

Regular Monthly Town of Pierrepont Board Meeting, July 25, 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
Laurie Hance, Assist. to Supervisor

Councilpersons: Roger Murray

John Glasgow
Chad VanBrocklin
Daniel Huntley

Meeting attendees/Public: Darren Richards – Code Enforcement; Pierre Pomainville - Planning Board; Rick Perkins - Legislator; Mercy Spellacy; Fred Green; Buddy Rouleau; Brian & Amanda Deckert

Regular Meeting: 7:00PM Called to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes Approved:

- Minutes of Last Board Meeting June 28, 2023. **Motion** to approve by Dan Huntley, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Supervisor, Jane Powers:

- Supervisor Jane B. Powers stated everything looks good for June 2023 Report.
- Jane Powers stated she did have a small question on Attorney fees. But, they are due to unavoidable Article 7 matters.
- Laurie Hance stated that the accounts are all balanced except for the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the extra meetings they had to have, but that is an easy transfer that will be taken care of.
- **Motion** to approve Supervisor’s report made by Roger Murray, second by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.
- Jane Powers stated also that everyone should have in their handouts that we apparently have the taxable totals now for the 2023 tax roll. Just to let you know that these are the figures I’ll be working with when we start budget preparations on tax rates, assuming they don’t change.
- We have the mileage report for a few months.

Town Clerk, Olla Filiatrault:

- Written report submitted. Available for review.
- The amount remitted to the Supervisor was \$258.18, to NYS Agriculture and Markets: \$28.00, and to NYS Environmental Conservation: \$375.82.
- Town Clerk, Olla Filiatrault reported: the Free Rabies Clinic event on July 12, 2023, went great with 128 pet owners registered. Apparently, the highest of any of the towns in the county.
- **Motion** to approve report for the month of June 2023 made by Roger Murray, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.

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Code Enforcement, Darren Richards reported:

- 7 Building permit issued in this monthly report with the total \$185.00 collected.
- **Motion** to approve Code Enforcement Officer's report made by Chad VanBrocklin, seconded by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.

Assessor, Amy Hunt:

- No report.

Planning Board Report, Pierre Pomainville

- Chairman Pomainville reported that the General Code project has been proceeding and that a meeting was held on July 20, 2023 and we took care of the rest of the required questions. There is one more question that needs to be addressed to the Town Attorney. The question can be emailed to Attorney Roger Linden.
- Supervisor Jane B. Powers gave permission to Planning Board Chairperson, Pierre Pomainville, to meet with attorney Roger Linden as needed to discuss some questions regarding the General Code.
- Pierre Pomainville stated: Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the Pierrepont Town Hall at 7:00PM regarding Conditional use permit for North Country Maple Sales & Service LLC and Kyle Murray at 239 Tucker Road, Colton.

County Legislators Report: Rick Perkins

Rick Perkins submitted a written report of July 3rd, 2023, County Legislature Board meeting. It is available upon request.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Brush disposal. Supervisor Jane Powers stated: We've had a lot of questions about brush removal and who has keys to the brush disposal area near CR. 59 near Hannawa Falls. Now we have a list of telephone numbers available as to who has keys. Shawn Spellacy stated that we've had Seaway Timber come in and grind and clean up that brush pile for us every 2-3 years, but they are no longer doing that free of charge. They no longer have a place to take the ground brush. It was Fort Drum, and that system was closed. Darren Richards has been talking with them and he has a plan where he's trying to get three towns together to get them to come and grind. I think you could go another year with the space we have. We have to push up the pile quite a bit. We still must remain under that 1-acre limit. Darren Richards stated he has two quotes; one from a Gouverneur outfit(?) at \$900/ hr. and it doesn't include an excavator; one from Curran (Seaway) \$500/hr. and does include an excavator. We will have a town excavator there also. It all depends on whether you want to provide that service to your residents. He provided further reasons why they do it in Colton.
Roger Murray stated that he believed the Town does need to develop a plan for this and it would need to be budgeted for in the future. I don't believe we can act on it tonight. There will be continued discussion.
- An email from NYMIR: Flood Damage Preparedness (FEMA). It was noted there was none noted in the town.

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- Information from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Jane Powers stated the letter indicates the process is completed for the Selleck Road mine application. The zoning and planning boards have met and discussed that, and all is a go on that. It meets all the legal requirements and NYSDEC has approved all of that.
- An email from St. Lawrence Snowmobile Association, Deb Christy: Request for letter for the Consolidated Funding Application for the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant to purchase a new groomer. Jane Powers stated she's not sure where to go with this. John Glasgow stated he could ask about that next week at their next meeting. Rick Perkins said he signed a letter of support for the grant for this groomer. It's a smaller groomer that can get into needed areas. I'm not sure what the time frame is. I expect most of the information is in the email she sent you.
- A letter from County Administrator, Ruth Doyle asking our community to join the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United State of America on July 4th, 2026. Jane Powers stated our Town will be prepared for that.
- An audit report from NYS Teamsters Council Health and Hospital Fund. Everything went well and Supervisor Jane Powers congratulated Laurie Hance for her great job on preparing the records.
- Information letter regarding 2% Tax Cap for 2024 from NYS Association of Towns.
- Additional from Councilperson, email from Dan Huntley regarding Grant Application. Laurie Hance stated: it's already well underway and I will be sending in for a matching grant for \$600,000 by the 28th of this month. For community re-development. It's almost completed now.
- A letter stating congratulations on being a designated a Clean Energy community. Laurie Hance stated she has already spoken to the girl involved with that and will be completing what's necessary to receive the \$5000.
- Laurie Hance stated we also received an ERC grant. Checks totaling \$287,152 last week.

