

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bill Weber took a moment of reflection sadly speaking of (4) Pulteney residents. Verna Sprague who lived much of her life in Pulteney was the sister of Donna Conley. Her maiden name was Hoad. After a long battle with diabetes she passed away at the age of 63. Lloyd Albright lived with his wife Diane next to (and own) Wild Goose Antiques. He had worked for the Town of Wilson where he retired as the Water Department Superintendent. Bill fondly remembers the wealth of knowledge Lloyd provided when Pulteney was in the beginning stages of establishing the Water District. He passed away at 77. Sue Griffeth was the "sweetest" person Bill recalled. With her husband Phil, they ran "Shorties" a restaurant close to Knotty Pine. They lived on Boyd Hill Point and she passed away at the age of 98. The most untimely of passing's is Pamela Kelly at the age of 50. She worked for Empire Telephone and was a contributing member of the Pulteney Planning Board. She resided on Roff Hill with her beloved animals. Bill remembers first meeting Pam while interviewing her for the Water Department Operator position. All will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2017 regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Supervisor Illig stated there are no transfers for this month.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to pay General Bills in the amount of \$5,184.14 being vouchers No. 17-198 to No. 17-216. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig commented all vouchers were overall routine and asked the Board if they had any questions. All denied.

Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$134,864.69 being vouchers No. 17-188 to No. 17-207. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. As stated at the September meeting, the Highway Dept. was finally able to finish stone and oiling planned roads and all projects are now completed for the season. Two miles of Stone Road and one mile of Gloades Corners to Brown Road were completed. On average, Highway Supt. Gibson stated it is approx.\$40,000 per mile with (2) lanes per mile and (3) shots of oil that is placed down. CHIPS funding will reimburse the Town for these (2) projects.

Councilman Goodwin made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$2,848.65 being vouchers No. 17-103 to No. 17-112. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig commented all vouchers were overall routine this month for the Water Department.

Regarding the Balance Sheet, Supervisor Illig commented due to CHIPS money coming in now at the end of the year, that was not scheduled and accounted for in the Highway Quick Book system when doing the 2017 budget, Highway Supt. Gibson is

going to do some extra paving projects in addition paid ahead of time for stone and gravel. The Town receives CHIPS funding in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year regardless of doing work and projects throughout the year. When funding is not accounted for, the fund balance is affected, however Supervisor Illig assured the Board everything is and will continue to be back on track and accounted for appropriately in the future. He asked the Board if they had any questions or comments in which all denied.

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

Municipal Services Manager Welch mentioned along with his report, the Dep't continues to be extremely busy. Several new construction projects starting and continuation of several building permits being issued.

Water Operator Dluzak was present and stated all is running smoothly in the Water Dept.

Supervisor Illig reported he had checked in with Assessor Dave Oliver and all is well in his Department.

Along with the Dog Control Officer report, Supervisor Illig mentioned recently he found a lost dog near his home in which he called the DCO and they responded quickly and commended their efforts.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported they have been doing their fall grading and cold patching. There are approx. 8 to 10 miles they are grading. With the assistance of the County, they were able to pave the intersections on CR 75. Next week they hope to continue mowing roadsides.

Regarding the Historian report, Supervisor Illig commented he recently spoke with Historian Ray Emery and he is doing well after having some medical issues throughout the summer so we are pleased he is doing much better and on the upswing.

For the Council report, Councilman Burns stated after speaking with Tom Welles and Ray Ulrich, they plan to have the pavilion completed by the end of October in the Community Garden in honor of Barb Welles.

Clerk Giambra stated the website is running efficiently with no complaints. It is more convenient now she can post the agenda and minutes as well as add important events and meetings on the front page to inform the public including Fire Dep't notices.

Supervisor Illig stated the Planning Board meeting in October fell on Columbus Day Observed therefore the Board voted to take the month off since there were no applications at that time. The next meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup> with currently (1) hearing scheduled.

The next Zoning Board meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup> with (2) hearings scheduled.

Under old business, Clerk Giambra and Bookkeeper Kirch gave an update regarding the Five Star consolidation. Clerk Giambra now has remote deposit capture to be able to deposit checks on site rather than taking to the bank. The process has begun to install a credit card machine to offer customers the option to pay for services (i.e. hunting, fishing, cemetery, copies, fax, taxes, etc.). Bookkeeper Kirch stated she has transferred and set up all accounts with Five Star from M&T. She will finalize tomorrow the online access features. She also provided the Board with a summary of the accounts, transfers, and checks from M&T to Five Star.

