

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2024

7:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board; was called to order at 7:00 pm by Deputy Supervisor Harold Alikonis. Also present for the meeting were Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Mark Quiri, Councilman Steve Rackowski, Attorney Mike Crowe and Town Clerk Emily Staley. Supervisor Eric Mead was absent.

Councilman Mark Quiri 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 Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to approve and accept the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Montgomery County Planning Board approves of the zone change request for property on Route 5s.
- NYS DOT sent a letter informing the Town Board and County DPW that they will initiate a speed study on Pattersonville Road.
- Clerk Emily Staley had handouts for the Town Board regarding an app to be able to text alerts and event updates to Town residents. This app can also be used by residents to find out other information regarding, minutes, dog control, dump hours etc.

Assessor:

- Working to process all of the exemption paperwork that has come in for the Senior Exemption. Also waiting for NYS to clarify the solar module. Starting data collection for building permits that were issued last year.

Engineering:

- The Building Inspector has requested engineering support the new Dollar General Fresh distribution center construction. The Board agrees to request a proposal for services from Barton & Loguidice.

Attorney:

- SEQRA needs to be done prior to the approval of Resolution #45.
- He recommended tabling Resolution #47 until an engineer could review the application for completion before it is referred to the Planning Board for the next steps.

Planning and Zoning:

- Steve Viele, Planning Board Chairman announced the Public Hearing for the final DEIS will be at the March meeting.
- Carter Powell from Solar Liberty was present to speak to the Town Board regarding a solar project proposed for land on Route 5s. This project will encompass 5.02 acres and will be 2mw A/C and 2.4mw D/C. There are non-jurisdictional wetlands and there will be under an acre of actual disturbance of land, so no SWPP is required. The power will be sold to the grid. Discussion by the Town Board to make the recommendation to the Planning Board at the March 18th meeting so the Board has time to review the packets and send to the Attorney for review.
- Need to schedule interviews for a new Zoning Enforcement Officer. Emily will forward the names and contact details to the board; Matt has a tentative job description.
- The zone change request for Joe Stone will be finalized at the March meeting. SEQRA will be done at that time as well.

Building Maintenance:

- Steve Anderson asked the Board if he could purchase a small shed for outside the Old Town Hall so people can place their garbage in it instead of leaving it in the kitchen on the floor. The cost is approximately \$400.
- The Town Clerk will get prices to have the shredding truck come and shred all of the files that can be done from her office, the Assessor and Bookkeeper.

- Waiting for the two quotes to come back for seal coating the office building parking lot and the Old Town Hall parking lot. The County will stripe the lots when the coating is done.

Highway:

- Price for black top at the Highway Garage is approximately \$50/ton.

Water and Sewer:

- The new flow meter is in.

Youth:

- This year's ski group package at Maple Ski Ridge had 6 youth participate for 6 weeks for a one-hour lesson and an open lift ticket.
- Movie night will be April 12.
- Halloween will be October 26.
- Christmas will be done on December 7.
- There will be no Easter Egg hunt held by the Youth Commission.
- The Youth Commission is planning to participate in the Veteran's Park services for Memorial Day, 9/11 and Veteran's Day. As well as bowling, roller skating, Mohawk's baseball game and hoping to do two bus trips this year.
- The Youth Commission is also hoping for better communication between them and the youth baseball program. People asked questions about sign-ups and try-outs and no one on the Youth Commission was able to answer those questions because no one knew there was going to be a Town of Florida team this year. It would be very much appreciated if in the future someone, either the coaches or the Town Board could reach out to let the Youth Commission know what is planned.
- The Town Clerk, Emily, spoke to the Town Board about getting the tennis courts resurfaced with a heavy duty "mat" for outdoor courts. These mats are a less expensive option than a total resurfacing that was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Since pickleball has become a huge sport over the last several years two pickleball courts can fit on one tennis court and the other tennis court could stay. She will have a quote for the next meeting to do the entire court area. Hillary mentioned parking could be an issue if the park gets busy.

Veterans:

- Meetings will start back up on the 3rd Thursday. New members are needed.
- June 16th will be Father's Day breakfast.
- The committee will be working to improve their presence on social media.
- Will be working to finish moving into the basement.

Old Business:

- Open bids for the Kubota tractor. Mike Jennings - \$5,560 and Justin Auspelmyer - \$5,000.
MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to accept the bid from Michael Jennings for the 2007 Kubota Tractor in the amount of \$5,560. All present in favor and passed.

New Business:

1. **RESOLUTION #45** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski that SEQRA for the Zone Change of property located at 2050 State Highway 5s will have no significant adverse environmental impact and Local Law #1 of 2024: A Local Law to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Florida to change 2050 State Highway 5s, from C-1 to C-2 is passed; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #46** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Harold Alikonis to authorize the Town of Florida Supervisor to sign the proposal from Barton & Loguidice for the Fort Hunter Hamlet Water System Map, Plan and Report and WIIA Application; all in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #47** a Resolution to forward the application from Solar Liberty for a 2 mw solar array on Route 5s to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their review of this project was tabled until an outside engineer can review the application and give feedback as to the completion and compliance with the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:40pm

Vanessa Curry, 6244 State Highway 30 stated that putting pickleball courts at Ron Mead Park is a great idea. It would be nice to have more people using the park and it is good that the Board is taking notice of the improvements that could be done.

Joe Stone, 432 Thayer Road, would be a good thing if the park was cleaned up and the courts fixed up for use.

Kit Marcellino, wants to grow cannabis. What would this fall under in the Town? Would he need a special use permit or would it be an allowed use. Attorney Mike Crowe will look to see what the requirements would be through NYS and what the Town would allow per its zoning. Kit stated that it would be growing and processing. Councilman Matthew Gogis thought that the growing would fall under agriculture but the processing might have to be done in a different zone. Kit should come back in April.

Public Comment: Closed at 7:49pm

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 Mark Quiri; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk