

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

December 19, 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 Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Mark Quiri, Steve Rackowski, Attorney Deb Slezak and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

Councilman Harold Alikonis 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 Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to approve and accept the minutes from the November 21, 2022 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

## Committee Reports:

### *Communications & Announcements:*

- \$50,000 grant for engineering and planning study for the extension of sewer to Fort Hunter was awarded to the Town of Florida.
- Attorney Deborah Slezak gave her notice to the Town Board. December 31, 2022 will be her last day as Attorney for the Town. We will miss her very much. She has done a great job over the years and all of her hard work is greatly appreciated.

### *Assessor:*

- Agricultural exemption forms went out.
- Working on getting transfers sent over from the County for 2022 finished up.

### *Engineering:*

- Supervisor Eric Mead had a meeting with Charter Communications regarding the lack of internet service to the residents on Shellstone, Merry, Millers Corners, Lost Valley and a few other roads on the South side of Town of Florida. Charter has committed to try and complete internet service to residents on Merry and Shellstone Roads at a cost of \$311,711.87 paid from the Town. This works out to be \$5,994.46 cost per household on those roads. Does not include, Peck, Millers Corners, Lost Valley. Charter did not want to commit to bringing internet to those houses at this time. Supervisor Mead asked for input from the rest of the Board. Councilman Harold Alikonis wanted to know why they won't do all the residences on that section of Town and Supervisor Mead explained that they had no interest because the cost outweighed the financial benefit to them (Charter). Councilman Alikonis asked him to approach them again and try to push. Councilman Alikonis also asked if Supervisor Mead had reached out to Pattersonville Telephone Company to see if they would be interested in running lines up to that area and Supervisor Mead said he would reach out.
- Supervisor Mead will be sending out Request for Qualification (RFQ) letters to three firms to assist with the grant awarded by New York State for the sewer study.

### *Attorney:*

- Still waiting for the letter of credit/or bond for the top coat of the road in the Mohawk Hills development.
- The Planning Board found SEQR for New Leaf's wind turbine application to be a positive declaration and an EIS is needed. This will be reviewed at January's meeting.
- A letter will be sent to the two residents with the conflict over the chickens that were loose. A committee of three people is needed to review the situation and do mediation. Councilman Matthew Gogis is one person and Mike Jennings is another. Councilman Gogis has a list of a names for the third person that he will send to Attorney Slezak. The third person has to be agreed upon by both parties and then the committee can be created by the Town Board.
- Attorney Slezak will get a list of open items for the incoming attorney and the files she has will be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office as well.

### *Planning and Zoning:*

- The Town Board has no objections to the Planning Board being Lead Agency on the SEQR for the Dollar General Fresh distribution center application.

- Supervisor Mead stated that the vacant seats for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals will be posted in the newspaper. Anyone interested should submit a letter to the Town Clerk. Councilman Gogis suggested that two alternates be appointed for the future so there will always be at least one available person to be alternate if needed. Dates for interviews will be set at the Organizational Meeting.
- Attorney Mike Crowe will be at the next Planning Board meeting to discuss the steps to review the Nadler/Francisco PUD.

*Building Maintenance:*

- Nothing at this time.

*Highway:*

- School bus driver who does the Lost Valley route has asked if the road that loops around could be made one way due to the fact that it is very narrow along the creek side and is dangerous in the winter. Two cars cannot pass simultaneously and especially not in the winter. Discussion over whether it could be done by Resolution or Local Law and if it should be year round or just during the winter. Highway Superintendent, Steve Anderson, said it should be all year. All residents in Lost Valley will need to be notified of the change.

*Water and Sewer:*

- Protective coating is needed to prevent the inside of the water tank from rusting.
- High trihalomethane levels in the water again. Letters will need to be sent out to all water users.
- Supervisor Mead had a meeting with Barton & Loguidice regarding the chlorine used to sanitize the water not breaking down. The issue is there is not enough water usage for the size of the tank. The town has applied for a grant to have a water study done to try to fix this issue.
- For the sewer extension study Barton & Loguidice needs information from the Town. Clerk, Emily Staley will gather what she can and Steve Anderson will get together what he can.

*Youth:*

- There were approximately 100 youth with their family's who came to visit with Santa.
- Will be working on 2023 events after January.
- Councilman Matthew Gogis asked if the Youth Commission should have a Deputy Chair in case Hillary needs to step away.

*Veterans:*

- Nothing at this time.

*Old Business:*

- Councilman Harold Alikonis stated that he believes a moratorium on solar should be put in place to tighten the current law up. He believes that companies wanting to put solar in the Town should be held more accountable. He asked about battery storage and the Town has nothing in its zoning for those buildings. Supervisor Mead said he would send an email to Attorney Mike Crowe asking him to review and advise the Board how to proceed and to attend the January Town Board meeting.

*New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #83** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to authorize Town of Florida, Town Supervisor, to execute the Grant Agreement with NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and any and all other contracts, documents and instruments necessary to bring about the project and to fulfill the Town of Florida's obligations under the agreement for the Fort Hunter Sewer System Extension Study; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #84** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski, to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Fort Hunter Sewer Extension System Study; all in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #85** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri for Authorization and Appropriation of Local Match; Be it Resolved that the Town of Florida authorizes and appropriates a minimum local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant Program for the Fort Hunter Sewer Extension Study under the EPG program, 20% of the EPG grant award of \$50,000, the source of the local match, and any amount in the excess of the required

match, shall be appropriated from Water & Sewer Fund Balance. The maximum local match shall not exceed \$10,000, based upon a total estimated project cost of \$60,000. The Town Supervisor may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the Town of Florida; all in favor and passed.

4. **RESOLUTION #86** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis, appointing Stephen Viele to fulfill the unexpired term of Rudy Horlbeck, who resigned from the Town of Florida Planning Board, effective December 31, 2022. This term will begin January 1, 2023 and run until December 31, 2027; all in favor and passed.
5. **RESOLUTION #87** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to set the 2023 Town of Florida Organizational Meeting for Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00pm, at 214 Fort Hunter Road; all in favor and passed.
6. **RESOLUTION #88** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis, to reimburse the Veteran's Memorial Park checking account with funds in the amount of thirteen thousand two hundred ninety-one dollars and ninety cents (\$13,291.90), from Contingency Account A1990.4. This money is to pay for concrete installation, sealing and informational panels for the tank and cannon displays at the Veteran's Memorial Park; all in favor and passed.

*Public Comment:* Opened at 7:40pm

No Public Comment.

*Public Comment:* Closed at 7:41pm

**MOTION** by Councilman Matthew Gogis to audit and pay the monthly bills was seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead; all in favor and passed.

**MOTION** by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to accept the Supervisor's Report; all in favor and passed.

**MOTION** by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Emily Staley - Town Clerk