

Minutes

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

February 11, 2021

Board Meeting 7:00pm

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

Others present:

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore
Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley
Hon. Mark Schindler
Bailiff Tom Povhe

Supervisor John T. Walgus: *absent

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * Read highway bills. * Plowed 30 times since the first of the year. Will have to do repairs to a highway truck that has lost its turbo.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * No report.

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * I have paid the pre-pays and have processed payroll. * I ask for a resolution to accept the financial statement from Bahgat & Laurito Bahgat. * On behalf of the town board, I have signed an engagement letter with Bahgat & Laurito- Bahgat for financial services through December 31, 2021. In reading this contract with Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat, I will take the time to read the financial statements for accuracy, and I ask the board to do so also. * I would like to discuss the COVID pay that we have been giving the court bailiffs. * I would like a resolution to appoint Denise as the town cleaner for 2021 at no pay. * In regards to the security camera quotes and considering the questions the board has , I think we should see if Tom can call the lowest bidder and have him give us a presentation at the next meeting on the cameras offered.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * absent

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * Read general bills. * Attended the teleconference with Healthy Community Alliance on January 27th. There are two tax credit units available,

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this includes one two-bedroom unit. There are ten people on the HUD waiting list and two on tax credit. A banner was put up at the front door for the 10th anniversary. * Theresa and I will be auditing Judge Schindler's books on February 17th. * I have received information about concerns about more and solar projects coming into the county. I was informed that farmers who lease their land to a solar company will have to pay back a potentially large penalty if they have the Agricultural Assessment on their property, which is an exemption that helps them lower their assessed value. There is also compounded interest associated with it, so it can easily get into the tens of thousands for a large farm and project. Farmers are asked to call the Assessor before signing anything.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (by email) * Completed renewal applications for the Agricultural Assessment and Exemption for Nonprofit Organizations are being returned to our office. Because these renewals are due by March 1st, notices will be mailed mid-February to all applicants who have not yet given us a renewal. * All senior citizens who had the Senior Citizen Exemption in 2020 were contacted by my office, either by phone or mail. We told applicants that they did not have to reapply this year, but if they now have a lower income that reapplying could increase their exemption. * Because many towns do not require building permits for agricultural buildings, many property owners think that agricultural buildings are not taxable. This is not true--agricultural buildings are generally taxable. Property owners can apply for a full exemption on certain limited use agricultural structures, such as silos, manure storage and handling facilities, bulk milk tanks, feed grain storage bins, and commodity sheds. * Additionally, newly built agricultural buildings that meet certain requirements can be exempt for 10 years IF the property owner applies for the exemption within one year of completion and meets other requirements. * **All other agricultural buildings are taxable, and we ask that Code Enforcement Officers let farmers know that they should contact my office whether a permit is required.** * Ten property transfers were added for the month of December.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: *

Total transactions for January: 89

Total Collected: \$ 1,280

Towns Portion: \$ **512.38**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from January 14th.

Public Participation

Hon. Mark Schindler: Stated he would like the town to continue with the COVID pay for the bailiffs. * In looking over the three quotes that were received for cameras , feels the lowest bid was the most appropriate for the town, with no extra things added on that the town would not use or need anyway.

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Bailiff Tom Povhe: * Stated he liked the lowest bid also for the new cameras. * Security cameras are going up in price now and the lowest bid was very reasonable. * I will contact the lowest bidder and ask him to come to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION # 10 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski
Seconded by Councilperson Girome
The following was
ADOPTED AYES – 3 Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman
NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #2 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

Abstract 2 – General Vouchers # 18 to #37 Total: \$40,688.11

Abstract 2- Highway Vouchers # 3 to # 5 Total: \$ 3,278.08

RESOLUTION #11 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Girome
Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski
ADOPTED AYES – 3 Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from January 14th.

RESOLUTION # 12 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski
Seconded by Councilperson Girome
ADOPTED AYES – 3 Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for January 2021.

RESOLUTION # 13 Town cleaner

On a motion of Councilperson Girome
Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski
ADOPTED AYES – 3 Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to appoint Denise Trumpore as town cleaner for 2021 at no pay.

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RESOLUTION # 14 Security Camera presentation

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

ADOPTED AYES – 3 Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED for Tom Povhe to contact company who had the lowest quote for security cameras to come to next meeting to give a presentation.

Hearing no objection, Deputy Supervisor Dingman closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk