

Regular Monthly Town of Pierrepont Board Meeting, February 28, 2023
County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 864 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617

Present:

Jane Powers, Supervisor
Julian "Olla" Filiatrault, Town Clerk
Shawn Spellacy, Highway Superintendent

Councilpersons: Roger Murray

John Glasgow
Chad VanBrocklin
Daniel Huntley

Meeting attendees/Public: Rick Perkins, SLC Legislator; Mercy Spellacy; Bob Moulton; Fred Green; Buddy Rouleau

Regular Meeting: 7:00PM Called to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes Approved:

- Minutes of Last Board Meeting January 31, 2023. **Motion** to approve by Dan Huntley, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.

Courtesy of The Floor:

Buddy Rouleau's lighting issue update. Mr. Rouleau requested the town board take care of an issue regarding a district street lighting issue and the addition of street lights. The board will address the issue with the proper authorities.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Supervisor, Jane Powers:

- **Motion** to approve Supervisor's report made by John Glasgow, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.
- A mileage log for the town Highway department was submitted.
- An agreement letter from NYS Department of Transportation. NYS DOT can normally only offer assistance after an emergency declaration.

Shawn Spellacy, Highway Superintendent stated he believed we should approve the agreement for some shared services. To this point, we have never used their services. Supervisor Powers said it will be acted on next month.

Town Clerk, Olla Filiatrault:

- Written report submitted. Available for review.
- The amount remitted to the Supervisor was \$224.00, to NYS Agriculture and Markets: \$14.00, and to NYS Comptroller's Office: \$15.
- Tax Collection Report. Total taxes collected in January 2023: \$2,331,027.70.
- **Motion** to approve report for the month of January 2023 made by Roger Murray, second by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.

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Assessor, Amy Hunt:

- Amy Hunt submitted a written report of recent Assessor's activities. The report is available upon request.
- Postcards were sent out statewide regarding Enhanced STAR exemptions and there has been much activity with that issue.
- **Motion** to approve Assessor's report made by John Glasgow, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None Opposed. Motion carried.

County Legislators Report

Rick Perkins reported:

At the February 6th Full Board Meeting

We had 44 resolutions.

We had 15 modifications to the budget.

We had 16 Agreements/ Contracts to be signed.

We had a resolution authorizing the filling of 14 vacancies positions.

We had a resolution authorizing the Department of Highways to install a temporary bridge on the Lafavre Rd over Elm Creek for the Snowmobile assoc.

We had a resolution forgiving interest, penalties and fees on the Property of Frederick and Melinda Goss in Ogdensburg.

We had a resolution establishing the budget for the NY SCION initiative.

We had a resolution urging legislative leader to focus their property tax relief efforts on fiscal reforms that will lead to permanent property tax reduction by assuming the cost of State programs currently paid by counties.

We had a resolution calling upon the NYS Public Service Commission to grant the application for Re-Energy for designation of a Biomass facility at Fort Drum Military installation as a renewable energy source.

We had a resolution requesting home rule to extend the Sales Tax Rate as previously authorized from 3%-4%

We had a resolution Proclaiming February as Black History month in St Lawrence County

We had resolutions reappointing Ruth Doyle as County Administrator and Nancy Lafaver as County Historian

We had a resolution supporting the reenactment of the battle of Ogdensburg.

We had discussions on the Governors proposed NYS Budget which passes more costs onto the Counties', just one example is the EFMAP, the federal Medicaid pass through funds meant for the Counties, the state is keeping which is over \$3 million which alone is a 6% tax levy increase for St Lawrence County residents.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter from Agriculture and Markets. **Dog Control Inspection Report** shows no problems and Dog Control Officer's services were rated "Satisfactory".
- A letter from Town of DeKalb. The letter stated opposition to the ending of the federal passthrough of the federal Medicaid funding that the state is keeping from the Counties in the state budget. This state budget will hurt every county, financially. The town board discussed that they will draft a letter in opposition also and forward it to the County and State representatives.

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Jane Powers read from the recent County board meeting: Opposing the imposition of additional unfunded mandates in the New York State FY 2024 Budget and calling on the Governor of New York State to remove part M of the article VII revenue Bills from the 2024 Executive Budget.

- OSHA Training invitation letter received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Land purchase. Roger Murray, Councilperson updated: The surveyors have been working on the property descriptions. As soon as those surveys are finished, then we can proceed with the purchase offers for both properties involved.
- Fireman Exemption. Jane Powers, Supervisor stated: The old exemption was not being used by many people on their taxes, because the deduction was not as great as their standard deduction. It would be better to rescind the old and use what will be happening at the county level.

Rick Perkins, Legislator added that now that's going to change because now there's no limit related to assessed value as there had been before. Also, we are looking for a better definition of an active member as we proceed. They must reside within the County, for the County exemption. Town of Pierrepont residents can also apply for the Town exemption. It may end up being all on one form. More research needs to be done on just exactly how it will work.

- Pierrepont Volunteer Fire Department's Report on activity was provided and is available upon request.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

- Jane Powers reported on Highway garage project and Town Hall. Another work session needs to be held to work on the project.
- Jane Powers reported on Town Hall project. Roger Murray updated that a company will do the environmental testing before any work can be done on the building. A detailed time schedule was also provided for the town hall front of the building project.
- **Motion** to approve Town hall environmental testing and payment made by Chad VanBrocklin, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None Opposed. Motion carried.
- Planning Board appointments and pay benefit discussed as follows:
- **Motion** to appoint Peter Wyckoff as a Zoning Board Appeals Chairperson, Robert Dowman as a Vice Chair, and Jamie VanBrocklin as a Secretary of ZBA made by Roger Murray, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All voted to approve. None Opposed. Motion carried.
- **Motion** to approve salaries for Planning Board members: \$75.00 for the Chairperson, \$60.00 for the Secretary and \$50.00 for the members made Chad VanBrocklin, second by John Glasgow. Discussion was held as to whether or not the motion is required. Roger Murray abstained. All others approved. Motion carried.

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GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS:

- General Fund; Abstract #2, Vouchers #58-90, **Total of \$39,960.03. Motion** to approve made by Chad VanBrocklin, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All approved. None opposed.

HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS:

- Highway Fund; Abstract #2, Vouchers #29-59, **Total of \$39,794.21. Motion** to approve made by John Glasgow, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All approved. None opposed.

Courtesy of The Floor:

No comment from the public.

Dan Huntley mentioned a follow up on a question brought up last month regarding Colton and an Inter-Municipal Cooperation agreement. Jane Powers stated she has not called them about that yet. It will stay on the agenda for next month.

Other:

Work session to discuss the Highway garage project will be held on March 9, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Town Hall. Everybody is invited.

Motion made by Dan Huntley, seconded by Roger Murray, to go to into the Executive Session for the purpose of the discussion of Highway Garage Project. No discussion. All voted in favor. None opposed.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting to move to executive session at 8:07PM.

Invited to executive session: Highway Superintendent, Shawn Spellacy.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:58PM. The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:58PM.

Motion made by Roger Murray, seconded by John Glasgow, all voted in favor to go back into the regular meeting. No action taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:58 PM. Motion made by Dan Huntley, second by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed.

Meeting minutes prepared by Town Clerk, Julian "Olla" Filiatrault.

Respectfully Submitted, Julian Filiatrault, Town Clerk

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