

# Hamburg Town Board Work Session

Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk

1-11-2021

James Shaw, Supervisor	(Present)
Shawn Connolly, Councilmember	(Present)
Elizabeth Farrell, Councilmember	(Present)
Karen Hoak, Councilmember	(Present)
Michael Petrie, Councilmember	(Present)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk; Samantha Tarczynski, Director of Finance; Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Jen Robertson, IT Director; Christopher Hull, Director, CDBG; Sean Crotty, Sr. Public Safety Dispatcher & Emergency Manager; Dan Stanford, Town Assessor; Alissa Strauss, Personnel Director, Patrick Ryan, Director of Buildings and Grounds

NOTE: The Hamburg Town Board Meeting was conducted in accordance with New York State Executive Order 202 issued on March 7, 2020 and titled "Continuing Temporary Suspension of Laws relating to the Disaster Emergency." This order was extended on December 11, 2020 until January 10, 2021. The following is the excerpt pertaining to meetings of public bodies and read as follows:

**"Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar service:**

Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed;"

The Meeting was open at 5:30 PM with the calling of the Roll by Town Clerk Catherine Rybczynski. All members of the Town Board present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mr. Shaw opened the meeting by explaining the need for the Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Items #4 and #28. Mr. Shaw asked Town Attorney Walter Rooth III for a synopsis of the legal basis for entering into Executive Session. Mr.

Rooth explained the law as it pertains to Executive Session and stated that each instance fits the requirements for Executive Session.

Mr. Shaw offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Connolly, to have the Town Board enter into Executive Session.

On the question Mr. Shaw explained that the Town Attorney, Town Clerk, and Town Personnel Attorney, Charles Naughton, would be permitted to be present, but that all others would be required to depart.

The motion to APPROVE entering the Executive Session was approved 5 – 0  
AYES – Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie  
NOES – 0

Executive Session commenced at 5:36 PM.

Motion made by Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Farrell, to adjourn the Executive Session.

Motion to APPROVE the adjournment of Executive Session to return to Work Session approved 5 – 0  
AYES - Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie  
NOES – 0

Executive Session adjourned and Work Session resumed at 6:46 PM.

Mr. Shaw asked for any questions regarding any of the items on the Town Board Meeting Agenda.

Samantha Tarczynski, Finance Director, asked what accounts the pay for the new Police recruits would be paid from. Mr. Shaw explained that the Board was merely allowing for an emergency hire to accommodate the need for new hires to fill the four (4) vacancies created by retirement. Chief Trask assured the Board that the funds will be taken from the same account and the new recruits out of the academy would actually be starting at a lower rate than previously believed.

A discussion of who the responsible individual would be for signing vouchers relative to Items #19, 20, and 21.

Councilwoman Farrell asked if the additional information on Item #5 became available. Mr. Shaw stated that he was asked by Sean Crotty, Emergency Services, to hold off until the fire chiefs are elected. Mr. Crotty added that he will address all questions in the resolution that will be submitted in February.

Councilwoman Farrell asked if Item #6 was ready to be acted upon. Mr. Shaw stated that

the search continues. Mr. Connolly reiterated his belief that a deputy should be from outside of the town employee ranks.

The Work Session was adjourned at 7:00 PM with the recitation of the Pledge for the Regular Session.

**Open Meetings Law, Public Officers Law, Article 7, §106. Minutes.**

**Minutes shall be taken at all open meetings of a public body which shall consist of a record or summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon.**

**These minutes are an unofficial copy unless the original signature of the Deputy Town Clerk is affixed below. The original official paper minutes are stored in the Town's vault.**

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Catherine A. Rybczynski, RMC  
Town Clerk