

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

July 19, 2021

7:00pm

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

Councilman Matthew Gogis 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 June 21, 2021 Board Meeting with the addition of Wilda Lang-Holloway's last name to the minutes under Assessor; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Supervisor Eric Mead had received a letter of resignation from Councilman Guy Robataille. The Board has been grateful for his service. Attorney Deb Slezak was asked who appoints someone to fill his spot until the end of the year. Attorney Slezak said the Town Board may appoint a resident of the Town to serve out Guy's term or the Board can continue to meet as it is until the newly elected Councilmember is elected and begins their term January 1, 2022. Councilman Alikonis said he thinks the Board should consider one of the two new candidates currently running for the Town Board Councilmen positions and not just a "body" to fill the spot. Discussion over whether to interview both candidates and it was decided that interviews are not necessary that each Board member would conduct their own research and come to the next Board meeting with their decision for discussion of appointment.

Assessor:

- Lisa Jablonski introduced her CRM Karen Quinn from NYS to give a better explanation as to why a partial revaluation of the Town is necessary to stay at 100% and what it would mean if the Town fails to stay at 100%. The tax burden would be spread out unfairly amongst residents again and sales tax revenue would suffer as well. The Town spent quite a bit of money on the initial revaluation of the Town and to let it fall back below 100% at this time negates that effort and money spent. Lisa could do a partial revaluation of only the parts of the Town being affected by the housing sale boom right now and not all properties in the Town need to change. Also that just because assessments change does not mean that the tax rate will go up or that people's bills will go up for 2022. Councilman Alikonis asked about the bubble "bursting" next year and Karen said the trend started before Covid and analysts are expecting this to continue for at least another couple years if not more so changes need to happen now or the Town will drop in value and that would be worse. Lisa can do much of the leg work that GAR is quoting for and that will keep their price down and she is also going to meet with Dave Barnett and discuss with him other ways to get the price for assistance down. Lisa also said she can get quotes from other companies that do the same work but that they will have to do much of what GAR has already done again which may not be cheaper.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Mrs. LaBate's attorney told Attorney Slezak that she was moving forward with her septic repair. John Sampone spoke up and said no permits have been filed so Attorney Slezak said she would have the attorney reach out to John.
- The Schafelberg matter is scheduled for court on August 5, 2021 at 6pm.
- Councilman Rackowski asked if Attorney Slezak could write a letter to the solar company that has the farm on Route 30 regarding their screening dying; Attorney Slezak said she would coordinate with Emily Staley to get information regarding that.

Planning and Zoning:

- Matt Lessard & Chris from Bohler Engineering were present to ask the Town Board to consider a change of zone for property on Daniel Street in the Town of Florida from R1 to IBP. The property is abutted by the NYS Thruway on the South, a trucking business to the North and residential property to the West. The applicant would like to build a custom truck parts warehouse and shop. The new building would be under 10,000 square feet and the land is currently owned by Structure

Development. There is a road that comes to that parcel of land on the Daniel Street side where there are no houses and all parking, loading, garbage would be put on the non-residential side of the building. Attorney Slezak read the process to ask for an amendment to a zone and she suggested that the Town Board refer the matter to the Planning Board for them to draft the legislation as they have done in the past. Chris asked to have the matter referred to the County Planning Board as well and have SEQRA done.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to forward the matter to the Planning Board and send a referral to Montgomery County Planning Board; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to declare the Town Board of the Town of Florida as lead agency for SEQRA; all in favor and passed.

- Matt Bearcroft is working with John and Emily to go over the Zoning Ordinance to clean up some language.
- Attorney Slezak said that the representatives from Bohler asked if the Town Board could set the public hearing next month for the zone change request. The Board discussed it and said they wanted to hear what the Planning Board had to say first, no one was comfortable setting the date, sending notices and then having to cancel if things did not work-out. Councilman Alikonis questioned whether it was spot zoning. It was discussed that it would not necessarily be spot zoning because it is an extension of an existing zone designation.

Building Maintenance:

- Steve Anderson is waiting for Bruce to give him his list of supplies needed to fix the dump shack.
- There was an issue at the Town office building with the power. A splice that was put in when the snack shack was constructed went bad and National Grid had to come in and repair the line.
- Kosiba's Lock Shop is asking when payment will be made on their bill for installing the new security system for the entry doors at the office building. Their final bill was 4x the amount initially quoted. The initial quote was for \$340 and the final bill was \$1,252. Steve Brown stated that he was told the new bill will be a "little" bit more than the initial quote because they had to do some extra work but 4x that is a bit expensive. Steve did tell them he was not happy with the charge. The Town Board would like Supervisor Mead to meet with Kosibas and go over the bill. Steve will reach out to Eric and coordinate.

Highway:

- The highway guys are working on mowing the sides of the roads and finishing up the paving. All paving should be finished in August.
- Keith McGovern called and told Steve that to trade in the loaders and get new ones would cost the Town approximately \$21,750 per loader or they can be kept for another year. Steve wants some time to consider what the best option would be and the Board agreed with him.

Water and Sewer:

- Waiting for date for the cleaning of the tank.
- There have been problems with both sewer pump stations. Bolts were needed on the pumps and the gates needed to be fixed. A new pump is going to be needed by Dollar General; the bearings are going. Getting a quote for a spare pump for the Target pump station.

Youth:

- Howe Caves field trip is the 24th @ 10:15am & 10:45am. Approximately 60 people signed up. The next meeting is August 2nd at 6:30pm. The Youth Commission will be setting up a self-service booth at the FD celebration on August 7th. Working to schedule a movie night at the Ozoner Drive-In Movies for August 11. The cost is 20 per car. Working on a newsletter and survey to be sent out via mail and email for the end of summer. Two new women have been coming to meetings and would like to formally join the Youth Commission. Rhonda Armour and Tiffany Bond and there will be a full board. Deputy Supervisor Steve Rackowski said to get their information and the Town Board will make a formal appointment at the August meeting. Steve Anderson checked on sheds for the lower field and he looked at the shed the Veterans are currently using and that is falling apart and it would not be appropriate to put it at the lower field. There is an issue with people not picking up after their dogs in Ron Mead Park. Could a sign be made to post on the fences?

Veterans:

- At the FD celebration the Veteran's Committee will have a strawberry shortcake booth.
- The cannon has one coat of paint on it and a 2nd will be done shortly. Currently digging around the rock on the point to see how far down the footer goes that the stone is sitting on.

- Working on getting prices to get replacement parts for the tank. If parts can be repaired they will do that and if not will see about getting replacement parts depending on cost.

Old Business:

- Are the magnetic car signs done for Lisa? Steve dropped them off to Emily. When will doors be changed at the Old Town Hall? Steve will get together with John.

New Business:

Clerk Emily Staley asked about ordering a set of NYS Code books for Matt Bearcroft to have and a Fire Code book for Paul Slansky. The Board agreed to buy a full set for Matt and one Fire Code book for Paul. Emily will do that.

Public Comment: Opened at 8:33pm

No comment from the public

Public Comment: Closed at 8:34pm

MOTION by Councilman Harold Alikonis 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 Matthew Gogis; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk