



Town Clerk  
Leonard J. Perfetti

# Town of Union

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

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## TOWN OF UNION BOARD MEETING

December 21, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Union was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Board Room, 3111 East Main Street, Endwell, New York.

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

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Attorney Gina Middleton, Town Clerk Leonard J. Perfetti, Deputy Town Clerk Rebecca Kruczkowski.  
Absent: Attorney Alan J. Pope.

Also in attendance was Village of Endicott Mayor Linda Jackson, Supervisor Elect Robert Mack, Councilmen Elect Joseph P. Nirchi, Sr. and David E. Kudgus.

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

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A Public Hearing was called for on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM to consider a Substantial Amendment to the Town's CDBG Program. The Town of Union would like to allocate a sum of \$200,000.00 of Unobligated CDBG funds towards a new roof for the West Endicott Fire Department. The estimated total cost for the West Endicott Fire Department Roof Repairs is \$450,000.00.

Pub. & Posted: 11/16/22

Dave Johnson, 310 Birdsall Street, Endicott, West Endicott Fire Commissioner, spoke about the roof condition at the fire station. He said the building is 100 years old and with the fixes over the years, there are still leaks. He said they appreciate all the help from the Town.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese said the Board was all in support of this project.

Councilman Frank J. Bertoni asked if they were getting help from anyone else.



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Dave Johnson said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Assemblyman Joseph Angelino have been assisting them with getting more funding.

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

A Public Hearing was called for on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM to receive public input in regards to the 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Pub. & posted: 12/04/22

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

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, December 7, 2022.  
Carried.

## HEARING OF VISITORS:

Linda Jackson, Village of Endicott Mayor, reported that the Jackson Avenue apartments are terrible with a lot of people moving in from Binghamton, the police are there daily and the apartments are trashed. She warned the Town to not be negligent with the apartments that are being built on West Main Street. Mayor Jackson thanked the Board for everything they have done for the Village and wished Supervisor Materese and Councilwomen Bauman and Staley all the best of everything.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS FOR FILING:

Moved by Augostini, seconded by Bertoni to receive and file the following Communications:





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maximum estimated cost of \$200,000 and authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of \$200,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.)  
 Res. by Staley, seconded by Augustini. Vote: All yes.  
 The Resolution was adopted.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes authorizing Replacement of the Salt Shed Roof in and for the Town of Union, Broome County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$100,000 and authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of \$100,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.)  
 Res. by Staley, seconded by Augustini. Vote: All yes.  
 The Resolution was adopted.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes authorizing the Purchase of Trucks in and for the Town of Union, Broome County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$860,000 and authorizing, subject to permissive referendum, the issuance of \$860,000 Bonds of said Town to pay the cost thereof.)  
 Res. by Staley, seconded by Augustini. Vote: All yes.  
 The Resolution was adopted.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes to approve Heidi Ranger and Robert Mack to be added as authorized parties on all bank accounts as of 1/3/2023.)  
 Res. by Staley, seconded by Augustini. Vote: All yes.  
 The Resolution was adopted.

Moved by Staley, seconded by Augustini to approve the following 2022 Budget Transfer.

Decrease:	31 5110 4118	Blacktop	\$40,000.00
Increase:	31 5142 4129	Rock Salt	\$40,000.00.

Carried.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes to approve unused vacation hours to be carried over to 2023, which exceed the allowable vacation carryover of 15 days (105 hours) or 15 days (120 hours) as per the Employee Handbook and Collective Bargaining Agreements. The following employees have requested carryover days with Department Head approval:

- |                   |                     |                       |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Joseph Moody – 5  | Jerry Darrow – 12   | Justin Nikulich – 1.4 |
| Mark Fotusky – 3  | Mary Bricker – 16   | Louis Caforio – 27    |
| Paul Thompson – 6 | David Conklin – 4.) |                       |



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Res. by Bauman, seconded by Staley.  
The Resolution was adopted.

Vote: All yes.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes to approve “out of category” pay to:  
Alicia Pettit for these dates – 9/15, 9/16, 9/19, 9/20, 9/21, 9/22, 9/23, 9/26, 9/27, 9/28,  
9/29, 9/30, 10/3, 10/4, 10/5, 10/6, 10/7, 10/21, 10/24, 10/25 – 20 days.)

Res. by Bauman, seconded by Staley.  
The Resolution was adopted.

Vote: All yes.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes to appoint Jody Saunders to the Full Time Court Clerk position at a salary of \$40,950.00 effective January 1, 2023. Pre-Employment testing is not needed as she already did them for the part time clerk position she is vacating.)

Res. by Bauman, seconded by Staley.  
The Resolution was adopted.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part to call for a 30-Day Public Comment Period to begin 12/26/2022 & subsequent Public Hearing for 2/1/2023 at 7 PM to consider a Substantial Amendment to the Town’s CDBG-Disaster Relief Program (CDBG-DR):

## Amendment Details

1) CDBG-DR: The Town will use \$185,460.00 in CDBG-DR funds for the West Corners Fire Department: Removal and Replacement of the Existing Generator. The project will consist of removal of the current generator, protective fencing and existing concrete pad. New concrete pad will be poured, generator and protective fencing will be installed.)

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

Vote: All yes.

(Prepared Resolution filed as part of these minutes approving the Agreement between the Town of Union (“Town”) and Goodwill Theatre to provide \$100,000 of American Rescue Plan Act-Recovery Funds to the Goodwill Theatre, subject to approval by the Town Attorney, and authorization for the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor to execute the same.)

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

Vote: All yes.

## HEARING OF VISITORS:

Robert Brady, 3116 Kensington Road, Endwell, spoke about a new law signed by Governor Kathy Hochul that allows for volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel a 10% property



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tax reduction. He said each municipality and school district will have to approve these reductions. He also said this may bring in more volunteers.

Councilman Frank J. Bertoni said the Town will have to look at the law and will have to get a list of the volunteers from each district to determine how much it will decrease the tax base.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese asked if this applies for lifetime members that are no longer active.

Mr. Brady said he did not know the answer to that.

Carol Laskoski, 37 Edwards Street, Johnson City, thanked Supervisor Richard A. Materese for humoring her when she gets up to speak. She said good luck with all you will be doing.

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

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE:

Moved by Augostini, seconded by Bertoni to receive and file the following Department Reports:

1. Town Clerk Monthly Report – November 2022.
2. Town of Union Planning Board Decision – Special Permit: Development in a Floodplain Residential Shed – Application # PB-2022-041, Henry Kaphesi, 910 Westminster Road, Tax Map # 140.20-6-36.
3. Town of Union Planning Board Decision – Special Permit Approval: Development in a Floodplain: Application # PB-2022-042, SEPP Management Inc., 22 Birch Street (a.k.a. 20 Birch Street) Tax Map # 142.11-2-20.1.
4. Town of Union Local Development Corporation minutes – September 22, 2022.  
Carried.

At this time, Supervisor Richard A. Materese read the following Proclamation:

### **In Recognition of John Charles Larter**

**WHEREAS**, John Charles Larter is a member of Boy Scout Troop 202, and



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**WHEREAS**, John Charles Larter has committed time and dedication to his troop and this community, and

**WHEREAS**, John Charles Larter engaged in an Eagle Scout Service Project, and

**WHEREAS**, that project set out to properly honor American Flags by retiring them from use, and

**WHEREAS**, John Charles Larter respectfully and ceremoniously retired over 300 American Flags, and

**WHEREAS**, with the completion of that project, John Charles Larter earned his Eagle Scout Rank on July 5, 2022,

**Now, Therefore**, the Town of Union Board wishes to join family, friends and fellow citizens in recognizing and honoring Mr. John Charles Larter on his accomplishments and award and thank him for his service to our community. We wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Supervisor Materese read the following statement regarding **4-H UNITY Endicott**

Asia Ambler and Kelly Mabee, 4-H UNITY Endicott, CCE Broome County, continue to grow as new UNITY Teen Leaders at Union-Endicott High School and Jennie F. Snapp Middle School bond—with 20 new Teen Leaders at the high school and 15 at the middle school. The new group at the middle school completed “Cooking Around the World,” a seven-week multicultural, interactive training conducted by CCE Broome Nutrition Educators. The training focuses on exploring and celebrating different cultures in their school and community. The UNITY Endicott Teen Leaders at the high school planned and carried out activities for Fall Fest, a large community event that featured a holiday meal, bounce houses, games, prizes and community organizations. In addition, the Teen Leaders kicked off “Hygiene for Happiness.” - Partnering with community partners, such as Crime Victims Assistance Center, Union-Endicott High School and Boy Scouts Troop 209, the Teen Leaders decorated boxes to collect donations for the hygiene drive. The drive will run through January 13. In partnership with CHOW, Broome County Farmers Market, Broome-Tioga BOCES, NYS Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and CCE Broome, UNITY Endicott helped deliver Holiday Boxes to some of the UNITY Endicott families. Each of the Holiday Boxes included farm fresh produce, a turkey, stuffing and pie. Looking ahead, the monthly UNITY Endicott Alumni Cafes will feature “Visiting Professors” (guest speakers) addressing topics the alumni Teen Leaders have identified, such as how to set up a budget, taxes, time management, cooking, healthy relationships and work/school life balance.

Councilwoman Heather R. Staley said the group “It’s Raining Lemonade” did their second service project, which was making 180 gift bags for delivery to the Meals on Wheels recipients. She thanked Dr. Matthew Wahila for his time on the Tree Committee and for making a flash



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drive to give to the incoming members of the Tree Committee. She also said she has enjoyed working with Councilwoman Sandra C. Bauman over the last four years.

Councilwoman Sandra C. Bauman thanked the residents of the Town of Union for voting for her and that over the last four years she has learned a lot about Town government and where her taxes are going. She said she gave it her all and will miss it.

Councilman Thomas R. Augustini gave condolences to the family of Florence Ottman from Johnson City. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year and said that the swearing in ceremony is on January 1, 2023 at 11:00 AM and everyone is welcome. He thanked Supervisor Materese, Councilwomen Sandy Bauman and Heather Staley and said it was a pleasure working with them.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese recognized the life of Gordon Allen, Vestal, NY, and gave condolences to his family. He said as a result of his lengthy community involvement, Gordon developed a large and diverse group of dear friends who were all touched by his honesty, integrity, humility, kindness, humor, and friendship. His passing is a huge loss to our community, and all who knew him.

Supervisor Richard A. Materese read the following statement:

I would like to thank my colleagues Councilwoman Sandy Bauman and Councilwoman Heather Staley for their service and dedication to the Town of Union. Without your efforts, two projects in the Town would not have come to fruition: We have a Tree Committee to beautify the Town, help conserve our environment and bring in grants that ease our taxpayers' burden in doing those things and the Villages of Endicott and Johnson City each can boast of having new outdoor fitness parks for residents to use completely free of charge. Your stewardship helped keep our employees working, at full pay, during the Pandemic shutdowns, helping to stabilize their lives as well as contributing to the economic needs of local businesses. It helped increase funding to Union Volunteer Emergency Services. It helped attract more lifeguards, so that we could open our pools. It also set salaries at a more competitive level to help the town recruit and retain quality employees. With your support, the Town has protected the area of Fairmont Park from future flooding and partnered with SEPP to bring more affordable housing to that area. The Town has helped bring new life Mall, now known as the Oakdale Commons. Businesses are moving in making this area vital to the Town and County's economic growth. The old, rundown IBM Country Club, after decades of neglect, has been removed and will be the home of new housing opportunities for residents. 59 Lester Ave has been transformed into market rate housing. With your support, the George F. Johnson Memorial in Endicott will be repaired and in conjunction with Endicott Rotary Foundation and the UE school district, it will become a park. It is fitting that we continue to honor the man who gave so much to our



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community. Your support has assisted the Southern Tier Community Center to refurbish the old Boys & Girls Club of Western Broome and return life and services to that building and the community it supports. The Oak Hill Avenue Improvement Corp. will get needed repairs for their building to continue efforts to revitalize the “Little Italy” section of the North Side of Endicott. And the Goodwill Theater will be able to continue restoration and renovation at that historic site. Through your support, Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of South Central NY will be aided in relocating and expanding their services, helping to improve parenting skills and preparing young children for a better learning and life experience. These are some highlights but certainly not all of the accomplishments during your tenure. As for me, it has been both an honor and privilege to serve as Supervisor of the Town of Union. Thank you for the trust you placed in me. I would be remiss if I didn’t proudly and publically thank those who volunteer in fire and EMS services to protect our residents and just as importantly, our Town employees. We have some incredibly dedicated personnel – those whose work is highly visible areas – in Public Works; highway, refuse, sewer, engineering, code, buildings and grounds, maintenance and Parks and those whose work is more in the background but also highly valuable – in Planning, Sect 8, HUD, the Assessor’s Office, HR, Economic Development, our Clerks Office and our Comptroller’s Office with a special shout out to Laura Lindsley, our former comptroller, who has been performing triage and keeping us running as we have moved through many changes and difficult times. These are the real heroes of the Town. We, as elected officials, should never forget their value and their dedication nor should we forget the fact that these are the people that can make us look good. I truly believe that the Town is better off now than four years ago. I believe that there is a brighter future ahead. Businesses are coming to the Town and opportunities are arising for more economic development. While in many cases, the pace at which we can accomplish things appears glacier-like yet we have begun to remove some of the blight in our area. I have found that many times, if neighbors look out for each other instead of being self-focused, arguments disappear and strong, caring communities arise. And I believe that good things happen when we put away our differences and work toward a common good. Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year! May God Bless you all!

## ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Leonard J. Perfetti  
Town Clerk

LJP/bk