# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING
## May 16, 2022
## 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 Steve Rackowski, Councilman Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Mark Quiri, Attorney Deb Slezak and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

Councilman Steve Rackowski led the salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Councilman Mark Quiri 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 the minutes from the April 18, 2021 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

**Committee Reports:**

*Communications & Announcements:*

- Nothing at this time.

*Assessor:*

- Grievance Day is May 24th from 4pm – 8pm. Continuing with field work.

*Engineering:*

- Val Ferro and Steve Wilson attended to give a presentation on the sketch plan for a PUD on lands owned by Nadler. Dave Everett, Attorney from Whiteman Osterman and Hannah was on hand as well. Supervisor Mead asked if a new water district would need to be created with an additional water tank on the south side of the Thruway or if a new pump station would be the only thing needed. Steve Wilson stated that definitely a new pump station would need to be installed but the creation of a new water district and adding a water tank would be something that would need to be discussed with the City of Amsterdam. Supervisor Mead thought that this needs to be sent to the Planning Board for their review. The Town Board would like to be Lead Agency on SEQRA and a coordinated review with the Planning Board will be done. This is a Type I SEQRA action. Bohler Engineering/Val Ferro's office will send out the notices to involved and interested agencies on behalf of the Town. Supervisor Mead reviewed the requirements for submission of a PUD sketch plan and the Board agreed that Bohler met those requirements.
  **MOTION** by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Eric Mead to Amend the Agenda to add **RESOLUTION #63** the Town of Florida Town Board intends to declare itself Lead Agency for SEQRA review of the Type I Action on the Nadler PUD. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained; all other board members in favor and passed.
  **MOTION** by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Mark Quiri to Amend the Agenda to add **RESOLUTION #64** to refer the Nadler PUD sketch plan to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their review and comments at the June 6, 2022 Planning Board meeting. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained; all other board members in favor and passed.
  **MOTION** by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to approve the Agenda as amended. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained; all other board members in favor and passed.

*Attorney:*

- Attorney Deb Slezak informed the Board that Steve LeFevre has asked for an amendment to the contract for services related to the Borrego Wind Turbine on YMCA Road. He is in need of an outside firm to write a report on the electromagnetic study Borrego had done. It was decided that a Resolution was not needed because in the original contact it was stated that outside services may have to be contracted for additional studies.
- Attorney Slezak stated she did research on how to have staggered terms for the Town Justices. The Town Board would have to abolish one term and implement another later. Would need to be special state legislation or on Permissive Referendum. Supervisor Mead said that there is a Town Resident who has expressed he will be running as an Independent and since Town Justices terms fall under an exception; the four year term starts when the new Justice is elected, the Board will not take any action at this time to go to one Justice or change the term lengths.
- Attorney Slezak has reached out again regarding the road dedication in Mohawk Hills. She sent an email on April 18 with Highway Superintendent Steve Anderson's requirements and has received no response to date.

- Attorney Slezak asked for an update on the Labate septic issues in the Village of Fort Hunter. She has been trying to reach the attorney who was assisting Mrs. Labate and has had no luck. Matt Bearcroft said he has spoken with the owner of the abutting house and the septic leaking into his property is still an issue. Attorney Slezak said she would reach out again to Mrs. Labate with a letter and see if she can get a response.

*Planning and Zoning:*

- Matt Bearcroft is working on two major issues in the Town. Queen Ann Road and Snooks Corners Road. Would like a resolution with the Schaufelburg matter before moving these other issues to court.
- John Kimber was present to ask the Town Board to add Wedding Venue to the Town's Zoning Ordinance as a permitted use/special permitted use. Supervisor Mead stated that there was another resident who asked for a similar use and they were denied and that the Town Board cannot tell the Planning Board that they have to add a use to the Zoning Ordinance. Supervisor Mead suggested Mr. Kimber hire an attorney to assist him through this process. Attorney Slezak read page 95 of the Zoning Ordinance and the requirements to request an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Supervisor Mead stated that the Town Board needs a more detailed plan of the venue and the surrounding land and roads to review before making any referrals to the Planning Board for their review. The Board asked how many people would be allowed in the barn for an event. How much traffic would be on the road? How many events per week? Can the road handle the extra traffic? Councilman Matthew Gogis explained that this is not a quick process and that Mr. Kimber needs to be patient.
- Nick Armour was present to express his interest in being appointed to the Town of Florida Planning Board. Supervisor Mead asked him to stay until the meeting was over to schedule an interview with the Town Board for next week. He also suggested Nick attend the June 6th Planning Board meeting to see how it is run and what it is that they do as a board.

*Building Maintenance:*

- Highway heating system bids will be opened tomorrow at the Town Office Building at 2pm.
- Steve Anderson informed the Board that he replaced the three bulbs in the ball field lights and the lights still do not work. Could be the ballasts.
- Clerk Emily Staley asked the Town Board if they objected to her installing more cabinets for storage and extending the counter in the Clerk's office to go all the way to the wall next to the windows. Cost would be approximately $500. The Board had no objection.

*Highway:*

- Trees were taken down in Lost Valley.
- 10-wheel truck will be here by the end of the week. When it arrives, Josh's truck will be going to auction.

*Water and Sewer:*

- Steve handed out quotes a pipe locator. It has a10' reach. It will locate water mains and force mains. Currently Steve can find pipes by guessing where they are.
- The new contract for servicing the chlorinators with Hach was signed.
- The bill for the mixing valve is in the abstract to be paid. As soon as that is paid they will ship it and then install it. Supervisor Mead has reported this information to the NYSDOH.

*Youth:*

- Easter Egg Hunt was rescheduled to April 30th at 10:30am. Had a good turn-out. Raffles of scooters and a bike and baskets with goodies in them. Working to coordinate with the library for the summer reading program. Would like to do a drive-in movie at the Ozoner in Broadalbin. Looking at July and August. Also looking to organize a 3 – 4 hour family day with a cook-out and family games. Planning a bus trip to Boston for September.

*Veterans:*

- Father's Day Breakfast fundraiser on June 19.

*Old Business:*

- Councilman Matthew Gogis asked if there was any resolution with the issue of Hodorowski Homes not paying the water/sewer bills from early construction use. Attorney Slezak stated that it depends on what the closing agreement is and it is possible that they give the new homeowner money at that time to cover the bill. 2. Where does the Town stand on the upgrade to wi-fi and internet safety? Clerk Staley reported that she and the bookkeeper met with a cyber security

expert and he will be submitting a quote. Four new computers are needed and a firewall box and then he will also be installing Wi-Fi routers. 3. When will the ducts be cleaned? Clerk Staley will call for one more quote. 4. Is there any movement regarding the house on Route 5s that burned down?

*New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #62** sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead to appoint John Hutchison, 190 Hutchison Road, Amsterdam, as a member of the Town of Florida Planning Board for a term of seven (7) years, beginning June 1, 2020 until December 31, 2028; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #63** sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis, states that the Town of Florida Town Board intends to declare itself Lead Agency for SEQRA review of the Type I Action on the Nadler PUD. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained; all other board members in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #64** sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead to refer the Nadler PUD sketch plan to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their review and comments at the June 6, 2022 Planning Board meeting. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained; all other board members in favor and passed.

Councilman Gogis asked about the process for the Town to abandon a road. He explained that a relative was having their property surveyed and Old Dorn Road showed up during the surveyor's preliminary research. Old Dorn Road is not used. Councilman Rackowski said the Town Highway employees do mow on both sides to the Phillip's property line. Councilman Gogis also spoke about Bean Hill Road after Gaugler's farm and Steve Anderson said that he does keep it up even though it is a dirt track. The Highway Department has put down rubble to fill in the holes. The process would be that the property owners on either side of the road have to request the road to be abandoned and it is a lengthy process. Part of Newkirk Road and Rector Roads are the same.

*Public Comment:* Opened at 8:21pm.

**Kim Schulenburg,** 234 Main Street, Fort Hunter asked about solutions to slow traffic down that goes through Fort Hunter on a daily basis. She also informed the Town Board that there are tractor trailers, specifically from Dollar General, that go through the village daily. The drainage grate on the corner of her property is damaged, as is the roadway. The power pole adjacent to the drainage ditch just around the corner has been clipped by tractor trailers as have the power lines that go above the road. Expressed strong concern regarding the playground that was recently installed and the danger this speeding traffic poses to the families and children who use the park on a daily basis. Supervisor Mead stated that a Local Law would need to be passed to outlaw tractor trailer traffic through Fort Hunter in order for the Sheriff to be able to issue tickets. He will speak to the Sheriff and Attorney Slezak about getting that process started. He is concerned as well and aware of the issues with the drainage grate and the damage to the road and electrical pole.

**Dorothy Bonanno,** 235 Main Street, Fort Hunter reiterated what Ms. Schulenburg stated. She asked if there wasn't a way to make traffic one way over the Fort Hunter/Tribes Hill Lock bridge? Supervisor Mead said there was discussion years ago but that discussion stalled. The NYS Canal Corp owns the bridge and they would have to make the decision to do that. Mrs. Bonanno expressed her concern specifically for the speeding dump trucks she has seen miss the turn to head to the bridge and they end up in the parking lot for the playground. She also said she can identify the tractor trailers as Dollar General trucks but there are unmarked trailers that come through on a regular basis. Again Supervisor Mead said he would meet with Sheriff Smith to discuss a plan of action.

*Public Comment:* Closed at 8:39pm

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

**MOTION** by Councilman Mark Quiri to accept 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 Mark Quiri; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk