

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Supervisor Mark Illig; Councilman Elizabeth White; Councilman Michael Yastremski; Councilman Tammy Tones; Councilman Kathleen Burns; Highway Superintendent Terry Gibson; Bookkeeper Rebecca Welch; and Town Clerk Erica Giambra. Absent was Attorney Mark Schlechter.

It is noted those in limited attendance wore masks and social distancing was practiced at 6 feet apart.

Bill Weber took a moment to speak of the recent passing of 2 Town residents. Wayne Wagner was a remarkable person. At the age of 33, he became President of Birkett Mills in Penn Yan, becoming one of the world's greatest buckwheat millers. He won many prestigious awards within the community. Bill first met Wayne in the late 70's when he was on the Board of Directors for the Keuka Lakeshore Property Owners' Association (later to become the KLA) representing the Town of Pulteney. Bill mostly remembers in the 1980's, as he was running a major corporation, Wayne always took the time to referee local basketball games. Bill last saw Wayne a short while ago and he asked how things were in Pulteney? Bill responded the Town is running like a fine swiss watch! C. Brent Olmstead is very easy for Bill to speak of. He was his dermatologist in the 1980's and Bill appointed him as the Town Health Officer in 1988, while also serving as a consultant at the Bath VA. Brent and his wife, Martha, ran a Bed and Breakfast called the Four Seasons for many years in their house near Wagener Gully across the street from Bill. As a friend, neighbor, Health Officer, and Doctor, his passing at age 91, leaves many, including Bill, that enjoyed his company. They both will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Yastremski to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2021 regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

There are no transfers for this month. The balance sheets and profit & loss reports were available to review. Supervisor Illig commented, as Clerk Giambra will report, all tax revenue has been paid in full to the Town and dispersed to the appropriate departments resulting in financial stability for the remainder of the year.

Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to authorize to pay General Bills in the amount of \$4,561.95 being vouchers No. 21-41 to No. 21-59. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig noted vouchers are overall routine this month for General.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$6,752.33 being voucher No. 21-42 to No. 21-57. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Voucher No. 21-50 was the main expense for diesel fuel that is currently up to \$2.27 (was approx. \$1.57). Councilman Yastremski made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$2,096.77 being voucher No. 21-22 to American Rock Salt. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried.

Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$9,812.75 being vouchers No. 21-16 to No. 21-23. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Yastremski, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense being the contractual water payment to the Village of Penn Yan. Supervisor Illig pointed out voucher No. 21-18 in the amount of \$300.00 for an emergency repair due to freezing temperatures a bubbler at one of the water towers quit.

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

Clerk Giambra stated she has collected over 2.8 million out of the over 3 million due in amount billed. There remain 162 unpaid tax bills out of 1711 to date. In past years, there have been approx. 250 unpaid bills at this time showing that tax collection revenue is ahead of schedule. After tax collection ceases on March 31, 2021, the County is responsible for collecting all unpaid parcels. Clerk Giambra has a tax settlement appointment with the County on April 15, 2021.

As seen in the Municipal Services report, Lauren commented spring is coming and getting busy. Real estate is booming. Projects are ongoing on the lake and on the hill. Even with construction prices at an all-time high, contractors can't keep up with the work.

Supervisor Illig reported he spoke with Assessor Dave Oliver in regards to the proposed Chidsey Hill solar project. There was no clear-cut information on how solar farms were expected to be taxed so they called the County to discuss further. They were told the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency (SCIDA) is who negotiates and determines the payments on solar farms. The land assessment will stay the same, the taxable property income will increase, and the owner would lose any agriculture exemptions. The payment is determined by the megawatt of energy produced and by a pilot (payment in lieu of taxes) system. Further updates to come.

Highway Supt. Gibson relayed the Dept. has been plowing, sanding, and getting equipment ready for the spring. They built a drag box to spread cold patch. Several street lights that had been called into NYSEG are finally fixed, however there are currently 3 more outages. Highway Supt. Gibson has not received any further information regarding CHIPS funding for this year. The annual Highway school in Albany has been cancelled for this year. He is looking to purchase a smaller bucket for the excavator. They range in price from \$1250 used-\$3000 new. As a budgetary item, the Board gave their approval.

Supervisor Illig spoke with County Legislature Chairman Scott Van Etten in regards to the County agency Arbor Housing and Development. The Town of Wayne recently worked with the County and Arbor to aid in cleaning up approx. 150 abandoned properties near Waneta Lake. Supervisor Illig spoke with Assessor Oliver and there are approx. 62 abandoned properties in Pulteney in various states of disrepair that he is interested in contacting Arbor to receive their assistance in securing grants, tearing down/fixing up, etc. He stated it might be a long shot but worth looking into. Stay tuned.

Also, as reported in the past, the Town is interested in turning the County owned Nichols Inn property into parking for West Lake road residents. The property has been under remediation with the DEC and requires a waiting period for testing after such.

Chairman Van Etten and County Legislator Mike Hanna are expected to inform the Town when the property has been released from the DEC.

Councilman Yastremski is requesting Highway Supt. Gibson contact the County Highway for additional chevrons and signage to be placed on the sharp corner on County Route 76. This past weekend a 3rd accident in less than a year and a half occurred in the same location. Highway Supt. Gibson stated the County Highway has been on site recently and intend on placing more signage.

As reported the last few meetings, there is a community solar farm project in the works in Town on Chidsey Hill Road. A scheduled public hearing of the Planning Board was held this past Monday the 8th at 7PM. Bergmann Engineers and Delaware River Solar are heading the project and were present to speak on behalf of the application and answer several questions from the public and Board. The meeting went well, however there were questions and concerns regarding placement of NYSEG poles, drainage, runoff, wells, road conditions, landscaping, barriers, etc. Due to all the questions and concerns and further information needed, the hearing was left open with a second meeting scheduled for April 12, 2021 at 7PM. Lauren mentioned he and Highway Supt. Gibson/Planning Board Chairman are planning to meet with a local contractor who recently retired from the Planning Board in Bath to get some insight on the solar process and installation. The Bath Planning Board recently approved and is under construction of a solar farm that is larger but somewhat similar as the one being proposed on Chidsey Hill. The application for Chidsey Hill is proposing a 35-acres farm with 8-acres being solar panels. Further updates in April.

There is not a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for March. Lauren believes he will have approx. 2 applications to schedule a meeting in April if the Board is available. Clerk Giambra will send out an email asking availability.

Under old business, Supervisor Illig reported he has been in communications with the auditors and is being told the data collection process has been completed and have provided an initial oral report. He stated they pointed out concerns with financial performance and accounting errors. There were specific events (non-routine entries) the auditors concentrated on: transferring \$17,000.00 from Highway into General without a Resolution, transferring \$32,000.00 from Water into General and when reversed not recorded correctly, exceeding the tax cap by \$23,000.00, and a union contract discrepancy. They were also critical of our no fund balance policy and calculations in determining. They did a separate IT audit in which we will need to have policies and procedures in place concerning security. Once their written report is finalized, the Board will need to address each specific concern, review their recommendations, and make adjustments of how to correct and learn from in moving forward.

Continuing with old business, the solar project on Chidsey Hill has been discussed earlier. Lauren also commented possibly moving the next scheduled Planning Board meeting on April 12th to the library, Fire Hall, or by zoom due to the increase in public attendance. He will work on an occupancy plan.

Under new business, unfortunately last year due to COVID, the annual Memorial Day event at the Glen View Cemetery was canceled. Supervisor Illig is asking the Board their thoughts for this year? With Governor Cuomo easing restrictions regarding weddings, public events, attendance limits, etc. it was the consensus of the Board, being it is an outdoor event, to hold the Memorial Day celebration this year. Councilman Burns

agreed to Chair the event as in the past. She will contact the Fire Dept.'s to ask their level of participation. As he was scheduled to speak last year, Bill Weber has again agreed to speak in honor of Veterans. The event will be a good chance to recognize Eli Hill for his Eagle Scout project in repainting the cemetery cannon. Hopefully this event will also give the community a sense of normalcy back.

For months, the County has been working on and finalizing the completion of the Steuben County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been approved by FEMA. In order for the Town to gain Federal approval, a Resolution must be adopted allowing us to be eligible for Federal Disaster Mitigation Grant money before and following a Federal disaster declaration. Once the Resolution is adopted, it is to be returned to the County Office of Emergency Services. The plan in its entirety is on the County website for review. It was agreed for the Board to review the plan, and if approved, adopt the Resolution to send to the County in April.

Supervisor Illig stated there is no need for an executive session and asked the public if they had any comments or questions at this time. Bill Weber asked if Sheriff Allard has been scheduled to come speak at an upcoming meeting as County Legislator Mike Hanna had suggested in the fall? Supervisor Illig responded there has not been a date scheduled but will inform Bill once the Town receives notice.

With nothing further heard, Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Erica Giambra, Town Clerk

