

**DRAFT**

**A Town Board Meeting was held  
August 1, 2023 @ 7:00 PM  
at the Town Hall**

**Presiding:** Supervisor McKnight

**Attending:** Councilmember Humphries, Councilmember Boms, Councilmember Martin,  
Councilmember Simpson excused absence

**Also present:** Andrew Lessig, Town Attorney, members of the public

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Supervisor McKnight

Supervisor McKnight opened the meeting by stating that all Town Board meetings will be held at Town Hall to comply with American Disabilities Act requirements.

**1. Public Comment –**

- ✓ Diana Cline – questioned whether Javier was still employed at the Transfer Station and whether Councilmember Humphries was volunteering and working for free as his replacement. She expressed her opinion that people should not volunteer to do work for the town. She also inquired as to whether Councilmember Humphries took the town truck home.
- ✓ Highway Superintendent Shultis – read a statement regarding providing closed captioned and live streaming of Town Board minutes. **(See full text below.)** He further commented on reimbursements due to him for Highway purchases he made using his personal funds.

Motion to close public comment offered by Supervisor McKnight, Seconded by Councilmember Martin. *All in Favor*

**2. Department Reports –**

- ✓ Highway Superintendent Shultis –
  - Received 911 call to remove fallen tree on Eagles Nest Rd
  - Catching up on filling pot holes
  - Mowed rail trail
  - Replaced culvert on Cedar Street in preparation for paving
  - DOT has raised funding to almost \$265,000 as costs for goods have increased dramatically
  - Continuing work on drainage issues
  - Looking to purchase trailer and backhoe
  - Requested reimbursement for equipment purchases using personal funds

### 3. Other Business -

#### ✓ Dug Hill Park

- Supervisor McKnight brought up the issue of security at Dug Hill Park. There have been issues of vandalism in the restrooms resulting in plumbing not working, as well as unusual loitering in the parking lot. She requested that the Board give some thought on making sure the facilities at the park are functioning properly

#### ✓ Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

- Supervisor McKnight has continued conversations with the Ulster County Emergency Management manager to develop a comprehensive multijurisdictional emergency management plan as Hurley's plan has not been updated in decades
- Currently volunteerism is down across all sectors in Ulster County for EMS and fire fighters
- Mobile Life has been purchased by Empress, several communities have engaged in a contract for services at a substantial cost
- There are several levels of emergency services needed from basic to advanced and the Town Board needs to consider what kind of services are needed in Hurley
- Supervisor McKnight reported that a resolution is being prepared to institute a property tax exemption for first responders and will be voted on during the next Town Board meeting

#### ✓ Additional comments

- Councilmember Boms questioned the cost of leachate pulls
- Supervisor McKnight stated that the most important issue for leachate pulls is the response time

Motion to adjourn offered by Supervisor McKnight, Seconded by Councilmember Humphries.  
*All in Favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Reed  
Hurley Town Clerk

**Letter to the Hurley Town Board August 1, 2023**  
**From Mike Shultis, Town Highway Superintendent**

Good evening, Supervisor McKnight and Town Board Members,

I want to read into the minutes my ongoing frustration with the boards inactions to provide CART as was agreed to last September 2022 between the Town Supervisor, town Attorney and my ADA Attorney Advocate for hearing impaired.

CART differs from closed captioning that we all see on our home tv screens. CART requires a Court Stenographer certified in CART to type the spoken word on their stenography machine connected to their laptop which displays the spoken word. Closed captioning is Artificial Intelligence that somewhat transcribes the spoken word but many times is not recognizable to the hearing impaired.

On or about January 2021 I had sent an email to former Supervisor Perry and the full town board of which both Melinda McKnight and Peter Humphries were sitting councilmembers. An email requesting closed captioning for the ZOOM Town Board meetings during COVID. Former Supervisor Perry was working with MCS Tech, the towns Technology Company, to provide via ZOOM and was almost ready to implement late 2021.

January 2022, after the new administration was sworn in I wrote an email to Supervisor McKnight again asking for the closed captioning as I could not make out what was being said on ZOOM meetings.

Supervisor McKnight stated this was the first time she was hearing about this issue. I followed up with the original email from January 2021 sent to the former supervisor of which then Councilwoman McKnight was clearly cc'd. Several emails went back and forth between us and in the end Supervisor McKnight said it wasn't in my job description nor required to attend Town Board meetings and Supervisor McKnight turned down my request for Closed Captioning.

While Supervisor McKnight and I were trading emails on this topic of providing CART, Councilman Humphries would publicly speak disparagingly about me at each and every town board meeting for not attending board meetings with Supervisor McKnight also making same statements all while fully aware of the ongoing Americans with Disabilities Act debate occurring between the Supervisors Office and myself and attorney advocate for months. Councilman Humphries went so far as to write emails to me in ALL CAPS stating he was using CAPS because I can't hear. (which anyone with corporate background knows is a violation as its considered yelling at the person). Another example of Councilman Humphries trying to humiliate and bully me due to my Hearing Disability under the NYS Disability act.

My attorney advocate finally advised the town attorney that the town was in violation of ADA Laws and actions would be taken if the town did not comply. Finally in December 2022 Supervisor

McKnight agreed to provide CART.

The first 2 meetings I attended in June/July 2023 did not provide CART OR closed captioning with apologies from Supervisor McKnight. Last months town board meeting had closed captioning but a menu blocked the words for half the meeting. When I spoke the TV was behind me facing the town board so I could not read what was being spoken.

Until the Supervisor complies with the agreement to provide the proper CART Services I will not attend meetings or be disparaged by members of this board.

During this debate, Streaming Town Meetings via ZOOM was also stopped and the Supervisor refused to adopt a local law to continue allowing streaming meetings. Her own Communications person, Tobe Carey advised many surrounding towns were adopting local laws to allow Zoom Meetings to continue and Hurley should look into it, but to no avail.

I have a petition which I started on Change.Org to request the Supervisor introduce a local law to again allow live streaming of Town Board Meetings signed by 182. Included on this petition are UC Legislator Eric Stewart among several town committee volunteers and many Hurley Residents. I submit this to you for action tonight. It would take a total of 3 meetings to allow live streaming of town board meetings again. The local law is already available thru many other towns that have already adopted it. The supervisor introduces the law and board sets a public hearing, public hearing held and final meeting to vote it into local law. Six weeks is all it will take to get it done.

### **Differences Between CART and Captioning**

Have you ever found yourself in the position where you have a client, student, or colleague request accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act, specifically CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) or closed captioning? There are several methods of providing the spoken word to those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and in this blog article we'll focus on CART and captioning, their differences, and what you need to know if you are confronted with this request.

Most people are familiar with captioning because they've seen it on their own televisions or in a restaurant that may be displaying it on their televisions. Captioning is a method of displaying the spoken word through an encoder onto a screen (usually a television or large projection screen) for either a live or recorded event.

CART is also a method of capturing the spoken word and displaying it for the consumer(s) to view. This can either be displayed on a laptop computer for one individual consumer, or it could be projected onto a large screen for multiple consumers to view at the same time. The latter method is ideal for conferences or large meetings. CART on a laptop could be used in a smaller setting such as high school or college classes, training sessions, medical appointments, or small meetings. Both methods use the same basic process: a court reporter will attend the event, taking down the

spoken word on her stenography machine, which is connected to her laptop. The information is then electronically transmitted to a laptop, overhead projector, or encoder for the consumer(s) to view.

If you receive a request from a consumer for CART or captioning for an event, the first thing you will need to do is find a qualified court reporting firm who employs court reporters with that skill set. Not every court reporter is prepared or skilled to provide CART and captioning. There are certifications court reporters can attain through the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). They are Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) and Certified Broadcast Captioner (CBC). So be sure to ask the court reporting firm for a certified court reporter. You will also need to determine if you need CART or captioning services, as each requires specific equipment, and the costs for each could vary.

In order to provide the best services for you and the consumer, it is extremely helpful if you can provide the court reporting firm with as much information or printed material ahead of time. This may include printed speeches, PowerPoint presentations, names of speakers, or any complicated or technical terminology that may be discussed during your event.

Once you find a qualified court reporting firm, they can usually walk you through the specifics of your event and help you determine anything additional you may need.