

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

July 17, 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 Steve Rackowski led the salute to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri 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 May 15, 2023 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- The Montgomery County SPCA is seeking donations to complete the new shelter. Jan Zumbolo, Director has stated that they need cages, tables and various other shelter supplies. The Town Board met with her at the new shelter for a tour and it is a beautiful facility. Eric will pass the email on that Jan sent him for the Board to review and it will be put on the August Agenda.

Assessor:

- Final Roll is out.

Engineering:

- Federal funds are available for water/sewer infrastructure. Supervisor Mead is hopeful that money will be awarded for the extension of sewer services to Fort Hunter. Barton and Loguidice is also looking to see if there will be any grant funding available to assist with paying to have the water tower painted. Underwater Solutions gave a quote of approximately \$750,000. Their representative stated that he would be very happy to attend a Board meeting and give a presentation.

Attorney:

- Attorney Mike Crowe told the Board that the Planning Board returned comments on the proposed Local Laws for updating the Zoning Ordinance. The only changes they requested were to have discretion for application requirements for small scale personal wind turbines that would service only one home. The regulations apply to large scale and small-scale turbines and the large-scale turbine requirements could prove cumbersome for a homeowner who just wants to place a small turbine on their property. The Planning Board wanted clarification added to the decommissioning timeline for large-scale solar projects. They requested a more definitive timeline for when the panels are placed and when they will be taken out after their usefulness has ended. Attorney Crowe said if the Board has no other questions or comments regarding the Local Laws then a Public Hearing can be set at the next Board meeting for September. There has been no feedback regarding the proposed updates to the sign regulations. Attorney Crowe asked that all comments be given to him ahead of the August 21 meeting.

Planning and Zoning:

- Nothing at this time.

Building Maintenance:

- Steve Anderson asked for an update for the heaters. Eric spoke with Nick from CT Male. If they do the bid specs it will take quite a while. Steve could just reach out to multiple HVAC contractors and ask for prices. Staying with oil burning would be easier than doing a conversion to propane.
- Ballfield lights need to be replaced and should go to LED. 4 lights are not working at all. Need new ballasts and bulbs. The Board agreed to have the lights replaced.

- Bruce Villa is done as the maintenance person for buildings. Jerry Podolec will take the job. The Board said he can fill in until the end of the year and then be appointed in January if he chooses to stay on.
- Supervisor Mead received a quote for fencing along the river side of the park in Fort Hunter. It would cost approximately \$10,000 for black rubber coated fence 300' long. Board agreed it should be done.

Highway:

- Second mowing pass is taking place now.
- Sand barn is almost full.
- Tractor is in and waiting for accessories to be installed.
- No follow-up from the Town interested in purchasing the old mower. Town Board agreed to sent it to the auction.

Water and Sewer:

- Pump houses are cleaned out.

Youth:

- Family movie night on May 26th had 30 people attending.
- July 10 was the Mohawk's Game, and it was rained out - 40 youth attended.
- July 11 Montgomery County Youth Day. The Youth Commission did not have a group, but Hillary attended to see what they had for future reference.
- August 9 is the Library's Summer Program last day. The Youth Commission will provide a bounce house like last year.
- August 19 is the NYC bus trip. The bus is full. Next year they would like to consider getting two buses.
- October 28 is the tentative date for Trunk or Treat in the village of Minaville.
- December 9 is the tentative date for Christmas with Santa.

Veterans:

- 125+ motorcycles with riders coming to tour the Veteran's Memorial Park on July 29. They are coming from Altamont around 12 noon. The Adirondack Eagles ball team will have the concession stand open for food purchases.

Old Business:

- Councilman Rackowski asked if there has been any interest from contractors to re-model the "Old" Town Hall kitchen? No contractors have responded to phone calls yet.
- Supervisor Mead informed the Board that the land by Target is ready for closing. This land was supposed to be sold to the Town for the Fire Department to build a new firehouse near the industrial park.
- Councilman Alkonis expressed his concern regarding the changes to the Zoning Ordinance in regard to the sign ordinance. He is worried that since there is a neighbor dispute that includes signs, he does not want this to be viewed as "singling out" a resident or section of the Town, and does not want other residents who have minor issues to think that they can request the Zoning Ordinance to be amended to suit their issues/problems with other residents.

New Business:

1. *Nothing at this time.*

Public Comment: Opened at 7:37pm

Betina Courtens, 127 Langley Road, disagreed with Councilman Alkonis' observations regarding the updates to the sign regulations. She explained her situation again and how her neighbor is using posted signs to harass. She would like regulations for the residential zone to supersede the regulations for an agricultural zone if they are next to each other.

Kristen Jaracz, 221 Fuller Road, spoke out against the PUD. Hopes the Town Board will follow their Planning Board's negative report and listen to the town residents who don't want this development.

Public Comment: Closed at 7:46pm

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

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to accept the Supervisor's Report; all present in favor and passed.

Supervisor Mead explained why a couple lines were in the negative. Money will need to be transferred over from contingency to cover and others are line items that were in the actual 2023 Budget but did not transfer to the report. \$50,000 in grant money needs to be accepted for the payment to Barton and Loguidice for the Sewer Study in Fort Hunter.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk