

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

April 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 Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Steve Rackowski, Attorney Mike Crowe and Town Clerk Emily Staley. Councilman Mark Quiri was absent.

Councilman Harold Alikonis 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 Harold Alikonis to approve and accept the minutes from the March 18, 2024 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Clerk, Emily Staley gave a brief presentation regarding the texting apps for the Town. The Board agreed that it could be a useful tool and authorized Emily to sign a contract with Text My Gov.

Assessor:

- Tentative Roll is coming out May 1, 2024. She will have office hours in May for residents who have questions about their assessments and want to grieve their assessments.

Engineering:

- The SEQRA for the Fort Hunter Water District expansion will not be done until next month. The Town Board has to declare Lead Agency and notices need to be sent out to involved and interested agencies. The authorization for Barton and Loguidice to work with the Bond Council needs to be approved and signed by the Supervisor. SEQRA will be done next month after notices are mailed. Need to move forward quickly with this. Barton & Loguidice have a good relationship with the Orrick Bond Council. There is no grant funding being given to the Town for this project, Barton & Loguidice are going to try to get WIIA funding. The cost of the water district expansion, upgrades to the water tank to bring it into compliance with EPA and DOH will be approximately 8 million. Will not be doing any work up Queen Anne Road at this time.
- Discussion regarding assigning a Town Designated Engineer for future projects. Currently, if the Planning Board or Building Inspector needs engineer support, they must request it through the Town Board and that process can take time and delay projects.

Attorney:

- Mike read through the contract to hire Barton & Loguidice to assist on the solar project proposed on Route 5s.

Planning and Zoning:

- Kit Marcellino was at the meeting to get an update on allowing marijuana growing, and possibly a processing facility in the Town. Councilman Matthew Gogis said that he did some research and the Office of Cannabis Management and Ag and Markets considers growing marijuana an agricultural crop, so growing it would not be an issue. If a processing plant was needed, he would have to apply for a special use permit depending on the zone he wanted to put it in.

Building Maintenance:

- Steve Anderson received quotes for sealing the parking lots from Crane Sealcoating and Gabriel. The Board agreed to hire Gabriel Contractors.
- John Malloy will be bringing the scrap metal dumpster for May. He wants to leave it for the whole month but will not be able to be there to attend to it. Don does not want to be responsible for making sure people put their metal in the dumpster. Supervisor Eric Mead does not think that it needs to be there for the whole month. Just the first two weeks like usual. Steve Anderson will put the sign out.
- Steve got a quote for blacktop for the Highway Garage lot. Approximately \$58/ton for modified binder. 700 ton are needed. Supervisor Mead said the county DPW could come over and do it in a day. It can be done later in the summer.

- Councilman Matthew Gogis asked if the gutter was going to be fixed. Steve said that is on the list to be done. It can be done now that the weather is nice.

Highway:

- Highway employees are working on cleaning up the shoulders of the roads and sweeping sand.

Water and Sewer:

- Steve Anderson handed a quote for the design of the cathodic protection. Supervisor Mead said he would check with Barton & Loguidice to see if this item is included in the scope of the work for the water tank and water district expansion or if it can be added to the scope. Koester will rebuild the check valves, control valve, epoxy the floor in the pump station. Funds are in place to do this work and it needs to be done. Councilman Harold Alikonis asked if there were any other quotes to compare this price to. Supervisor Mead said this kind of work is specialized and Koester is used by municipalities across the country, but he will check around and see if any other companies do this same work and what their prices might be.

Youth:

- The Youth Commission will have a meeting on May 5th at 6pm.
- Movie night was April 12 and 20 youth attended with 13 adults.
- The Easter Egg hunt was done by the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk and there were 48 children who participated.
- Planning on a bus trip for July 20. No set place yet.
- Scheduled to attend the Mohawks Game in June, either on a Tuesday or Thursday.
- Looking into grants that may be available for infrastructure upgrades to parks.
- Frank Staley has inquired about seeing the mats for the proposed pickleball/tennis courts in person. There is a place in Fultonville that has one indoors that may be able to be seen. A second quote from a different supplier has been requested.
- Supervisor Mead applied for a grant from the Montgomery County Youth Bureau for the ballfield to build dugouts and was awarded \$10,000.
- Hillary asked to be included in talks for future youth events such as baseball. She also asked for a copy of the schedule. Supervisor Mead explained that Keith Waters oversees the ball field and that he will reach out to him to get a schedule.

Veterans:

- Memorial Day Service is scheduled for Sunday, May 26 at 2pm
- Father's Day Breakfast will once again be on Father's Day; June 16
- Working on getting the park cleaned up for spring.
- The bench for Bette & Cring is ordered. Waiting for a slab of marble big enough to carve the bench. There was a delay with quarry and the piece of granite.

Old Business:

None at this time.

New Business:

1. **RESOLUTION #48** a Resolution sponsored by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to declare the intent of the Town of Florida Town Board to act as Lead Agency for purposes of conducting a SEQRA/SERP assessment of the Fort Hunter Water District Extension project; all in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #49** a Resolution sponsored by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to set a Public Hearing regarding the Fort Hunter Water District expansion project for Monday, May 20th 2024 at 6:30pm at 214 Fort Hunter Road; all in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #50** a Resolution sponsored Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to appoint Carmen Sinicropi, 105 Barbara Lane, Amsterdam, as temporary, hourly compensated Building Inspector until his training under Timothy Miller is complete. He will then move to permanent salaried Building Inspector; all in favor and passed.
4. **RESOLUTION #51** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to appoint Cliff Oathout, 243 Lost Valley Road, Amsterdam, as Zoning Enforcement Officer for the remainder of the year 2024; all in favor and passed.
5. **RESOLUTION #52** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to increase Zoning Personal Service line A80101.1 by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); all in favor and passed.

6. **RESOLUTION #53** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead to Amend the 2024 Operating Budget Statement to move ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from A 19904.1, Contingency Account, to A80101.1, Zoning Personal Services Account; all in favor and passed.
7. **RESOLUTION #54** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis authorizing the Town of Florida Supervisor to sign the contract with Barton and Loguidice for engineering services related to the proposed solar project on Route 5s in the Town of Florida, by SEP Amsterdam, LLC; all in favor and passed.
8. **RESOLUTION #55** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis authorizing the Town of Florida Supervisor to sign the contract with Barton and Loguidice to hire them as TDE (Town Designated Engineer) for the Town of Florida for all future engineering needs as they arise for the remainder of 2024; all in favor and passed.
9. **RESOLUTION #56** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski authorizing the Deputy Supervisor, Harold Alikonis, to sign the Agreement for the Control of Grass and Brush on County Highways beginning June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025; all in favor and passed.
10. **RESOLUTION #57** a Resolution sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis authorizing the Town of Florida Supervisor to sign the contract with Orrik for Bond Counsel Work for the proposed issuance of notes and/or bonds by the issuer; all in favor and passed.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:53pm

John McGlone, 106 Brown Place, Fort Hunter – asked the Town Board to consider putting up no smoking signs and no overnight parking signs at Fort Hunter Park. There have been multiple instances of people smoking marijuana at the park and parking overnight in the lot. He has cameras on his property and they point toward the park. He has shared footage with the Montgomery County Sheriff multiple times regarding issues with people at the park. The Sheriff's Department cannot enforce no overnight parking and no smoking if there are no signs stating it is not allowed.

Krystal Button, 156 Hutchison Road, Amsterdam – asked if all youth in the Town would be allowed to play baseball on the new town team and how would they try out? Supervisor Mead said he would find out.

Public Comment: Closed at 8:01pm

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

MOTION by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Matthe Gogis to 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 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Staley - Town Clerk