

Minutes

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

August 13, 2020

Workshop 6:00pm to discuss COVID-19, computers, dump truck, no parking

Supervisor John Walgus calls meeting and public hearing for Local Law 2020-2 to order at 7:00pm.

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

****Notice of said public hearing for Local Law 2020-2 was posted in the Observer on July 17th & 24th with same being posted on the Persia Website and Town Hall.**

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
Gowanda Fire Chief Steve Raiport
Bill Cain
Jack Broyles

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * I would like to open the public hearing for comment on Local Law 2020-2 which is installing no parking signs on Valentine Flats Road from 10180 Valentine Flats Road to the State barricade on the South side facing North. * 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 * I am asking for a resolution to accept 6 hours as a standard workday for elected and appointed officials. * Just a reminder, NYMIR will be having another webinar Tuesday, August 25th at 9am on Sexual Harassment & Discrimination. The webinar takes one hour, and you will receive a certificate for taking this NYS Mandated program. If anyone is interested in taking the course, email me and I will send you the link to register. * Judge Schindler informed me that the justice court will be back in operation on Tuesday, August 18th; they will be hearing

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V&T cases from March 17th to June 30th first Tuesday, August 25th will be ADA night for more serious offenses. He has close to 100 cases to hear. In September, hopefully, the court will be back to its regular schedule. Judge Schindler has personally purchased and paid for sneeze guards for the bench and the court clerk station, handheld thermometers, gloves, and masks for all the court personnel and a hand sanitizing station. * Randy Wing installed two sneeze guards on the clerk's windows, McCormack's cut the plexiglass, they both did a very good job. We will submit the invoices as a COVID-19 expense for possible reimbursement. * In your packet's tonight is correspondence from the Cattaraugus County Probation Department; the Cattaraugus Co. Probation Dept. will be meeting in the town hall to have face to face meetings with probationers. They have a five month back log of people to meet with. They are taking all the necessary steps to follow the COVID -19 protocols; they only admit one probationer at a time and sanitize everything they might touch each time. They also requested use of the metal detector for all probationers entering the building. * On July 29th I met with the Gowanda Fire Chief, the supervising Ranger from the Division of Forest Protection of the DEC, the supervising Forester from the Divisions of Lands and Forests of the DEC, and two members of the NYS DEC's Bureau of Land Management at the state barricade on the Valentine's Flats Road to discuss NYS's plans for the ZVMUA in that part of the state land that is in the Town of Persia. We will be working together to formulate a plan to alleviate the problems fostered on the South branch of the Cattaraugus Creek near the Flats Road and in the Forty area of the town. In my opinion, the state always cuts law enforcement jobs first. There currently are only two Forest Rangers down from three a few years ago, to patrol all of Cattaraugus County and handle all the emergencies that are now happening. * Normally in years past we would receive payment from Albany for the 2nd quarter sales and use tax the last week of July. This has not happened yet. We have not received notice of when payments from Sales Tax, CHIPS, Extreme Weather, or PAVE NY will be coming. Every September we also receive AIM (Aid & Incentives to municipalities) (AKA revenue sharing) funding from Albany. These are much needed sources of revenue we cannot afford to lose. I have been notified that our tax cap figure for 2021 is 1.56%. *Today, we will accept or reject the high bid from Auctions International for the 1989 Mack truck. * A happy, happy birthday goes out to Deputy Supervisor Robert O. Dingman who's big day was on August 9th. * I received word that the Farmer/Neighbor Dinner will be held on April 21st, 2021.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * Reported the bidding ended Wednesday night on Auctions International on selling the 1989 Mack truck and I would like a resolution to accept the winning bid of \$7,600. Dan said the truck was a great truck, he remembers back when he first became superintendent, he plowed, and snow was as high as the windshield. * Reported he paved Hawkins Road and hot patched Point Peter Road. * Highway tarred the highway barn

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roof. Had a phone call with Naomi Jennings and Bob Coon from Catt. Co. Emergency Management to go over COVID-19 protocols. Information. * Cleaned the trash rack two times.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * I would like to have a workshop on August 31st at 6:00pm to discuss the budget.

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * Reported the Chamber of Commerce is having their Spirit of Gowanda Dinner on September 12th at the Moose, tickets are \$30.00. * The Happening was discussed; they will have a meeting soon. * The Fall Fest will take place and there will be a scarecrow contest. * Stated he would like to move to appoint Seth Howard as the liaison for the Gowanda and Collins Correctional Facility.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * I attended the Gowanda Ambulance chicken BBQ on July 22nd; Weidner's Chicken proved once again that it is the best. The event was a success, despite the weather. * I attended the Gowanda Ambulance Board meeting on July 21st. The meeting was called to order by President Volk. Town of Persia resident, Jack Broyles was given the floor to discuss an issue he observed relating to Gowanda Ambulance personnel. Director Mike Shaw advised Mr. Broyles that he would review all information as to who the crew was and discuss the complaint with them. If verbal reprimand were required, it would be done. Mr. Broyles appeared happy with the plan. Regarding the gun raffle fundraiser, we pushed the date back originally due to the COVID pandemic, in hopes to still have the fundraiser, consisting of food, drink, and numerous side raffles. Due to the state of the crisis, it was decided that the raffle will be changed to a Facebook live event on the same date, with the drawings for items being called out as "item 1", "item 2", and so on will take place. I have a few tickets left \$10 a piece, should you wish to buy one or more. This was a large fundraiser for the department and now will draw a considerable amount less than in years prior. With this taking a hit, and the 300-club drawing being cancelled, other fund-raising options are being discussed. One of which is a can and bottle drive. The board approved the idea and will be going forward with it. Check your local Gowanda periodicals for where the dump trailer will be placed for your depository donations. Additionally, you can always take your cans and bottles to the Gowanda can redemption center and donate them to the Gowanda Ambulance Service account. While on the topic of fundraisers, if you had the spaghetti dinner on your calendar for September, you can cross it off, that too is cancelled due to the health crisis. We currently have a drive through chicken BBQ scheduled for October 7th from 4 to 7 however, it is being tabled to see if we will change the day to a Saturday, rather than a Wednesday. * Now, the important part. The Gowanda Ambulance Service responded to 146 calls in the month of June, in which the Town of Persia claimed 2. This is just .013% of their monthly calls. I am happy to find out that we have healthy residents within our fantastic township. Of the 146

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calls, 20 were cancelled in route. 13 resulted in patient sign off, there were 4 stand-bys, 1 transfer to Mercy Flight and 1 miscellaneous call. Of those listed, I am unaware if any of those included our towns 2 service calls. Additionally, 4 calls were missed in the month of June due to personnel being tied up on other calls. * The fleet had an expensive month; the fly car, 810, needed \$1,079 in repairs to pass inspection. Plans will be forthcoming to replace this vehicle. The body is in poor shape and 4-wheel drive will need to be fixed before winter. Old 817 is gone, but not without over \$3,000 in repairs prior to leaving in June. New 817 is in service and serving the town well. For what it is worth, while on call, members from other departments commented on Gowanda's policy of not buying brand new rigs, as they were under the impression this vehicle was. They were unaware it was a 2009 Horton rig in that great of condition. 818 needed \$1,610 to keep it rolling but is in good shape now. It has an exhaust leak and manifold work will be needed soon. 819 had no mechanical issues or repairs in the month of June, however at this time, it is in the shop for a mechanical issue that I am unsure of what it is. Lastly, our new bariatric big rig that was donated by Gernatt's is in great shape. No mechanical issues to speak of. A private mechanic did donate his time to do some brake adjustments. All members have begun driver training on the big rig, only 8 members are certified at this time. It was anticipated that all members would be certified by now, however, with the size of the rig, they are not pressuring the members at all and their comfort is just as important in the safety of others. * There was a request to change the titles of various employees brought before the board. General Manager Mike Shaw's title would go from his current one to Chief Officer of Operations. Steve Pomeroy from Operations Manager to General Manager. Neither change will occur, titles will remain the same per the board. * NYS gave us the green light to start conducting training classes. Income will be generated from this. Surrounding depts. are scheduling with us. Our anonymous donor from a couple months back, allowed the purchase of training mannequins. 5 mannequins will be purchased in upwards of \$8,200. While in contact with the donor, he/she authorized the purchase of 4 cots for the ambulances. These 4 refurbished cots will come to slightly more than \$38,300. * the long-awaited building dedication and open house has been set for Saturday, September 19th. The time will be determined. * Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 19th at 225 Aldrich Street at 7:00pm. * I would like a resolution to accept the final bid on Auctions International for the sale of the 1989 Mack truck for \$7,600.00. * I would like to have a workshop on September 10th at 6:00pm to discuss computer securities.

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * I would like to move we pay Judge Schindler back for the items he bought for the court. * Attended the telephone conference with the Healthy Community Alliance Board on July 15, 2020. The income tax returns were forwarded out. There is a one two-bedroom apartment available. There is also one- 1-bedroom apartment available. Due to the virus it has made it a little more difficult in rental, but more advertising

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will be out shortly. * The pilot payment has been capped at \$13,000 and the payment for 2020-21 was made to the Village on July 10, 2020.

Assessor Kate Harrington (by email) * The 2020 roll year has been finalized as of July 1, 2020. * Completed a five-day training, "Cost, Market, and Income Approach to Value", which is a course required by NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance. * Changes to STAR Exemptions have been made on several properties. Because STAR and Enhanced STAR are NYS exemptions, the New York State Dept. of Taxation and Finance (NYSDTF) has made determinations based on eligibility requirements and asked local Assessors to change (from Basic to Enhanced or Enhanced to Basic) or remove exemptions. Additionally, this is the first year that NYSDF+TF has issued a STAR delinquency Report. This report lists Basic STAR exemption recipients who are no longer eligible for the exemption because their property taxes are more than one-year delinquent. Property owners whose STAR exemption was changed or removed will receive a notice from NYSDTF. * Corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. * Thirteen property transfers occurred between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: *

Total transactions for July - 118

Total Collected: \$ 1575.00

Towns Portion: \$ **550.68**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from July 9th.

Public Participation

Gowanda Fire Chief Steve Raiport: Approached the board to thank them for working with the fire company on this parking problem on Valentine's Flats Road. He stated over the years that there has been a drastic increase in the amount of people coming to Zoar Valley. With the increase of people and cars parked on the road Fire Chief Raiport supports the Town in their effort to put up no parking signs on Valentine Flats Road to alleviate the parking problem on one side of the road. He stated that on any given weekend there could be 50 to 60 cars parked on both sides of the road which would make it extremely difficult for emergency vehicles to get down there if an accident occurred. So far this year there has been 12 calls for Zoar incidents where last year at this time we had 3. He stated that it did not help the situation that

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the Lieutenant Governor was in an article in the Olean Times Herald saying to come on down to Zoar Valley, she was pictured standing on a ledge in Zoar overlooking the gorge.

Bill Cain: Reported he is full support of the local law for no parking signs to be put up on Valentine's Flats Road. * Mr. Cain stated his hammock was vandalized down in the Zoar area and the Forest Rangers could not protect him.

Jack Broyles: Questioned the no parking side if the other side would be open for parking and if NYS was thinking about expanding their parking lot venture.

RESOLUTION # 66 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Dingman, Girome, Howard, 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 # 109 to # 124 Total: \$ 2,909.71

Abstract 8 – Highway Vouchers # 44 to # 53 Total: \$ 4,810.76

RESOLUTION #67 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from July 9, 2020.

RESOLUTION #68 Supervisors report

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for July 2020.

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RESOLUTION #69 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for July 2020.

RESOLUTION #70 Local Law 2020-2

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to erect no parking signs on Valentine Flat's Road starting at 10180 Valentine Flat's Road to the state barricade on the South side heading North. Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION #71 Standard Workday for elected and appointed officials

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Tomaszewski, Girome, Howard, Walgus

NAYS – 1 Dingman

RESOLVED to establish 6 hours as a standard working day for elected and appointed officials.

RESOLUTION #72 1989 Mack truck

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to accept the high bid on Auctions International for the 1989 Mack truck for \$7,600.00.

RESOLUTION #73 Budget meeting

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

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RESOLVED to have a budget meeting on August 31st at 6:00pm

RESOLUTION #74 Workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

RESOLVED to have a workshop on September 10th at 6:00pm.

RESOLUTION #75 Judge Schindler reimbursement

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

RESOLVED to reimbursement Judge Schindler for COVID-19 purchases he made for the court.

RESOLUTION #76 Gowanda and Collins Correctional

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

RESOLVED to appoint Seth Howard as the Town Liaison for the Gowanda and Collins Correctional Facilities.

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting in memory of town residents Marlene Draeger, Nathan Miskell, Robert Watson DMD, and Connie Tessmer at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk

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