

As noted at the January Board meeting, Supervisor Mark Illig is out of Town until the end of March, with Councilman Burns being appointed as Deputy Supervisor, she will be acting Supervisor during his time away. Councilman Burns called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Councilman Kathleen Burns, yes; Councilman Richard Rees; Councilman Jon Beckman; Councilman Tammy Tones; Highway Superintendent Terry Gibson; Attorney Jennifer Galvan; Bookkeeper Rebecca Welch; and Town Clerk Erica Button. Absent was Supervisor Mark Illig.

Bill Weber was present to speak of the recent Town passing of Kathy Leonard. Kathy and her husband Bill lived on Roff Point two doors down from Carol McGill. He remembered in his discussions with Kathy and Carol, while they were walking along the lake road, and after the joke Bill told about dogs, they reviewed the short-term rental situation with the two houses between Kathy and Carol. This was a matter of concern for both of them and is a continual situation. Kathy had a remarkable professional nursing career, involving work in hospitals and clinics, as well as local school districts. She also was a professor of clinical nursing. Kathy volunteered and was involved in many local and national organizations and participated in several activities. She will be sadly missed by many.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2024, regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Beginning with finances, Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay General Bills in the amount of \$5,379.83 being voucher No. 24-38 and vouchers No. 24-39 to No. 24-54. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes. Carried. General vouchers are overall routine this month.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$13,826.11 being vouchers No. 24-42 to No. 24-60. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes. Carried. Highway Supt. Gibson noted voucher No. 24-57 to Spallina Materials should come out of the snow removal line rather than the capital outlay as shown. Bookkeeper Welch stated she will correct. Councilman Beckman asked the status of the flail mower that was discussed last month? After Councilman Burns conferred with Supervisor Illig, Clerk Button sent a letter of intent to the company and the mower is ordered. The company is still saying 180 days out to receive, we are hoping sooner.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$22,321.83 being vouchers No. 24-19 to No. 24-27. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes. Carried. Councilman Burns commented the main expense is the annual contractual payment to the Town of Jerusalem based on how many water customers we have hooked up.

There are no transfers needed at this time.

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

Clerk Button reported tax season is winding down and still running smoothly. So far, she has collected approx. \$3.25 million. There are 169 unpaid bills out of 1728 to date. She has a settlement appointment with the County April 11th where she will give the County their final payment and submit the tax roll.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented it continues to be a busy year thus far. As seen in his report, he has issued several building permits this past month. He is working on multiple variances for the ZBA and sub-divisions for the Planning Board tentatively being scheduled for April.

Councilman Burns noted, in addition to the water report, there is a mandatory violation notice about drinking water that will be sent out to all water customers due to a DOH violation we had received caused by a high THM result. This was reported previously and W. O. Dluzak and other water operators in Jerusalem and Penn Yan continue to work on a better flushing schedule. Since we are at the end of the water line with water coming from Penn Yan, when flushing is not in coordination, results in our testing of high THM levels. W.O. Dluzak attended a meeting with the surrounding wholesale customers (Pulteney, Milo, Jerusalem, Dresden, Benton). The meeting included discussion regarding all the Towns water rates at least doubled last July by the Village of Penn Yan. The Village of Penn Yan blamed the increase on the cost to fix infrastructure. There is an overall concern the Village of Penn Yan is not being transparent. The Towns should only be billed based on fixed infrastructure to get water to the Towns, not the total amount of infrastructure the Village of Penn Yan has needed to update. An Attorney has looked at the existing agreements each Town has with the Village of Penn Yan and is proposing a contract in moving forward. Attorney Galvan reviewed the contract and deemed legitimate, however Councilman Burns, in discussing with Supervisor Illig, will not sign the contract at this time until further discussions are had. The Board agrees it is their responsibility to our water customers to research and determine exactly why our water rate has doubled in payment to Penn Yan and why we have inherited this increase (in turn 1 reason why the Board had to recently increase our Town water rates). Heading into the next quarter water billing, the new increase will be in effect. An explanation of several reasons for the increase will be emailed to each water customer prior to receiving the next water bill. Clerk Button and W.O. Dluzak will also have the explanation letters on hand. We are in hopes this will alleviate the majority of outrage and questions providing all the reasons for this unfortunate but necessary increase at this time.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept has been ditching and doing road drainage work, cutting up brush and trees from recent wind storms, rock lined the ditch on Parker Hill, and have the equipment trailer ready to paint. The Highway Assoc. reimbursed us for the salt brine test; we have not received the brine permit as of yet. Highway Superintendent's around the State went to Albany requesting to get funding put back into the CHIPS program. In the past, Phil Palmesano and Tom O'Mara have been able to rally and have a voice to secure funding, however Highway Supt. Gibson reported they were not able to speak at the conference this year. It remains to be seen how much CHIPS funding we will receive.

In the Historian report, Ray is looking into the hometown heroes banner program similar to surrounding communities. This has been a topic on past agendas a few

occasions with no head way. We are pleased and all for Ray looking into and moving forward with the program.

Clerk Button reported our new IT admin company, SCT Computers, came to begin the necessary cyber security requirements. He updated all the computers and will come back the end of the month to begin the migration of all employees' emails being in coordination under the same tagline. Clerk Button contacted our webmaster, Don Radigan, because the IT admin will need to work with him regarding the email migration as the new emails will coincide with our website. EX- clerk@pulteneyny.com. He will also begin the multi-authentication factors required for our cyberinsurance. Further updates to come.

Continuing with reports, there is not a Planning nor Zoning Board meeting scheduled in March but are expecting to have both in April with several applications.

Under old business, Councilman Burns and Supervisor Illig will be working together to research and discuss short term rental recommendations further. Once Supervisor Illig returns from Florida, they will pick up the conversation and both are planning to attend the CCC conference that is offering a STR class.

Under new business, Councilman Burns reported regarding the Memorial Day celebration this year, the intention is to have the Fire Dept be in charge of the parade and the Town will continue to plan the ceremony (programs, speaker, flags, etc.) She will be meeting with the Fire Dept to discuss further.

Lastly on the agenda, which as approved with the General vouchers, for 8 attendees to go to the STC's annual Corning Community College Leadership Conference on 4/4/24.

Highway Supt. Gibson mentioned that Clerk Button was approached by a resident about putting a motorized boat on the Town pond. The Board agreed this is a liability to the Town and unauthorized.

Councilman Burns asked if anyone from the public had any comments/questions? With nothing heard and no need for an executive session, Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Erica Button, Town Clerk

