

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RAMAPO TOWN BOARD HELD ON
JANUARY 24, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Ramapo convened in on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 in the Edwin Wallace Auditorium of Ramapo Town Hall, 237 Route 59, Suffern, New York 10901.

Supervisor Michael B. Specht called the meeting to order and called the roll. The following Board members were present and answered to their names:

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael B. Specht	Supervisor	Present	
Brendel Charles	Councilwoman	Present	
Michael Rossman	Councilman	Present	
David Wanounou	Councilman	Absent	
Yehuda Weissmandl	Councilman	Present	
Alyssa Slater	First Assistant Town Attorney	Present	
Maureen Pehush	Deputy Town Clerk	Present	

Moment of Silence:

A *Moment of Silence* was held this evening *In Memory* of **SABRINA VILLAGOMEZ-GONZALEZ**, a 15year old Sophomore student at Ramapo Highschool who was kill in a crash in the Bronx on Sunday January 21, 2024. **AALIYAH TORRES**, a 17year old Senior at Ramapo Highschool was seriously injured and remains in critical condition.

SUPERVISOR MICHAEL B. SPECHT and the **TOWN BOARD** offered their thoughts and prayers to the students’ families and friends and the entire East Ramapo school community.

Public Participation:

The following persons wished to address the Town Board this evening:

Nana Koch - 45-47 So. Mountain Road, New City, NY - Board member of Henry Varnum Poor Foundation - Foundation strives to preserve the Henry Varnum Poor House, also known as “Crow House”, owned by the Town of Ramapo and located on So. Mountain Road, New City in the Town of Clarkstown; advocated for the Town of Ramapo, Town of Clarkstown and the County of Rockland to collaborate to preserve the historic home.

Robert Romanowski- 183 Maple Avenue, Monsey, NY - asked for availability of an agenda packet.

Close Open Period For Public Participation

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-77

RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Open Period for Public Participation held this evening, January 24, 2024, be hereby **closed at 7:05 P.M.**

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Acceptance of Minutes:

Organization Meeting of January 10, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-78

RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the following Minutes of the Ramapo Town Board be hereby accepted, adopted, and recorded in the Minute Book:
JANUARY 10, 2024 - ORGANIZATION

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 0]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman
ABSTAIN:	Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Town Attorney:

Settlement of Tax Certiorari: Be'er Rivka Miriam, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-79

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney’s Office has recommended that the following certiorari matter be settled:

BE'ER RIVKA MIRIAM, INC.

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Section/Lot</u>	<u>Original Assessment</u>	<u>Corrected Assessment</u>
2023/24	42.08-1-15	\$94,300	\$94,300 *

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to settle the above matter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that refunds can only be made when the Petitioner is current on all tax liability.

*Property shall be 100% exempt

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Settlement of Tax Certiorari: Mosque of the Jerrahi Order of America, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-80

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney’s Office has recommended that the following certiorari matter be settled:

MOSQUE OF THE JERRAHI ORDER OF AMERICA, INC.

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Section/Lot</u>	<u>Original Assessment</u>	<u>Corrected Assessment</u>
2020/21	62.20-2-40	\$95,300	\$95,300 *
2021/22	62.20-2-40	\$95,300	\$95,300 *
2022/23	62.20-2-40	\$95,300	\$95,300 *

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Town Attorney is hereby authorized to settle the above matter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that refunds can only be made when the Petitioner is current on all tax liability.

*Property shall be 60% exempt

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Settlement of Claim: Chaim Glatzer

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

WHEREAS, Chaim Glatzer filed a Notice of Claim against the Town for damage to his vehicle which was struck by a Town of Ramapo police vehicle, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney’s Office has reviewed the claim and recommends it be settled in the amount of \$2,187.90,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that it hereby settles the claim of **CHAIM GLATZER** in the amount of \$2,187.90, said settlement to be charged to 3120AB341931, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said settlement is conditioned upon receipt of a general release executed by Chaim Glatzer.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Personnel:

Establish Position of Superintendent of Public Works

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-82

WHEREAS, Supervisor Michael B. Specht, has recommended the classification of Superintendent of Public Works within the Ramapo Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Personnel Office has classified the position of Superintendent of Public Works,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Board authorizes the establishment of a Superintendent of Public Works position within the Ramapo Department of Public Works.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Establish Position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-83

WHEREAS, Supervisor Michael B. Specht, has recommended the classification of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works within the Ramapo Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Personnel Office has classified the position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Board authorizes the establishment of an Assistant Superintendent of Public Works position within the Ramapo Department of Public Works.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Appoint Constituent Services Assistant

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-84

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy in the position of Constituent Services Assistant in the Supervisor's Office within the Town of Ramapo, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor, Michael B. Specht, has made the following recommendation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Board does hereby appoint *DENISE SPAR*, as probationary Constituent Services Assistant, effective January 29, 2024, with an annual salary of \$111,395.00.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 1220A.3100

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Purchasing:

Acceptance of Bid: Submersible Grinder Pump Stations and Accessories

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-85

WHEREAS, bids were opened January12th,2024 for Submersible Grinder Pumps, and

WHEREAS, Michael Sadowski, PE, Deputy Director of Public Works, recommends the acceptance of the bids of the lowest responsible bidder: Rapid Pump and Meter Service Co., Inc., 285 Straight Street, P.O. Box AY, Paterson, New Jersey 07509, and

WHEREAS, Mona Montal, Director of Purchasing, concurs with said recommendation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the lowest responsible bid submitted by *RAPID PUMP AND METER SERVICE CO., INC.* be hereby approved and accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute agreements with Rapid Pump and Meter Co., Inc., in a form approved by the Town Attorney's Office.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: (OPERATING 8130SS/3448)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Acceptance of Extension of Agreement: Towing Town of Ramapo Vehicles, Including Trucks

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-86

WHEREAS, the Town of Ramapo, by Resolution No. 2023-150, approved an agreement with Jan's Med-A-Car Service, 15 West Route 59, Hillburn, NY 10931 for Towing Town of Ramapo Vehicles, Including Trucks, and

WHEREAS, the agreement with provided for an extension of said agreement for an additional one (1) year period, and

WHEREAS, Mona Montal, Director of Purchasing, recommendations said extension.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the agreement between the Town and **Jans Med-A-Car for Towing Town of Ramapo Vehicles, Including Trucks**, be extended for an additional year.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Empire Strategic Planning - Lobbying Assistance- 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-87

WHEREAS, the Town, by Resolution No. 2023-37 entered into an agreement with Empire Strategic Planning, 111 Washington Avenue Ste. 103, Albany, New York 12210, to provide governmental/lobbying assistance and represent the Town before the executive, legislative and administrative branches of government in New York State, for year 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Town continues its need for governmental/lobbying assistance and representation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that it hereby retains **EMPIRE STRATEGIC PLANNING** to provide governmental/lobbying assistance and representation for the Town for the **year 2024** at the following terms:

- 1) Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024
- 2) Fee: \$30,000 payable at the rate of \$2,500 per month
- 3) Reimbursement for reasonable and actual expenses incurred, disbursements and other related fees
- , and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Empire Strategic Planning, in a form approved by the Town Attorney's office.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 1420A.3452

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Brown & Weinraub, PLLC - Legislative and Regulatory Representation -2024

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-88

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to have legislative and regulatory representation for year 2024
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that it hereby authorizes an agreement with ***BROWN AND WEINRAUB, PLLC***, 76 N. Pearl Street, Suite 3, Albany, NY 12207, to provide legislative and regulatory representation, at a monthly fee of \$2,500.00 plus disbursements and other related fees, for **year 2024**, with said agreement being able to be terminated by either party upon thirty days’ written notice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Brown and Weinraub, PLLC in a form approved by the Town Attorney’s Office.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 1220A.3452

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Authorization for Supervisor to Execute Purchase/Sale/Operating Agreements and General Release: O&R

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-89

WHEREAS, the Town Board, by Resolution No. 2023-262, approved the purchase of the remaining 521 streetlights not already owned by the Town at a cost not to exceed \$600,000, and
WHEREAS, O&R requires a resolution of the Town Board authorizing the Supervisor to sign the documents required to close the transaction

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute the purchase and sale agreement, the mutual general release, and the operating agreement , all in a form approved by the Town Attorney’s Office.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Emergency Repair: Stabilization of Camp Scuffy Dam

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-90

WHEREAS, the dam located at Camp Scuffy became inundated with heavy rains that overtopped the dam and undermined the slab on top of the outlet structure causing the collapse of the slab and the boulder wall, and

WHEREAS, the current structure is unsafe and needs immediate repair to prevent further damage to the other three concrete walls and to prevent migration of the adjacent soil, and

WHEREAS, due to the emergency nature of the situation, the Board wishes to begin stabilization of the structure in coordination with Town engineers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that it hereby authorizes up to \$50,000.00 for the immediate stabilization of the structure in coordination with Town engineers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Mona Montal, Director of Purchasing, is hereby authorized to go out to bid for the Repair of Dam at Camp Scuffy.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 5197H21.34460

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
SECONDER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

General Matters:

Authorization for Assessor to Attend GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-91

WHEREAS, Town of Ramapo Assessor, Scott Shedler, has requested authorization to attend the GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference to be held April 8 through April 11, 2024, to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the costs involved will not exceed \$4,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that permission be hereby granted for ASSESSOR, SCOTT SHEDLER to attend the GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference to be held April 8 through April 11, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said expense incurred by above at this Seminar is to be considered a proper Municipal Charge under Town Law, Section 116(12) and General Municipal Law, Section 77B.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Assessor 1355A.3465 (Schools, Seminar & Travel)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Waiver of Rules of Order:

Waiver of Rules of Order: 24Hr. Rule

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-92

WHEREAS the Town Board, by Resolution No. 2018-83, adopted Rules of Order for the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Rules, to the extent practicable, no resolution may be brought for a vote unless printed or digital copies are presented to each Board member 24 hours prior to the opening of the meeting, and

WHEREAS, said rule can be waived by a majority consent of the Board members present,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that it hereby waives the RULES OF ORDER with regard to the 24 hour rule.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

New Business:

Memorializing Resolution: Henry Varnum Poor House Property

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-93

WHEREAS, the Town of Ramapo is the owner of the Henry Varnum Poor House ("Crow House") located on South Mountain Road, in the Town of Clarkstown, and

WHEREAS, the Crow House is on the National Register of Historic Places, and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to preserve the historic nature of the Crow House and feels it is in the best interest of the Town and its residents to offer the Crow House to the County of Rockland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board wishes to formally offer the Crow House to the County of Rockland at terms to be confirmed and negotiated by the Supervisor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the transfer is conditioned on the County's acceptance, the Towns Declaration of the Crow House as surplus property, and permissive referendum.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael B. Specht, Supervisor
SECONDER:	Brendel Charles, Councilwoman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou

Adjournment:

Adjournment

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-94

RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ramapo that the Regular Meeting of the Ramapo Town Board held this evening, January 24, 2024, be hereby adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Rossman, Councilman
SECONDER:	Yehuda Weissmandl, Councilman
AYES:	Specht, Charles, Rossman, Weissmandl
ABSENT:	Wanounou