

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bill Weber remembers the passing of 4 Town residents: Vinnie Nykiel, Harriet Bennett, Rose Marie Pizura, and Junior Gibson. Bill has known Vinnie since 1983 when he used to rent Densmore's cottage with his brother Jerry for summer vacation, eventually buying a cottage on Stone Point. Vinnie was a graduate of Cornell and Rutgers who had a wealth of knowledge of old growth forest in this area, as well as, the history of Keuka Lake and the Town of Wayne. He was an extremely interesting guy and passed away too young. Bill knew Harriet mainly through her husband, Bill, who he fished with. She did make the water problem in the hamlet portion of Town known to Bill when he would stop after fishing to their house on Boyd Hill. Fortunately, with the addition of municipal water, the situation was eventually resolved. She spent her last days at Taylor Health and passed at the age of 95. She was a very nice woman and lived a good long life. Rose Marie Pizura, Bill did not know, but he certainly wished he had. From what he has been told by Deb Yastremski, she was an amazing, caring, woman who devoted her life to others and we were fortunate to have her in our community. She received her degree from Alfred Tech and worked for Kodak until 1956. It was then that she took her vows becoming a nun until she left the order in 1973 to care for her mother. While looking after her mother, she received her nursing degree going to night school and worked for Rochester General. After retiring, she continued to take care of others. Lastly, Junior Gibson was an icon of our Town, the "go to guy", and mayor of Gibsonville. He had served the Town in practically every facet, as a Town Board member, Highway Dept. and Fire Dept. where he was named Fireman of the year. Junior was a good friend of Bill's and it saddens him every time he drives by the café in Branchport not seeing his car parked there having coffee with Vince Bedient. Supervisor Illig added, he too would enjoy Junior's company on euchre nights at JB's. He lived a long great life and our sympathies go out to Highway Supt. Gibson and the entire family.

They all will be fondly remembered and sadly missed!

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2022 regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to authorize to pay General Bills in the amount of \$7,822.27 being voucher No. 22-62, No. 22-63, No. 22-34 and vouchers No. 22-65 to No. 22-84. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig pointed out the voucher to Sprague Insurance for the increase in disability premium that was approved at the March meeting, as well as, the vouchers for the annual Corning Community College conference. Remaining vouchers are routine.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$22,660.28 being vouchers No. 22-59 to No. 22-83. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig commented fortunately, the Board had budgeted an

increased amount toward fuel, expecting prices would be higher than the past average. Highway Supt. Gibson reported fuel was approx. \$4.71 per gallon the last fill up the Dept. received. Supervisor Illig stated most vouchers were routine overall, including for repairs and gravel.

Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$35,375.73 being vouchers No. 22-33 to No. 22-45. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense was to the Town of Jerusalem for the annual contractual payment based on the number of connections/hook ups we have within the Water District. The amount invoiced for this year is \$18,956.00. There was also the quarterly voucher to the Village of Penn Yan for water payment and a voucher for a new customer hookup that we will partially be reimbursed. Remaining vouchers routine.

The balance sheets and profit & loss reports were available to view. There are no transfers needed at this time. Supervisor Illig stated, as seen in the balance sheets, we are in good shape in the General and Highway Depts. The Water Account is on the low side at \$41,041.89, however we are at the beginning of a quarterly billing cycle with income coming in. Also, as to be discussed further, the Water Dept. will be able to be reimbursed through ARPA funding for meter replacements and past project work.

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

As reported at the February meeting, the Town has been paid in full regarding tax collection. Clerk Giambra stated she had her tax settlement appointment with the County yesterday to finalize the tax season and all went smoothly. There was \$153,245.14 in unpaid tax bills out of 3,147,638.03. It was another successful tax season. She has scheduled the annual Town rabies clinic for Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7pm at the Town Highway Barn in a drive-thru manner as we have done the last 2 years with the start of COVID. She has scheduled an East View Veterinarian and will publish in the Shopper when closer to the time. Dog license renewals are due by June 30<sup>th</sup> and she will send out reminder postcards approx. the beginning of May.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented the Dept. has been busy as usual with lots of construction projects in the works.

Speaking of construction projects, including the recent detours that will be ongoing throughout the summer per norm, Councilman Rees commented how the DOT communication has been terrible. The signs DOT posted have house numbers of where the closure is, and to take an emergency route, but in general people are not aware of house numbers to know where the closure or detour is actually located. It is causing confusion, he is concerned with people having to turn around at the closure site someone could get hurt, and as always, is a huge deterrent for business owners. He mentioned the DOT used to have much better methods of communication, specifically with local residents of where the construction was taking place and with business owners. He has a call into DOT to express his concerns and frustration and is awaiting a call back??

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept. has been cleaning ditches, filling potholes, and hauling in gravel for this year's projects. They trimmed the trees and bushes around the Town Hall and installed new curb stops, all of which look very nice and a thank you for doing. The new grader we should receive June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The rented

one in the meantime should be here Monday. The old grader is getting posted on Auctions International this week.

For the Supervisor report, Supervisor Illig met with Dave Oliver and he provided a chart of amount per \$1000.00 of assessed value for 2021 School tax, 2022 Town and County tax, and 2022 Village tax for Hammondsport, Urbana, Pulteney, and Wayne. He also provided for the Board, a more detailed report establishing after the current revaluation, his Assessor's report totals for the 2022 Assessment roll. The report shows the total Town of Pulteney taxable assessed value is going from \$301,699,297.00 to tentatively 384,837,298.00 being a difference of \$83,138,001.00 and a 27% change. Supervisor Illig believes this data is quite accurate and a fair assessment of properties. Assessor Oliver mailed out letters of the updated assessment of properties to each resident over this past weekend. Unfortunately, with Assessor Oliver only being in the Pulteney office one day a week on Thursdays, Clerk Giambra has received a brunt of the calls from concerned, upset residents trying to get in touch with Assessor Oliver to make an appointment and review data with him. With an increase in assessments, residents are concerned in turn will mean their taxes will increase also. In addition to the increased assessment amount, residents were concerned, as was reported in the letter, to get in contact with Assessor Oliver prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> when most individuals did not receive the letters until approx. April 9<sup>th</sup>, not allowing a lot of time in between receiving the letter and making an appointment when he is only first back in the office on the 14<sup>th</sup>. That being said, it is now known that taxpayers can still address their concerns and Assessor Oliver is able, if warranted, can make stipulations and adjustments as needed after April 15<sup>th</sup> up until and on Grievance Day which is May 26, 2022 4-6pm and 7-9pm. Supervisor Illig apologizes for the miscommunication and is disappointed how the process played out, but there is still time and ways for the public to process a grievance. He recommended for residents to provide Assessor Oliver comparables, appraisals, any official documentation of evidence supporting their grievance. Supervisor Illig reiterated he believes the assessments are fair throughout the community and need to be assessed as such or the State will take punitive action if a revaluation is not performed correctly or appropriately.

Regarding a Council report, Supervisor Illig asked what the Board thought of the annual Corning Community College training that most members attended? Councilman White stated she was happy she attended and reinforced what she has learned from the webinars she has taken concerning ARPA funding, regulations, and reporting. Since the inception of ARPA funding, it has remained unclear and restrictive of what you can and cannot use the funding for. As reported in the ARPA conference class, the Federal Government is assuming the average loss for each municipality is 10 million, therefore any amount under 10 million can be used toward general Town functions and expenses, particularly infrastructure related, with only minor guidelines. We received approx. \$64,000 last year and will receive approx. \$64,000 this year. Councilman White noted we can only reimburse appropriate expenditures going back to March 2021. April 1<sup>st</sup> the reporting site opened up and we must be enrolled by the end of April. Once enrolled, we have until 2024 to report and 2026 to spend the designated funding. Councilman Rees, who attended the conference, added there certainly is a lot of grant funding out there. Unfortunately, there are so many hurdles, including overwhelming paperwork that makes it almost impossible, at least for smaller Towns, to apply for. Supervisor Illig

commented he believes the Federal and State Government realized they cannot police how every Town spends the funding, but to do so wisely. He thanked all those that attended the conference and for providing their feedback.

Councilman Tones asked an update on a water repair on the Lake Road from a pipe that burst while the owners were out of Town in Florida for the winter? Supervisor Illig stated we sent a bill for \$1300.00 for insurance purposes and the Town will be partially reimbursed. He believes the cottage has been cleaned up and they will be able to get back into for the summer as usual.

Although Councilman Burns was not present, she spoke with Supervisor Illig who reported, she has spoken with Chris Hill and for his Eagle project would like to work on the Free Little library that the Pulteney Free Library wanted installed near the playground. They are looking to have it placed by or where the drinking fountain currently is located. Supervisor Illig suggested to remove the non-working fountain and the little library can go there. All agreed, however Clerk Giambra mentioned, that when the fountain is not working, kids are in and out of the Town Hall frequently to use the drinking fountain and what will anyone do if they need water when the Town Hall is closed? It was suggested to mount a new working fountain on the outside of the Town Hall. Supervisor Illig will look into and report back.

Supervisor Illig and Councilman Burns agreed to proceed with a Memorial Day parade this year, as we have not been able to hold the parade the last 2 years, due to COVID. Councilman Burns has contacted the Fire Dept. and Ambulance Corp. to be involved and she is suggesting to ask County Legislator Mike Hanna to be our Memorial Day speaker. Legislator Hanna, when in the Armed Services, held the position of watching over the tomb of the unknown soldier. All agreed that was an excellent choice.

Lastly, Councilman Burns reported to Supervisor Illig the library did not budget funding this year, to match the Town in paying for the needed repairs and bumpers for the parking lot, considering it is a shared lot. The library stated they will put in the budget for next year to assist.

There was a Planning Board meeting scheduled for this past Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> but was cancelled due to Board member illness. There were no scheduled public hearings.

There is a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> with 2 scheduled public hearings.

Under old business, Supervisor Illig noted Bookkeeper Welch is in the process of gathering a list and information of past expenditures, no earlier than March of 2021, to potentially use ARPA funding to be reimbursed. Once she gathers that list, Supervisor Illig, Councilman White, and Councilman Burns will meet to discuss a tentative plan of spending. Again, we must register for reporting by the end of April deadline.

Regarding the proposed noise ordinance vs. policy, Supervisor Illig mentioned at the March Planning Board meeting, it appeared the Planning Board was leaning toward enacting a policy rather than a law. They asked Atty. Galvan to draft a proposed policy but not to include hours of repose as that was a topic of discussion and disagreement on set hours. The Planning Board suggested the Town Board hold a public informational meeting at the Fire Hall to get input and feedback on the proposed policy and specifically the majority opinion on set quiet hours. Supervisor Illig noted the Town Board will have the informational meeting separate from a regular Town Board meeting. In moving forward, the plan is for the Planning Board to discuss further at their May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting,

potentially make a recommendation to the Town Board to review the proposed noise policy at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting, and schedule the informational meeting the following month after the June 8<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting.

Continuing with old business, the Board had requested Attorney Galvan review the current outdated procurement policy and update reflecting NYS standards. The revised policy was provided to the Board and each section was reviewed with discussion at the March meeting. Attorney Galvan revised per the Board's suggestions of wording and amounts and provided a clean copy that was sent to the Board to review prior to this evening. The Board agreed the document simplified what was needed and provided updates to what the State regulations are compared to the previous Town policy. After discussing further, Atty. Galvan suggested to take out the 3 required vendors and add a provision that a good faith effort was made to obtain multiple competitive bids. She will revise that section and send to the Board. Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adopt the proposed Town of Pulteney procurement policy as presented with the modification of not listing a specific amount of required competitive bids needed, however a good faith effort was made. All in favor. Carried. This policy will be reviewed every year at the January organizational meeting.

Under new business, Memorial Day and the annual rabies clinic were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Supervisor Illig asked the Board/public if anyone had any comments or questions? With nothing heard, and no need for an executive session, Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04PM.

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Erica Giambra, Town Clerk

