

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

June 21, 2021

7:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board; was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Eric Mead. Also present for the meeting were Councilman Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Steve Rackowski, Attorney Deb Slezak and Town Clerk Emily Staley. Councilman Guy Robataille was absent.

Supervisor Eric Mead led the salute to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to accept the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to approve and accept minutes of the May 17, 2021 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- New digital sign is operational. It looks good. Thank you to Steve Anderson and his highway employees for all of their work.

Assessor:

- Lisa Jablonski spoke about the importance of keeping the Town at 100% valuation. This is not happening right now with the way the real estate market is going. Houses are selling way above their assessed value; some at \$50,000 above assessed value which puts the Town at a disadvantage as far as valuation. She received an estimate from Dave Barnett of GAR and she has consulted with Wilda, Karen Quinn (her CSR) and the NYS representatives regarding assessment and they all agree that the Town needs to do something to keep its value at 100%. Karen Quinn (CSR) offered to attend the next Board Meeting and explain further and answer any questions the Board may have that Lisa cannot answer. If this trend in home sales continues through the end of the year the Town's valuation could drop below 100%. Lisa stated that she does not feel confident to do a whole Town reassessment on her own due to the Route 5S business corridor and Mohawk Hills housing development and she would like some support for those areas. Councilman Rackowski stated that he thinks people will be concerned about their assessments rising yet again and having to pay more. Supervisor Mead explained that being at 100% affects the Town's sales tax payments and if the valuation drops so do the sales tax payments. Supervisor Mead suggested Karen Quinn coming to July's Board meeting and seeing what she had to say. He also stated that there are other companies that do the same GAR does so the Board could request proposals.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Target has filed another tax certiorari for its property.
- The attorney for Mrs. LaBate in Fort Hunter stated that his client will be getting her septic fixed. John Sampone stated that no permits have been filed for any septic work as of this time.
- Attorney Slezak informed the Board that the Schaufelberg matter is going to be going to court. She will be reaching out the Town Court to schedule a hearing date and have a summons issued.
- Attorney Slezak questioned if the property in Lost Valley has been appraised and was she supposed to do that? Supervisor Mead said he made a couple of phone calls but needed to follow-up. Lisa and Emily will look at the value of similar parcels of vacant land to assist.
- A wind monitoring station was approved for Bean Hill by the Planning Board but there was an issue with the Public Hearing notices that were sent out. The wrong date, time, location and Clerk's number were listed on the letter. The Town Clerk received a complaint about this and Attorney Slezak will reach out to the applicant and suggest they re-schedule the public hearing as a formality so no issues arrive at a later date.

Planning and Zoning:

- John Sampone stated that houses going up in Mohawk Hills are moving forward. Currently the builder decided to put the building of six (6) houses on hold because lumber is so expensive.
- John also said he has heard nothing from Dan Colon on the installation of his new computer. He received an email regarding payment and nothing since. Supervisor Mead said he would speak with Dan again.

- The doors to the “old” Town Hall in the vestibule need to be moved so that they open out into the vestibule NOT into the hall itself. This is a fire code issue and could create a serious hazard if people needed to get out of the hall quickly and the doors were closed. He will work with Steve Anderson to see about getting the doors moved.
- Paul Slansky left all of his files with the Town Clerk in case the new Zoning Enforcement Officer, Matt Bearcroft, needs to reference anything.

Building Maintenance:

- The garage door chain at the Highway department broke and has been repaired.
- Steve Anderson asked about getting Tim Lembke, who did all the work on the entry signs to the Town of Florida and the sign above the new electronic sign, a gift card as a thank you.
- The new park in Fort Hunter will have its ribbon cutting ceremony something the end of July beginning of August. The money for the park came from the NY Rising (storm recovery) money after the hurricane came through and washed away the structures that were there. A park was one of the options given to the Town to be able to use that space. There is a playground, basketball court and pavilion with parking area.
- Steve Rackowski asked who was going to repair the dump site shed. Steve Anderson said that Bruce Villa was going to be doing that work. He was on site today to measure.

