

## Minutes

### Town of Persia Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

December 9, 2021

### Workshop 6:00pm on Reorganization for 2022

### Board meeting 7:00pm

### All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

### Remembering Pearl Harbor

#### 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: absent

#### Others present:

Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley  
Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore  
Mariano Abreu  
Jack Broyles

**Supervisor John T. Walgus:** \* I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and congratulations to the newly elected members of the town board. I have processed payroll and paid the prepaids. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the financial report for October. \* I also need a resolution for the Supervisor report. \* On November 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended the joint Zoning and Planning board meeting. I asked them to form a three-person committee to interview the applicants for the Code Enforcement Officer position, with our current CEO Mel Shaw acting as a non-voting member of the committee. \* I received their recommendation from Chairman Dave Redman of the Planning & Zoning Board that

# Town of Persia Board Meeting December 9, 2021

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

they have chosen Mr. Mariano Abreu of Markham's to fill the position of the retirement of our current CEO Mel Shaw. Mr. Abreu is also here tonight to introduce himself to the board. Mr. Redman's recommendation letter is in your packet tonight along with Mel Shaw's retirement/resignation letter. Mel has worked for the town for 17 years and will be hard to replace with his wealth of knowledge. I will be asking for a resolution to appoint Mariano Abreu as our CEO effective January 1, 2022. \* At the Planning & Zoning meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> we also heard from David Byrne, President of RENUA Energy and James Palumbo R.L.A, ASLA of Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt Structural Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Building Envelope Systems about constructing a 5 Mega Watt, 27-acre solar farm on the Gernatt Company property off Broadway Road. CEO Shaw and members of the Planning and Zoning board had many questions about this project that is projected to begin construction after receiving necessary permits from the town, approval from the Cattaraugus County Planning board and a SEQRA review sometime next year. I have sent them our Site Plan Review application at their request. \* After reviewing bids for a new copy machine for the clerk's office, the board has chosen to purchase a Konica Minolta copier/fax/scanning machine from Copier Fax Business Technologies with 20,000 copies a year allowance for \$3,124.65. I will ask for a resolution to purchase the new machine. I have asked our accounting firm Bahgat & Laurito Bahgat to administer our APRA grant/funding. To date they (Laura Napoli Director/CPA) verified a revenue loss replacement of \$21,254.00 using APRA funds. Bahgat will send an invoice next month and we can use APRA funds to pay the invoice. \* Verizon and their contractor Tectonic Engineering will begin the process of installing the "Thatcher Brook Micro Cell Site" on top the town hall soon. We began the process for this antenna installation early 2020. \* Because of COVID, it was delayed and then postponed. I do not yet have a timetable for their completion and "up and running date". It will be a great improvement in cell service in the area around the town hall. \* The Christmas in Gowanda event on December 4<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas Cookie Contest and our hot chocolate and cookie open house was a great success! Thank-you to all the volunteers who made this event prosper, especially Mark Schindler, Gloria Tomaszewski, Robert Dingman, Linda Dingman, Seth Howard, Tenley Howard, Jarek Howard, Denise Trumpore, Theresa Girome, Carol Sheibley, Richard Bridges, Paula Schueler and Tom Povhe. It's people like you that make our town a great place to live. \* I ask for a resolution to transfer the funds left over at the end of the year in the highway general repair contractual account (DB5110.4) which is \$24,000 to the highway fund reserve savings account. This will help with the purchase of the new Ford F250 that is on order from Gowanda Ford. \* I have included a quoted invoice from our IT company ACME Business Solutions for

## Town of Persia Board Meeting

December 9, 2021

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

discounted IT time for 2022. They provide services such as computer maintenance, windows patching, office patching, software upgrades and keeping our systems in check with the New York Shield Act. I ask for your approval to contract with ABS for these services for 2022. \* The town's annual Christmas party will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon at the town hall. Let me know ASAP if you plan on attending so I have an accurate head count to order food and beverages. \* I (we) have received a report from the Healthy Cattaraugus County, a drug free coalition on "A Report of the Youth of Cattaraugus County on Perceptions, Risk Factors and the Use of Marijuana". Please read the report about the effects of marijuana on our youth. Also, you should have along with the Village Mayor and village trustees, an email I sent about the NYS Cannabis Control Board, stating that it is illegal to give away marijuana with the purchase of overpriced products such as the new business on Jamestown Street is purportedly doing. \* And lastly, I will need a resolution to approve some budget transfers.

**Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley:** \* Read highway bills. \* The highway crew watched the annual Sexual Harassment & Violence in the Workplace online seminar. \* Snowplowed nine days for a total of 13 times. \* I met with Megan Boberg of Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation regarding Hawkins Road improvements. \* At a highway supervisor meeting I learned I will now have to file a permit anytime a sluice/culvert pipe is installed.

**Councilperson Theresa A. Girome:** \* I attended the Planning & Zoning meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Two representatives from RENUA Energy came, the company deals with solar energy. They discussed a project off Broadway Road on 27 acres of Gernatt's land. This project would allow residents to have a reduction in their electric bill. \* I participated in the Christmas in Gowanda on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the town hall which was well attended. Many came in for hot chocolate and cookies. \* On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the village will have a public hearing concerning businesses selling/giving marijuana, as well as dispensaries.

**Councilperson Robert O. Dingman:** \* I plan on attending the public hearing at the village on December 14<sup>th</sup> regarding opting out of the marijuana.

**Councilperson Seth H. Howard:** \*absent

# Town of Persia Board Meeting

December 9, 2021

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

**Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski:** \* I would like a resolution to have a workshop next month to discuss the reorganization of 2022. \* Read general bills. \* Attended the Christmas in Gowanda on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Assessor Kate Harrington:** (by email) \* Corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. \* Added 5 property transfers for the month of October.

**Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore:** \*

Total transactions for November - 101

Total Collected: \$ 2,043.00

Towns Portion: \$ **693.73**

\*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Participation

**Mariana Abreu:** I want to thank the town board for appointing me to the CEO position. I completed my Code Official Training in 2021. \* I work for Chautauqua Opportunity where I perform energy audits and write ups. \* This is my first time being involved with a government entity so I will have a lot of questions on how things work and operate, but I love continuous education.

## **RESOLUTION # 94 Audit of Claims**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Tomaszewski, Dingman, Girome, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #12 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:**

**Abstract 12- General Vouchers # 171 to #186 Total: \$ 4,921.21**

**Abstract 12- Highway Vouchers # 72 to # 85 Total: \$ 12,276.54**

Town of Persia Board Meeting  
December 9, 2021  
8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

**RESOLUTION #95 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Girome, Dingman, Tomaszewski, Walgus

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**RESOLUTION # 96 Financial Report**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to accept the financial report for November 2021.**

**RESOLUTION # 97 Mariano Abreu**

ON a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES –4 Dingman, Tomaszewski, Girome, Walgus

NAYS –0

**RESOLVED to hire Mariano Abreu as Code Enforcement Officer effective January 1, 2022.**

**RESOLUTION # 98 Copy machine**

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to purchase a new Konica Minolta copier/fax/scanner for \$3,124.65.**

Town of Persia Board Meeting  
December 9, 2021  
8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

**RESOLUTION # 99 Transfer of Funds**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED       AYES – 4 Tomaszewski, Dingman, Girome, Walgus  
                  NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to transfer funds at the end of the year left over in the highway general repair contractual account (DB5110.4) which is \$24, 000 to the highway reserve savings account.**

**RESOLUTION # 100 Budget Transfers**

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED       AYES – 4 Girome, Dingman, Tomaszewski, Walgus  
                  NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to transfer**

- **\$18.00 from A1990.4 – Contingent to A1220.4 – Supervisor – Contractual.**
- **\$1,008.00 from 1990.4 – Contingent to A1410.11 – Town Clerk – Personal Services – Deputy**
- **\$785.00 from A1990.4- Contingent to A1410.4 – Town Clerk – Contractual**
- **\$111.00 from A1990.4 – Contingent to A6410.4 – Publicity – Contractual**
- **\$992.00 from A1990.4 – Contingent to A9010.8 – Employee Benefits – State Retirement**
- **\$49.00 from B3510.4 – Control of dogs – Contractual to B9010.8 – Employee Benefits – State Retirement**
- **\$250.00 from DA5130.4 – Machinery – Contractual to DA5130.1 – Machinery – Personal**
- **\$147.00 from DA5130.4 – Machinery – Contractual to DA9010.8 – Employee Benefits – State Retirement**
- **\$423.00 from DB9060.9 – Employee Benefits – Hospital & Medical to DB9010.8 – Employee Benefits – State Retirement**

**RESOLUTION # 101 Workshop**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED       AYES – 4 Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, Walgus  
                  NAYS – 0

Town of Persia Board Meeting  
December 9, 2021  
8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

---

**RESOLVED to have a workshop on January 13, 2022 at 6:00pm to discuss the reorganization of 2022.**

**RESOLUTION #102 Buy 5 hours IT time**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

ADOPTED                   AYES –4 Tomaszewski, Dingman, Girome, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to buy 5 hours of IT time from Acme Business Solutions.**

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus adjourned the meeting in memory of town resident Joseph Lyndsley at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk