

Minutes

Town of Persia Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

Public Hearing on Local Law 2020-4

November 12, 2020

**** Notice of Public Hearing was posted in the Observer on November 6th & 7th with same being posted on the website and the Community Bulletin Board.**

As we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, let us remember all those who served and especially all those who gave their last measure of devotion to our country.

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:

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore: present

Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley

Supervisor John T. Walgus: *Opened the Public Hearing for comment on Local Law 2020-4 which is to repeal Local Law 2020-3. * Tonight, we can be thankful for all the hard work the board has done to finalize the 2021 budget without violating the state mandated tax cap. Albany cut all of our revenue streams across the board by 20% and sales and use tax receipts are under performing. Taxpayers appreciate the work done by attending workshops and meetings to approve the 2021 budget. We have a fiduciary responsibility to protect our senior citizens and the working poor by not unnecessarily increasing property taxes beyond their means. * 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. * Our grant writer, Betty Accordino and I agreed that we should drop the grant application from the NYS Dept. of Agriculture for the agricultural planning grant. After looking at all the requirements and hoops we would have to jump through, it just was not something that we felt we could accomplish. The grant was for \$25,000, with all the funding going to a consultant, and on top of that the town would have had to contribute \$6,000 of the \$25,000. * I have been in contact with Access Elevator of Jamestown regarding repairing the town hall elevator, they are working on getting a crew together to make the necessary repairs

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as soon as possible. On November 5th, I attended a meeting regarding the Governor's Office requiring all municipalities in NYS to have a Communicable Disease Operations and Response Plan in effect no later than April 1st. The towns and counties will ban together to formulate a plan. County Administrator Jack Searles will be asked to come up with a template for all the towns and the county to use. * At the Supervisors Association meeting, it was noted that large solar farm operators are investigating which towns in the county that do not have zoning laws. They then investigate if the infrastructure is in place that could support large solar farms. We do have a solar law, but I think we should revisit it just to make sure it does not need updating to protect our residents. The Supervisor for Allegany has given me their new/updated solar law ordinance for review. I would like to form a committee of two to review and update our solar law if they deem it necessary. * I wasn't sure if the Highway Superintendent would be here tonight, but he wanted it to be known that Forty Road from 10229 to the NYS parking lot is a seasonal use road and no maintenance will be performed on this section of road from November 1st to April 15th 2021. Travel is restricted. * I will be asking for a budget modification regarding the monies received from selling the Mack truck. * The board has three options to consider regarding participating in the Christmas in Gowanda on December 5th. 1. Pass out hot chocolate and prepackaged cookies outside the town hall. 2. Pass out prepackaged cookies outside the town hall. 3. Do not participate. * A happy birthday goes out to Councilman Seth Howard today, and to Judge Mark Schindler on the 15th.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * Read highway bills. * Stated the highway CDL holders must register with the Federal database. * The highway workers are going to be coming down to the office to take the harassment seminar online. * Highway workers are following Covid -19 protocol.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * On October 26th I attended the budget meeting. On November 4th I attended the public hearing which the budget was passed. * The next Planning & Zoning meeting will be held on Monday, November 16th at 7pm. * I do not think we should participate in the Christmas in Gowanda on December 5th due to the pandemic.

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * Attended the budget meeting and the public hearing. * I think we should participate in the Christmas in Gowanda on December 5th by passing out prepackaged cookies in front of the town hall and I will provide the cookies.

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Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * Attended the budget meeting and public hearing. * I agree in passing out prepackaged cookies outside the town hall for Christmas in Gowanda on December 5th. * I attended the Gowanda Ambulance Board meeting on October 20th. Pertinent information to the township of Persia includes:

- The ambulance responded to 1 call within the town in the month of September, accounting for just .08% of their calls for that month. Of the 128 total calls handled, 10 were cancelled, 15 patients refused treatment, 5 were missed due to all ambulances being on other calls, 5 were intercepted and passed to other paramedics and 1 was transferred to Mercy Flight.
- Regarding staffing, Jessie Lane has been hired as a full time EMT and is currently enrolled in the paramedic program at ECC. Joshua Wood and Ian Lachevit have resigned.
- The fleet of 5 vehicles accumulated a total of 7,102 miles in the month of September, with only one unit requiring an oil change for routine maintenance. General Manager Mike Shaw reports that the fly car, a 2010 Chevy Suburban, is extremely rusty and the board should consider replacing it. Make also had information at hand for his ideal replacement unit, a 2011 Chevy Suburban with low mileage from a volunteer agency in Brooklyn. The board voted in favor of going forward with placing a bid.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony at the new hall was successful. Senator Young and Senator Borrello each spoke praising the work of the first responders. Other important attendees included Honorable Giglio, Supervisor Walgus, and Mayor Smith. Honorable John Mills presented a Proclamation by the Erie County Legislature. Small tours were given to the guests.
- I do have tickets with me tonight for the “Pandemic Raffle” , an all cash winning fund raiser for the ambulance service, to be drawn on December 5th, at Chang-Hu Park at 6:30, during the Christmas in Gowanda.

I was advised that our bid was accepted on the 2011 Suburban and the vehicle was already brought home by General Manager Mike Shaw.

I attended a special meeting of the Gowanda Ambulance Service on October 28th, purpose of the meeting was to discuss Manager Mike Shaw’s interest in purchasing the “extremely rusty 2010 Suburban” previously brought up for \$2,000. President Volk checked the value of the vehicle on various reputable sites and determined its worth to be between \$2,000 and \$6,000. It was determined that we would list the vehicle for \$4,000 for 14 days online, if no bids were received at that time, we would sell the vehicle to General Manager Mike Shaw for \$2,000. * On November 2nd, I was advised General Manager Mike Shaw was no

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longer interested in the vehicle. * November 5th, I was advised the 2010 fly car sold for \$4,000, to a private citizen in Perrysburg and the Crown Victoria sold to Steve Pomeroy for \$500.

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * Attended a teleconference for Healthy Community Alliance on October 14th. We went over the status of the apartment availability, as well as the meeting have now been changed to the 4th Wednesday, instead of the 3rd. Attended the budget meeting on October 26th and also the public hearing on November 4th for voting on the budget. * Was not in favor of partaking in the Christmas in Gowanda on December 5th due to the Covid-19.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (by email) * The Assessing Team has completed a lot of training this fall. I took Three sides of the SCAR trial, ins and outs of the exemption process(which focused on the RP-420 Nonprofit Exemption), Data Mining for commercial valuation, and Real Property Tax Law for the Assessor part 1 and 2. * Jason and I completed the Introduction to Farm Appraisal self-study. * Jason, Liz, Carrie, and I attended Dealing with an Angry Property Owner and Reassessment in a Small Community. * The Assessing Team completed the annual NYS Sexual Harassment Training, certificates were emailed to the town clerks on October 9th. * The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. * Eight property transfers were added for the month of September.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: *

Total transactions for October - 138

Total Collected: \$ 2,048.00

Towns Portion: \$ **842.39**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from October 8th, October 26th, and November 4th.

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RESOLUTION # 98 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 #11 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

Abstract 11 – General Vouchers # 156 to #173 Total: \$ 8,870.08

Abstract 11- Highway Vouchers # 69 to # 76 Total: \$ 5,629.26

RESOLUTION # 99 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from October 8th, October 26th, and November 4th.

RESOLUTION # 100 Supervisors report

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for October

RESOLUTION # 101 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for October 2020.

RESOLUTION # 102 Local Law 2020-4

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

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NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to REPEAL Local Law 2020-3 which was to allow the Town Board to pass a budget in excess of the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law 3-c.

RESOLUTION # 103 Christmas in Gowanda

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

ADOPTED AYES – 4 Dingman, Howard, Tomaszewski, Walgus

NAYS – 1 Girome

RESOLVED to pass out cookies outside the town hall on December 5th for Christmas in Gowanda.

RESOLUTION # 104 Solar Law Committee

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to appoint Councilperson Girome and Councilperson Tomaszewski to the Solar Law Committee.

RESOLUTION # 105 Budget Modification

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to increase the Highway Fund Town Wide 2020 expenditure budget by \$7,570 which represents the sale of the 1989 Mack dump truck. This will increase accounts DA2665 - Sales of Equipment and DA5130.2 - Machinery - Equipment.

RESOLUTION # 106 Workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a workshop on December 10th at 6:00pm to discuss Covid -19 protocols and Cyber Securities.

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Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the public hearing for Local Law 2020-4 and adjourned the meeting in memory of town residents Lucille Donahue, Florence Evans, Edward Austin, and Thomas Stelley at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk