

TOWN OF PERTH
Regular Town Board Meeting
October 8, 2020
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Fagan, Councilman Korona, Councilman Lewandowski, Councilman Betz and Councilman Fisher.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk, Judith English; Budget Officer, Patty Herba; Highway Superintendent, David Dopp; Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq.; Fire Chief of the Perth Volunteer Fire Company, Peter Watrobski; Town Justice, Wayne McNeil; Candidate for Town Justice, Lisa Wallace; Fulton County Republican Chairman, Susan McNeil; Representative from the Red Cross, Anne Philippi; Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Thomas Herba; Representative from Boralex Solar Project, Darren Suarez; Rebecca Dopp; Kathy and Kristina Fletcher; Candy and Robert Marshall; David Huckans; James Skiff; Michael Herba; and Jeanne Pitkin.

Supervisor Fagan opened the Meeting at 6:00 p.m. A salute to the flag was held and a moment of silent prayer observed.

Supervisor Fagan presented **Perth Fire Chief, Peter Watrobski**, a plaque of appreciation signed by all of the members of the Town Board on the 75th Anniversary of the Perth Volunteer Fire Company for all of the work they do to keep the Town safe. The complete resolution was in the August 8, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Regular Town Board Meeting held on September 3, 2020 were offered for approval by Councilman Korona and seconded by Councilman Lewandowski. All were in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Anne Philippi from the American Red Cross came to the Meeting to request the use of the Town of Perth Senior Community Center to hold blood drives.

The place they have been using is not large enough to accommodate the social distancing required during the corona virus pandemic. She stated that they would take the temperatures of all persons attending and there would be appointments only, no walk-ins. After they are finished they would wipe everything down with disinfectant, and arrange the room the way they found it.

Councilman Korona asked if they have insurance and Ms. Phillipi stated that they do, and she would provide proof. **Supervisor Fagan** stated that he could see no reason why they could not use the room.

Darren Suarez from Boralex Solar Project came to discuss solar projects in the Town of Perth. He stated that Boralex is a Canadian company who has been in the solar business for thirty years. They are just beginning the process for three projects this year with construction to start in 2022 and finish in 2023.

Town Justice, Wayne McNeil asked if they are required to restore the land the way it was before the solar project. **Mr. Suarez** stated that they put up a bond to cover the cost of dismantling the project at the end of its life span.

Justice McNeil also asked if the company gives back to the community in the form of taxes. Mr. Suarez replied that they prefer to have a PILOT contract in place but since Fulton County does not allow that, it is difficult to assess what would be the amount of taxes they would be required to pay.

Jeanne Pitkin asked if there any hazardous materials used in the construction of the solar panels that might escape if there was hail damage. She also asked if they install the panels in wetlands. **Mr. Suarez** answered that they try to avoid wetlands, and there are no hazardous chemicals in the solar panels.

Thomas Herba, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, asked who is responsible for the taxes on the property that the solar farm is located on. **Mr. Suarez** stated that the solar company would be responsible for the taxes.

Councilman Betz asked if they could replace the panels when their lifespan is up instead of just removing them. **Mr. Suarez** stated that his presentation tonight is just to let the Community know that they are in the area and are looking to do some projects in the future.

Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq., told **Mr. Suarez** that in addition to dealing with the Town Board of the Town of Perth, they would also have to have interactions with the Town of Perth Planning Board.

Mr. Suarez ended his presentation by stating that this evening was for informational purposes only and no specific project was being discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications as listed on the Agenda are filed in the Town Clerk's Office where they are available to anyone who wishes to see them.

UPDATE FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Korona reported that the filtration unit for the Town Complex water system malfunctioned, and was put on bypass by **Custodian Nolan**. He also stated that the gutters at the Town Complex are full of leaves. **Supervisor Fagan** asked **Highway Superintendent, David Dopp**, if his crew could clean them out. **Superintendent Dopp** stated that they would.

Councilman Betz read the **Assessor's** Report, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes. The Assessor stated that the names of the Mobile Home Parks that have not renewed their park permits have been given to the Code Enforcement Officer so he could notify them that they were delinquent.

Highway Superintendent, David Dopp, stated that Clean-up Week is going good. Residents are very happy that the fall clean-up was not cancelled like the spring one was. He states that next week his crew will be taking down a dead tree in the Perth Center Cemetery as it poses a danger of falling.

Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq., stated that Borrenco Solar wants to have a Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting regarding their proposed solar farm on County Highway 132. The last he knew there were only two members presently active on the Board which should have five members.

Supervisor Fagan informed him that the Zoning Board of Appeals now has four members, which is sufficient to have a meeting requested by Borrengo. Attorney Greco then stated that all of the Town's legal work is up to date.

Supervisor Fagan stated that he has to applaud the Fulton County Department Heads for keeping their 2021 budget requests down. New York State is holding back monies for County programs. The Town of Perth 2021 Budget has a 0% increase in Town Taxes. The Sales Tax money for the Town is very close to what it was last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Fagan went over the 2021 Town of Perth Budget with the Town Board members. **Budget Officer, Patricia Herba**, pointed to a mistake in the Tax Collector's .4 Account, which was \$3,650.00 over what it should be.

