

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Deputy Supervisor Steven Rackowski. Also present for the meeting were Councilman Phillips; Councilman Alikonis, Councilman Robataille, Attorney Slezak and Town Clerk Staley.

Councilman Alikonis led the salute to the flag.

Motion by Councilman Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Robataille to adopt the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Phillips and seconded by Councilman Robataille to approve and accept minutes of August 20, 2018 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Bids were opened from three contractors for the “Old” Town Hall renovation project:
Borderline Excavation and Fence, LLC from St. Johnsville NY: \$247,750
Hoosick Valley Contractors, Inc. from Melrose NY: \$287,000
U.W. Marx, Inc. from Troy NY: \$359,000
- Presentation by NextEra Energy Group regarding the proposed large scale solar project currently going through the Article 10 process with the Public Service Commission. Comment cards were left for the residents at the meeting to write any questions and leave with the Town Clerk for her to forward back to the company.

Legislative:

- Nothing at this time.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Gary Francisco has now been to Court twice. His public defender has been encouraging him to comply and clean up the property. He has been making attempts to comply.

Planning and Zoning:

- Paul Slansky stated that he has issued a Stop Work Order for property on the corner of Merry and Millers Corners Road and spoken with the owner about the garbage and abandoned cars. The owner is working to comply.
- Mohawk Hills subdivision is going to go back to their original plan of single family homes. They had revised their plans to put town homes in the development and have changed that decision.
- VitaBlends was not at the last Planning Board meeting. No word if they will be at next month's.

Supervisor Eric Mead arrived for the Board Meeting.

Building Maintenance:

- No bleacher railings as of yet. Highway Superintendent Steve Anderson is working on finding a supplier still.
- Quote for two 12' X 2' flower boxes for in front of the “Old” Town Hall from the Amish. They will be about \$170 - \$200 each and will be pressure treated. Supervisor Mead and the Board gave Steve permission to order them.
- Steve informed the Board that the Highway guys will be cleaning up the pile of unused ball field sand that has been sitting at the end of the fence line.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent, Steve Anderson brought quotes to the Town Board for a new pressure washer, jumping jack, Bobcat compact excavator, a trailer and Western Star truck. Councilman Alikonis asked what was wrong with the current pressure washer and was informed that it keeps stalling and not spraying properly. Parts have been replaced with no success. The Board agreed that a new compactor was needed.

MOTION by Councilman Robataille and seconded by Councilman Phillips to approve the purchase of an ADMAR BS60-4As 4 Stroke Jumping Jack at a cost of two thousand seven hundred eighty-nine dollars and fifty-one cents (\$2,789.51). All in favor and passed.

Water and Sewer:

- Nothing at this time.

Youth:

- Halloween Party on October 13th at 3pm and two movie nights at Emerald Cinemas; November 21st and December 27th.

Veterans:

- October 7th Roast Pork/Ham Dinner from 2pm – 6pm.

Old Business:

- Nothing at this time.

New Business:

1. Review of the preliminary budget for 2019. Supervisor Mead asked the Councilmen to review the budget and please let him know of any changes. A public hearing will be set at the October 15th Board Meeting for the Thursday after Election Day which would be November 8th.

Public Comment opened at 8:25pm.

- Vince and Jessie Vandetta, 1005 Bullshead Road
Charles Gor, 254 MacDougall Road
Dot Carey, Bullshead Road
Stacey Smith, 445 Pattersonville Road
Vijay Puran, 859 Bullshead Road
All spoke out against the NextEra Energy Groups proposed 550 acre 90 mega watt solar farm that is proposed for land all around their residences. All want to know what is the Town Board doing to assist in protecting them and their quality of life and homes. See the Board as not supporting its residents by being better informed and speaking out against such a large scale project. Want a moratorium and the public support of the Board against the project. Do not see the Town Board doing its due diligence to be better informed of the process of Article 10 and not asking the correct questions of NextEra Energy.
- Attorney Deborah Slezak informed the public and the Board that she has drafted Local Law #4 for a temporary 180 day moratorium on all solar projects in the Town so that the Town Board and Planning Board can re-visit the current regulations for Solar and update as needed so that future projects can be better regulated. Attorney Slezak read the language of the proposed law into the minutes.

MOTION by Councilman Phillips and seconded by Councilman Robataille to amend the Agenda to set a Public Hearing date of October 15th at 6:45pm for Local Law #4 “Temporary 180 Day Moratorium on Construction of Solar Energy Systems and Equipment and Solar Energy Facilities.” All in favor and passed.

Public Comment Closed @ 9:24pm.

MOTION by Councilman Robataille to audit and pay the monthly bills was seconded by Councilman Alikonis; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Phillips to approve the Supervisor’s Report was seconded by Councilman Alikonis; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Phillips to adjourn was seconded by Supervisor Mead; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Staley
Town Clerk