation of the Afterschool Tusten

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Club program, it's still in session. It's a 15-week session. Again, partnership Tusten Social. Financially, they carry that program. They pay Bethel on Main our portion of it. We work with the library. There are many legs of that and so far up to this date, we serve 210 kids or have 30 kids already registered and lots of parents waiting to hear back from us tonight actually, after we leave here. In terms of testing, this is not taking up a chunk of our funds. We help with snacks here and there. We help with our craft supplies that we store here at the town hall. This program is our time. We show up for volunteer. We're hands on. Chrystal and I handle all the registration. We handle all the paperwork for these families. October, November and December saw some plans, but changing in our budget. Like I said, it's not just based on the financial change in your budget. It's what our volunteers can give. And some years are just easier this year for whatever reason. But this year we've had a lot of struggles personally among our board, not with each other, but sicknesses, a whole range of issues that we just don't have the time. We had to downsize Halloween from Fort Delaware, which is a wonderful success. We had to downsize Christmas as well. We just don't have the man hours to put in. That also changed our budget, knowing we would downsize. So, following ended up costing \$2,385 and Logging Days, which of you attended was a really rainy day. So, we had made the decision to not put funds into a bounce house and things that we knew the kids weren't. It's not best meeting the kids needs since that's not meeting our narrative. We knew we wouldn't have a huge turnout there, so we ended up buying pumpkins for the kids to paint and we set up tents and had some small games. So that was a combined budget of \$2600. And Christmas is our next event coming up. That's going to be on December 2nd. We are working with the chamber. We will be on Main Street. That's a Saturday and we will have Santa again. And our photographer taking professional photos of families all for free. And this is a community event. So, this is open to everybody. And we are working with the DVAA on this. We're always looking for volunteers. We're looking for Who's, we're bringing back Whoville. And we have fun costumes that Greg knows all about! So, on that note, the volunteer time put into this program can't be stressed enough. And it's not just our board, but it is safe to say that this board has put thousands and thousands of volunteer hours in one year. Halloween was one of our most recent ones, and we quickly went through from every little step of it for a three-hour event. We put in 174 volunteer hours for 3 hours of a community program to calculate what we put in for 4th of July. It's near impossible because we start keeping a log right now. But as I said, it's not just the board. We work with many partnerships in this town. Over the years we have partnered with the Tusten Social, DVAA, the Delaware Company of Delaware, programing with the Chi Hive, Bethel on Maine, the Union, the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, National Park Services, Sullivan West PTSO the Narrowsburg Lava Fire Departments. We always work with the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department and New York State Troopers for community events. And I wouldn't forget anybody there. And I can't even start to list the businesses and individuals who have financially supported us with funds, with candy for Halloween craft supplies. I mean, some of you in the audience, I mean, you're you always support us. So, thank you so much for that, because without the community, none of this is possible. It doesn't matter. We have \$50,000. We need hands and we need to be a community. And our volunteers, their moms, their business owners or members, seniors in the community, the organizations. But one of our biggest supporters are actually the youth. We have seen our kids, a generation of kids. At the age of two when we joined. They're now teenagers. And these are the kids. They are our lives. They are now our volunteers. They say, let us dress up in the gingerbread costume on Halloween and we let them do it. And it's a beautiful thing because this is the next generation of your volunteers of the fire department, Tusten Youth. So, I thought that helped some of you explain why we do what we do, how we do it. I hope it helps answer some questions. And if you have more, you can always any of us outside of the board meeting.

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Tusten Social- Great Knutzen

Tusten Social founded 2022 and formed 501c3 non-profit

Designed to serve Town of Tusten and surrounding areas

Create programing and build strong community of connection and collaboration

Work with existing state and local organizations

Committed to a multi-generational approach to ensure our community is a great place to grow up and grow old
(Complete transcript may be found on-line)

1.4 Payment of Bills

RESOLUTION #109B – 2023

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilman McDonough, Seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the bills be paid as presented:

FUND	Disburse. Amt	VOUCHER #'S	
General	\$192,327.00	740-767	688,687,686,682,680,679A,679
Highway	\$73,246.34	721-738	
Water	\$24,401.22	707-720	689,684
Sewer	\$45,618.41	691-706	690,685
Lighting District	\$1,976.33	766	681
Escrow Accts	-		
Capital General	-		
Capital Highway	\$141,462.70	769	
Capital Water	\$44,320.00	768	
TOTAL	\$523,352.00		

2 **DIVISION REPORTS**

Some reports have been sent to the board in advance of the meeting, therefore they are not read out loud at the meeting; copies of all reports may be obtained at the Town Clerks Office.

2.1 Highway Department – Donald Neiger

- Used 763.9 gal of diesel fuel; 639.9 gal was for highway and 124 was non-highway use.
- Used 318.7 gal of gas; 39 was highway 279.7 was non-highway
- Patched holes on dirt and paved roads.
- Removed trees in road way from storms repair wash outs.

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- Ditched Half Moon, Deep Hollow and Homestead Rd.
- Paved sections of Blind Pond, Ryer, Homestead and Luxton Lake.
- Graded dirt roads.
- Mowed grass on right of way.
- Started to get trucks ready for winter.

2.2 Water & Sewer Department

- Tested wells and sewer plant daily to ensure the drinking water and wastewater quality met federal and state standards. Made adjustments as needed.
- Completed monthly drinking water sampling, wastewater sampling, reporting for the DOH and DEC.
- Did water meter readings every Wednesday in the month of October and contacted home and building owners with unusually high water use to help them track leaking pipes or fixtures.
- Koberlein pumped-out and cleaned sludge from the dosing tanks at the sewer plant.
- Marked water and sewer lines for 3 UDIG Requests.
- Continued removing sludge and weeds from the sand beds.
- Completed 1 final meter read.
- Replaced 1 old radio head.
- Turned water off and removed meters at the Veterans Park and Baseball field. Removed water fountain for the winter.
- Responded to a weekend alarm at Kirk Rd, high level. Manually ran pump and reset the panel.
- Replaced a broken concrete septic tank lid at a house on 4th Ave.
- Pumped 4 septic tanks and installed inlet risers on three of them.
- Cleaned and organized spare concrete lids and risers behind the warehouse.
- Turned heat on at the well houses.
- TAM replaced an electrical line reactor for the VFD.
- Repaired a leaking fitting at Well #3 in the chemical room.
- Koberlein replaced Pump #2 at Kirk Rd which stopped working in August.
- Checked well houses and Kirk Rd after a brief power outage.
- Completed fall hydrant flushing.
- Continued pressure washing the dosing tank at the sewer plant.
- Performed a complete inspection of the water lines looking for a water leak. New York Rural Water Association came and did some leak detection as well. We could not locate a leak.
- Got an after-hours call for a water leak at Fort Delaware. Shut water off. The water main is plastic, which masks the sound of a leak during leak detection.
- Got a chemical delivery to Well #1.
- Mowed at the well houses.
- Pike County Generators made some repairs to the new generator at Well #1 (covered under warranty).

NARROWSBURG WATER & SEWER

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023	
Narrowsburg Water	
Water Metered Rent	\$ 37,841.27
Service Charge	\$ 472.13
Water Penalty	\$ 229.15
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 38,542.55
Narrowsburg Sewer	
Sewer Rent	\$ 26,083.02
Service Charge	\$ 340.00
Sewer Penalty	\$ 185.41
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 26,608.43
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 65,150.98
Jocelyn Strumpfner Water & Sewer Clerk	

2.3 Building Department/ Code Enforcement

Construction Inspections – 22

Fire & Safety Inspections – 0

Complaint/Violation Inspections – 0

Certificate of Occupancy Issued – 1

Certificate of Compliance Issued – 7

Total Permits Issued - 18

New Homes – 2

Renovation/Alteration/Addition – 0

Chimney/Fuel – 0

Accessory Building/Garage – 0

Camping - 0

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Acc Bldg Comm – 1	New Comm Const – 0
Ren/Alt – Comm Const - 5	
Deck – 0	Commercial Deck - 0
Demolition Permit – 1	Driveway Permit – 0
Electrical – 2	Logging Permits – 2
Mechanical – 0	
Plumbing – 0	Pool – 0
Roof Replacement – 5	Roof Structure - 0
Septic Permits – 0	Sidewalk - 0
Sign Permit – 0	Solar Permit – 0
Well – 0	

Permit Renewals - 0
Flood Plain Permit – 0
Abstracts/Violation Search – 7

Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0	
Complaints Received – 0	Complaints Closed – 0
Violations Issued – 0	Violations Corrected – 0
Previous Violations Closed/Corrected – 0	Stop Work – 1

Monies collected by this office from October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 are \$5,541.50

Respectfully,
Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector
JPC/js

2.4 Assessor

We attended the September Sullivan County Assessors' meeting in Wurtsboro. Discussion of tax small claims was minimal as most hearings were already over. The new volunteer exemption was discussed and many local governmental agencies seem to be waiting on the County decision and also on any more changes in aged exemption limits. We were reminded to submit our tax rolls by November 10th and to purge the STAR check from exemption codes so it does not print the school tax message on the January bills. The new "clean path" electric transmission was mentioned and is proposed to be an underground cable along

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2.5 Building Department/ Code Enforcement

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Chimney/Fuel – 0

Acc Bldg Comm – 1

Ren/Alt – Comm Const - 5

Deck – 0

Demolition Permit – 1

Electrical – 2

Mechanical – 0

Plumbing – 0

Roof Replacement – 5

Septic Permits – 0

Sign Permit – 0

Well – 0

Accessory Building/Garage – 0

Camping - 0

New Comm Const – 0

Commercial Deck - 0

Driveway Permit – 0

Logging Permits – 2

Pool – 0

Roof Structure - 0

Sidewalk - 0

Solar Permit – 0

Permit Renewals - 0

Flood Plain Permit – 0

Abstracts/Violation Search – 7

Dangerous and Unsafe Building – 0

Complaints Received – 0

Violations Issued – 0

Previous Violations Closed/Corrected – 0

Complaints Closed – 0

Violations Corrected – 0

Stop Work – 1

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Respectfully,

Jim P Crowley, Building Inspector

JPC/js

2.6 Assessor

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the Marcy South right of way. The new slate of officers was presented for election in November. We received our determination on the small claims hearing that gave a reduction in assessment to the taxpayer. Unfortunately, we did not have the wording of the tax law on our side in this one and the judge awarded as written in the law.

Preparation for the submission of data in November has been completed as deeds, bank codes and address changes have been keyed in as received.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Baim
Sole Assessor

2.7 **Upper Delaware Council** – no report

2.8 **Energy Committee** – no report

2.9 **Zoning Revision Committee** – no report

2.10 **Conservation Advisory Committee**– *Submitted by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger*

- The committee did not meet in October.
- Peter Manning and Jane Luchsinger met (via video conferencing) with the representative of MJ Engineering and Land Surveying.

2.11 **Narrowsburg Water & Sewer Committee**– *Submitted by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger*

The Water/Sewer committee met November 3, 2023 at 8:00 am.

1. The committee reviewed correspondences received.

Water

2. Well # 2 DOH cited the fence needing repairs. The Water Department phoned 5 companies for estimates. As the lowest bidder, Ketchum Fencing do the work. (\$3,281)

Sewer

3. The Code Enforcement Officer has requested a back-up pump be purchased for the sewer plant. (\$725)

Miscellaneous

Requests were made for 2 new pieces of equipment: 1. A compactor and 2. A concrete saw. Quotes were received and reviewed. With a vote of 2 yes (KMc,GT) and 1 no (JL) the equipment will be ordered.

Compactor - \$2,554

Concrete saw - \$2,526

The shed on the Flats at Well #2 needs replacing and the shed at the sewer plant needs replacing.

2.12 **Grants Report** – *Submitted by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger*

1. Little Lake Erie Culvert – Project appears to be complete with the exception of new guard rails. They are in back order.
2. Water infrastructure project – The project continues to be coordinated by Delaware Engineering. It is expected the new water storage tank project will begin in the spring of 2024.
3. Playground project is project is ongoing. The mound for small children has been installed.

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4. We await a contract for our National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Tusten.
5. As part of the Sullivan 180 technical assistance grant, the plan for the reconfiguring of Town Hall office and public space has been prepared.

3 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Star Hesse

- Glad to hear sim card has been received for lights on Main Street
- Supervisor Johnson confirmed that the town has an account with Verizon and will be able to control the street lights*
- Light in Library parking lot is brighter and operating on an appropriate schedule
- Supervisor Johnson confirmed the light is part of the lighting district and that the Town of Tusten pays the bills*
- Question regarding the discussion at the last executive session
- Supervisor Johnson commented that there was no action taken and will not comment on no action taken*
- Requested update on the status of the Pavilion and if it was going to be discussed
- Suggested that future presentations to the Board and public be broken up and not two consecutive half hour sessions

Jim Johnston

- Commented that he moved to Narrowsburg in 2016 and it is the best thing for him.
- Important for children to be heard and seen, positively impacts their futures
- Need one caring place in their life, they can grow up to do amazing things

Martin Higgins

- Has been in the area since 2005, former head of Chamber of Commerce and 2 Queens Coffee,
- has enjoyed working with Crystal and Tusten Youth and is happy to continue supporting the community having grown up in a rural environment noted the importance of creating social experiences for children and that he is proud of the way the Tusten Youth has grown and is run, Kudos to Tusten Youth

Vanessa Reeves

- Supports Tusten Youth, the community needs to create ways for children to stay invested in the Narrowsburg community
- As part of the tourist industry, we need to attract reasons for youth to stay and work in their community
- The town needs to support local programming for youth

Allison Ward

- Has a business in town and lives on the flats and appreciates the landscape Tusten Youth has created for youth
- Important to include a space for teens and the pavilion could provide this and promote community

Amy Potter

- 13 years old and lives on the flats. Participates in and enjoys youth program
- Lindsey Potter (mother of Amy)
- Loves the programs for youth, noted the huge commitment the organizers of
- The youth program and her appreciation for them

Jennifer Flanagan

- Husband has owned a house here since 2002 and met in 2015, married and decided to raise their family
- Noted the Youth Commission and programming has been an important to her children and family
- Use the park and love the newly installed mound, would love a pavilion for shade

Haruka

- Mother of two children and was happy there was a park in town but have not found it functional for young children
- With out toileting and diapering facility

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- Have not returned to NYC largely due to Tusten Youth and the programming they provide
- Playgrounds are a place for her family to create memories

George Kane

- From Highland, shared a story regarding the positive impact Tusten Youth had on a child and helped change the course of her life due to their fine programming.

Brenton Smith

- Works in the hospital, ER nurse there for 13 years, living here for 12 years, originally from Neversink
- Has many memories of playing Little League, trips to baseball games, connecting with friends
- Shared Statistics regarding obesity and the importance of activities for youth to maintain their overall health
- Thanked the TYC for all of their hard work and hours they put in

Dawn Curreri

- Supports the pavilion and Tusten Youth, bothered by negative comments
- Served on the TYC for 20 years, town should be supporting and proud of the leaders of Tusten Youth

Josh Murphy

- As a baseball coach I supports Tusten Youth and thank to them for all they do

Jen Porter

- Supports Tusten Youth and Tusten Social
- raising three children here since 2018
- having events nearby extremely important, supports pavilion
- a great asset for our community

4 OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1 **Park Project** – mound has been installed
- 4.2 **Highway Bond** – in process

5 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Narrowsburg Water & Sewer Relevies

RESOLUTION #110-2023

UNCOLLECTED WATER RENTS

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Supervisor by and hereby authorized and directed to transit the following list of properties served by the Narrowsburg Water District, against which a liability for past due water rents are here-in-after indicated to the Sullivan County Board of Legislators, requesting the Board to levy the sum specified against the property liable and state the amount in column labeled reassessed water rents in the 2024 assessment roll for the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, New York.

RESOLUTION # 111-2023

UNCOLLECTED SEWER RENTS

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

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RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to transmit the following list of properties served by the Narrowsburg Sewer District, against which a liability for past due sewer rents are here-in-after indicated to the Sullivan County Board of Legislators, requesting the Board to levy the sum specified against the property liable and state the amount in column labeled reassessed sewer rents in the 2024 assessment roll for the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, New York.

5.2 **Advertise: Septic Tank Pumping**

RESOLUTION # 112-2023

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING

On the motion of Councilman Gettel seconded by Councilman Triggs the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for 2024 Septic tank pumping.

5.3 **Advertise: Highway Sand & Stone**

RESOLUTION # 113-2023

HIGHWAY SAND AND STONE

On the motion of Councilman Triggs, seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for 2024 Highway Sand and Stone Bids

5.4 **Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies – TABLED**

5.5 **Little Lake Erie Culvert Project**

RESOLUTION # 114-2023

INCREASE LITTLE LAKE ERIE CULVERT PROJECT AGREEMENT

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger seconded by Councilman Gettel the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the change in construction contract amount from \$1,748,696.46 to the amount of \$ 1,755,202.76 to reflect as-installed quantities and to add new items at negotiated prices

5.6 **Buck Moorehead – in progress, no new information**

5.7 **Lawn/Building Maintenance**

RESOLUTION #115-2023

LAWN MAINTENANCE

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for 2024 Lawn Maintenance

RESOLUTION # 116-2023

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman McDonough the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board motion to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for 2024 Building Maintenance

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5.8 Cleaning Service

RESOLUTION # 117-2023

TOWN HALL CLEANING

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Triggs the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED the Town Board authorize to the Town Clerk to advertise for 2024 cleaning services

5.9 Sull Co. Fire Advisory Board

RESOLUTION # 118-2023

SULLIVAN COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT

On the motion of Councilman Gettel, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger the following resolution was

RESOLVED that the Town Board appoint Craig Burkle to be our representative to the Sullivan County Advisory Board

5.10 Set End of year Meeting

- December 29th at 12pm

5.11 Executive Session

RESOLUTION # 119-2023

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger the following resolution was

ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLVED that the Town Board motion to enter into executive session at 8:19PM for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular individual.

No decisions made

No minutes taken.

On motion of Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, with no further discussion and all in favor the Town Board exited Executive Session at 8:28pm

6 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following from the public made comments

Nicole & Elizabeth Reeves

- has been to the park since they were kids and has played every sport you could name there
- often travel to the Delaware Youth Center just because they have that pavilion that offers so much
- Tusten would benefit from having a pavilion

7 **CLOSING ITEMS**

7.1 **Board Comment** – none

7.2 **Meeting Reminders**

- Public Hearing for the Narrowsburg Sewer Rates December 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM
- Next Town Board Meeting December 12, 2023
- Tusten Hwy Position applications due by December 4, 2023

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- Tusten Animal Control position open

7.3 **Adjournment**

With no further business to be had, the meeting closed at 8:29pm on motion of Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger, seconded by Supervisor Johnson

Respectfully Submitted,
Crystal Weston, Town Clerk