NEW BUSINESS:

- USDA loan updated by Laurie Hance. She stated that she spoke with the USDA representative, and we had a phone meeting. The USDA rep stated he had good news for us. They were somewhat confused as to our funding accounts; it was cleared up. He emailed a summary of our status. Which is good. We are well underway. Email available for review if needed. Dan Huntley stated that we previously had discussed that we would be aggressive on getting the project started, possibly this fall. Interested in future timing. Laurie Hance stated the initial loan money must come from the bank first and that will be the first step.
- Town IT Policy. Supervisor Jane Powers stated that the Board is going to review and possibly adopt it at the next monthly meeting. Roger Murray stated that we should look it over and deal with it next month.
- Whippoorwill Lane. Jane Powers spoke; that topic has come up about finishing the road over there. She had discussed with Shawn Spellacy about the road and agreements that the road would need to be brought up to standard and the blacktopped. And, we have a survey description of the road that would meet town requirements. At the time that it was ready, we would take the road over and it would be blacktopped. Resident Buddy Rouleau spoke: the subdivision was passed in 1992. The road has its own tax parcel. Jane Powers asked; was the subdivision surveyed? Buddy Rouleau stated that when the subdivision was put in at that time it was passed by every agency. For 32 years I paid taxes on the road and when I came here 10 years ago and told the Board that, the Board said, "oh no, that ain't right". I'm the only person that had to pave my own road. Others got it done "scot-free". All these years, I also paid for the

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lighting, until this year. I've been coming here for how many years? "I just want one person to stand up and tell me that I haven't been screwed over in this town for years." Tell me if I'm wrong, somebody stand up and tell me. Shawn Spellacy stated that to get this project done you have to bring it up to the standards that Jane stated. Mr. Rouleau stated he believed he has been treated unfairly by the town as compared to other developers. Mr. Rouleau stated it seems there is no answer. Dan Huntley interjected that there is an answer, "bring it up to spec". Mr. Rouleau stated others have not done that. Further discussion continued as to when and how policies were developed many years ago. The discussion continued and the agreement to pave the road requires the road base to be brought up to spec by Mr. Rouleau and then the town will pave the road. The requirements from 1992 may be different from today's requirements.

- Adopt revised policy against discrimination and harassment by NYMIR. Supervisor Jane Powers stated it must be given to every employee and sign it per NYMIR requirements. We will review it and act on it next month.
- **Additional:** Councilperson, Dan Huntley spoke regarding the state road condition as far as the mowing. I would like us to send a complaint to the State on behalf of the Town of Pierrepont citizens regarding how unsafe this has made the roads and intersections. Jane Powers said we can. Mr. Huntley also suggested Bob Moulton to take a training course on August 23, 2023, for Highway Superintendents through Tug Hill Commission. Shawn Spellacy also stated that there is also training in Ithaca. Shawn Spellacy suggested it is important to attend and join meetings with Highway Superintendents from the county. It was suggested that Bob Moulton will make his training decisions if and when he is elected.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

- Volunteer Firefighter property tax exemption that must be adopted by March 1st, 2024. County Legislator, Rick Perkins stated the county has not done anything with that yet. We are still waiting for guidance from the state on it. If I find anything out, I will get back to you.
- We now have an agreement that can be looked at for the C-P Raquetteers. Prepared by Laurie. **Motion** to approve Colton-Pierrepont Raquetteers Cooperation Agreement for year 2023 made by John Glasgow, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried.
- A Discussion of the Deckert's Notice of Claim. Supervisor Jane Powers stated: It is gone to NYMIR and still in process and no response received from them yet. The Deckerts asked questions regarding what the Town's plan is going forward, not about the notice of claim, but about what the Town is going to do about the ditch. That would be separate from the notice of claim. The problem has been acknowledged, but not the plan to fix it. The Deckerts stated they want to know where the Town stands with it. Shawn Spellacy spoke that this again is part of a problem with the old housing project. The Deckerts reiterated that they want to know what the Town is doing to solve the drainage problem. Are you interested in looking into it? Are you planning on doing the study? Jane Powers responded, no, not at this time. All we can do is to turn it over to our Town Attorney at this time. The Deckert's stated they would like this to stay on the agenda for every future town meeting, because they are not going away on this issue.
- Town Hall Project update by Councilperson Roger Murray.

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Laurie stated the contractor will not be back until September. Roger Murray stated that he will contact Corey Mousaw and tell him it is unacceptable for the deadline for the Town Hall projects to be missed and extended.

GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS:

- General Fund; Abstract #7, Vouchers #219-258, **Total of \$13,367.59.**

Motion to approve made by Dan Huntley, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All approved. None opposed.

HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS:

- Highway Fund; Abstract #7, Vouchers #214-245, **Total of \$48,275.60.**

Motion to approve made by Chad VanBrocklin, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. Approved by majority. Councilperson, Dan Huntley abstained.

Courtesy of The Floor:

Addition from the Deckert's: Question about FEMA money that was mentioned earlier in the meeting. It piqued our interest as if it might possibly apply to our situation. We would be interested in any information you might have about that and if you could share it with us. Dan Huntley stated it did help some people in Vermont. Rick Perkins interjected that there are certain damage amounts (\$) that have to be met to be eligible for those funds.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31PM. 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