

## Minutes

### Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

March 14, 2019

**Supervisor John Walgus calls meeting to order at 7:00p.m.**

#### Roll Call:

Supervisor: John T. Walgus: present  
Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley: present  
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  
Building Inspector: Mel Shaw: present

#### Others present:

Jack Broyles  
Paula Schueler  
Mark Hojnacki

#### **Public Participation**

**Paula Schueler** – I am here tonight to talk about Yoderland which is owned by Travis and Peter Duchmann; I believe there is a special use permit up for review in May or June of 2019, they opened in 2017 and had a huge event that 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. I know NYS has a code enforcement website for ATV parks and ask if our code enforcement officer visited this site? The Duchmann's have taken advantage of there neighbors as well as their properties, but I do not wish to go into detail at this time. I want to say as the Duchmann's will be applying for another special use permit I would propose that the Town put a moratorium for 6 months on the special use permit application so that other agencies and the Town of Persia can review all the laws regarding ATV parks.

**Supervisor John T. Walgus:** \* Happy St. Patrick's Day to all this month. \*I have paid the bills from the abstracts and the pre-pays and have processed payroll. \* I ask for a resolution to approve the Supervisors report and also a resolution to accept the financial statement from Bahgat & Bahgat. \* March 31<sup>st</sup> will be Mary Bailey's last day, after 41 years of assessing, (18

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with the town) Mary has retired; she was a fountain of knowledge and wisdom and she brought to the town experience and dedication so we accept the resignation of Assessor Mary Bailey effective March 31<sup>st</sup> by resolution. Due to Mary's early retirement I have been in contact with the Cattaraugus County Real Property Tax Dept. in regards to having the County starting the assessing duties 6 months early. As you remember the County was going to take over the assessors' duties on October 1<sup>st</sup>, as part of the town's participation in the County Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI). There will be no increase in cost to the town to have the County provide these services for us because of the CWSSI agreement. That being said I have executed a contract on behalf of the town with Cattaraugus County for assessing services, beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup> the contract will be for six years or the normal term of a Town Assessor's appointment at the same cost to the town that we are paying now, Our new County Assessor Kate Harrington will take over as our assessor March 18<sup>th</sup>, Kate has been working side by side with Mary for close to a year and will attend a board meeting this summer to introduce herself. \* On February 20<sup>th</sup> Betty Accordino and I attended a workshop sponsored by NYS Empire State Development about the upcoming round of the Consolidated Funding Application Grant process (ESD CFA) ; we learned that the town's application was still in the running for funding and we should reapply and submit a letter of intent by March 1<sup>st</sup> Accordingly I had Betty submit a letter of intent on behalf of the Town and rework and resubmit our 2018 ESD CFA application. \* Included in the abstract today is an invoice from Betty Accordino that I authorized, for the work that she performed on the Town's behalf. We had the opportunity to speak with the WNY delegation of ESD, and last year there was funding for only two projects for Planning and Feasibility Studies, and the Town ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>. \* March 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Cattaraugus County Supervisors' Association meeting and the final vote for the passage of the CWSSI in Little Valley, 29 of the 43 municipalities in the county attended and all 29 voted yes. In your packets today I have included the CWSSI Municipal Savings Report and a newspaper article of the final vote on the CWSSI. These listed savings are the things that the town has achieved through the shared services program. As you recall the state has promised a return of 50% of the savings back to each municipality that participated in the CWSSI. \* As part of the NYSERDA Clean Energies Communities Grant we received, the lighting inside and outside the highway garage has been changed out to LED lights. The lighting at the town hall is next to be changed. \* The Comprehensive Plan is in the final stages; I have sent the final draft to Paul Bishop, Chief Planner for Cattaraugus County, and it is now with the County Planning Board for final approval. Once they make any corrections, additions or revisions (or nothing at all) they will return it to us to revise if needed. \* On March 12<sup>th</sup> I sent to the Cattaraugus County Planning Dept. the Planning and Zoning Coordination Referral forms along with the SEQR. Thanks to the team who have worked on putting this plan together, especially Theresa Girome, Seth Howard, Paula Schueler, Gloria Tomaszewski and Bob Dingman. \* The Cattaraugus County

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Economic Development Planning and Tourism (EDP&T) Farmer/Neighbor Dinner will be at the West Valley Fire Hall on April 10<sup>th</sup>; I need your money and number of people attending as soon as possible, tickets are \$20.00 per person. \* The Local Government Conference at Houghton College is fast approaching; this year it will be held on a Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. \* I also need a resolution to increase the General Fund Town Wide 2019 expenditure budget by \$374.00 which represents monies receive from the sale of scrap materials. This will increase the budgeted amounts for accounts A2650 – Sales of Scrap materials and A1620.4 – Building – Contractual. Only one birthday this month, Tom Povhe on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley:** \* Read highway bills. \* Highway plowed 25 times since the last board meeting and we started to broom the roads. \* I will need to hire a highway worker since the worker we hired in January did not work out. \* I would like to rent a skid steer for a month not to exceed \$4,000.00; I need it to scrap the shoulders of the roads.

**Councilperson Theresa A. Girome:** \* The County Planning Board will be reviewing the final draft of the town's Master/Comprehensive Plan on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Planning board and the Comprehensive Committee met tonight at 6:30 and passed a resolution to have a public hearing to accept the final draft on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski:** \* I attended the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting tonight so we could pass a resolution to have a public hearing on the accepting the Comprehensive Plan. \* I talked with Judge Schindler who has expressed interest in hiring another court officer. \* Austin Security was in and tested the system; everything passed, they entered new contact numbers; the police, Tom Povhe and the Supervisor. \* Judge Schindler has suggested the elevator is tested every 6 months. \* I had the opportunity to talk with Assessor Mary on her last day with the town; I wished her well and I know she will be missed as she always got back with requested information and was a pleasure to work with.

**Councilperson Robert O. Dingman:** \* I attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting; they picked the Tee Pee as honorary business, Merritt Offhaus and Olivia Ackley for the Spirit of Gowanda Award Dinner which will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Moose. The Chamber also discussed the "Happening" \* I attended the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting tonight along with the Planning Board.

**Councilperson Seth H. Howard:** \* I attended the Comprehensive Plan Committee tonight.

**Assessor Mary A. Bailey:** \* March 1<sup>st</sup> was the last day to accept exemptions. Amen! It was very busy and Denise and Louise were a big help in tracking down the seniors. \* I worked the entire past year teaching Kate the job of an assessor- so she's been through an entire cycle –

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from exemptions to grievance, tentative roll to final roll, and everything in between. \* By a separate letter, I am letting the board know of my retirement date.

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

Total transactions for February: 42

Total Collected: \$ 725.00

Towns Portion: \$ **199.98**

\*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup>. \* Just a reminder that the board meeting in May will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RESOLUTION # 26 Audit of Claims**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Tomaszewski, Girome, Dingman, 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:**

**Abstract 3 – General vouchers # 43 to #54 Total = \$ 6,011.58**

**Abstract 3 – Highway vouchers # 11 to #15 Total = \$ 3,651.87**

**RESOLUTION #27 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes from February 14, 2019.**

**RESOLUTION #28 Supervisors report**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for February 2019.**

**RESOLUTION 29 Financial Report**

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On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Walgus  
NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to accept the financial report for February 2019.**

**RESOLUTION #30 Assessor Mary Bailey resignation**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus  
NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to accept with regret Assessor Mary Bailey's resignation effective March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**RESOLUTION #31 Budget modification**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus  
NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to increase the General Fund Town Wide 2019 expenditure budget of \$374.00 which represents monies received from the sale of scrap materials. This will increase the budgeted amounts for accounts A2650 – Sales of scrap materials and A1620.4 – Building – Contractual.**

**RESOLUTION #32 Skid steer rental**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Girome, Tomaszewski, Howard, Walgus  
NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to rent a skid steer for a month not to exceed \$4,000.00.**

Hearing no objection, we now adjourn our meeting in memory of our Town resident Barbara Stanton.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk

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