

Supervisor Mark Illig called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bill Weber reflected on the recent passing of Freeman Smith. Freeman was a neighbor of Bill's when they lived in Corning and later moved to Keuka Lake purchasing Frank Nicklaus's house next to former Congressman Randy Kuhl. Freeman was a dominant figure in Steuben County Republican ranks and was heavily involved in Government while working for Corning Inc. as Director of State and Regulatory Affairs. Bill would see Freeman from time to time and recalls talking about their grandchildren the last time they spoke. He also remembered Freeman's CB call sign, Bass Bug, and that he hadn't been fishing in quite some time which Bill thought was amusing. He will be missed by many. Supervisor Illig also recalled knowing Freeman meeting in the early 70's when Freeman was President on the Boy Scouts Council and on the Corning Painted Post School Board. He was the campaign manager for Amo Houghton and was a great guy who will be missed.

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

As approved at the July meeting, Supervisor Illig went to Five Star Bank and transferred \$100,000.00 from each the General and Highway money market accounts into a 180-day CD. We haven't received the bank statements at this point but next month the transfer will be reflected on the balance sheets.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay General Bills in the amount of \$5,424.07 being vouchers No. 23-137 to No. 23-152. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expenses being the contractual mowing payment and to Steuben County Soil and Water who assisted with the remediation of the gravel pit.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$34,955.04 being vouchers No. 23-132 to No. 23-145. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. The main expense being to Suit-Kote for oiling the roads that partially will be reimbursed with CHIPS funding.

Councilman Tones made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$4,770.67 being vouchers No. 23-76 to No. 23-83. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried.

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

Clerk Button relayed hunting licenses went on sale August 1st with the doe permit lottery lasting until October 1st.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented he is working on Zone 1 inspections currently. Building permits and sub-division applications are up this year.

Supervisor Illig reported the Assessor apprentice has completed the first round of required training. Assessor Oliver continues to report the apprenticeship is going well.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept. is done grading roads and hauled in stone to finish the stone and oil projects. They replaced a culvert pipe on Chidsey Hill with the assistance of Steuben County Soil and Water. Highway Supt. Gibson turned in the paperwork for the first round of CHIPS reimbursement. We should be receiving \$200,904.92 approx. by September 12th. Lastly, looking ahead, Don Strzepak has informed Highway Supt. Gibson he will not be continuing the mowing contract with the Town next year. Don is finding it too difficult not having reliable help.

Supervisor Illig reported he received a call from Jeff O'Brien requesting assistance regarding the double tax some Pulteney residents are required to pay for our library and Prattsburgh's library. Jeff was in attendance this evening and explained he is concerned, not only is he paying this double tax, but the Community Bank building was given to the Prattsburgh library and now is in need of expensive renovations. Jeff understands the way Prattsburgh went about establishing the library budget is legal, however is questioning if the residents of Pulteney that are on the Prattsburgh school district can file an appeal to remove and put on the Town of Prattsburgh budget. It is believed it would need to go on the school ballot for an appeal to be voted on. Supervisor Illig noted after Prattsburgh established the school district as collecting agency for the library tax, the Board wrote a letter in fairness to our residents that are having to pay that double library tax asking for the library taxes received by Pulteney residents to come back to the Pulteney library. The notion was met unsuccessfully. He stated although it is not fair, this double tax it is legal. Matt Bondi was present and also asked the Board to contact Prattsburgh asking them to use the same model of collection as we do in Pulteney. He is asking for fairness and not to be double taxed being a Pulteney resident in the Prattsburgh school district. Jeff reported according to State guidelines, the library tax can be revoted on to be removed from the Prattsburgh school district on next year's budget as a school ballot referendum. Supervisor Illig stated the Board is certainly willing to help in anyway and to get together 6 months prior to the school budget vote to reassess a ballot referendum. Jeff and Matt thanked the Board and look forward to pursuing when the time is appropriate.

Attorney Galvan reported a complaint has been filed regarding the pending litigation. She is awaiting to be served and will have 20 days to respond with an answer.

There is a Planning Board meeting this coming Monday August 14th with 2 applications to review. There is not a ZBA meeting scheduled in August.

Under old business, Supervisor Illig noted he has not had much success as there remains openings for an alternate and full-time member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board will continue to work to find appropriate volunteers. He has a potential candidate for our Town Health Officer position and will confirm.

Continuing with old business, Supervisor Illig at the July KWIC/KLOC meeting, revisited if the 8 municipalities would be interested in forming a committee collectively to address STR's or for each to handle on their own. It was clear that the Villages of Hammondsport and Penn Yan have different issues regarding STR's than the 6 Towns, therefore it was unanimous that any regulations would be dependent on each municipality separately, however to maintain communication and offer one another support throughout the process. Supervisor Illig stated the Village of Hammondsport had a public hearing on August 1st that he hears was quite contentious. The Town of Wayne held a public hearing July 25th regarding more of a voluntary registration of STR's. Supervisor Illig

stated one of the challenges in the Town of Pulteney is it is hard to determine how many and where each STR is exactly located to send the owners a registration form or letter. Attorney Galvan can look into getting information from the County of which residents have been self-reporting to pay occupancy tax. The Board agreed it has fortunately, other than 1 complaint, not become a major concern for Pulteney and would be impossible to directly enforce. Supervisor Illig will also meet with Bill Dineen (chairman of the STR committee) along with Attorney Galvan gathering information at the County level and will discuss further in September. Bill Weber noted Yates County has hired a company to track down STR's going after the occupancy tax if not self-reporting. He suggested maybe Steuben will do the same. Attorney Galvan stated it is the self-renting places that are the problem, Airbnb and Vrbo seem to be cooperating with the County.

At this time, 7:30PM, Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to suspend the regular meeting and enter into the scheduled public hearing. All in favor. Carried. As has been discussed the last few months, 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 provided a formal document last month that was largely based on the state statute that the County has adopted. Supervisor Illig asked if the Board or public had any comments or questions. With nothing heard, Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adopt Local Law No. 4 of 2023 providing an exemption from taxation by the Town of Pulteney for real property owned by an enrolled volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker in an amount of 10%. Roll call vote: Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Tones, yes; Supervisor Illig, yes. Carried. Clerk Button will send for filing to the NYS Secretary of State and Director of Steuben County Real Property.

Under new business, Supervisor Illig stated with budget season approaching, an annual budget workshop needs to be scheduled. The Board agreed to hold the workshop on Monday August 28th at noon. He and Bookkeeper Welch will meet the week before to start working on figures. In addition, Supervisor Illig has asked the Board to reschedule the September 13th Board meeting to September 6th at 7PM. The Board has agreed, however that is a Court night, therefore the Board meeting will be held in the Pulteney Free Library. Bookkeeper Welch will take minutes while Town Clerk Button is assisting with Court. Clerk Button will advertise the workshop and meeting schedule change on the Town website, the legal paper Corning Leader, and in the Shopper.

Supervisor Illig asked if anyone from the public had any comments/questions? With nothing heard, Supervisor Illig announced there is a need for a quarterly review, all are welcome to stay until after the review but no further business will take place. After a successful audit and no need for an executive session, Supervisor Illig made motion seconded by Councilman Tones to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Erica Button, Town Clerk

