

Supervisor Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked Councilman Burns for acting as Deputy Supervisor in his absence as well as the remaining Board members and employees.

Roll call: Supervisor Mark Illig; 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 Councilman Kathleen Burns.

Bill Weber was present to speak of 2 recent Town passings. Stasia Fox lived with her husband, Jim, on Boyd Hill. Stasia was an extremely sweet woman who had worked as a legal secretary and notary for many years. Bill got to know her from needing her notary services for legal documents. He would also see her when Jim was a Town Councilman in the days of building the playground and installing the Water District. After Jim passed, Bill did not see Stasia often, but she enjoyed living a peaceful life in Town. She had eventually moved near her daughter until her passing. Wells (Skip) Lewis lived with his wife, Margaret, on the lake at the bottom of Chidsey Hill. Other than Bob Hudson, Bill knew Skip longer than anyone as they worked together at Georgia Marine Service in the late 1950's. Skip founded and owned 2 plastics companies now operated by his son, Anthony. Bill remembers most about Skip were the times they "happened" to be at Mike Tietjen's garage where Skip usually arrived in his golf cart. The conversations would get quite spirited, and Bill enjoyed reminiscing about the good ole days of their summer youth. Bill will miss his good humor! Supervisor Illig added Skip was certainly a spirited, unique, fun character with always a good story to tell. They both will be sadly missed by many.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to accept the minutes of the March 13, 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 \$6,856.22 being voucher No. 24-55 and vouchers No. 24-56 to No. 24-73. Roll call vote: Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. General vouchers are overall routine this month.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$14,234.63 being vouchers No. 24-61 to No. 24-82. Roll call vote: Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig confirmed we are now getting fuel services from NOCO Energy Corp. He reported we are still awaiting the second Sunoco check that was sent to clear, once the issue is resolved we will pay the final balance and end all ties with their services.

Councilman Beckman made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$22,290.37 being vouchers No. 24-28 to No. 24-36. Roll call vote: Councilman Beckman, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense being payment to the Village of Penn Yan for the cost of water.

There are no transfers needed at this time.

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

Clerk Button reported she has a settlement appointment with the County tomorrow where she will give the County their final payment and submit the tax roll. She has collected approx. \$3.25 million. There are 118 remaining unpaid bills out of 1728 to date.

In addition to the water report, Supervisor Illig recapped the last few months detailing happenings in the Water District. He noted an explanation of several reasons for the quarterly water rate increase was emailed to each water customer mid-March to be received prior to the next water bill going out the beginning of April. He has had a few calls, all cordial, asking for further clarification. As unfortunate as the increase is, it appears our water customers understand the need for the increase. He reviewed the meeting that was held with the surrounding wholesale customers (Pulteney, Milo, Jerusalem, Dresden, Benton) discussing all the Towns water rates at least doubling 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. The Town of Milo wanted all the customers to hire an Attorney to look at the existing agreements each Town has with the Village of Penn Yan, and mostly for grant purposes, wants to retain the Attorney to rewrite those agreements to be standardized. That being said, some Town agreements are based on water, and some include water and sewer involving additional terms. This would make it difficult to standardize each customer agreement. Attorney Galvan reviewed the proposed contract and deemed legitimate, however Councilman Burns and Supervisor Illig agree that the retainer is too open ended and at this time we will not sign the contract. Lastly, Supervisor Illig commented on the mandatory violation notice about drinking water that was sent out to all water customers due to a DOH violation we had received caused by a high THM result. 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 did install an automatic flushing system on the southern end of the district in hopes this will alleviate any continued issues.

Supervisor Illig mentioned the transition with Cherokee as Assessor has gone smoothly. She got thru the initial exemption process of applications due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept has been doing more drainage work, working on shoulders, fixed shingles on the salt barn roof, and painted the Town Barn roof. They have put new front tires on the mower tractor so that will be ready to go. On the agenda is the shared service agreement with the County to renew.

Councilman Beckman reported he will attend the invitation from Southern Tier Regional Planning and Development Board to be a representative for the Town of Pulteney in a program focused on water quality and land use. The program requires attending a 4-day event in Watkins Glen May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Board if there were any specific issues in the Town of Pulteney he should bring to their attention? Supervisor Illig noted the main water quality and land use issues the Town historically and currently has is with agricultural (farmland and vineyards) of runoff that ultimately ends up in the lake. Farmers are to self-report their spraying schedule to the DEC but that does not deter the residue on the fields becoming white foam running down

the hill. This remains to be a major concern. Councilman Beckman will take this as discussion for the program. The program he is attending is an invitation only, however there is the annual LULA conference discussing land use implications of short-term rentals for Keuka and Seneca Lakes Part II on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm at the Yates County Auditorium that is open to the public and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Clerk Button has been working with our new IT admin company, SCT Computers, and they will be reaching out to redesign/update our website. Clerk Button and SCT spoke with our current webmaster, Don Radigan, and he is in agreement it is time to move ahead with SCT being the web administrators. SCT will give the Board a proposal in the near future.

Continuing with reports, there was a Planning Board meeting held this past Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> on Eclipse Day with 3 applications to review that are now scheduled for hearings in May. There is a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled On April 16<sup>th</sup> with 2 public hearings scheduled.

Under old business, Councilman Burns and Supervisor Illig, attended the annual CCC Leadership conference on April 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a STR class offered that Supervisor Illig's main take away was any Town considering a regulated STR plan, it is key to have the enforcement factor in place. He mentioned the Town of Wayne adopted last fall a self-reporting STR registration where owners need to apply with a \$200.00 fee for a STR permit good for 3 years. In discussing with Wayne's Supervisor, they have had approx. 46 owners comply with the self-registration with estimated 90% not in compliance at this point. They will next be sending out letters to non-compliant owners, that they know of, in an attempt to register. After Board discussion, all were in agreement. Since we currently do not have a problem, it would be best to not address a non-existent problem by adding another layer of bureaucracy that is not needed at this time. It seems the STR regulation discussions have been searching to solve a problem that we do not have. As the Board thoroughly researched a proposed noise policy, it was clear most Town residents were not in favor of, and STR regulations would be the same way. Those that comply in general with safety regulations would continue to do so, and those that do not would not self-report causing an added strain on the Town and its employees. If the Town could create revenue with fees and be worthwhile financially might be a consideration, but with having to hire additional employees to assist in registering and regulating, we would most like lose money in the process. With the County collecting the occupancy tax, we will eventually see some of that income through sales tax revenue given to us by the County. Even with all being in agreement, with Councilman Burns not present, they will address again at the May meeting to get her thoughts and be able to table the discussion.

Under new business, Historian Ray Emery was in attendance to discuss the Hometown Hero Banner Program. He has been working with Ellen French researching other local Towns and gathering information to present to the Town Board. An initial concern is having enough poles in Town for how many banners would want placed. In speaking with other municipalities, this was also a concern however they were able to manage and make work easing Ray's concern. Ray intends to soon contact NYSEG to get their approval. There is a company out of Syracuse that other municipalities have gone through that Ray has contacted to get specs on sizes, banner design, price, etc. There is approx. a 4-6-week turnaround of ordering and receiving the banners. He is in

hopes to have them placed before July 4<sup>th</sup>. An order of at least 10 at a time must be placed with each banner costing \$250.00 and are guaranteed displayed for 3 years with an option for renewal at that time. Ray mentioned doing a fundraiser to help support the cost to the applicants and asked the Town if they would be interested in contributing. Supervisor Illig commented typically the program is spearheaded by Veterans not the Town itself with the option for the Town to contribute. The Town of Pulteney would be happy to support. He suggested to Ray setting up a separate checking account to deposit any funds coming in, publicize to get an idea of how many Pulteney Veterans/families would be interested, and report back with an update. The Board thanked Ray for his efforts in researching and moving forward with this project. In addition, Ray noted he is open to any input and suggestions.

Councilman Burns had reported last month, 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. Supervisor Illig asked Councilman Beckman, who is a Veteran, if he would be interested in being the guest speaker. He will be out of Town Memorial Day weekend but will ask his son who is currently in the Coast Guard if he would be home and available. Councilman Beckman will report back.

Lastly on the agenda, is the proposed Highway Shared Services agreement with the County. Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STEUBEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SHARED SERVICE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR: PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND MATERIALS**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 119, local governments are authorized to enter into municipal cooperation agreements to share resources in the performance of their respective functions; and

WHEREAS, it has been proposed that Steuben County and any, or all municipalities within Steuben County enter into a “mutual aid” agreement for public works projects and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pulteney Town Board has reviewed the Agreement and affirms that the Agreement will commence for five years from the date of signing and the Town Board may extend or renew this agreement at the termination thereof for another five-year period; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Pulteney Town Board does hereby adopt the Steuben County Department of Public Works shared service mutual aid agreement for: Public works projects, equipment, maintenance, and materials as proposed.

All in favor. Carried.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

Supervisor Illig 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 Rees to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

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Erica Button, Town Clerk