

As noted at the January Board meeting, Supervisor Mark Illig is out of Town until the end of March, with Councilman Burns being appointed as Deputy Supervisor, she will be acting Supervisor during his time away. Councilman Burns called the regular meeting of the Pulteney Town Board to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at the Pulteney Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Councilman Kathleen Burns, yes; Councilman Richard Rees; Councilman Jon Beckman; Highway Superintendent Terry Gibson; Attorney Jennifer Galvan; Bookkeeper Rebecca Welch; and Town Clerk Erica Button. Absent were Supervisor Mark Illig and Councilman Tammy Tones. A quorum has been established.

Bill Weber was not present to speak of any recent Town passings.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2024, organizational and regular Board meeting. All in favor. Carried.

Beginning with finances, Councilman Beckman made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay General Bills in the amount of \$67,532.41 being vouchers No. 24-18 to No. 24-37. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes. Carried. Councilman Burns pointed out voucher No. 24-31 to the Pulteney Free Library for this year's annual budgeted amount of \$49,460.00 as voted and approved by the constituents of Pulteney.

Councilman Beckman made motion seconded by Councilman Rees to pay Highway Bills in the amount of \$17,693.06 being vouchers No. 24-17 to No. 24-41. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes. Carried. It was noted voucher No. 24-32 is to NOCO Energy Corp. Highway Supt. Gibson relayed we are now being supplied by them, rather than Sunoco, who we have had continual issues with for the last several months as mentioned previously throughout meetings. Not only are we still in the process of trying to retrieve our funds that were fraudulently deposited, Sunoco had stopped delivery service without notice. Bookkeeper Welch stated we have received the initial refund from Five Star Bank after the fraud investigation was completed, however there are still 2 ongoing missing checks that are being investigated that we have not been reimbursed for. The last check that was sent, with an updated address Sunoco provided us, they are now saying they did not receive resulting in a remaining balance. Bookkeeper Welch will contact Five Star Bank to put a stop payment on the latest check if it has not been deposited. The Board agreed we will not send another form of payment until all outstanding issues are resolved and we are fully compensated.

Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to pay Water District #1 Bills in the amount of \$31,982.66 being vouchers No. 24-8 to No. 24-18. Roll call vote: Councilman Burns, yes; Councilman Rees, yes; Councilman Beckman, yes. Carried. Councilman Burns commented the main expense is the bond payment to Five Star Bank that we took out last year due to the emergency repair/ "big dig". This is the first payment in the amount of \$25,000.00 plus interest. The second payment will be due in March of 2025. Remaining vouchers were maintenance expenses.

There are no transfers needed at this time.

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

Clerk Button reported tax season continuing into February is running smoothly. So far, she has collected approx. \$2.8 million. The Town has been paid in full, including the Fire & Ambulance Districts and the unpaid water bill re-levies. She has sent a check to the County for the majority payment due, with the remaining to be paid at settlement time in April.

Municipal Services Manager Welch commented it has been a busy year thus far. He completed and filed his 1203 annual report for 2023 that is due in April and has already begun working on state mandated classes. He is working with the owners of run down residences in Town. There are applications in the works for both Planning and Zoning Boards. He is expecting for meetings in April.

Councilman Burns noted, in addition to the water report, Clerk Button and W.O. Dluzak have already been receiving complaints and questions regarding the upcoming quarterly water rate increase in April. Collectively, it was agreed Supervisor Illig is going to draft a memo explaining the need and reasons for the increase, including the large expense caused by the “big dig” as well as the substantial increase in charges coming from Penn Yan. This memo will be on hand to give to any resident rather than having to continually verbally explain. Supervisor Illig will be available directly for any further comments and questions and provide any necessary details.

Cherokee has begun her role as Assessor and getting acclimated. With postcards mailed by the state and letters sent out regarding senior citizen exemptions, there have been a lot of phone calls, questions, and foot traffic coming in.

Highway Superintendent Gibson reported the Dept has done some plowing and sanding, including hauling in sand. They built a steel bed for the 2004 Chevy pickup and have been getting the equipment trailer ready to paint. He sent in a salt brine test to the DEC and is awaiting the brine permit. The annual 284 agreement of Highway money will need reviewed and signed off on by the Board to be filed. As mentioned last month, he received a quote for a flail mower in the amount of \$12,794.00. Compared to other quotes and discussions with vendors, he feels this is the best quote, however will take up to 180 days to receive. Councilman Burns will discuss the quote with Supervisor Illig and will move forward from there. Highway Supt Gibson pointed out this mower is similar to the current one we have so parts would be interchangeable and the funds can come out of the Highway Account and/or CHIPS.

In the Historian report, Ray is always looking for Town residents to interview about their life in Pulteney. Please reach out if interested.

Continuing with reports, there is not a Planning nor Zoning Board meeting scheduled in February but are expecting to have both in April.

Under old business, Councilman Burns and Supervisor Illig will be working together to research and discuss short term rental recommendations further. Once Supervisor Illig returns from Florida they will pick up the conversation.

Under new business, Councilman Burns noted the water bond payment was explained and approved when discussing finances.

Councilman Burns asked if anyone from the public had any comments/questions? With nothing heard and no need for an executive session, Councilman Rees made motion seconded by Councilman Beckman to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Erica Button, Town Clerk

