

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Supervisor Mark Illig; Councilman Mark Goodwin; Councilman Richard Musso; Councilman Michael Yastremski; Councilman Kathleen Burns; Highway Superintendent Terry Gibson; Bookkeeper Rebecca Kirch; and Town Clerk Erica Giambra. Absent was Attorney Jennifer Prossick.

Bill Weber took a moment to honor and recognize the recent passing of one of Pulteney's great Grand ladies, Betty Snyder, at the age of 92. She was married to Don Snyder and was an extremely sweet woman who will be missed by many. Bill also wanted to mention that Dr. Al Wahlig has been in Strong Memorial Hospital for the last week or so. Clerk Giambra will be sure to send a get-well card from the Town.

At this time, Steuben County Legislator Mike Hanna introduced newly elected Steuben County Sheriff James Allard. Sheriff Allard has 28 years' experience in law enforcement, with 21 years with the City of Corning. He served as Undersheriff in Steuben County since 2013 under recently retired Sheriff David Cole. Sheriff Allard explained he is trying to visit all Town Boards in Steuben County within his first year of office to review what the Sheriff Department does, offers, and what is to come in the future. The Sheriff's Dept. is a professional public service. They offer valuable classes that are free to the public including pistol permit classes, boater safety and driver safety (national safety council fee). The Dept. strives to have a partnership with the community. They also make a collaborative effort with all agencies. He is proud to say he works with a group of dedicated professionals, that despite receiving lower pay than other agencies, the Sheriff's Dept. maintains an excellent retention record. In addition, the Dept. took over animal cruelty cases from the SPCA and now there is a trained animal cruelty investigator. They house an average of 200 inmates per day in the Steuben County jail. Federal inmates they house 50 allowing for approx. 1.6 million in funding to come into the County. They will soon offer an addiction counseling professional to inmates to assist with addiction while in jail and in hopes of maintaining sobriety once released. Sheriff Allard stated his Undersheriff is John McNelis. Mostly based out of Hornell previously, Sheriff Allard is very pleased with what Undersheriff McNelis is bringing to the agency, including a 5 and 10-year strategic business plan for the Dept. Questions/comments from the public involved the on-going drug problem within Steuben County. Sheriff Allard stated they are presenting opioid forums county wide. There were approx. 165 felony drug arrest last year with half of them being opioid/heroin based. The Sheriff's Dept. maintains the drug hotline in which every day they receive calls and tips from. Unfortunately, there is not a permanent solution to stop the drug use but the goal is to push it out of the area. Along with drug tips, they also receive complaints/tips regarding road/driver safety that the Dept. will go anywhere in the County and set up road stops to ensure an increase safer driver areas.

The Board thanked Sheriff Allard and Legislator Hanna for coming and the great information and accomplishments.

Supervisor Illig stated the Board will continue with the regular meeting.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2017 regular and organizational Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

The balance sheets and profit/loss statements for were made available to review. Supervisor Illig asked if there were any questions or concerns in which there were none.

Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to pay General Bills in the amount of \$37,416.80 being vouchers No. 17-21 to No. 17-22 and vouchers No. 17-23 to No. 17-46. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig pointed out the main expensive voucher is to the Pulteney Free Library for \$28,530.00. A few years ago, it was passed that the Town would collect a tax levy from the taxpayers and give to the library. This system is based on an assessment value and calculated tax rate. There is a set amount, however if the library requests an increase to that set rate they need a referendum to be passed on the Nov. ballot which occurred this year.

Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Yastremski to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$16,285.09 being vouchers No. 17-19 to No. 17-20 and vouchers No. 17-21 to No. 17-38. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$188,847.15 being vouchers No. 17-10 to No. 17-12 and vouchers No. 17-13 to No. 17-23. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense in the Water District is the annual 30-year bond payment for \$183,175.00 for 2016. Supervisor Illig explained each taxpayer in the Water District are assessed and taxed an additional amount on top of the quarterly water bill. Clerk Giambra collects the fee along with the Town and County tax. She recently wrote a check to Bookkeeper Kirch to cover this voucher.

Supervisor Illig stated there are no transfers this month.

The Highway, Water Department, Municipal Services, DCO, and Justice reports were all available to review.

Clerk Giambra reported as of today, she has collected \$2,242,027.32 within 1,247 tax bills, 457 tax bills remain to be paid. For February, there is now a 1% penalty due if paid before 2/28/17. Tax collection in March involves a 2% penalty until March 31<sup>st</sup> being the last day of collection. All payments after March 31<sup>st</sup> must be paid to Steuben County.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented the Dep't is very busy with lots of big construction erecting. He is preparing the mailing list for Zone #1 2017 inspections and will send out in March/April.

Water Operator Dluzak was not present, however within his report he states the 2008 Water Department truck sold on the auction site for \$8100.00. Municipal Services Manager Welch commented the auction was a great way to sell the truck and they are pleased with the results. Highway Supt. Gibson asked if there were any objections to using the same auction site/service and process to sell the 1995 Highway truck once the Highway Dep't receives the new truck and is prepared to sell the old. No objections noted.

Highway Superintendent Gibson commented in his report they have been busy plowing and sanding, including hauling in sand before the price increases. They hauled

in stone for the coming years projects, which include stoning and oiling Stone Rd. from CR 74 to Glodes Corners Rd. Bean Station Rd. will also be stone and oiled. They will gravel Chidsey Hill, and Dug Rd. will be graded and have dust oil then next year will be topped. The Dep't has been continuing to work on equipment. The new truck should be ready any day now. Once the truck gets here, Highway Supt. Gibson will call the Board and anyone interested can come to look at. Highway Supt. Gibson also commented he is bidding on a 20 ton on Auctions International being sold by the Town of Thurston. He will report back next month.

In talking with Assessor Dave Oliver, Supervisor Illig reported all is well and 2017 will be a reassessment period. More information to come.

Supervisor Illig commented we did not receive a monthly report from Historian Ray Emery, but he is maintaining his work with the Facebook page he started and everyone should check it out.

The new website is up and running. Supervisor Illig reported we are in hopes of having a professional take pictures this summer to attach more recent photos of the community. The update on Clerk Giambra's computer is completed, she is waiting to hear back from the webmaster to finalize the process and procedure of posting items.

Supervisor Illig stated there is a Planning Board meeting Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Municipal Services Manager Welch is in the process of working on a solar ordinance for the Planning Board, and ultimately the Town Board, to review. Manager Welch stated he has blended the NYS Solar Model Law with various excerpts of what other Towns are using. This solar ordinance will mostly pertain to District 3. So far it appears the biggest issue and obstacle is the decommissioning factor. Stay tuned.

Under old business, Supervisor Illig reported there is a Town Health Officer vacancy. He will make a recommendation at the March meeting, as he needs to confirm with an individual that has volunteered and unfortunately, he has not spoken with recently.

Regarding the Glen View survey, Supervisor Illig reported himself, Clerk Giambra, Cemetery Registrar Donna Conley, and Highway Supt. Gibson met with the surveyor, Rod McConnell. He did an excellent job and went over and beyond the Town's expectations. There are a few possibilities to add more space, including moving the fence by the road closer to the highway. We could potentially gain anywhere from 15-30 more plot spaces. Supervisor Illig stated as he was recently walking thru the cemetery, he noticed there is a shed on the grounds that could really use some sprucing up and could be a spring project. Highway Supt. Gibson stated in all actuality the shed is non-functional and could just be torn down to again create more space. He could use the excavator and then load in the truck so it would not be that complicated. The Board agreed, when it is convenient for the Highway Dept. to go ahead and tear down the shed since it has no functionality.

Continuing with old business, recently Supervisor Illig asked Attorney Prossick to research the process and options for taxation of solar installation. Solar systems in general are subject to regular assessment and taxation, however New York State offers an option to "opt out of" and have solar installation become tax exempt as an incentive. Last meeting, Supervisor Illig suggested the Board review and consider with further discussion tonight. Supervisor Illig asked to poll the Board of their thoughts on the matter. Councilman Goodwin believes there should be an exemption for personal solar

use, however large commercial solar farms should be taxed. Councilman Musso questioned that a solar unit could in fact be commercial and for personal use. The Board would have to decide how to handle those situations and have specific definitions and set limits. Solar installation is becoming more and more complex with the notion of cooperative vs. residential vs. commercial plans. Councilman Yastremski stated personal use should be exempt, businesses should be taxed, however cooperative installations definitely need more thought and discussion. Councilman Burns agreed. Supervisor Illig stated he will have Attorney Prossick do some additional research on the various types of installations. He stated also that the Board is in no great rush and for the Board to consider more with the overall basic concept being to proceed in the direction of exempt residential use and tax commercial use for profit. This will all take time to develop and will be a monthly discussion.

Under new business, the Pulteney Fire District #2 provided the Board with the annual Intermunicipal Agreement for use of fuel storage facilities. The agreement was made available for each Board member to read through and review. Supervisor Illig pointed out a few key highlights. Highway Supt. Gibson also pointed out that the price the Town charges is the state bid price for fuel charge. Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Yastremski to accept the Intermunicipal Agreement for use of fuel storage facilities with the Pulteney Fire District #2. All in favor. Carried. Clerk Giambra will notarize Supervisor Illig's signature and return to the Board of Fire Commissioners for execution.

Continuing with new business, Supervisor Illig commented it is time to begin discussing plans for this year's Memorial Day celebration. Supervisor Illig asked Councilman Burns to chair the event again in which she agreed. He also mentioned that the Lakeside Restaurant expressed interest in bringing their food truck up to the Town Hall after the event at Glen View Cemetery and possibly inviting other businesses, breweries, wineries, etc. for a post Memorial Day celebration. There was question if the Town could get a 1 day liquor license or what that would entail. Councilman Yastremski suggested the celebration be held at the Pulteney Fire Hall/Dept. rather than the Town Hall. This would be a better venue in regards to parking, capacity, and they are used to having larger functions and celebrations. Supervisor Illig asked Councilman Yastremski to join Councilman Burns on the committee to look into possible ideas in which he agreed. Stay tuned.

Supervisor Illig stated when meeting with Assessor Oliver, they reviewed the Town tax rates within Steuben County. Pulteney came in as the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest tax rate in Steuben County at 3.06/1000. This shows amazing stewardship over the years to get that low of a tax rate especially with the asset of the lake.

Supervisor Illig asked if there were any comments or concerns from the public in which there were none. Supervisor Illig stated the Board will enter into an executive session and then once returned to the regular meeting the Board will perform a quarterly audit/review. All present are welcome to stay.

Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to adjourn the regular meeting and enter in an executive session to discuss a real estate issue. All in favor. Carried.

Councilman Yastremski made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to close the executive session and return to the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried.

The Board performed and successfully completed the quarterly audit/review.  
Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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Town Clerk