

Minutes

Town of Persia Regular Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

September 10, 2020

Workshop 6:00pm to discuss computer security

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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: present
Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore: present
Jack Broyles

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * 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 * The outside elevator door needs to be repaired or replaced; the bottom is rusted to the point where it is very difficult to open. It was recommended we contact an elevator company because of the automatic locking device built into the door. * The court reopened on August 18th; Judge Schindler submitted 6 months of reports with the fines and fees collected. * The NYS Senate and Assembly are working on legislation that will make it mandatory that all school and municipal meetings including public hearings be live streamed. There is no word on how we are supposed to pay for this, yet another unfunded mandate. NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance quietly added to their regulations that beginning last year, all homeowners are required to stay current with ALL property taxes to be eligible for the basic STAR program. I have included in your packets tonight more information on this change. * Earlier this year, The Cattaraugus Co. Supervisors Association presented a program by Patrick J. McGlew, Development Specialist of the Cattaraugus County Dept of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism about a NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets Municipal Agricultural Protection Planning grant of \$25,000. Because our Comprehensive Plan lists agriculture & tourism as priorities in the town, I have asked our grant writer Elizabeth Accordino to investigate applying for the grant. * On August 24th I participated in a round table discussion at the South Dayton Library with Senator George

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Borello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, and other municipal representatives from our area to discuss important issues. My discussion was the loss of funding from Albany in AIM, CHIPS, PAVENY and Extreme Weather funding programs. It is rumored that some or all these revenue streams will be eliminated for our 2022 budget cycle. With sales tax and mortgage tax lagging behind projected figures, this could mean a loss of revenue to the town of over \$100,000. Mayor Smith estimated the Village of Gowanda could lose \$192,000. * September 12th will be the Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Gowanda Dinner at the Moose. * September 3rd, I attended the Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Risk Assessment Review meeting for delineating hazards and risks in the town and throughout the county and how we can mitigate them. Highway Superintendent Ackley also attended via zoom. * The County's Supervisors Association guest speaker at our November 5th meeting will be the new director of the Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District. After 30+ years Brian Davis has retired, he will be sorely missed. * I want to thank the Highway Superintendent and crew for brush hogging and installing the No Parking signs Valentine Flats Road. Hopefully, this will help first responders and emergency services better access to the Flats area during an emergency. * I met again with members of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests Bureau of Forest Resources Management at the state barricade on Valentine Flats Road; we discussed signage closer to the breakers to warn people of the dangers of Zoar Valley. They replaced damaged, vandalized, or missing signs at the parking area and on the trail leading to the Flats. It is difficult to ask for more and better signage when they see all the damage done to existing signs and sign boards. * Please remember to follow COVID-19 protocols as prescribed by the Cattaraugus Co. Health Department. As the virus comes ever closer to the town with hot spots nearer and nearer, we need to wear masks and wash our hands. We do not want the Governor to reverse direction and begin locking down businesses and our general area again.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * Read highway bills. * Questioned the cuts to be made in 2022, Supervisor Walgus said it was a rumor and does not know for sure. * The windstorm on Sunday took down a power line on Miller Road. He wanted to express that no one should remove downed trees if there is a powerline down in the area. * Did some milling work on Valentine Flats and installed the no Parking signs. Already preparing for winter by working on the sander.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * There have been 195 cases of COVID-19 in Cattaraugus County, 28 are still active and there have been 4 deaths. * Went to the Village Board meeting on the 8th of September, it was held at the Hollywood Theater; Phil Palen stated the Ash borer beetle has killed many trees in the Village, eventually another species of tree will be planted. *

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At Gateway Park, St. George Construction has been working on a personal craft launch for kayaks, canoes, and rafts as well as a stage area for the arts. * The design Phase is in the next step for Thatcher Brook Task Force. * On Tuesday, September 15th from noon to 9pm the Village will be having their election for two trustees, Mrs. Wanda Koch and Mr. Markham are up for election. * Hollywood Theater is working on the stage curtain, orchestra pit and organ as well as the marquee .

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * Stated that the minutes were wrong from last month and there will NOT be a Fall Fest. * The Christmas in Gowanda is going to happen, working on only having it one day and the railroad will be participating with train rides.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: *Read highway bills. * Missed the Gowanda Ambulance meeting due to his son breaking his arm. * Would like a resolution to have a workshop on October 8th at 6:00pm to discuss cyber security.

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * Talked with Village of Gowanda Trustee Sheibley; Ms. Sheibley stated the Gowanda Fire Company will be having a Sexual Harassment seminar on Monday, September 14th at 7:00pm on Aldrich Street.

Assessor Kate Harrington: (by email) * School tax bills were mailed out on September 1st; the first to be issued from the new tax roll can make some assessment errors (e.g. missing STAR exemption), If you notice an error has been made, call our office immediately at 938-2343. * The assessing office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. * Ten property transfers were added for the month of June and thirteen were added for July.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trimpore: *

Total transactions for August - 130

Total Collected: \$ 4,478.00

Towns Portion: \$ **977.22**

*I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes from August 13th & August 31st. * there will be a free drive-thru rabies clinic on September 19th from 9am to noon at the Cattaraugus County Fairgrounds, 501 Erie Street in Little Valley. Pre-registration is required, you can call 716-701-3386 or go to www.CattCo.org/Rabies-Clinic.

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RESOLUTION # 77 Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Girome, Howard, Tomaszewski, 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 9 – General Vouchers # 125 to # 138 Total: \$ 2,760.72

Abstract 9 – Highway Vouchers # 54 to # 59 Total: \$ 16,556.97

RESOLUTION # 78 Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from August 13th and August 31st.

RESOLUTION # 79 Supervisors report

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor report for August 2020.

RESOLUTION # 80 Financial Report

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS - 0

RESOLVED to accept the financial report for August 2020.

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RESOLUTION # 81 Workshop

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a workshop on October 8th at 6:00pm to discuss cyber security.

RESOLUTION # 82 Budget meeting

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to have a budget meeting on September 28th at 6pm.

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus asked everyone to stand and closed the meeting in remembrance of the terrorist's attacks on September 11th 2001 and all the people who lost their lives including the responders and the brave men and women who continue to fight and die every day for our freedom. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk