

Minutes

Town of Persia Special Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

March 23, 2020

Special Meeting was posted in the Observer on March 21st and at the Persia Hall.

Supervisor John Walgus calls meeting to order at 12:00pm.

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: on teleconference

Others present:

Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley: present

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore: present

Supervisor John T. Walgus: * I have called a special meeting today of the Town Board to discuss the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. I have spoken to and received emails from many town officials in Cattaraugus County along with state representatives. There have been many towns throughout the Cattaraugus and Erie Counties area that have declared states of emergencies. I have considered this, but after a long pause I have made this determination.

There is no need to declare a SOE in the Town of Persia currently since the Federal, State and County governments have already done so. I believe we should remain flexible and can and should continue to provide services to our residents.

I believe it is the governments duty to serve the people. That being said, the town hall will remain open, but with these recommendations. The Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk should practice social and professional distancing. They should not be in the town hall at the same time nor in proximity with each other, so if the Town Clerk is unavailable to perform her duties, the Deputy can fill in.

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All residents should call the town hall first to resolve whatever service or problem they have. If that is not possible and they need to come to the town hall, they should call and make an appointment, this is to limit the number of people in the town hall at one time. We are still collecting property tax payments until March 31st, and residents can place payments in the mail slot on the front door or mail them where they will be time and date stamped.

Also, the county transfer stations are back open as they have been deemed an essential service. Transfer tickets can be obtained at the town hall for our residents. The NYS Thruway Authority has furloughed most employees and has gone to a cashless system, we can help our residents by selling E-Z pass tags, and to prevent cabin fever, hunting and fishing licenses.

We will follow the recommendation that only essential employees fulfill their obligations by coming to work. All officials and employees should refrain from visiting the town hall until the crisis has passed. I can mail any correspondence to you once a week.

If any employee has any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus they should contact their primary care physician immediately and follow the instructions the health care official provides. Everyone should practice social distancing and frequent hand washing per the recommendations of the CDC.

Residents can call the Town Assessor in Little Valley at 938-2324. The last I knew they could make an appointment to meet the Assessor if they could not resolve their questions over the phone.

Building permits and dog license information is available on the town's website at www.persiany.org

I have spoken at length with the Highway Superintendent and there is nothing indicating the highway crew should not be working. The highway crew can maintain social distancing and I'm confident that the Highway Superintendent and crew can accomplish this without much interjection. The Highway Superintendent knows what needs to be done and can complete the necessary spring projects with a little planning. We discussed rotating the workers by going to the 10 hours a day summer program starting today and if necessary rotating Monday to Saturday. I trust the Highway Superintendent to make the necessary workflow decisions consistent with all the directives and common sense. The Highway Superintendent has asked for an extra 12-day COVID-19 benefit for the full-time highway employees, and I have agreed to this proposal. For an example if he thinks that he can only rotate the crew in and out with

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three 10-hour days then they could use one day from the 12-day bank to insure they still receive a 40 hour a week check.

Since this pandemic is very fluid, we can determine on a week to week basis if we need to or should update our regulations. I will post our instructions and suggestions on how best to obtain services at the town hall on the town web site and Facebook page.

If we all work together and follow the instructions from the CDC, NYSDOH and the CCDOH, we will overcome this crisis.

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley: * this 12-day COVID-19 benefit gives the highway guys a sense of security in uncertain times.

Councilperson Theresa A. Girome: * I agree with the proposal presented, always with safety first .

Councilperson Robert O. Dingman: * I agree with the proposal presented. * I feel it is better to keep people working if possible.

Councilperson Seth H. Howard: * I agree with the proposal presented. I would like a resolution to set up a 12-day COVID-19 benefit for full-time highway workers.

Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski: * I agree with the proposal presented.

Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore: * no comment

RESOLUTION #34 COVID-19 Highway 12-Day benefit

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS – 0

RESOLVED to set up 12- day COVID -19 benefit for full-time highway workers.

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus adjourns the meeting at 12:16 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Trumpore Town Clerk