

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

May 15, 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 Harold Alikonis, Councilman Steven Rackowski, Councilman Mark Quiri, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Attorney Mike Crowe and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

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 April 17, 2023 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

## Committee Reports:

### *Communications & Announcements:*

- The Planning Board re-wrote their negative recommendation report letter to the Town Board regarding the Nadler/Francisco PUD. The Town Board accepted the letter and were satisfied with the work that was done in the report. The applicant is within the 10-day period to file an appeal with the Town Board for their PUD.
- The local Farm to Table Tour committee asked the Town if they would like to be a sponsor of the event. The Board agreed to donate \$200 to the event.

### *Assessor:*

- Getting ready for Grievance Day next Tuesday.

### *Engineering:*

- Contract for Barton & Loguidice for continued review of the Dollar General Fresh project on Route 5s.

### *Attorney:*

- Attorney Mike Crowe gave a brief synopsis of the Nadler/Francisco PUD process and next steps. If the Town Board accepts the report from the Planning Board as satisfactory then the applicant can move forward with their appeal and the Town Board can, if an appeal is filed, move forward with the next steps.
- Attorney Crowe handed out a draft of possible updates to the sign ordinance. Asked for the Board to review and make and changes/edits and let him know before the next meeting.
- The solar and wind amendments can be referred to the Planning Board for their review and comments/edits, if any. Public Hearing can be scheduled at the June meeting.

### *Planning and Zoning:*

- Gerry Podolec could not attend but left his report for the Board to review.

### *Building Maintenance:*

- Two heaters in the Highway Garage are now out of service. The decision is to stay with oil. The cost will be less if the units are replaced, and a conversion is not done. Supervisor Mead will speak to Steve Anderson and requests for prices can be sent out to businesses to get prices and see who is interested in the work.
- The construction company replacing the bridge on Cemetery Road will be using the old Planning Board meeting space in the basement. They will make a donation to the Veteran's Park for a bench or monument.

### *Highway:*

- The new tractor that was ordered last year will be coming in within the next week or so. Another Town wants to buy the old tractor. Attorney Crowe stated that the sale can be done by Resolution if they are paying fair market value or more for it. The last one sold for approximately \$49,000; the new one costs approximately \$120,000.

### *Water and Sewer:*

- Underwater Solutions sent a quote to Supervisor Mead for the tank repairs that are needed in addition to the painting. It came in at approximately \$749,000. Eric will email the proposal to the Board for them to see.

*Youth:*

- Family movie and pizza night on May 26 starting at 6:30pm.
- Mohawks Baseball game night July 10.
- Planning a trip to NYC to the Natural History Museum.

*Veterans:*

- Father's Day Breakfast planned for June 18, 2023 8-12. Tickets and posters are printed.
- Planted new bushes around the cannon and replaced the dead burning bushes around the park.
- Memorial Day Service, May 28, 2023 at 2pm.
- Working on organizing the storage area in the basement. Still need to get the rest of the items from the upstairs area above the "Old" Town Hall.

*Old Business:*

- Councilman Rackowski asked if anything was going to be done with the kitchen at the "Old" Town Hall. Supervisor Mead said it was brought up, but nothing was committed to. A meeting at the kitchen will be held May 22, 2023 at 4pm, to talk about what could or should be done.
- Councilman Gogis asked about putting up a fence along the roadway adjacent to the Mohawk River at the Fort Hunter Park. Residents have called to express concerns over the safety of the children using the park and being able to access the river. Supervisor Mead explained that the park was put in by NYS and that he would need to reach out to them to find out if a fence could be put up. Would not need to be fancy; just 4' high chain link.

*New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #66** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski authorizing the Highway Superintendent to spend CHIPS money in the amount of three hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred fifty-two dollars and forty-eight cents (\$399,952.48) for primary work and general repairs upon 39.49 miles of Town Highways; including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof; all present in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #67;** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski, to send the Zoning Ordinance amendments for Section 45.4: Wind Turbine Facilities Law and Section 45.5: Solar Energy Systems and Equipment, to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their review and input; all present in favor and passed.

*Public Comment:* Opened at 7:38pm

Ken Moritz, 270 Belldons Road asked for clarification of the referral of the zoning amendments to the Planning Board. He also asked if the PUD would be reviewed to make it more cohesive with the Comprehensive Plan and the current Zoning Ordinance.

Betina Courtens, 127 Langley Road, spoke about the draft sign ordinance and to give consideration to residential vs agricultural zones when writing the amendments.

Harold Rothbell, 2163 State Highway 5s, expressed his concern about the Fort Hunter playground and lack of a fence and the importance of the Town Board to seriously consider putting a fence up before a tragedy occurs.

*Public Comment:* Closed at 7:43pm

**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 to accept the Supervisor's Report; all present 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 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Emily Staley - Town Clerk