Highway:

- Denise Road is paved; Queen Ann is next and then Mohr Road will be patched.
- A new tire was placed on Gary’s tractor and the #5 truck needed new brakes.
- Steve asked to be able to purchase a walk behind black top cutting saw. He had to borrow the Town of Amsterdam’s saw. He had three (3) prices from three (3) different suppliers. Admar - \$2,100 with a water tank attached; JC Smith - \$2,278 plus the blade; Northern Tool & Equipment - \$2,054 plus the blade. The Board gave him permission to pick one of the three (3). Steve said Admar was the best for the price.
- When paving is done Steve will get the stain for the salt barn and the guys will start to work on that.

Water and Sewer:

- Hydrant on Route 5S was damaged in a car accident.
- Adirondack will be cleaning out the sewer pump stations this Thursday and the water tank cleaning will begin on Friday.

Youth:

- Hillary Erin Graff was present to give the Board a report on Youth activities. Howe Caves trip July 24; the Youth Commission is thinking to have a booth at the Fire Departments celebration; possible drive-in movie night in August and also a disc golf day at the new course in Charlton. October 30, 2021 will be another trunk or treat night in Minaville and the Youth Commission would like to close the road again. There are tentative dates for Christmas and Easter.
- Hillary asked about a shed for storage at Ron Mead Park in Minaville. The Veteran’s Committee had said they were buying a new shed but that has been put on hold. Could the power for the park be turned on as well?
- A quote was received from Craftco to refurbish the tennis and basketball courts in the amount of \$100 - \$200 thousand dollars.
- Hillary asked about getting a petty cash drawer in the Town Clerk’s office for future events for people to be able to pay for tickets for events. Eric agreed that \$100 could be kept for the Youth Commission in the Town Clerk’s office.
- The Youth Commission would like to put four (4) benches at Ron Mead Park for people to sit on if they are walking their dogs or just wanting to sit in the park. It was suggested that they find out where the Veteran’s got their benches from to use the same vendor.
- The question was also asked if it was ok for the Commission to clear a path to the creek. It used to be there was a path and it has since overgrown. The Board did not have an issue with that although Attorney Slezak cautioned against it being a possible liability issue for insurance making easy access to water on Town property. A sign would need to be put up stating the risk.

Veterans:

- Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

- Nothing at this time.

New Business:

Supervisor Mead explained what the contracts from CT Male Associates were for. B121 lists the hourly rates for work; B221 (1) specifies the project is the Town office building and the Highway Department; B221(2) specifies Ron Mead Park. B221(2) was agreed by the Town Board to be put on hold at this time because of the cost.

1. **RESOLUTION #51** sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to authorize Supervisor Eric Mead to sign the contract B121 and Service Order B221(001) with CT Male Associates for Town of Florida; all in favor and passed.

Public Comment: Opened at 8:07pm

Justice Steve Brown informed the Town Board that the internet service at the Town Office building is terrible some days. If everyone is present in the building and on the internet the Court has issues accessing the databases it needs to for tickets. Attorney Deb Slezak said her law firm uses USM; a tech company out of Amsterdam on Genesee Street and they were very professional and very helpful and did excellent work. The Town Clerk will call them and see if they will come and do an assessment.

Mark Quiri complained about the noise coming from the Boat Launch. There are people there very late at night into the early morning hours yelling and playing music very loudly. There was also an issue where someone drove their car into the brand new playground area and did donuts on the new grass. Supervisor Mead stated that boulders or some kind of barrier will be placed to prevent this in the future. A resident who has cameras placed around his property will check his camera feed and report to the Sheriff if he sees any illegal or unsafe activity.

Public Comment: Closed at 8:17pm

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski to audit and pay the monthly bills was seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Harold Alikonis to approve the Supervisor's Report was seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk