

Minutes
Village of Orchard Park
Board of Trustees
Town Board of Orchard Park

A Joint meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Orchard Park and the Town Board of Orchard Park was held on Monday, November 13, 2023 in the Municipal Center, 4295 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, New York. Mayor Clinton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members present:

- Village Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton
- Village Deputy Mayor Matthew J. Hartung
- Village Trustee Dale T. Pyne
- Village Trustee Lauren Kaczor Rodo
- Village Trustee David N. Even
- Town Supervisor Eugene Majchrzak
- Town Councilmember Conor Flynn
- Town Councilmember Joseph Liberti
- Town Councilmember Julia Mombrea

Others present:

- Attorney John C. Bailey
- Village Administrator / Clerk-Treasurer Mary Beth Jensen
- Town Attorney Timothy Gallagher
- Town Highway Superintendent Andrew Slotman

Mayor Clinton made the following announcement:

“Fire exits are located at the rear in the Board Room and at the doorway to the lobby. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by announcement on the public address system. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.”

Mayor Clinton opened the hearing explaining that this joint meeting of the Village and Town Boards was to hear public comment on 130 proposed annexations, 25 from the Village to the Town and 105 from the Town to the Village. She explained that rumors and false information have been circulating, especially in the Green Lake area, and hopefully these can be cleared up tonight. A notice was sent to owners of all parcels being considered and that is evidence of which parcels are included in tonight’s proposal.

A slide show was presented and further explained by Mayor Clinton. (Attached) It included information on developments that may have contributed to the border issues, reasoning for the annexation proposals, services that may be affected and the annexation process.

Mayor Clinton directed anyone who would like to meet with or be contacted by a Village or Town Official to discuss their parcel, to sign up at the podium.

Mayor Clinton introduced the members of both Boards. She also introduced Attorney John Bailey who would be tracking the time during public comment tonight. It was also acknowledged that Town Attorney Timothy Gallagher and Town Highway Superintendent Andrew Slotman were present.

Mayor Clinton explained that anyone who would like to speak during public comment should sign in with their name and address. (** the clipboard and sign-in sheets were missing when Clerk Jensen

went to collect them) Comments will be limited to 3 minutes and only regarding the proposed annexations.

Comments were made by:

- Brad Tito (28 Fox Meadow Ct) spoke in opposition. Among his concerns regarding properties moving from the Village into the Town:
 - Implied loss of: connection to Village Government, access to Elected Officials, quality of services, community identity
 - Direct Impacts on the quality of life: code enforcement, elections, taxation, revenues, utility services, waste management, infrastructure, snow removal emergency services.
 - Potential Pitfalls: divisiveness, fragmentingHe urged the Village Board to abandon the annexation process and settle the issues with intermunicipal agreements and fair compensation for services provided.
- Penny Jensen (350 Sunset Ter) spoke in opposition of the proposed annexation of her property into the Village from the Town, specifying the financial devastation it would cause. She is happy with the services she has been receiving.
- Larry Broad (19 Westview Pl) spoke in opposition of annexing his property into the Village. He specifically purchased the land to hunt with his daughters and wouldn't be allowed to if his property is moved into the Village.
- Dolores Hogenkamp (4508 Freeman Rd) has no problem with the services she receives from the Town. Would like to know what the benefits are to be annexed into the Village and what the price difference is for taxes, water and garbage.
- Tim Colley (87 N Davis St) commented that if the annexations are for efficiency purposes, they should save everyone money and why should taxes go up? Where is the extra money going to go?
- Stephanie Stachewicz (425 Woodland Dr) referred to a letter she sent to the Town Supervisor and Superintendent of Highways. She wants to remain in the Town. Her concerns are with charges for garbage collection, discontinued leaf pickup and snow blocking her driveway from the street plow.
- Jim Rowe (4541 Freeman Rd) wanted confirmation that an individual property owner must be in agreement in order for the annexations to occur.
- Erin Jakubowski (6267 Armor Duells Rd) spoke in opposition. She referred to 15 questions distributed to all present and has not received a response in writing. Some of the questions were:
 - Are properties going to be re-assessed?
 - Will the deeds and surveys need to be redone? Who will pay for that? Will it require an attorney?
 - Implications for future sale of the properties?
 - Was told that the entire Green Lake community is next on the annexation list.
 - She felt these were extreme measures to fix inept services.
 - She suggested that there be more engagement with the community ahead of time for future annexations
- Paul Enser (67 Fox Meadow Ln) spoke in opposition. He noted that he received notice from the Board of Elections that his voting district was changed, which made him wonder if it was a proposal or a done deal.
- Ann Galbraith (221 Stonehenge Dr) asked for clarification regarding opting in and opting out.
 - She asked to see a bigger map
 - Had health and safety concerns, referring to leaf collection, in regard to walkers and storm drains.
 - Had concerns about deeds and survey costs.
 - Asked for a site meeting.

