

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bill Weber took a moment to reflect and speak of the recent passing of Joyce Matson and Paul Schnipelsky. Bill knew Joyce very well. He believes she was the first complainant when installing the Water District when her exposed water line froze. She lived on the lake just south of White Top Winery but had recently moved to an independent living facility in Horseheads. She was home on the lake for a weekend visiting with her family when she sadly suffered a stroke that caused her passing. She is survived by her two sons, grand and great-grandchildren, and brother, David Stenger. She was a very nice lady and Bill is glad he knew her. Paul was a man of science whom Bill came to rely on during the injection well/hydro fracking crisis in 2012. Paul was able to provide a scientific assessment to the public, being to most, a voice of reason. He was very active and instrumental in the property transfer from the Town to the library for their new site. He and his wife Claire would join the Finley's, Weber's and Junior Gibson comprising of a Pulteney table at the Prattsburgh Fire Hall for breakfast on Sunday mornings. He was a good man and Bill will miss his company and pleasant, easy-going personality. They both will be fondly remembered, and sadly missed by many. Supervisor Illig also remembered Paul as being a great man that when he first ran for office, Paul went door to door with him campaigning and enjoying some lively debates.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2023 regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Councilman White made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay General Bills in the amount of \$19,241.83 being vouchers No. 23-67 to No. 23-87. Roll call vote: Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The most expensive voucher, that will be seen in all 3 accounts, is the annual payment to Steuben County for Workman's Compensation. Vouchers otherwise routine.

Councilman Burns made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$24,201.93 being vouchers No. 23-80 to No. 23-97. Roll call vote: Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig commented other than the Workman's Compensation, most vouchers were for equipment repair and maintenance.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$8,388.52 being vouchers No. 23-44 to No. 23-52. Roll call vote: Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Supervisor Illig stated the main expenses were for Workman's Compensation and meter replacements. Todd is back working for the Water District assisting Chuck with meter replacements. Supervisor Illig reported there currently are approx. 40 left on the list to replace. We are in good shape as we have approx. 37 currently in stock so will not have the need to purchase a large

quantity. We had another water leak the end of April south of White Top. There was a leak at the curb stop which ended up being on the customer side as the water line was not in the sleeve. Our contractor was able to make the repair saving the landowner additional expenses. The leak was clearly the landowner responsibility and our contractor billed the repair directly to the owner.

Looking at this month's P&L, Supervisor Illig pointed out he and Bookkeeper Welch have made some changes as he reflected on the Board's comments from last month's meeting, to make more transparent recording of accounting transactions. In the General P&L under Income, they added the fund balance of \$106,648.83, Highway Acct added fund balance of \$155,041.04, and in the Water District fund balance of \$53,318.83 making clearer to the Board of how much income we actually have. In the General as mentioned last meeting, Line item A4050.11 has now been renamed to Municipal Supervisor. In the Water District under line item SW8310.7 Emergency Repair is now further broken into SW8310.77 being the \$50,000.00 Statutory Installment Bond and line item SW8310.7 being \$100,951.48 year to date for emergency repairs. The Board agreed this does display the P&L accounting more accurate in moving forward. Councilman White questioned and Supervisor Illig pointed out the installment bond is no longer listed as a long-term liability on the balance sheet as shown last month. It is only being recorded on the P&L.

Supervisor Illig reported we have received the 2nd installment of sales tax income from Steuben County which is reflected on the balance sheet. He mentioned at budget time, looking into possibly using these funds to, in part or full, pay off the note we took out on the Highway grader. In the meantime, the funds are in the General money market account. In addition, he stated he and Bookkeeper Welch plan to contact the ARPA officials to see if it is possible to reallocate the funding we have received to potentially put into the Water District to help with reserve funding. Once he gets confirmation one way or another the Board can discuss further of how to proceed or if we need to stick with the Board's original plan that was submitted of using ARPA funds. After further discussion, the Board felt this was not a good idea and they should leave the plan for the funds as is. Councilman Burns suggested using some of the sales tax revenue to transfer into the Water District, if we were to base the percentage transferred, by how many customers are in the District. Attorney Galvan recommended the sales tax revenue should strictly be used for the Town as a whole and not to benefit the Water District that everyone is not a part of. Ultimately, come budget time, the Board will have to discuss raising water rates to allow for reserve funding. Stay tuned.

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

As a reminder, Clerk Button mentioned the annual rabies clinic is coming up Thursday, June 1st from 5-7pm with East View Veterinary. It will be a drive-thru clinic as previously done the last few years. Also, all Board members were given a 3-ring binder of the new Zoning Law that was adopted in February and has been filed with the Secretary of State.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented getting busier, lots of phone calls asking about properties for sale and what they can and cannot make the property into. Several permits for decks, sheds, docks, etc.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept. has been busy ditching, finished sweeping roads, and put drainage in on Armstrong and Townline Roads. They had to put new rear springs on the 2017 Peterbilt, along with work on the 2013 Peterbilt and 2007 Sterling. Projects this year consist of stone and oil Armstrong and Gallagher Roads as well as putting down binder on Lower Middle and Upper Brown Roads. We are receiving an increase in CHIPS funding this year, approx. \$20,000.00 additional. Lastly, Soil & Water came in and seeded the gravel bed so when the grass comes in, we are officially finished with the gravel pit. We will then have the DEC revoke the mining pit that expires in 2024. Highway Supt. Gibson mentioned we have only kept the mining permit to give the Town time to remediate and meet the DEC requirements before signing off on.

