

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

August 16, 2021

7:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board; was called to order at 7:01 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 Matthew Gogis led the salute to the flag.

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

Motion by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to approve and accept minutes of the July 19, 2021 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Supervisor Mead shared the plans from CT Male regarding updates for the Town office building and the Highway Garage and Town Hall. Councilman Alikonis stated that he would like to schedule a workshop day to go over the plans with the entire Town Board and Highway Superintendent Steve Anderson. August 26 @ 3pm was the chosen date.
- Supervisor Mead informed the Board that the Budget process for 2022 is starting. He asked that if anyone has any specific requests to please reach out to him before September's Board Meeting.

Assessor:

- Lisa Jablonski asked the Board if the issue with an update is with her using GAR. Is it about the money to be spent? She reiterated the importance of staying at 100% valuation and that she is not qualified to do any extensive updates on her own because appraisal experience is required. Lisa offered to get a few more quotes to see if a different company could do the work for less than GAR. Councilman Alikonis asked how in-depth the process would be this time. Lisa stated that you would have to do at least a specific section of the Town/housing; not the whole Town. An evaluation of sales would have to be done to see if a specific type of house has sold more than others or in a specific section of the Town. It is illegal to raise the assessment on only the homes that have just sold. It skews the valuation data and unfairly divides the tax burden. The Town is looking at dropping to 85% valuation. The Town Board is concerned with the market dropping back down to "normal" levels and taxes going up again. The Board wants to wait and see where the numbers end up after the State does its evaluation. Target is coming off its first PILOT and we could have a year to correct the equalization.

Engineering:

- Matt & Chris were present from Bohler Engineering regarding the Daniel Street re-zone and they informed the Board that they did attend the Planning Board meeting and the Planning gave a positive recommendation, but no formal motion was made. Matt asked if the Town Board could set the Public Hearing for the September meeting. Councilman Alikonis mentioned that he was concerned it was spot zoning and it was pointed out that the adjacent property is IBP and they are asking to move that zone line over to incorporate this parcel. A full site plan would be done if this change were approved. Supervisor Mead said that a formal referral from the Planning Board is needed to come to the Town Board; that the Public Hearing can be scheduled and the referral sent after the September 13th Planning Board Meeting.

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to amend the Agenda to add **RESOLUTION #52** to set the Public Hearing for the Zone Change Amendment from Bohler Engineering for Tax ID 55.14-2-11; Daniel Street, for Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:50pm. All in favor and passed.

Attorney:

- Target's Tax Certiorari case has been scheduled for conference with Judge Tomlinson for August 26. There will be no settlement as they are looking for a 50% reduction in their assessment.
- The Schaufelburg matter was heard and Jeffrey Francisco represented Mrs. Schaufelburg. The plan is to move the cards from the back of the yard to another location as well as the rest of the operation and clean up the other cars. There will be a meeting in mid-September to see what has been done.
- Supervisor Mead asked Attorney Slezak to reach-out to the County Attorney Meghan Manion regarding the transfer of the land that the water tower sits on. There needs to be a Resolution and local law to transfer the land to the Town and a possible revenue sharing agreement drawn up as well. Supervisor Mead said the Town would buy the land outright and no revenue sharing if the Town owns the land.

Planning and Zoning:

- Nothing at this time.

Building Maintenance:

- Steve Anderson informed the Board that the entry doors to the Old Town Hall were changed to open out into the entry. A new rug is needed.
- Bruce Vila is working on the dump shed and he will be putting new roofs on the pump stations.
- Steve and Emily asked the Town Board about terminating the contract with Crystal Rock for water deliveries. There have been multiple billing issues and delivery issues and water coolers could be purchased for less than we are renting them at this time. Water can be bought from the beverage center on Route 5S. The Board agreed.

Highway:

- Parking lot is dug out down at the highway garage and piping was replaced and it will be paved next year.
- Highway employees are on their 3rd mowing of the shoulders/sides of roads.
- It will cost \$21,750 to replace the loaders this year. Steve said they can keep them and possibly send them to auction next year. They don't have a lot of hours on them and this money could be used to purchase a new truck. If maintenance is kept up on them and they are well taken care of they could last for multiple years. Board agreed to keep the loaders for another year and evaluate then.
- Guardrails are up in front of Target. Supervisor Mead did a walk down the side of Route 5S to inspect and there was all kinds of garbage that drivers were throwing on the side of the road. If trucks park and block the entrance and exit then the Sheriff can be called. There should be overflow parking to help alleviate this problem.

Water and Sewer:

- Water tank is cleaned. There was 5" of sediment on the bottom of the tank. The divers had to spend two extra cleaning due to the amount of sediment.
- Steve met with Brian at the pump station near Amazon to discuss putting in a propeller to chop the sewage before it get to the pump. He gave a quote for the propeller and a service contract for one year. Two pumps will cost \$5,848.83. A new pump with propeller is \$9,274. Need a spare pump for emergency and the current spare is in the pump house by Dollar General because the original one's bearings were going bad. A maintenance contract per pump station is \$1,205. Target and Amazon have in-line shredders so it isn't likely that the issue of rags getting caught is from those locations. It is hard to pinpoint where they are coming from.
- The communication system in the pump house does not work so Steve is not notified when there is an issue. Smith Control was out to service the system and it still is not working. Needs to be repaired and it will cost \$7,220 for the system.
- Supervisor Mead pointed out that there is money in the budget for these items. The Board agreed to purchase the new blades and pumps and also to a service contract for the pump stations and to fix the communications systems.

Youth:

- Howes Cave field trip had 47 attendees. There was a booth at the Fire Department celebration with flyers. Did a drive in movie at the Ozoner which was well attended. No September event yet. Halloween planning has started.
- Fort Hunter park is opened to the public. Supervisor Mead wants to do a ribbon cutting and announcement to the press. He will work to coordinate with GOSR and our Assemblymen. No further issues with driving on the grass or the basketball court as of yet. It is owned by the State of NY but the Town is in charge of maintenance.

Veterans:

- Good turnout at the Veteran's Committee booth for strawberry shortcake.
- Cannon is painted; working to get foundation ready.
- 9-11 service is being worked on by Joe Inglese.

Old Business:

- Appointment of someone to fulfill the unexpired term left vacant by the resignation of Guy Robataille last month. Mark Quiri is on the ballot for the election in November. Prudent to choose one of the two candidates who are currently running. Councilman Gogis stated that he thought that the person to fill

the remainder of Guy's term should be someone who has been active at Town Board meetings and has shown an interest in the position. Mark has attended all Town Board meetings except for one since the beginning of the year. Supervisor Mead thought that the seat should be filled by a Republican candidate since it was vacated by a Republican candidate.

MOTION by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to nominate Mark Quiri, 225 Queen Ann Road, Amsterdam, NY to fulfill the unexpired term of Councilman vacated by Guy Robataille upon his resignation in August of 2021 until December 31, 2021. All in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Matthew Gogis to amend the Agenda to add **RESOLUTION #53** appointing Mark Quiri, 225 Queen Ann Road, Amsterdam, NY to fill the unexpired term of Councilman vacated by Guy Robataille upon his resignation in August of 2021, until December 31, 2021. All in favor and passed.

New Business:

1. **RESOLUTION #52** sponsored by Supervisor Mead and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to set the Public Hearing for the Zone Change Amendment request, R1 to IBP, by Bohler Engineering on behalf of Structure Development for Tax ID 55.14-2-11; Daniel Street; for Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:50pm at 214 Fort Hunter Road, Amsterdam, NY; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #53** sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to appoint Mark Quiri, 225 Queen Anne Road, Amsterdam, NY to fill the unexpired term of Councilman vacated by Guy Robataille upon his resignation in August of 2021, until December 31, 2021. All in favor and passed.

Roll call:

Councilman Gogis	Aye
Councilman Rackowski	Aye
Councilman Alikonis	Aye
Supervisor Mead	Aye

Adopted: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions

Public Comment: Opened at 8:30pm

Adrien Posson, 288 Lost Valley Road – asked the Town Board if they would be willing to work with the residents and Spectrum to get high speed internet to the south/west part of the Town of Florida. Spectrum did a site survey of residents eligible along McKinney and Lost Valley Roads and there are approximately 68 residents eligible for service. The issue is for Spectrum to install the lines it would not be cost effective with that low of a number and it would cost about \$50,000 – \$75,000 to install. Adrien said Island Road is listed on the site survey but that could be removed because it is only a few seasonal residences. The residents who have children are concerned that if schools go remote again their children will be unable to keep up with the school work again and for adults who work from home it is next to impossible to do anything remote due to the poor internet connections. Supervisor Mead agreed and said he has been talking with other people and he feels it is an important service that is necessary to have. He would like to add all the roads on that side of the Town and asked the Town Board if they would be willing to have a workshop session with Adrien, the Spectrum representative & Steve Anderson to move this forward and the Town Board agreed. Supervisor Mead will coordinate with Adrien and the Town Board for a date before the next Board Meeting to get this moving forward.

Public Comment: Closed at 8:38pm

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

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski to approve the Supervisor's Report was seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis; 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 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk