

Regular Town Board Meeting  
Town of Tuxedo  
1 Temple Dr., Tuxedo, NY 10987  
And via Zoom  
October 11, 2023

Supervisor English called to order the Town Board Meeting of October 11, 2023 at 7:03pm.

The meeting was opened by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Town Board Members Present:	Mr. Kenneth English	Supervisor
	Mrs. Michele Lindsay	Councilmember
	Ms. Maria May	Councilmember
	Ms. Deirdre Murphy	Councilmember

Town Board Member Absent:	Mr. Jay Reichgott	Deputy Supervisor
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**Recording Secretary:** Marisa Dollbaum Town Clerk

**Other Town Officials Present in person:**

Ms. Amy Levine, Town Attorney

**Other Town Officials Present via Zoom:**

Mr. Robert Dollbaum, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor English asked for a moment of silence for the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing regarding introductory Local Law entitled "REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS" was opened at 7:07pm by Supervisor English.

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The significant changes from the Town's existing law regarding this subject are as follows:

1. The exemption can now apply in situations where a portion of the property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes. In such a case the exemption will apply only to the residence portion and the balance shall be subject to full taxation. Currently the property must all be used as the applicant's residence.
2. The enrolled member must be certified by the Chief of the Fire District to have served at least 2 years of active service rather than 5 years as now.
3. The 10 percent exemption is not subject to the \$3000 cap as now.
4. The exemption will now continue for the un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the Fire District who is killed in the line of duty upon the following conditions:
  - a. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire District as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty; and
  - b. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
  - c. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.
5. The exemption will now continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased member of the Tuxedo Joint Fire District under the following conditions:
  - a. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire District as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member of the Tuxedo Joint Fire District
  - b. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been an enrolled member for at least twenty years
  - c. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

**Open Public Comments**

- Gardiner Hempel, President of Tuxedo Fire Company #1, gave thanks to the Board for their support in adopting the tax exemption. He hopes that it will help attract new volunteer members. He said there are currently 82 members and roughly 43 of them will be eligible for the exemption.

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**Close Public Hearing**

Motion made by Supervisor English seconded by Councilmember May, that all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing regarding Introductory Local Law entitled “REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS” be closed at 7:19pm.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing regarding introductory Local Law entitled “NYS Unified Solar Permit Implementation” was opened at 7:21pm by Supervisor English.

Councilmember Lindsay explained that adopting a New York State Unified Solar Permit will streamline the approval process for installing solar in the community. The standardized permit is expected to save time, resources, and cut costs.

**Open Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Close Public Hearing**

Motion made by Supervisor English seconded by Councilmember Lindsay, that all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing regarding Introductory Local Law entitled “NYS Unified Solar Permit Implementation” be closed at 7:33pm.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

**Public Comment(s) on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

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**Agenda Item #1 - Resolution to consider adopting Local Law “Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service**

Introduced by: Councilmember Lindsay

Seconded by: Supervisor English

**WHEREAS**, an introductory Local Law entitled "REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS" was introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Tuxedo on September 11, 2023, and upon notice duly published and posted, a hearing was held on October 11, 2023 before the Town Board; and

**WHEREAS**, public discussion was heard at such hearing concerning the merits and environmental significance of said introductory local law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the adoption of the introductory Local Law entitled "REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS" is hereby determined not to have a significant effect on the environment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the introductory Local Law entitled "REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS" of the Town of Tuxedo be and hereby is adopted as Local Law #4 of the Town of Tuxedo on October 11, 2023.

**Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Supervisor English	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Reichgott	Absent
Councilmember Lindsay	Aye
Councilmember May	Aye
Councilmember Murphy	Aye

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**Agenda Item #2 - Resolution to consider adopting Local Law “NYS Unified Solar Permit Implementation”**

Introduced by: Councilmember Lindsay

Seconded by: Supervisor English

WHEREAS, an introductory Local Law entitled "“NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION " was introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Tuxedo on September 11, 2023, and upon notice duly published and posted, a hearing was held on October 11, 2023 before the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, public discussion was heard at such hearing concerning the merits and environmental significance of said introductory local law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the adoption of the introductory Local Law entitled "NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION" is hereby determined not to have a significant effect on the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the introductory Local Law entitled "“NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION " of the Town of Tuxedo be and hereby is adopted as Local Law #5 of the Town of Tuxedo on October 11, 2023.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor English	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Reichgott	Absent
Councilmember Lindsay	Aye
Councilmember May	Aye
Councilmember Murphy	Aye

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**Agenda Item #3 - Resolution to request NYDOT study for a crosswalk at Hospital Road**

This agenda item was tabled.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:**

Supervisor English is in receipt of the following monthly reports:

- Justice Court
- Town Clerk

**TOWN SUPERVISOR/TOWN BOARD UPDATE:**

- Councilmember Lindsay said Joule Energy going out to bid for “bulk” buying for energy. The Town is trying to join another consortium to get a better pricing. The Hamlet workshop on October 2nd focused on the east side of Route 17. The next workshop will focus on the west side of Route 17.
- Councilmember May said the TUFSD Carnival is scheduled for Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Pickleball Clinic may be cancelled due to rain on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Tuxedo’s Fall Festival at Murphy Field is Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Trunk or Treat event at Powerhouse Park is on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilmember Murphy said the NYSDOT denied the Town’s request to put a school safety zone on Route 17. One option is to place flashing lights and a highway permit will need to be submitted to begin the process. The workbook is ready for Board members to review before the next workshop to go over options for West side of Route 17.
- Supervisor English said the Tuxedo Farms LDC will host an open house of the new sewer plant on October 28th from 2:00-3:30 pm. The tour will provide an overview of the plant’s operation and plans for the future. All residents would be welcome. He said there will be an important Tuxedo Police Department update at the next Board meeting on October 23rd. Three new police officers will be sworn in and the promotion of Officer Shiloh to Detective will be recognized. He announced the upcoming NY/NJ Trail Conference run on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Fall Festival on October 21 at Murphy Field.