Attorney Galvan reported she has not received any updates on the pending litigation but will continue to keep checking into.

Clerk Button sent the adopted zoning law to the webmaster to post on the website so that is currently all up to date.

There was a Planning Board meeting this past Monday the 8th with 1 application to review. There is not a Zoning Board meeting scheduled for May. Lauren reported possibly July?

Under old business, Supervisor Illig reported with Chair of the STR committee Bill Dineen back from Florida, Bill has recently been able to attend a few trainings that mostly discussed STR's and he has put together a new proposal. Bill has not taken it to the committee yet but this is his recommendation for action that was given to the Board to take home, read over, with further discussion at the June meeting. Councilman White also attended the LULA training that pertained to STR that she felt was well presented and was happy she attended.

Continuing under old business, Supervisor Illig noted there remains openings for an alternate and full-time member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He would like to hopefully get volunteers that live in an area other than on the lake for a more diverse residential group. The Board will continue to work to find appropriate volunteers.

Beginning with new business, as mentioned last month, Assessor Dave Oliver intends to retire at the end of the year. As we have had an agreement with the Towns of Urbana and Wayne to all share Dave's services, Supervisor Illig mentioned it would be ideal to continue that shared service, especially as there is a shortage of experienced Assessors, particularly locally. In addition, it would be hard to find an individual to just take a part-time position in Pulteney vs. a full-time with benefits in doing all 3 Towns. With that being said, the Towns met, interviewed candidates, and agreed upon an individual to hire as an Assessor's Apprentice. The Town of Urbana drafted an agreement, and will enter into the same agreement with Wayne, that would be in effect from today, if approved, until the end of the year. In the document provided from the Town of Urbana, in lines #1 and #4 need replaced to read Pulteney not Wayne. After further review by the Board, they agreed the agreement seems straight forward and all were comfortable with the terms. Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman White to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Urbana and the Town of Pulteney, with the typos corrected as noted, allowing for the training of an Apprentice Assessor under the current Town's Assessor with the intent to appoint the Apprentice Assessor to the Town Assessor position on January 1, 2024 to fill the remainder of the

current Town Assessors term. Roll call vote: Councilman White, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried.

Next on the agenda, the Pulteney Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners is requesting that the Town of Pulteney consider passing a Local Law giving Firefighters up to a 10% reduction in their real property taxes. Attorney Galvan stated the County recently amended their Local Law to allow for this sliding scale of exemption but Firefighters must meet several requirements and criteria. She will research further and draft a proposed Local Law using the County's Law as a template for the Board to review at the June meeting.

As referred to last month, Clerk Button sent the proposed "Town of Pulteney Policy: Work Assistance by the Highway Dept. to the Water Dept." to our Union Representative to review. The Union approved the document, however recommended adding the language "in addition to all other terms and condition of the collective bargaining agreement." Highway Supt. Gibson and the Union workers approved this recommendation. Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Burns to approve the "Town of Pulteney Work Assistance by the Highway Dept. to the Water Dept. Policy" as presented with the recommended Union language. All in favor. Carried. Once Highway Supt. Gibson and our Highway Union Rep signs the document, Clerk Button will send to the Union Rep to be filed.

Reporting on the Memorial Day celebration, Councilman Burns stated she has received notice the Hammondspport Band is coming back to Pulteney for the celebration! This is exciting news as they have not been in attendance since pre-COVID. They will be playing 2 songs along with having a trumpeter for "Taps". They are getting a bus for transport from the school to the cemetery. Clerk Button asked regarding advertising if we are having a "parade". Councilman Burns suggested since we have the band back, we should concentrate on that and maybe next year continue with a parade. She has reached out to the Ambulance and Fire Dept's but have not heard back. It was noted for her to contact Fire Chief Rodney Zimmerman. Councilman Burns is also suggesting we set up a table of pre-wrapped snacks and water at the cemetery, using celebration funds, for all in attendance including the band as a thank you. The Board agreed. Steuben County Legislator Mike Hanna, who served watch at the tomb of the unknown soldier, is our speaker this year. Clerk Button has ordered and been delivered additional cemetery flags to replace and update as needed, which the Boy Scouts will hopefully be able to help with again this year, and Valerie Stern has made 2 new wreaths to be placed at the Town Hall and Glen View. The celebration is coming along nicely.

Supervisor Illig provided an update with the solar farm that was approved on Chidsey Hill in May of 2021. Since there has been no progress to date, Supervisor Illig reached out to Delaware River Solar (DRS) who is in charge of the project. The report back was the delay has been due to a struggled working relationship with NYSEG. Due to the delays, minor changes potentially will need made to the plan which will require DRS to come back to the Planning Board for a new special use permit. Lauren has asked DRS for a list of changes to see how to move forward but the project remains viable with a possible fall/late fall construction date? Stay tuned.

The State requires and Annual Financial Report (AUD) be performed. A copy of this year's submission was provided to the Board for their review. Bookkeeper Welch

commented this is the initial submission for the year and is still subject to State review and modifications.

Supervisor Illig asked if anyone from the public had any comments/questions? With nothing heard and no need for an executive session, Supervisor Illig stated the Board needs to perform a quarterly audit, all are welcome to stay but no further business will take place. After successful completion of the audit, Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Erica Button, Town Clerk