The Budget included a 2% increase in the Town Board Members annual salary. After discussion among themselves they decided not to take the raise to save money for the taxpayers.

Town Justice, Wayne McNeil, noted that the money for a security guard that he had requested for the Town Court was not included in the budget. He strongly feels that this position is needed for the safety of the court personnel as well as for the general public, and would like the Town Board to reconsider adding the money for this position to the 2021 Town Budget.

Justice McNeil recounted a recent incident where an intoxicated person caused chaos in the courtroom. He feels that a person who is trained to handle a situation such as this is needed. Also an off-duty officer would be able to arrest an unruly person.

Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq. added that if a person were to be injured at court night the Town of Perth would be liable.

Supervisor Fagan and Town Justice McNeil went over what the approximate cost for a deputy to be on the premises for court nights would add to the budget.

With the savings from the mistake in the Tax Collector's Account, and some figuring on how many hours the deputy would be needed, plus the Town Board giving up their raise, it was decided that the position of a deputy to be present for court night could be added to the Budget.

Fire Chief of the Perth Volunteer Fire Company Inc., Peter Watrobski was present and stated that the budget amount from the Town of Perth for the Fire Department was satisfactory. There was a small increase of \$1,600.00 making the Town's contribution \$223,360.00. **Fire Chief Watrobski** stated that he has applied for several grants to help pay for equipment for the firemen.

Supervisor Fagan concluded by stating that the 2021 Town of Perth Budget is staying at last year's tax cap rate which was under by \$15,000 .00 that rolled over. and this year we were able to stay under the tax cap limit by \$22,385. 00.

OLD BUSINESS

The Town of Perth is still in need of a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Jeanne Pitkin**, a resident of Perth living on County Highway 132 stated that she would be interested in being appointed to ZBA.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION # 80- AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MONEY

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes the transfer of the amount of \$3,400 .00 from Account A1990.4 Contingent to Account A1620.4 Buildings Contractual to pay for the dirt used to level off the west part of the driveway at the Town Hall Complex.

Offered by: Councilman Fisher
Seconded by: Councilman Betz

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION #81- AUTHORIZE TRUCK REPAIRS

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes truck repairs as follows:

Truck #1 Hydraulic boom and replace pump \$1,293.28

Truck #5- Replace rear brakes and replace tandem axle HD brakes \$4,582.62

Charge Truck #1 & 5 to Account DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual

Truck #10 Clean Fuel system and all injectors \$1,419.74 to be charged to Account A8160.4 Refuse and Garbage Contractual.

All bills are to be paid to Frank's Heavy Duty Truck Repair.

Offered by: Councilman Lewandowski

Seconded by: Councilman Korona

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 82- AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MONEY

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes the transfer of the amount of \$570.00 from Account A1990.4 Contingent to Account A1330.4 Tax Collection Contractual.

Offered by: Councilman Lewandowski

Seconded by: Councilman Korona

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 83- ADOPT THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth adopts the Town of Perth 2021 Tentative Budget as the 2021 Town of Perth Preliminary Budget with the changes made during this Meeting.

Offered by: Councilman Korona
Seconded by: Councilman Betz

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 84- SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth schedules a public hearing for the 2021 Town of Perth Preliminary Budget for Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:05 p.m.

Offered by: Councilman Lewandowski
Seconded by: Councilman Korona

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION #85- SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRE CONTRACT

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth schedules a public hearing on the Town of Perth Fire Contract with the Perth Volunteer Fire Company Inc. for 2021 for Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:10 p.m.

Offered by: Councilman Korona
Seconded by: Councilman Lewandowski

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION #86- ALLOW RED CROSS TO USE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth gives the Red Cross permission to hold blood drives in the Community Senior Center.

Offered by: Councilman Betz
Seconded by: Councilman Lewandowski

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 87- APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE ZBA

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth appoints Jeanne Pitkin to the Town of Perth Zoning Board of Appeals term to be from 10/08/2020 to 12/31/2024.

Offered by: Councilman Korona
Seconded by: Councilman Lewandowski

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 88- AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON ABSTRACT #10-2020

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes the payment of bills on abstract # 10-2020 as follows:

Prepaid	107- 120	\$7,066.70
Prepaid Highway	28-31	\$7,675.41
Highway	79-83	\$12,626.09
General	205-227	\$20,143.52

Offered by: Councilman Korona
Seconded by: Councilman Betz

Each Councilman indicated their approval by signing each voucher with the exception of Councilman Fisher who did not sign voucher #79 for John Deere Tractor mower blades, voucher # 80 for Frank's Heavy Duty Truck, voucher #81 for Road Run in Parts, voucher #83 for Amsterdam Auto Parts, and voucher #227 for Frank's Heavy Duty Truck Service even though he did not raise opposition to the resolution to pay the bills.

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

With all of the business concluded for the evening a motion was made to close the Meeting by Councilman Lewandowski and seconded by Councilman Betz. All were in favor; motion carried.

The next meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Perth will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Complex, 1849 County Highway 107, Perth, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith English
Perth Town Clerk