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- Chief Trazino read the following statement:

“Mr. Supervisor, Town Board Members, Ladies & Gentlemen of the Greater Tuxedo area,

I originally wanted to address steps that we have taken this year to improve conditions related to the Ren Faire. We are still compiling data from the Ren Faire season and we will have a larger discussion at the next Town Board meeting. But after recent events, I think it is important to discuss your Police Department’s Security footing in the area. I am sure you are all aware of the terrorist attacks that have been executed in Israel over the past weekend. Shortly after that news broke, I began fielding questions & concerns regarding such things as the possibility of attacks on US soil and the current operational readiness of the Tuxedo Police.

Since I became Chief only a year ago, with the full support of the Town Board, we immediately began advanced tactical training with our Officers. We hosted Rapid Deployment training in Tuxedo and invited surrounding Police Departments so that all area Officers are capable of full interoperability, having been trained in the same tactics, strategies and incident management. We added crucial equipment and gear which is necessary to immediately answer such crisis as active shooters, barricaded subjects and hostage situations. In this, the Department has raised the foundation of our Police tactics to a very high level and we will continue to maintain this operational readiness.

Following this training, the Town Board worked with us to implement an important local law which streamlines the process in requesting or granting “mutual aid” between the region’s Police Departments. This vital step allows vital resources and manpower to quickly dispatch to a crisis scene that would otherwise overwhelm a local department.

The Tuxedo Police Department increased our intelligence gathering capabilities by assigning an Officer peripheral duty as a Field Intel Officer and who is tasked with keeping abreast of current threats to security including Terrorism, Violent Criminality and Regional Crime Trends. We became a partner agency with the NYPD Intelligence Division as well as increased our information gathering capabilities through NY State and Federal resources.

Last, building on our established professional relationships in the region, we recently entered into an agreement with our neighboring departments to begin formally training and operating a multi-jurisdictional Search and Rescue Team whose capabilities through mutual-aid will be available to both our residents and visitors when they require emergency assistance.

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I want to assure the public that the Tuxedo Police Department hears your concerns, understands your needs and has been working hard to be prepared for any incident since well before the current terrible crisis we see playing out in Israel.

I remind all residents to please report any suspicious behavior to us by either calling the Tuxedo PD or emailing [tpdgeneral@tuxedopd.com](mailto:tpdgeneral@tuxedopd.com) if you wish to remain anonymous.

Thank you.

Stay safe.

And remember that you are our eyes & ears in the community.”

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

- Marisa Dollbaum, Town Clerk, gave a reminder that Early Voting for the General Election starting on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The closest locations to Tuxedo are Monroe and Warwick. She said the US Postal Service is offering 4 free Covid tests and the information is on the website.
- Rob Dollbaum, Highway Superintendent, attended a meeting with the NYSDOT and MTA today regarding proposed changes to the railroad crossing at East Village Road. They are adding more tulip bulbs in front of the Train Station. They are crushing rocks from the dirt pile on Long Meadow Rd. The highway garage floor is in the process of being repaired. Loose leaf pick up has started and they start on one end of Town and circle through to the other end and then start over. There was an incident on East Mombasha Rd. where a company dumped a large amount of debris. The company was located and made to clean everything up.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Supervisor English, seconded by Councilmember May to accept the Minutes of the Regular Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held on September 25, 2023.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.



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**VOUCHERS**

Below are the vouchers totaling \$5000 or greater:

2012922229	Global Montello Group	\$5,941.94	Fuel Delivery #2/2 September
2012922232	Rockland Paramedics	\$63,196.50	October Paramedic Services
2012922239	DeLage Laden Public Finance	\$21,631.29	Installment #3/3 2021 Police Chevy Tahoe
2012922244	New York State Insurance Fund	\$5,777.95	September Workers Comp
2012922255	J&G Law	\$21,471.25	Professional Services- September

On a motion made by Supervisor English, seconded by Councilmember Lindsay, that the following vouchers, having been audited by the Town Board, are hereby approved for payment:

Claim numbers: 201292224 through 2012922265

General Fund:	\$118,426.50
Part-Town Fund:	\$29,402.29
Highway Town Wide:	\$5,778.76
Highway Part Town	\$847.25
Hamlet Sewer District	\$365.35
Tuxedo Farms Sewer	\$66.00
<b>Total Abstract Amount:</b>	<b>\$154,886.15</b>

The foregoing resolution was adopted on a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Resident Jerry Mottola complained about the traffic backing up on Route 17 over the weekends. He asked if there will be an increased cost to residents for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Supervisor English said that the cost will be shared with residents in Tuxedo Farms.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Supervisor English seconded by Councilmember May, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marisa Dollbaum*

Marisa Dollbaum  
Town Clerk  
Town of Tuxedo