

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2023

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 Steven Rackowski, Councilman Mark Quiri, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Harold Alikonis, Town Clerk Emily Staley and Attorney Mike Crowe.

Councilman Mark Quiri 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 Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to approve and accept the minutes from the February 20, 2022 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

## Committee Reports:

### *Communications & Announcements:*

- Supervisor Mead informed the Board that a road study of the intersection of Route 161 and Route 30 was done. No issues were found. Supervisor Mead said he requested a study of the intersection of Route 161 and Fort Hunter Road and has not received any communication regarding that.

### *Assessor:*

- Working on exemptions and fieldwork.

### *Engineering:*

- Barton & Loguidice is working on the water tower issues and the study for extending water/sewer into Fort Hunter.

### *Attorney:*

- Mike Crowe informed the Board that he is working on the wording for the amendments requested for the Zoning Ordinance regarding wind, solar and battery storage for renewable energy. He will do drafts first for the Town Board to review then those will go to the Planning Board and the County Planning Board then a public hearing will be held for public input and then a final draft will be issued.
- Supervisor Mead told Attorney Crowe that he would be giving him contact information for the County Attorney so that the lease for Verizon can be transferred to the Town.
- Attorney Crowe spoke to the Board regarding the updates requested to the Zoning Ordinance regarding signage in the Town. The Town has no real zoning to regulate signs. Regulation can range from minor to extreme. Permits can be required for all signs or just certain signs. Attorney Crowe will put together some other ordinances regarding signs from a few other Towns for the Board to review and decided what they want to put in the amendment. Consistent enforcement across the Town is critical.

### *Planning and Zoning:*

- Discussed updating the sign regulations under Attorney.

### *Building Maintenance:*

- Need to revisit the HVAC system for the Highway Garage. Roof cap blew off the top of the garage. Heater wouldn't start. Should it be put back out to bid and switch to propane or ask Eggleston to look at replacement of the current system and staying with oil. The price to switch to propane was over \$100,000. Steve Anderson can reach out and get prices.

### *Highway:*

- Steve had asked about purchasing a tractor with a brush hog for mowing in the Mohawk Hills development along the retention ponds and the ditches. Prices range from \$43,000 to \$46,000. The Board discussed that it could be hired out for less money and what else would the brush hog be used for? Put that work out to bid and see what the cost would be.

*Water and Sewer:*

- Nothing at this time.

*Youth:*

- Annual Easter Egg hunt will be held at the Fort Hunter Park at 2pm on Saturday, April 1. There will be a movie night on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the “Old” Town Hall.

*Veterans:*

- Cannon is all set in place. Need to do plantings and replace all of the burning bushes that have died.
- The Memorial Day Service is May 28, 2023 at 2pm. There will be a dedication of the cannon and stone with the plaque. Working on signage for that and the tank.
- Would like to have a Father’s Day Breakfast again this year if the kitchen will be available. Supervisor Mead and the Board discussed a remodel of the kitchen but nothing was decided. The work would need to be bid and nothing would be ready to start in June.

*Old Business:*

- Councilman Matthew Gogis asked if any discussions were had with Pattersonville Telephone Co and getting high speed internet to the underserved areas of the Town. Supervisor Mead informed the Board that there is currently an initiative by the State to do a survey of homes to identify where internet is needed. Clerk Emily Staley received an email and she posted the information on the website and sent via email to residents who asked.

*New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #62;** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski authorizing the Municipal Official to enter into agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation; all present in favor and passed. This is regarding NYS DOT putting in a hill climbing lane on Route 5S.
2. **RESOLUTION #63;** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis, granting the State of New York authority to perform the adjustment for the owner and agreeing to maintain facilities adjusted via State-let-Contract; all present in favor and passed. This is so the NYS DOT can move utility lines, piping and catch basins on Route 5S.

*Public Comment:* Opened at 7:31pm

Ken Moritz, 270 Belldons Road asked about the state of the moratoriums that were requested for wind and solar. Will there be any? Supervisor Mead stated there may be an update available at the next meeting.

Betina Courtens, 127 Langley Road, stated she is very grateful for the Town looking at the sign ordinance. She asked that Agricultural and Residential zones be kept together for the regulations. She also asked for restrictions on the heights of signage and that the number per so many feet could be regulated as well.

*Public Comment:* Closed at 7:35pm

**MOTION** by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to enter Executive Session at 7:36pm to discuss an issue with a Town employee.

**MOTION** by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to exit Executive Session at 8:21pm.

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

**MOTION** by Councilman Matthew Gogis, and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski accept the Supervisor’s Report; all present 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 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Emily Staley - Town Clerk