Continuing with old business, last month it was brought to Supervisor Illig's attention there are residents when receiving their school tax bill are being charged an additional tax for the Prattsburgh library. It is affecting Town of Pulteney residents who have a Prattsburgh mailing address and are in the Prattsburgh School District. Supervisor Illig had Attorney Prossick research further how this is possible and or legal for residents to be paying for 2 separate libraries. Attorney Prossick reported the Pulteney Free Library receives their funding as a line item in the Town budget (414 process) whereas the Prattsburgh library is now receiving funding through a tax in the Prattsburgh School District via the school bill. Pulteney's funding of the library is not considered a tax since it is part of the Town's budget and Prattsburgh is obviously considered a tax therefore there is no double taxation and on legal ground. The Prattsburgh library used to received their funding from the Prattsburgh Town budget similar to Pulteney, however there was a disagreement regarding funds. The Prattsburgh library sent out a proposal and held 2 public votes in which the second passed to be placed as a tax on the Prattsburgh School bill. The Prattsburgh Town Board had previously budgeted \$30,000.00 in funding and now they are receiving \$80,000.00 through the taxpayers. Unfortunately, Attorney Prossick stated there is nothing the Town can do since everything was done legally and the vote passed. Supervisor Illig stated he will send a letter and possibly set up a meeting with the Prattsburgh library President to see if there is anything that can be done to make more favorable for the Pulteney residents now having to pay this additional tax.

Next on the agenda under old business is continued discussion from last month of highway staffing. Supervisor Illig suggested if the Board agrees they will talk of during the Budget workshop. All agreed.

Therefore, under new business is the presentation of the 2018 tentative budget and workshop discussion. A budget packet had been sent to the Board members as requested prior to the meeting tonight. Supervisor Illig began by stating his philosophy when preparing the budget was focusing on one of the main concerns for residents, taxes. The State tax cap for 2018 has been set at 2% meanwhile the State has rescinded any incentive for the Town to stay under the cap. For 2018, taxpayers will no longer receive a rebate check regardless of tax rate. Even with no state incentive to fall beneath the tax cap, Supervisor Illig is proposing keeping the tax rate at 1.9%. He believes with the projected fund balance to offset expenses the Town should be able to stay under the cap while also lowering water rates again to \$105.00 from \$115.00 quarterly. Between the fund balance and the growing increase in customers, he believes it is fair to continue to lower rates. Supervisor Illig provided the Board with a summary of budget proposals for each of the Departments as follows:

#### Budget Changes Proposed for 2018

##### General

Tax Increase of 1.9%

4% Merit Increase for

Clerk

Bookkeeper

Dog Control Officer (DCO)

Municipal Services Supervisor

Highway Superintendent

Revenue from Water Department for Administrative Services - \$12,500.00

Increase support of Pulteney Free Library - \$2,282.00

Highway

Tax Increase of 1.9%

2% Merit Increase (per Union Contract)

Seasonal Employee Salary - \$13,780.00

Water

Reduce Quarterly Rate from \$115.00 to \$105.00

4% Merit Increase to Operators

Administration charge paid to General Fund - \$12,500.00

Increase billing cost by \$2,200.00 (Lock Box Fee)

Regarding specifically the Highway Department and staffing, continuing discussion from the September meeting, the following is what a proposed seasonal employee would cost vs. a full-time employee:

**FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE:** WAGES-  $\$16.74 \times 40 \times 52 = \$34,819.20$

BENEFIT: HEALTH INSURANCE-FAMILY = \$5,716.00

OTHER BENEFITS: STATE RETIREMENT; SOCIAL SECURITY; WORKMAN'S COMP = \$16,830.00

**TOTAL: \$57,365.00**

**SEASONAL EMPLOYEE:** WAGES (4 MONTHS)-  $\$20.00 \times 40 \times 16 = \$12,800.00$

BENEFIT: SOCIAL SECURITY = \$980.00

**TOTAL: \$13,780.00**

**FULLY FUNDED NEW FULL-TIME HIGHWAY EMPLOYEE TAX INCREASE: 7.9%**

This summary was provided to the Board, included with the budget packet, prior to this evening. Supervisor Illig stated he is proposing in this tentative budget to hire a seasonal employee, as shown above, and still be at 1.9% tax rate and under the State cap. Supervisor Illig opened the floor to the Board for discussion. Councilman Musso stated he believes residents would prefer new roads rather than keep taxes under the cap. He stated although we have a remaining fund balance currently, it will not always be available and at some point, taxes will need to be raised. He commented on the communication he receives from residents/tourists expressing that Town roads are not in good condition and not conducive for business and the community as a whole. He believes we need a full-time, not seasonal, employee in 2018. Since the tax rebate check

incentive is no longer in effect, he suggested the Town raise taxes now rather than wait. The Town Board has kept taxes under 2% for years, which is great, however eventually expenses will overrun revenue. Supervisor Illig stated, as shown above, hiring a full-time employee would result in a 7.9% tax increase. Councilman Musso confirmed believing it is time to increase taxes even by that rate. Councilman Burns believes the Town currently cannot afford a full-time employee especially at the expense of raising taxes to almost 8%. She stated the Town needs to ease into a tax increase otherwise residents will be outraged. Councilman Burns realizes the Town cannot always stay under the 2% rate, however an increase need not happen immediately without notice. Councilman Goodwin questioned with hiring a seasonal employee, how we would still be able to stay at 1.9% tax rate. Attorney Prossick mentioned that if the Board decides to go over the tax cap, they must pass a tax cap override which involves specifics including special meetings and the adoption of a Local Law.

At this time, Supervisor Illig made motion to accept this tentative budget as proposed and adopt as the 2018 preliminary budget. The motion was not seconded. Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to accept this tentative budget as proposed with the exception of rather than budget a seasonal employee (\$13,780.00 budgeted) to budget a full-time Highway employee for 2018. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, no; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, no. Vote Tied 2-2.

With the desire and need to adopt a preliminary budget, the Board individually looked at expenses vs. revenue. After reviewing the budget further, Councilman Musso made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to raise taxes to the rate of 7.15% rather than 1.9%, therefore overriding the tax cap hence adopting a Local Law to do so. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, no; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, no. Vote Tied 2-2. With Councilman Yastremski absent and being the budget is one of if not the most important tasks the Town Board has, Supervisor Illig recommended suspending budget talk and scheduling a special budget workshop meeting. All agreed. The special budget workshop meeting will be scheduled for Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM for a full Board to be present. Clerk Giambra will advertise as necessary for the special meeting.

Continuing with new business, Supervisor Illig stated as in previous years Steuben County Real Property Tax Service sent a notice regarding water re-levies and placing on the 2018 tax roll. To be able to do so, the Board needs to authorize within a Resolution.

## **RESOLUTION**

Whereas certain water account customers may be delinquent in paying their quarterly water bills, it may be necessary to have the arrears added to their Town and County tax bills.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Pulteney hereby authorizes the Steuben County Real Property Tax Office to re-levy the delinquent water charges to the owner of the property and that the Town of Pulteney will provide the necessary information to the County.

Memo from the County Real Property Tax Service attached hereto.

BY: Supervisor Illig  
SECOND: Councilman Musso  
Roll call vote, Attest by Town Clerk  
Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Goodwin, yes; Councilman Musso, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried.  
11th October, 2017

Similarly, Clerk Giambra received an email from Wendy Jordan at Real Property Tax Service, as well as spoke with Assessor Dave Oliver, regarding a 10-year limitation on the Cold War Veterans Exemption. The email made reference to 2018 marking the statutory end to the Cold War Veterans Exemption, however Governor Cuomo signed a Senate Bill making it permanent. Clerk Giambra was told to continue the exemption, the Town Board needs to adopt a Resolution.

Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Goodwin to make the following **RESOLUTION:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, to continue to grant the Cold War Veterans Exemption without regard to the 10-year limitation and this Resolution be filed with Steuben County Real Property Tax Service Agency and the Town of Pulteney Assessor's Office effective January 1, 2018.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Goodwin: Yes

Councilman Musso: Yes

Councilman Yastremski: Absent

Councilman Burns: Yes

Supervisor Illig: Yes

Adopted Date: October 11, 2017

Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to have Clerk Giambra publish the following notice in the Southern Tier Shopper and post on the Town website.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF PULTENEY RESIDENTS**

In order to do an efficient job of plowing snow this winter, there will be **NO PARKING** along the Town Roads or Right-of-Ways in the Town of Pulteney from November 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018.

**All vehicles will be towed away at the owner's expense.**

Please remember that plowing driveways across roadways is dangerous, as well as against the law. Anyone plowing snow across the roadway will be subject to a violation and may be issued an appearance ticket.

By order of Terry Gibson, Highway Superintendent

All in favor. Carried.

As the Board previously approved, however to reaffirm Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Musso to have Halloween Trick or Treat in the Town of Pulteney on Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm. All in favor. Carried. The Pulteney Firemen's Auxiliary is having their annual Halloween event for Pulteney children also on Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-6pm at the Pulteney Firehouse. Clerk Giambra will send to the Shopper to be published and post on the Town website.

Supervisor Illig asked if there were any public comments or concerns at this time. Municipal Services Manager Welch mentioned he has training next week from Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> and will be unavailable for office hours. Bill Weber commented that throughout budget and highway staffing discussion it was never asked of Highway Supt. Gibson his opinion on the matter. Highway Supt. Gibson stated he believes we need another employee and it would be worthwhile even if it means raising taxes, however his recommendation is to work in a seasonal employee for a year and then hire a full-time employee the following year. Supervisor Illig stated he and Bookkeeper Kirch will re-do figures within the proposed tentative budget and prepare a budget that a full-time employee figures in and the Board can further discuss at the special budget workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Supervisor Illig to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk