

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 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; Attorney Jennifer Prossick; Bookkeeper Rebecca Kirch; and Town Clerk Erica Giambra.

Bill Weber took a moment of reflection to speak of the recent passing of several Town residents. Dorothy Manning, who lived on Roff Point, Bill knew quite well. She was a librarian and teacher in Hammondsport and then for Keuka College. Dorothy and husband Don, along with the Minnerly family, made a generous donation to the Pulteney Free Library. Jean, "known to most as Jeanie" Bates, Bill also knew well from when they owned the Bates Onion Farm in Prattsburgh. Once retired, Jeanie and her husband Gordie also lived on Roff Point. In recent years they moved to Bath and ultimately the Taylor Health Center where she passed at 78. Bill did not know Ed Spangler, however was told by Junior Gibson he lived at the corner of Main St. and Boyd Hill Rd. His mother was a member of the well-known Prentiss family. He was a US Navy Veteran and passed at the age of 82. Clerk Giambra spoke of Matt San Angelo. He was Julie Sable's brother however he was everyone's Uncle Matt. He was recently diagnosed in July with stage 4 cancer passing at the age of 71. When he was not living in Florida he lived near the bottom of Gallagher Hill Rd. with his wife Margie. He will always be known for his larger than life personality. All will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2018 regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Yastremski to pay General Bills in the amount of \$7,060.04 being vouchers No. 18-160 to No. 18-176. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig stated vouchers were overall routine and nothing out of the ordinary this month for General.

Councilman Yastremski made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$113,490.36 being vouchers No. 18-163 to No. 18-183. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense for Highway this month was for \$93,110.79 to pave Dug Rd and a section in front of Dr. Frank's. Additional expenses included gravel, vehicle repairs, and a roller rental.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$13,609.18 being vouchers No. 18-87 to No. 18-98. Roll call vote: Councilman Musso, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig reported the main expense in the Water Dept. was the contractual payment to the Village of Penn Yan for water.

There are no transfers this month. Balance sheets and profit & loss reports were available to view.

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

Clerk Giambra mentioned as a reminder, Primary Elections are tomorrow from 12pm-9pm.

Municipal Services Manager Welch stated the Dept. is busy but nothing too out of the ordinary. He has had some mooring issues recently as commented in his report. There will be applications to go in front of the Planning Board. Variance applications appear to have quieted down.

Along with the Water Dept. report, Water Operator Dluzak commented the Dept. is running smooth.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept. has been grading and graveling roads, ditching and mowing roadsides. They took the chipper to Birds Sandblasting to be sandblasted and painted. They will do the same with the equipment trailer next. A traffic count was done on Dug Rd. and Lower Middle Rd. Dug Rd. reported 700 cars traveled per week and Lower Middle Rd. reported 1700 cars per week. They assisted the County in milling and Urbana stone and oil. Highway Supt. Gibson called Larry's Paving and E. Stanley Paving to get quotes regarding the tennis courts. He is waiting to hear back from both of them. He spoke with George & Swede regarding the 2016 roller. It is estimated to currently be worth \$88,000. A new roller would cost \$108,000. Highway Supt. Gibson commented it would be worthwhile to trade in now. He will look into further and report back to the Board.

For the Supervisor report, Supervisor Illig stated he attended the Pulteney Community Event this past Sunday. He commented it was a great event with a good turn-out of 50-75 people. The juggler was entertaining and the Community Garden dedication was very nice. All in all, it was a good day.

As Lauren mentioned earlier, Supervisor Illig reported the Planning Board did not have a meeting in September as there were not any applications to review, however there will be a meeting in October with at least 2 applications to review. The Zoning Board had a meeting August 21<sup>st</sup> with (3) applications heard. There will not be a need for a ZBA meeting in September.

Under old business, Supervisor Illig asked Councilman Musso and Councilman Goodwin if they had discussed further options regarding the keeping/selling of the Ambulance building. Councilman Musso stated he spoke with Tim Marshall who is the Director of the Steuben County Office of Emergency Services. Tim stated the County currently does not have any on-going meetings/committees in regards to consolidation of Fire Depts/Ambulance Corp around the County through shared services. It is a possibility in the future, however Tim suggested ideally, if needed, to merge with adjoining Towns vs. the County consolidating. Attorney Prossick researched the deed to the Ambulance building as there were questions and, in the process, could not find an actual address listed on the deed. She was able to retrieve a tax map number and in fact there was one tax map number that consists of 5.5 acres that not only includes the Ambulance building but also the Town pond, Community Garden, and area by the Highway Dept. on Mill St. The deed itself, deeded in the 1990's, does not match up with 5.5 acres. She needs a detailed picture to determine the exact mapped out area. She will also contact McConnell and Mueller to get an abstract and survey map to research more the history of the property. It is very possible a subdivision will be needed to allow the Town to give the Fire Dept. the building and perimeter but the other acreage would remain in possession of the Town. Atty. Prossick reiterated that a majority Board vote

would be needed for the transfer to occur. Councilman Musso asked Supervisor Illig if he received a detailed quote of the \$600,000.00 20' x 20' garage the Fire Dept committee stated it would cost to build and move the ambulance. Supervisor Illig has not received a quote. He suggested Councilman Musso and Councilman Goodwin discuss details, including an itemized quote, further with the Commissioners. It was agreed upon that no action will be taken until full disclosure of the property and deed are provided and an educated vote can be made. Further discussion at the October meeting.

Continuing with old business, at the July meeting it was approved to close the tennis courts for the season due to safety concerns. Supervisor Illig spoke with a representative from Nagle, a company that works with athletic surfaces, and their recommendation is to hire a local contractor to resurface the courts. Once that is completed they can come in to paint the tennis/pickleball lines. As stated earlier, Highway Supt. Gibson called local contractors and is waiting to hear back regarding quotes. Supervisor Illig recommends the Board consider downsizing to 1 court rather than 2. The 1 court would be a combination tennis/pickleball court. The Board agreed to proceed with that vision. Councilman Yastremski suggested grinding out entirely what is there now and starting from scratch. The County possibly would be able to assist. If possible, we can save the fence? posts? Highway Supt. Gibson believes to replace what is there now would be approx. \$30,000-\$40,000. By downsizing, in theory, it should cost less. Potentially there will now be cause for concern of runoff drainage issues from the library that will need addressed. Once Highway Supt. Gibson receives quotes the Board can discuss further. Hopefully the project is one that can be started in the winter and be completed in the spring.

As discussed at last month's meeting, Ken Forenz reached out to Supervisor Illig via email and suggested the Town and Fire Dept form a committee in regards to hanging hometown hero flags that have pictures of men and women that have served our Country. With the Board agreeing the suggestion is a great idea, Supervisor Illig spoke with Ken and he will further pursue ideas and form a committee. Supervisor Illig stated he offered to represent the Town on the committee. Future updates to come.

Lastly under old business, in reading the minutes from the August meeting, Councilman Burns recommended the Town fit a few grills with posts into the 2019 budget to place at the Community Garden and pavilion. The cost will be approx. \$150 per grill. Supervisor Illig agreed he can work the numbers into the budget to be able to provide the amenity. The Eagle Scouts have been approved to build picnic tables for the garden/pavilion. They will be built and placed in the spring.

The 2019 budget is first on the agenda under new business. Supervisor Illig stated the Board received an email and budget packet prior to tonight's meeting. He wanted to discuss the budget early this year to be able to adjust as needed. Supervisor Illig, Bookkeeper Kirch, and the Dept. heads sat down to comprise a first draft of the budget. He is now interested to receive input from the Board. Supervisor Illig mentioned the first number and the hardest to calculate is the fund balance for each Dept, which once calculated is at best an estimate. The second number to calculate is revenue. The tax cap this year is at 2%. Supervisor Illig commented last year the Board voted to go above the tax cap, this year he is recommending to stay under. With Assessor Oliver performing a revaluation of Town properties, the reassessment of the Town increased by 12 million with an increase in revenue of \$55,643.00. Supervisor Illig called upon the

Board for their comments. Councilman Goodwin questioned a 4% increase for Town officials when the contractual union rate for the Highway employees is a 2% cost of living increase. He also questioned the 10% library increase which will be decided by the voters in Pulteney to approve or deny. Councilman Goodwin asked if the budgeted \$20,000 paving project for the Town Hall is due to the library construction or if it would have needed paved this coming year regardless. Supervisor Illig stated the library certainly accelerated the disrepair however the parking lot would need paved at some point in the near future. Councilman Musso asked if new tennis courts were budgeted? Supervisor Illig stated they were not. The Board would have to look at the fund balance and/or borrow on a short-term loan the money to fund new courts. Councilman Musso asked Highway Supt. Gibson what additional road repairs were scheduled for the remainder of year and plans for next year. Regarding next year, Highway Supt. Gibson stated he intends for all roads getting to the main roads be repaired one way or another however he mentioned it also depends on the price of oil as he has to work with the \$150,000 CHIPS in funding for these road repairs. Councilman Musso believes budgeted money for road repairs needs to be increased even if that means going over the 2% tax cap. He has not been able to find grants to assist therefore he is suggesting a large tax increase or floating a bond. He also stated the \$25,000 budgeted for new office space within the Town Hall may not be realistic and needs to be increased as well. He asked if buying a new roller for the Highway Dept. was budgeted in which it was not in the proposal. Lastly, he also questioned the 4% increase for Town employees. Councilman Yastremski requested earlier in the day the General budgets going back to 2013 from Clerk Giambra. After reviewing, he noted the Highway Supt. has seen a \$10,000.00 increase over the past several years. Councilman Yastremski stated the Highway Dept. is back to 4 men, they are working less roads in the winter, and their workload is easier than Prattsburgh or Urbana. He is against the 4% increase overall including questioning the Court salaries, Clerk/Justice. Councilman Burns also is against the 4% increase stating the increases can't continue at that rate. She also questioned the tennis courts not being budgeted. She noted utilities will increase once the Town is the sole tenants of the Town Hall and not being reimbursed from the library. Supervisor Illig stated it is apparent the Board is not in agreement with a 4% increase for Town employees and asked if there was a number they would be agreeable to and if the increase should be by individual employee or across the board. Councilman Goodwin stated 2% for all, Councilman Musso agreed, Councilman Yastremski stated an increase should be individually based, and Councilman Burns agreed with the individual. After much discussion, Councilman Goodwin and Councilman Musso agreed an increase should be individually based. Councilman Yastremski suggested having a separate Board member meeting to discuss salaries which Attorney Prossick and Supervisor Illig stated they cannot. Salaries are public information and should be discussed openly. Supervisor Illig suggested the Board members take their due diligence and will discuss further at a budget workshop at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Musso also suggested the Board consider for the 2020 budget increasing the Town Councilman salary seeking to secure qualified individuals to run in the 2019 election. With the Board mostly in agreement with the proposed numbers with the exception of road repairs, salaries, and the tennis courts, these line items will all need addressed at the October meeting/budget workshop.

Continuing with new business, Supervisor Illig reported the library is interested in installing a geothermal system. The library has asked, once the system is installed, if we would like the Town Hall to be hooked up through a loop field. The library received a quote from Moravec Geothermal estimating for the Town Hall portion of the geothermal system would cost \$67,450.00. The Town Hall energy costs for the entire year of 2017 was \$2,418.83. As year to date for 2018, the total is \$2,087.63. It would take 28 years for the Town Hall to ever collect a payback from using a geothermal system. The Board unanimously agree it is not worth pursuing. Supervisor Illig stated he is interested in 2019 doing an energy audit and to look at alternatives but geothermal is not an option.

Supervisor Illig commented he had a meeting with the Dog Control Officer, John & Sherri Ballam, yesterday to discuss the recent development concerning our dog shelter contract with Betty Walden. Unfortunately, Betty has been undergoing serious health issues and will not be able to continue to run the dog shelter that the Town has been using reliably for the last several years. Due to price, quality, and availability Betty has been a considerable asset to the Town. The person running the dog shelter currently for her is not interested in continuing the contract. We have used the SPCA in the past, however their hours are limited and are quite expensive. Supervisor Illig will continue to contact other individuals and report back to the Board.

Supervisor Illig asked if there were any public comments or concerns at this time. Regarding the Town pond, there was question with the area close by becoming more of a pavilion with tables and grills, will the pond be a liability to the Town? Supervisor Illig stated the Town currently insures the pond and surrounding area. Attorney Prossick mentioned it has been discussed on numerous occasions as to putting up a fence around the pond however a reasonable solution has never been reached. As an FYI, it was mentioned in West Elmira the Town is being sued due to pickleball noise so something to pay attention to if and when the time comes of building a pickleball court. It was questioned what our goal is for the Town roads? Is it for all roads to be paved which the Town cannot afford? Comments included "If you buy a house on a dirt road why should you complain and need it improved to a paved road?" "You shouldn't have bought a house on a dirt road if you were not fine with a dirt road." Similarly, years ago there was discussion the possibility of having sidewalks in Town. Everyone outside of Town complained they were not going to pay for sidewalks they don't use. All being good comments and discussion, with nothing further heard, Supervisor Illig stated there is not a need for an executive session. He asked the Board to take the time to fine tune their budget suggestions for next month as second to taking care of constituents, the budget is the most important job the Town Board has.

Councilman Yastremski made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Town Clerk

