



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**November 3, 2021**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gerald Scouten (Aurelius); Patricia Bianconi (Aurora); Dave Lipiska (Brutus); Ernesto Rivera (Fleming); Debbie Ross (Ledyard); Carol Fordyce (Montezuma); Fred Palmer (Town of Moravia); Paul Nelson (Village of Moravia); Tamara Severson (Niles); Darrin Rooker (Port Byron); Tom Higgins (Scipio); Brian Stout (Summerhill); Steve Helzer (Throop); Chris Yorkey (Union Springs); and Louise Hand (Victory).

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Nelson (County Planning Staff).  
Jenna DeRario (County Planning Staff).

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Darrin Rooker called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS**

David Nelson introduced all members present.

**3. INTERNAL BUSINESS**

a. Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2021 Meeting:

Motion by Pat Bianconi (Aurora) to approve the minutes. Seconded by Carol Fordyce (Montezuma). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

b. Nomination of Officers for 2022

**Chairperson:** Motion by Darrin Rooker (Port Byron) to nominate himself. Seconded by Fred Palmer (Town of Moravia). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

**Vice Chairperson:** Motion by Pat Bianconi (Aurora) to nominate herself. Seconded by Fred Palmer (Town of Moravia). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

**Secretary:** Motion by Deborah Ross (Ledyard) to nominate herself. Seconded by Dave Lipiska (Brutus). All members vote AYE. Motion carried.

#### 4. ISSUES OF COUNTYWIDE IMPORTANCE

a. County Planning Department Updates:

- The Town of Throop is updating their comprehensive plan with assistance from the County Planning Department. The bulk of the work will be completed in 2022. Steve Helzer (Throop) said that four steering committee meetings have been held thus far.
- The Sterling Nature Center REDI project was re-bid in September and, as expected, the results were over budget. The County is hoping to close the funding gap internally within the next month.
- Jenna DeRario provided an update on the Local Solid Waste Management Plan. The municipal and resident survey results are being tabulated. The next steps will be to reach out to solid waste managers, supervisors, and private companies. Louise Hand (Victory) asked if they would still be included even if they don't have any solid waste management at the town level. Jenna confirmed that all municipalities will be part of the engagement process.

b. Review of Minutes of the GML 239-1, m & n Committee: No discussion

#### 5. LOCAL STATUS REPORTS

Brutus:

- The Town has been coordinating with the Village of Weedsport to construct a new shared municipal building. The Town is now planning to move forward on their own. There currently is not a time frame for construction.

Port Byron:

- The joint project to re-water the canal in Mentz, Port Byron, Weedsport, and Brutus will have a public meeting on November 15, 6pm, at the Weedsport School to review possible proposals. The goal of the project is to enhance the canal for recreation while providing flood mitigation for the Village of Port Byron.

Scipio:

- The Town has completed updating their zoning law.
- The Town previously completed updating their comprehensive plan and found value in conducting their public survey at the polls on Election Day. This approach improved response rate.
- The Town Board voted in October to opt out of cannabis retail sales and on-site consumption use. The Town also coordinated with County Senior Planner Kari

Terwilliger to develop zoning code language for regulating these uses in the event that the opt out is rejected by referendum. Darrin Rooker (Port Byron) asked if there anyone has experienced any issues with zoning for cannabis uses while simultaneously pursuing an opt out. Senior Planner David Nelson said that New York State has not provided any direction on this and that the opt out and legalization process is still new. David reminded the Board that an opt out must be approved by municipal resolution prior to December 31, 2021. The referendum can follow in 2022 and New York State has not provided information on a time period in which to hold the referendum.

Victory:

- The Town currently has a moratorium on solar energy, wind energy, and telecommunication land uses in order to update their zoning code. The Town is considering allowing ground-mounted solar panels in front yards, unlike other local municipalities, due to the prevalence of large, rural lots.

Union Springs:

- The Cayuga Casino expansion is still under review by the Village Planning Board and probably will not be completed before the end of 2021.
- The Spring Street community solar project is underway.
- Kings Auto Store has opened in the Village.
- A question was asked if the recent Dollar General opening has impacted existing businesses in the Village. Christopher Yorkey replied that it has not negatively impacted businesses and may actually be drawing more people into the Village because there is not a lot of product overlap.

Adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Minutes submitted by David Nelson (staff).