- Paul Demeter (125 Hillside Dr) stated that he is happy with Village services and does not object to additional taxes. If the many parcels are annexed into the Village:
 - Will the quality of service from the Village be impacted with additional annexations?
 - What plans are in place to maintain the level of service?
 - Will current Village residents' taxes go down because of the additional revenues?
 - Ken Holmes (6447 Armor Duells Rd) has a split property, the house is in the Village and the back lot is in the Town. He pays Village taxes, Village water and for refuse pick-up. Does not understand why the back parcel should be annexed into the Village.
 - Dr. Greg Wollen (4919 Ellicott Rd) appreciates what the boards are trying to do. Speaking for 2 neighbors who could not attend, all are opposed.
 - No lack of services in the Town
 - Additional taxes
 - Not getting anything for extra taxes
- Offered as a solution:
- Tax abatement
 - Village work with Town to collect from them what services the Village provides.
- John Kearns (18 Fox Meadow Ct) opposed the annexation.
 - is confused if individuals can opt in or opt out, logistically how does it work if one neighbor opts in and the other opts out.
 - Not enough information has been disseminated to the community.
 - What is the advantage for him to annex from the Village to the Town?
 - Paul Gorczyca (4566 Freeman Rd) spoke in opposition. He lives on the corner of Highland and Freeman and has been receiving services from the Village while residing in the Town. He realizes why these services have stopped. Garbage implications are concerning because he is happy with the Town contract for his family of 5. Concerned about the street plow not plowing the end of Highland because it is in the Town, as the street sweeper is currently doing.
 - Ann Marie Kennick (6169 Armor Duells Rd) questioned the penalty for not annexing in. If someone doesn't annex in will there be out of network service fees that matches the tax implications they would have paid if they annexed in?

Mayor Clinton again directed anyone who would like to speak and/or meet with a Town or Village Official, to sign up at the podium.

Moved by Trustee Kaczor Rodo, seconded by Trustee Pyne to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

On the question: 9 voting "Aye" 0 voting "Nay" Carried

Supervisor Eugene Majchrzak
 Councilmember Conor Flynn
 Councilmember Joseph Liberti
 Councilmember Julia Mombrea
 Mayor Litwin Clinton
 Trustee Even
 Deputy Mayor Hartung
 Trustee Kaczor Rodo
 Trustee Pyne

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hartung, seconded by Trustee Kaczor Rodo that a Joint Meeting be scheduled for January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

On the question: 8 voting "Aye" 1 voting "Nay" Carried
Supervisor Eugene Majchrzak Councilmember Conor Flynn
Councilmember Joseph Liberti
Councilmember Julia Mombrea
Mayor Litwin Clinton
Trustee Even
Deputy Mayor Hartung
Trustee Kaczor Rodo
Trustee Pyne

Moved by Trustee Kaczor Rodo seconded by Deputy Mayor Hartung to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

On the question: 9 voting "Aye" 0 voting "Nay" Carried
Supervisor Eugene Majchrzak
Councilmember Conor Flynn
Councilmember Joseph Liberti
Councilmember Julia Mombrea
Mayor Litwin Clinton
Trustee Even
Deputy Mayor Hartung
Trustee Kaczor Rodo
Trustee Pyne

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Jensen
Village Administrator / Clerk-Treasurer