



Cortland County Legislature

Public Hearing Meeting

Legislative Chambers

Cortland, NY 13045

<http://www.cortland-co.org>

~ Minutes ~

Monday, October 24, 2022

6:00 PM

Board Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair of the Legislature Kevin Fitch

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Douglas Bentley	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Late	6:01 PM
Beau Harbin	Cortland County, NY	Minority Leader	Present	
Cathy Bischoff	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Susan Wilson	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Richard Stock	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Ann Homer	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Kevin Fitch	Cortland County, NY	Chair of the Legislature	Present	
Linda Jones	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Kelly L. Fairchild-Preston	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Absent	
Joseph Nauseef	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Absent	
Eugene Waldbauer	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Sandra Price	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
George Wagner	Cortland County, NY	Majority Leader	Present	
Paul Heider	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Present	
Mitchel Eccleston	Cortland County, NY	Legislator	Absent	

Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing for the 2023 Tentative Cortland County Budget

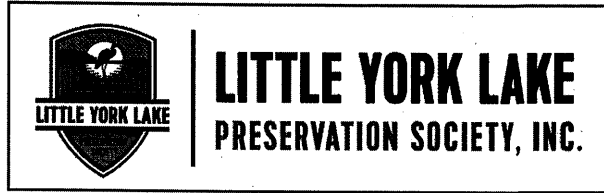
RESULT:	CLOSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ann Homer, Legislator
SECONDER:	Sandra Price, Legislator
AYES:	Bentley, Harbin, Bischoff, Van Dee, Wilson, Stock, Homer, Fitch, Jones, Fairchild-Preston, Waldbauer, Price, Wagner, Heider
ABSENT:	Christopher Newell, Joseph Nauseef, Mitchel Eccleston

2. Public Comments

RESULT:	COMPLETED
----------------	------------------

Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 6:15 PM



Chair Fitch, Leader Wagner, Leader Harbin, Honorable Legislators, Mr. Corpora and Ms. Hempstead, thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. On behalf of Little York Lake Preservation Society (LYLPS) we would like to address the budget, in specific the Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LYLPRD).

We support the tax rate of .94 mils and the total budget of \$17,855.36

While residents who are not members of the district may have an opinion on how we tax ourselves, we hope the legislators will focus on comments from the district members.

LYLPS began lake management efforts in 2014 after the aggressive infestation of the lake with variable leaf milfoil. These efforts evolved through a series of steps including:

- Consultation with professional lake managers and the county SWCD
- Updating the lake management plan with participation from the towns, county, SWCD and LYLPS
- Developing and implementing a treatment plan for milfoil beginning in 2019 and continuing each year
- Creating a community committee of 10% of the owners to identify long-term funding options for ongoing treatments and management in 2020
- Building community consensus for developing the LYLPRD with over two-thirds of households signing petitions in favor in 2021
- Conducting a permissive referendum in 2022 to create LYLPRD and receiving a 2/3 majority

During the last two years, from the time the community committee recommended creating LYLPRD through now, we have communicated regularly with the entire community. We have used postal letters, email, websites, social media, in person door-to-door canvassing, and several public meetings including in-person and virtual.

We have been consistent in our communications since at least June of 2021 that the target tax rate would be .94 mils and that the average tax per household would be approximately \$150. This information was in handouts and on our website. We communicated it to the legislature in September of 2021.

This rate and the revenue generated from it is in line with our annual expenditures from the past 4 years. We have published our planned use of funds, as we do every year, on our website with our annual work plan.

We also recognize that LYLPRD represents the investment that the community is willing to make in the public treasure that is Little York Lake. We look to the county to continue its financial support either directly or through additional budget to the Soil and Water Conservation District for the benefit of the lake and the community.

Thank you,

Gary Lawrence – President
Steve Major – Vice President
Robyn Fisher – Secretary
Linda Van Berkomp – Treasurer

Don Fisher – Director
Julie Palermo – Director
Paul Stepien – Past President/Director
Jim Reeners – Past Director

Cortland County Board Members,

I apologize for not being able to attend this budget meeting in person but I had prior obligations that I could not reschedule. My name is Britt Morse and for those of you that don't know me I am the Town of Virgil Highway Superintendent. I have sat in on budget meetings with the town so I know how hard it can be to disburse funds while also looking out for the tax payers and not hitting everyone with a massive tax hike. With that being said I would just like to say the Cortland County soil and water department has helped us at the highway department tremendously over the past 5 years that I have been in charge. The team down there is very engaged in all the culvert and stream projects and has worked with us on multiple culvert replacements and without their guidance and working to find funding I don't believe we as a town would have been able to afford the fix a few of the issues. That being said any additional funding to help Soil and Water would be greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Charlie and the County Highway Department they have helped all of the towns greatly us included we could not function as smoothly without the help, and as we all know the highway departments can always use any extra that can be found.

Thank you,

Britt Morse

Public Comment Sign Up Sheet

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Public Hearing: October 24, 2022 - Public Hearing
for the 2023 Tentative Cortland County Budget

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY/TOWN	EMAIL ADDRESS
1. Christine Keller	2781 State Rt. 221	Marathon	acand4bs@frontier.com
2. Brenna Keller	2781 State Rt. 221	Marathon	" "
3. MIKE McMahon	5005 Creal Rd	Homer	mcmahonez@outlook.com
4. Julie Palermu	6169 Dwyer Park Rd	Preble	julie.palermu.25@gmail.com
5. Karl Klein		Solon	
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY/TOWN	EMAIL ADDRESS

Attachment: Public Hearing Attachments 10-24-2022 (11030 : Public Comments)

Public Comment Sign Up Sheet
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Public Hearing: October 24, 2022 - Public Hearing
for the 2023 Tentative Cortland County Budget

15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			
21.			
22.			
23.			
24.			
25.			
26.			
27.			
28.			

Attachment: Public Hearing Attachments 10-24-2022 (11030 : Public Comments)