

Minutes

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

August 12, 2021

Workshop 6:30pm to discuss the CARES Act

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Supervisor: John T. Walgus: present
Councilperson: Theresa A. Girome: present
Councilperson: Gloria J. Tomaszewski: present
Councilperson: Robert O. Dingman: present
Councilperson: Seth H. Howard: present

Others present:

Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley
Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore
Hon. Mark Schindler
Wanda Koch: The Wicked Glen
Curtis Reynolds: DFT Communications
Jack Broyles
Jarek Howard
Tenley Howard

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * Tonight we have three speakers who wish to address the Town Board. * The Honorable Mark Schindler is here tonight about hiring a Court Clerk Assistant. * Ms. Wanda Koch from the Wicked Glen (Chuck Bell from H. Sicherman/ The Harrison Studio Could not make it), will be asking for the towns support in a CDBG for a micro-brewery. If we approve this by resolution, we will have to have a public hearing, Mr. Bell will be here for the hearing if anyone has any questions. *Curtis Reynolds from DFT Communications will be speaking about a high-speed internet expansion opportunity using the APRA funds. * I have processed payroll and paid the prepays. *This month I was invited to attend the dedication for the only veteran's internet access in the State of New York, at the VFW. The system is called Telehealth Access. Now any veteran can schedule a doctor's appointment online instead of traveling to Buffalo. * We have received the first payment of

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APRA funds of \$24,362.00. We will receive \$24,362.00 again in 2022. * Tonight, I will be asking you by resolution for spending up to \$5,000.00 for brush cutting/tree removal on Thatcher Brook south of the village line. The Village of Gowanda will also be expending up to \$5,000/00 in conjunction with the town for this program. It has been approximately 3 years since this has happened. * I am also asking for authorization to engage Mrs. Elizabeth Accordino for grant writing services, not to exceed \$5,000.00, specifically for the Town Hall second floor renovations. I invite the board to view the second floor to get an idea of the condition it's in. * To expend APRA funds we will need to budget these funds. These are acceptable expenditures.

- A water well with associated equipment for the Town Highway garage. (This will need to go out to bid)
- A new computer and monitor for the supervisor would be \$956.40. (We have recently upgraded the computers for the clerk, deputy clerk and the court copy machine.)
- A new copy machine for the clerk's office would be \$ 3,775.18.
- High speed internet service for part of the town.

Thanks to our Highway Department for gravel removal in and around the Dayton Road trash rack just prior to the last high-water incident, it really helped elevate the potential flooding this time around. * Happy birthday this month to the Deputy Supervisor, Robert O. Dingman.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * Read highway bills. * The backhoe is out being repaired. * We had some damage from the last heavy rain. * Burzak Electric will be upgrading the electric at the highway garage.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * The next Village Board meeting will be September 14th at 6pm.

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * I attended a Village board meeting on August 10th; the board decided to table the option of opting out of allowing cannabis consumption sites in the Village, they will revisit it at next month's meeting on September 14th.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: *read general bills. * Attended a compliance meeting for the Gowanda Ambulance.

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Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * Attended the Healthy Community Alliance Meeting via Teleconference. Went over the status of waiting list for apartments and monthly reports on accounts. * I would like to have a budget workshop on September 9th.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (by email) * The July report is as follows: * The 2021 roll year has been finalized as of July 1, 2021. * Date Collector Carrie Tomczak has been promoted to Senior Data Collector. We are in the process of hiring a new Data Collector to fill her old position. * Corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. * Added nine property transfers for the month of June.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumppore: *

Total transactions for July - 80

Total Collected: \$ 1,153.00

Towns Portion: \$ **436.99**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from July 8th. *

Hon. Mark Schindler: * The reason I am here tonight is I am asking the board to hire a court clerk assistant to help get the court clerk get caught up. My Court Clerk Cheryl works full time, and it is very difficult for her to make phone calls and process cases in a timely manner. I know a court clerk from Boston, her name is Marie Falzone and she is extremely knowledgeable in the court and has offered to help. I have in the past had her help and have paid her out of pocket. I am proposing the town to consider a 39-hour period at \$15.00 an hour so the court can get up to speed on all the paperwork and cases that are back logged.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Wanda Koch** owner of the Wicked Glen asked to use the Town as a sponsor for a Community Block Development Grant (CDBG). This would be of no cost to the town. I would like to open a micro-brewery at the same location of the Wicked Glen. I'm excited, I believe it will benefit the area and create jobs. * In another matter I want to say that on Tuesday, the Village Board approved expending up to \$5,000.00 for brush cutting/tree removal at Thatcher Brook.
- **Curtis Reynolds** from DFT Communications talked about an expansion to the Broadband that is currently on the roof of the Town Hall. Back in 2019 was the last time we talked about this; it cost \$27,000 to put the system up, \$9,000 of that is for engineering and the remaining is equipment. Anyone who could see the Town Hall rooftop would be able to connect. DFT would work with the Town on the engineering

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costs to help bring that down. * What we have now is public Wi-Fi. This would be another option for somebody who wanted internet service like what is offered now in the Village like Spectrum and Verizon. It is a fixed wireless. Relays would be put in to bounce from location to location. The question DFT has is how the APRA funds can be used, and if the equipment is owned by the town or DFT. In conclusion, this is a work in progress and DFT will work with the Town.

RESOLUTION # 58 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

The following was

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #8 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

Abstract 8- General Vouchers # 111 to # 128 Total: \$ 6,728.97

Abstract 8- Highway Vouchers # 44 to # 46 Total: \$ 1,570.52

RESOLUTION #59 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from July 8, 2021.

RESOLUTION # 60 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 July 2021.

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RESOLUTION # 61 Marie Falzone

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to retain Marie Falzone for professional court clerk assistance for up to 39 hours at \$15.00 per hour.

RESOLUTION # 62 CDBG Public Hearing

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

WHEREAS, the Persia Town Board wishes to assist the advisability of submitting a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) for a grant to support a business expansion by the Wicked Glen to create an on-site brewing at its facility located at 29 South Water Street in the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Persia is required to hold a public hearing to provide information to the public and to consider citizen comments regarding community needs and the project proposal prior to submitting an application for CDBG funding, now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby calls for a Public Hearing whereat all interested parties shall be heard regarding the CDBG program, the Town's community development and economic development programs, and the potential funding application. Such Public Hearing to be held on September 9, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall located at 8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at least eight (8) days' notice of such hearing shall be given by the Town Clerk by the due posting thereof on the Town Hall signboard and on the Town's website, and by publishing such notice at least once in the official newspaper of the Town.

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RESOLUTION # 63 Water Well

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to accept sealed bids for installation of a water well and associated equipment.

RESOLUTION # 64 Elizabeth Accordino

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to engage Elizabeth Accordino for grant writing services, not to exceed \$5,000.00, specifically for the Town Hall second floor renovations.

RESOLUTION # 65 Tree cutting/brush removal on Thatcher Brook

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to expend up to \$5,000.00 for tree cutting/brush removal on Thatcher Brook south of the Village line, in conjunction with the Village of Gowanda.

RESOLUTION #66 Computer/Monitor

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to buy a new computer and monitor for the Supervisor

RESOLUTION # 67 Workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

NAYS – 0

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RESOLVED to have a budget workshop on September 9, 2021, at 7:00pm

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the meeting in memory of town residents Ardath Niedzwiedski, Jeanette Sternisha and Jennifer Gardner at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk