

MINUTES

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

October 8, 2020

Workshop 6:00pm to discuss computer security

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MONTH

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
Jack Broyles

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * As Town Supervisor and Budget Officer, I received information that the 2% tax cap for 2021 will be 1.56%. Given all the other obstacles towns across the state are facing, this is totally unrealistic. It is difficult in terms of forecasting a budget for 2021 as it is unlikely, we will know how much of our projected revenues for sales tax and court fine & fees or mortgage taxes will actually be until late October or early November. I have received the funding for AIM, CHIPS, PAVE NY and Extreme Weather Funding and they all have been reduced 20%. * I will be asking for a public hearing to be held on October 26th at 7:00pm to override the 2021 tax cap. * We have had two budget meetings so far the 2021 budget and we will have to make hard decisions to provide services to the residents at a reasonable cost. We are approx. \$25,000 to \$30,000 behind our projected budget figures year to date. I will be asking for a budget meeting on October 26th at 6:00pm. * Also, because we are facing a budget deficit for 2020 and possible 2021, I would like a resolution curtailing the town clerks spending to more than \$100 per incident without town board approval. * 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.*On September 24th I attended a webinar on Community-Scale renewables in NY State of the new sustainability grants for municipalities, case studies of relevant community solar programs, and highlights from recent works by NYSERDA.* On

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

September 25th I attended the Cattaraugus County Hazardous Mitigation workshop at the DPW building in Little Valley. This program is sponsored by Cattaraugus County to try and identify hazards and mitigate them before a disaster occurs. With the Highway Superintendents input the town nominated Hawkins Road at the Point Peter culvert, the Point Peter landslide, Thatcher Brook south of the Village of Gowanda around the trash rack, Nash Hill Road and the recurring wash outs, emergency power generators for the town hall and highway garages, Valentine Flats Road working in conjunction with the DEC for road improvements and a hi-tech drone for search and rescue operations. * Funding for these projects would be from FEMA if they are approved. * As I spoke at the last meeting about the problems with the outside elevator door, I contacted Access Elevator from Jamestown with the help of the Gowanda Free Methodist Church. Unbeknownst to me at the time they are the company that installed the elevator in 1990 and repaired it in 2011. The estimate for repairs is in your packets tonight and I would like a resolution to repair the elevator before winter is upon us. * In your packets is also information that Elizabeth Accordino and I have been working on the NYS Dept. of Agriculture planning grant. I asked Betty to submit her time to date. * Today, as a representative of GARC, we held a news conference at Zoar Valley Gateway Park with members of Director Peter Lopez of the US EPA Zone 2, Senator Borello, Assemblyman Giglio, County Legislators Burr, Klancer and Howard Van Ransselaer the Chairman, Mayors Smith and McKeever, Empire State Development and other dignitaries and numerous volunteers. The EPA initiated the announcement that the former Peter Cooper Glue Factory site has been de-listed from the National Priorities list of Superfund sites and is no longer hazardous to human life. The EPA gave a big thank-you for all the work GARC, the Town, Village and County accomplished to redevelop the site into a clean people friendly park. * Stated the deputy's salary was cut due to the 10 Federal holidays she is paid for; we cannot afford that anymore. * Stated the current deputy cannot do most of anything. * Stated the Clerk is in violation of the regulations the town board set that the town clerk and deputy are not in the building at the same time. * Stated if there was another deputy, we would have to explore it. * Stated friendship and productivity are two different things.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: (by text) * All is well at the highway, preparing for the winter worst, hoping for the best. * Not to mention the quarantine the Governor of New York said I must do after playing in the wilderness of Colorado for 8 days.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * Stated the town clerk should be present to train the deputy.

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * Monday night, I attended the 2nd BOA virtual meeting. Discussion was held on Gateway Park, Creekside Park, roundabouts, Industrial Place properties, water excess as a theme and talk on Hollywood Theater. Stated for central planning we need central coordination to be done, we really do not have enough time to make a strong input when all the information is dumped on us via a virtual meeting. * I think we should come up with a more comprehensive authorization for spending. * I make a motion to establish a purchasing committee. We need to set spending limits for the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board should be contained in that. * Made a motion to table the Town Clerk spending until after a spending committee is formed.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * I attended the Gowanda Ambulance Service Board meeting on September 15th. Information pertaining to the Town of Persia includes the following:

- The Gowanda Ambulance responded to 2 calls in the Town of Persia in the month of August. This number accounts for 1.2% of the ambulance service calls for this month. Out of their 162 calls, 18 were cancelled in route, 12 patients refused treatment, 2 were stand-bys at area EMS halls, 2 were passed off to Mercy Flight, 1 was transferred to other paramedics and 13 calls were missed due to the ambulances being tied up on other calls at the time.
- The crew has a healthy amount of PPE and is in good shape going forward. Compliance and screening of all employees is ongoing.
- Brittany Anecchiarco has begun training with the department. She has been hired as a per diem paramedic. Amy Jarka and Mikala Young have begun medic school to become paramedics. All the above-mentioned individuals should prove to be an asset to our township.
- Gowanda 817, our newest addition, put on 4400 miles in the month of August and reports no mechanical issues. Gowanda 818 put 1,313 miles on and required \$3,501.80 in repairs to keep it functioning properly. Gowanda 819 added 2018 miles and required no mechanical expenses. Gowanda 820 added 212 miles for the month with no mechanical issues. Lastly, the fly car added 463 miles to its motor, with no mechanical expenses.
- The gun raffle was a successful fund raiser, despite the current pandemic and the chicken BBQ that took place on September 30th did not go as well as anticipated.

I would like to talk with the Highway Superintendent about possibly leasing a vehicle instead of owning one to reduce repair costs to the town. * Made a motion to have a public hearing on October 26th at 7:00pm to override the 2021 tax cap levy. * Made a

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

motion to approve emergency repair work to the elevator door. * Made a motion to have a Cyber Security workshop on October 26th at 6:30pm.

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * I attended the budget workshop on September 28th. * Made a motion to have a budget workshop on October 26th at 6:00pm.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (by email) * School tax bills were mailed out on September 1st. The release of school taxes, the first to be issued from the new tax role, can make some assessment errors obvious (e.g. missing STAR exemption). If you notice that an error has been made, notify our office immediately. * The STAR checks delivery schedule is available online at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/star-check-delivery-schedule.htm>. Those who have not yet received a check can check the status there. * The assessing office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: *

Total transactions for September - 167

Total Collected: \$ 4,307.00

Towns Portion: \$ **1,207.71**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from September 10th & September 28th.

* I am aware that budget cuts need to be made, but I need to say something about the budget cuts that were made to the Town Clerk lines. Firstly, the deputy clerk line was cut \$946 and was the ONLY payroll cut made in the town. The clerk equipment line was cut \$1250 and the contractual line was cut \$500. The Town Clerk duties which the deputy must know and do in my absence is something that cannot be guessed at or taken lightly, we are handling taxpayer money and take it seriously. The deputy and I are being singled out and very close to being harassed with no consideration to the job we do for the town. * At the last budget meeting the supervisor stated the roads are the only thing we have to offer the residents here; it is all they see and use. * I know we offer more than that, we offer a service to the residents and anyone else who comes through our door or gives us a call. We are here to help with tax questions, tax certificates and paying your taxes. We are responsible for incoming cash received which recorded and disbursed to the state, county, and town. You can get a marriage license or find a marriage license from years ago. Birth and death certificates are here. You can get a hunting or fishing license and register you dog too, getting a doggie treat in the process. If you live in

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

Persia, here is here you come to get a handicapped parking permit. Need an E-Z pass? Look no further. If you need a transfer ticket you have come to the right place. There are also maps and brochure's on Cattaraugus County along with voter registration forms. * We are a small town, but I am proud of the town and what we offer. * The amount the deputies pay was cut does not even equal one day a week, which I feel is needed to stay current and knowledgeable on daily practices of the clerk duties. * I ask the town board, what should happen if I get sick? Or go on vacation? Close the town hall? Would that be helpful to the residents of Persia???? * I am working with my deputy now to get her up to speed, the new hunting licensing system is very complex to learn and they gave us no training on it; we were given the software to install in the middle of August and licensing started September 1st. The deputy is the only deputy I have, how does the town board expect me to have anybody here and have her work less than one day a week and know everything that I do without me being here.

RESOLUTION # 83 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

The following was

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #9 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

Abstract 10 – General Vouchers # 139 to #155 Total: \$4,781.11

Abstract 10– Highway Vouchers # 60 to # 68 Total: \$ 7,894.63

RESOLUTION # 84 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from September 10th & September 28th.

RESOLUTION # 85 Supervisors report

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for September.

RESOLUTION # 86 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for September 2020.

RESOLUTION # 87 Public Hearing for comment on Local Law 2020-3 to adopt a budget for 2021 more than the tax levy limit.

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a public hearing for comment on Local Law 2020-3 to adopt a budget for 2021 more than the tax levy limit on October 26th at 7:00pm.

RESOLUTION # 88 Budget meeting

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a budget meeting on October 26th at 6:00pm.

RESOLUTION # 89 Table Town Clerk spending

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to table the motion on Town Clerk spending until a purchasing committee is formed.

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting
October 8, 2020
8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070

RESOLUTION # 90 Purchasing Committee

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to develop a purchasing committee with Councilperson Dingman and Councilperson Howard as chairmen.

RESOLUTION # 91 Cyber Security workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a cyber security workshop on October 26th at 6:30pm.

RESOLUTION #92 Emergency repair to elevator door

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to approve emergency spending to repair the elevator door.

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

October 8, 2020

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070
