

Minutes

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

March 12, 2020

Workshop 6:30pm

Supervisor John Walgus calls meeting and public hearing for Local Law 2020-1 to order at 7:00p.m

**** Notice of said public hearing for Local Law 2020-1 was posted in the Observer on February 17th & 18th with same being posted on the Persia Website and Town Hall.**

Roll Call:

Supervisor: John T. Walgus: present
Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley:
Councilperson: Theresa A. Girome: present
Councilperson: Gloria J. Tomaszewski: present
Councilperson: Robert O. Dingman: present
Councilperson: Seth H. Howard: present
Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore: present

Others present:

Building Inspector: Mel Shaw
Jack Broyles
Tanley Howard
Jarek Howard

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * I would like to open the public hearing for comment on Local Law 2020-1 which is to change the date for the Town of Persia Board of Assessment Review to hear complaints in relation to tax assessments to the first Tuesday in June, this is necessary due to the numerous other towns the Cattaraugus County Assessor tend to. * I have paid the pre-pays and have processed payroll. * I ask for a resolution to approve the Supervisors report and a resolution to accept the financial statement from Bahgat & Laurito Bahgat. * As I reported at our January meeting, I applied for rebates from our natural gas supplier NY Gas & Electric for the town hall and highway dept. I supplied NYG&E with all our paid-on time natural gas bills from January 2018 to January 2019. We received a rebate for \$1,838.36 for the town hall and \$1,135.46 for the highway garage for a total of \$2,973.82. Seth will be asking for resolution tonight to place this money in the building reserve account. * Finally, after three years of hard work and a mountain of paperwork, we have received payment from

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NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance for our contribution to the County Wide Shared Services Initiative for \$33,699.22. Most of the savings is from the justice court, the assessor's office and the highway dept. The real savings will be with the future reval cost that the county will provide the town thru their real property assessing team. It is estimated to cost \$75.00 a parcel for the 1,341 parcels in Persia or about \$98,550. We are currently at a 66% equalization rate. * I would like to place \$14,000 into the building reserve account. Judge Schindler has asked to update the security system and purchase equipment for court officers for approx. \$1,000. I would like permission to start the process for the upgrades. Also, I would like to set aside \$5,000 for future grant matches. Once we have completed these projects, I would like to explore the possibility of purchasing a new copy machine for the clerk's office. The company we dealt with when we bought the court copier can provide us the same model at the same price until the end of the year. * I would like permission to have the Highway Superintendent start the process of getting estimates on having the highway buildings roofs coated with a rust preventative and have the buildings painted. This is something the Highway Superintendent and I have been discussing over the years that need attention. * On February 14th I was in Salamanca City Court where the town received a default judgement against Amanda Battaglia of Salamanca for her failure to pay costs to the town for costs incurred when her dog who was full of porcupine quills was captured by the towns DCO and brought to the Forestville Animal Hospital to have the quills removed. Ms. Battaglia signed a promissory note with a payment plan and then disappeared. I called her three times to remind her. We won a judgement for \$381.81. * On February 20th I attended the Army Corp of Engineers program at the Hollywood Theater, Deputy Supervisor Dingman will elaborate more on this subject. * On February 24th, the Deputy Supervisor and I traveled to Albany. I went to inquire about future funding that the town relies on, specifically (AIM) or Aide and Incentives for Municipalities formally known as revenue sharing. (CHIP's) Consolidated Highway Improvement Projects and (EWF) Extreme Weather Funding along with the Pave NY program. The loss of these revenue streams for the town would be close to a 30% increase in real property taxes just to keep an even keel. I was assured by Assemblyman Joseph Giglio and Senator George Borello that we can expect funding from these sources for 2021, but it would remain flat. I want to thank Assemblyman Giglio and Senator Borello for taking the time to meet with us on these subjects. * On March 5th I attended the Supervisor's meeting; there was a public hearing for the updates on the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. Also, there was a representative from the NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets, he spoke of a \$25,000 grant to promote agribusiness, agritourism and for agricultural planning. These agricultural programs can be an update to our comprehensive plan. I will investigate this further. The grant totals \$25,000 with a local match of \$1,700 and \$6,700 in kind services provided mostly by the counties EDP&T Dept. * On March 3rd I met with Crystal Abers Director of the counties EDP&T Dept. to discuss the upcoming grant cycle. At that time, I

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reserved two tables (16) for the Town of Persia at the Farmer/Neighbor Dinner on April 8th. I need your reservations ASAP. And just a reminder that Town of Persia resident John Gibbs will be receiving the Cattaraugus County Farmer of the Year Award. * Happy Birthday this month to Court Officer Tom Povhe. *I sent a thank-you note to the Gowanda VFW for donating a flag for the Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * read highway bills. * I would like a resolution to sell the 1989 Mack truck on Auctions International, I am not certain when the bidding will be ending, they like to have it run 2 weeks. * Highway made 60 trips with the snowplow so far this winter season; our snow fall informer, Gary Bobsein said we received 165 inches of snow to date. * I would like to rent a skid steer again this year for a month or two. * I talked with the DEC; they would like to update the parking lot on Valentine's Flats Road starting next year to make it handicap accessible.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * I attended the Army Corp of Engineers meeting at the Hollywood Theater on February 20th.

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * I attended the Army Corp of Engineers meeting on February 20th; I was disappointed in the format. One of the things that I was specifically there to do was to get contact information on if the railroads engineers could meet with the Corps engineers to straighten the drainage ditch and put it mostly on railroad property among other things. The Village will have to maintain it after the Corp of Engineers leave. It seems all you can do is leave a comment on their website. The situation is very frustrating. * I went to Albany with Supervisor Walgus to talk with Assemblyman Giglio and Senator Borrello, I went to ask for support in the getting the rail corridor moving. * I also have flyers from Senator Borrello on the coronavirus.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * read the general bills. * I ask for a resolution to place the rebate of \$2,973.82 in the building reserve account. * I attended the Gowanda Ambulance Board meeting on February 18th. It was the first scheduled function in the new hall. I am happy to report that as of March 3rd, everything has been transferred over and the hall is now in full operation. * The chicken and biscuit dinner will be March 18th at 4pm at the American Legion if anyone would like to attend. Our next meeting will be March 17th. * I would like a resolution to put \$14,000 received from the Shared Services Initiative money into the building reserve account. * I would like to have a workshop on April 9th at 6:15 to discuss a property on Wilder Road.

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Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * The court has hired Kevin Parks as a court officer, we will need a resolution hiring him retroactive to February 18th. * I attended the Thatcher Brook Diversion meeting on February 20th; they presented maps and took questions from the people who attended. Work on the project will begin in 2024.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (sent by email) * Reminders were mailed to all Agricultural Assessment and Senior Citizen Exemption applicants who had not returned their renewal mid- February. This notice reminded applicants that renewals would not be accepted after the deadline. * We have been in contact with many exemption applicants who have questions, need help with an application, or submitted incorrect/insufficient information. The Assessing office has also corresponded with several property owners about their assessments and tax bills. * Six property transfers were added for the month of January.

Building Inspector Mel Shaw: * I issued one building permit on Broadway. * I attended a flood mitigation meeting. * I attended the Niagara Frontier Officials conference on January 27, 28 and 29th. * The Yoderland Special Use permit is non-transferrable. * I talked with the DEC on “Phase One” of making a Zoar Valley walkway where people would have better access to the creek and updating the parking lot on Valentines Flat Road, doing this would also reinforce trails for emergency personnel.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: *

Total transactions for February: 60

Total Collected: \$ 757.00

Towns Portion: \$ **299.82**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from February 13, 2020.

RESOLUTION # 23 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Girome, Tomaszewski, Howard, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #3 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

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Abstract 3 – General Vouchers # 42 to # 54 Total: \$ 8,538.48

Abstract 3 – Highway Vouchers # 13 to # 16 Total: \$ 4,136.53

RESOLUTION #24 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Girome, Howard, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from February 13, 2020.

RESOLUTION #25 Supervisors report

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Tomaszewski, Girome, Howard, Walgus

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for February 2020.

RESOLUTION #26 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for February 2020.

RESOLUTION #27 Local Law 2020-1- Grievance Day

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Dingman, Girome, Howard, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to enter into law Local Law 2020-1 which is to change the date for the Board of Review to hear complaints in relation to tax assessments to the first Tuesday in June.

RESOLUTION #28 Court Officer – Kevin Parks

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Girome, Howard, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to hire Kevin Parks as Court Officer effective February 18, 2020.

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RESOLUTION #29 1989 Mack Truck

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Dingman, Girome, Tomaszewski, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to sell the 1989 Mack Truck on Auctions International.

RESOLUTION #30 Skid Steer rental

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED for highway to rent a skid steer not to exceed \$2,100 a month.

RESOLUTION #31 Building Reserve Account

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to put \$14,000 in building reserve account.

RESOLUTION #32 Workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a workshop on April 9th at 6:15pm to discuss property on Wilder Road.

RESOLUTION # 33 Rebate money

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to put the rebate of \$2,973.82 in the building reserve account.

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Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the public hearing and adjourns the meeting in memory of our residents Norman Schuster and Ruth Bushnell.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk