

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2024

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

Councilman Mark Quiri led the salute to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to accept the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to approve and accept the minutes from the December 18, 2023 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to approve and accept the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Rich List resigned his post a Chairman for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Jerry Podolec also resigned as Zoning Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Eric Mead spoke with other surrounding Town's regarding the pay for their ZEO and our pay is very low. Supervisor Mead suggested the Board consider increasing the compensation paid for this position to \$12,000 or possibly slightly more. Our current Building Inspector is not interested in taking on this position and adding to his duties. One of the current ZBA members can be moved up to Chairman and the alternates can move up to members. Supervisor Mead said he thought Frank Staley could be chairman.

Assessor:

- Montgomery County sent out 2nd notice postcards regarding the Senior Tax Exemption. County changed the income amounts for qualifying homeowners. It is now a sliding scale for income. Lisa will need help when application start coming in. Beech Nut is coming off of its PILOT on February 2nd. Sales tax to the Town will rise.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Attorney Michael Crowe was present. He explained the Town Board's role in the recent large scale solar project application that was sent in. The Board has to review it and determine if it meets the qualifications to go on to the Planning Board. He suggested sending it over to Steve LeFevre before the next meeting for his review and input.
- Site plan for the new Fire House may need a variance from the Local Board of Health (Town Board) for their holding tank in place of a septic and leech field. Planning Board will continue to review the site plan and it could be approved contingent on meeting all other points. Attorney Crowe will research how the Local Board of Health works in this capacity.
- Closed on the land on Route 5s in November. Waiting for the deed to come.

Planning and Zoning:

- The zone change request will be sent to the Montgomery County Planning Board for their review.

Building Maintenance:

- Furnaces are running good in the garage.
- The Town Hall cooler stopped working and Steve called to have someone come fix it. Joe's Refrigeration gave a quote for a new cooler. This could be done when the kitchen is remodeled. Supervisor Mead said he could write up the RFP and release it. Would need to block off 6 – 8 weeks of the Hall Rental Calendar for remodel time.

Highway:

- Needed to replace the bearings and chain on one of the trucks.
- Quote to replace the 2920. Waiting for the quote to sell at auction. New one would have a 5' brush hog on it.
- Still no moving forward with Hodorowski and the dedication of the roads in Mohawk Hills Development. Received the Letter of Credit and it was not correct. Town Clerk Emily Staley sent an email notice to both Paul Hodorowski and the bank with no response. The Town will not be plowing or maintaining the roads until this is resolved. A letter can be sent via certified mail with the same wording as the email.
- Steve Anderson asked about getting the garage yard paved. Need to get a quote for materials. He also mentioned that the parking lots need to be re-stripped. Call Rick Vertucci and one other business and get a quote.

Water and Sewer:

- Nothing at this time.

Youth:

- Nothing at this time.

Veterans:

- Rich Romeo, an original member of the Veteran's Committee passed away. A service of remembrance will take place in the Spring at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

Old Business:

- Nothing at this time.

New Business:

Motion by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to Amend the Agenda to change the February Town Board Meeting date from Monday, February 19, 2024 to Wednesday, February 21 at 7pm; all in favor and passed. The majority of the Town Board will be in NYS for the Association of Towns training conference.

Motion by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to accept the Agenda as Amended; all in favor and passed.

1. **RESOLUTION #40** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to change the Town Board meeting from Monday, February 19, 2024 to Wednesday, February 21, 2024; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #41** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead to set the Public Hearing for the Zone Change Request for 2050 State Highway 5s for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:45pm; all in favor and passed.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:33pm

No one present from the public spoke.

Public Comment: Closed at 7:34pm

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

Councilman Alikonis asked about the investing of monies. Supervisor Mead explained that idle funds are invested and currently in the Capital Reserve Fund there is \$62,168 invested in a CD and \$444,000 from Highway invested in a CD as well. Another \$500,000 could be invested. Supervisor Mead will meet with Councilman Alikonis and Councilman Gogis at NBT Bank and review what monies are available and where the funds could be placed.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Supervisor Mead; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk