

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

January 18, 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, Councilman Guy Robataille and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

Councilman Harold Alikonis led the salute to the flag.

Councilman Harold Alikonis asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of Barbara Mead, Supervisor Eric Mead's mother.

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

Motion by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to accept the minutes from the Public Hearing for the Zone Change & Wood Processing definition held December 21, 2020; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to approve and accept minutes of the December 21, 2020 Board Meeting with a corrections; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to accept the 2021 Organizational Minutes from January 4, 2021; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Supervisor Mead gave a breakdown of 2020 year end revenues and expenditures. The Town came in under budget for expenditures and revenues were up over budgeted amounts.

Assessor:

- Lisa explained why there is a Resolution regarding STAR exemptions. It is to mitigate foot traffic in offices and to prevent the elderly from having to come into any offices to file paperwork this year due to Covid.
- Lisa stated that the BAR (Board of Assessment Review) needs a 3rd member. She and the Town Clerk looked up the requirements and there are no pre-requisites for the job just that it cannot be someone already employed by the Town. Lisa would like to offer it to Karen Armour. The training will be virtual and the Town Board said to offer it to Mrs. Armour and then have her come to the next Board Meeting so they can meet her and then make the appointment.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Clerk Emily Staley is working on getting a copy of the deed, Abstract and Title Insurance for the Town municipal building to move forward with the park grant. The land has to be subdivided off in order to qualify.

Planning and Zoning:

- John Sampone handed in his annual report. Five (5) new houses are being built in the Mohawk Hills subdivision.
- The illegal auto repair business is still an issue. The amount of cars change daily and a letter was sent by Town's Attorney Deb Slezak last month.
- Supervisor Mead left messages for Peter Rea regarding his interest in the Planning Board. Will give him a few days and then try to call him again. Two positions are available. One for the Board and one for an alternate.

Building Maintenance:

- Digital sign is in; Steve Anderson left it in the box. Supervisor Mead said he spoke with the seller and he will come to the Town when we are ready for installation to go over the schematics for mounting it and hooking up the power. Steve informed the Board that he will be using power from the snack shack because the Veteran's Park power is maxed out.

- Steve also informed the Board that at the dump there needs to be better lighting. Don Cooper has asked and there have been a few residents who have expressed concern over the lack of lighting. John Sampone said Amsterdam Electric had a special on LED lights....\$45 a light after rebate and they will handle the rebate so the Town would only have to pay \$45. Councilman Steve Rackowski suggested putting two new pole lights up and one on the building. Steve Anderson will call Amsterdam Electric.
- Steve Kirk came to the municipal building to look at the urinal. Is meeting with Eric this week to go over what needs to be done.

Highway:

- Received the check for the cosmetic damage to Gary's plow truck. The tow bill check will be coming. Supervisor Mead suggested Steve check Verizon Fleet for coverage of towing.
- The salt shed is working out great for the sand and salt. The sand is dry and spreads much easier; no more clumps in the road. Steve would like to purchase some stain and have the guys stain the bottom pressure treated plywood to help preserve it.
- Steve Anderson asked about getting a price to replace Josh Auspelmyer's 2014 International truck due to it needing service after every time it has been out. The 2013 truck has no problems. He would look at getting a Western Star which is what the other trucks are. Supervisor Mead said he could get a price and the Board would evaluate after.

Water and Sewer:

- Both pump stations have been pumped out. First week of January a fire hydrant on Route 5S was damaged by a motor vehicle. The bill for the this has been sent to the vehicle owner for him to turn into his insurance.
- Steve Anderson would like to get a price on a locator for water/sewer lines to avoid damage to the lines when needing to dig.
- Barton and Loguidice is putting together a proposal to have the water tank cleaned, sanitized and painted. For the engineering services to do this will cost close to \$4,000. All the necessary maintenance that needs to be done will be included in the RFP that will be sent out.

Youth:

- There will be a meeting in February.

Veterans:

- Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

New Business:

1. **RESOLUTION #35** sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to appoint Rich Romeo, 361 Langley Road, Amsterdam, NY as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Board for the year 2021; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #36** sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to adopt a resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions for 2021 to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020 Assessment Roll; pursuant to sections mentioned in Executive Order Number 202 issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 7, 2020; All in favor and passed.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Executive Session: Personnel Matters

MOTION by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to open Executive Session; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to end Executive Session at 8:20pm; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Guy Robataille 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 Guy Robataille; 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 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk