

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

## November 19, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board was called to order at 7:03 pm by Supervisor Eric Mead. Also present for the meeting were Councilman Rackowski, Councilman Alikonis, Councilman Phillips, Councilman Robataille, Attorney Slezak and Town Clerk Staley.

Councilman Rackowski led the salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Councilman Robataille and seconded by Councilman Phillips to amend the Agenda to change Resolution #71 to read "Deputy Supervisor Steve Rackowski" instead of "Supervisor Eric Mead" and Resolution #72 to read NYS Board on Electric Generation, Sighting and Environment. All in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Councilman Phillips and seconded by Councilman Rackowski to adopt the Agenda as amended; all in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Councilman Phillips and seconded by Councilman Robataille to accept the Public Hearing minutes from Local Law #4 held on October 15, 2018. All in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Supervisor Mead and seconded by Councilman Alikonis to accept minutes from the Public Hearing held on November 8, 2019 regarding the proposed 2019 Budget. All in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Councilman Robataille and seconded by Councilman Rackowski to approve and accept minutes of October 15, 2018 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### *Communications & Announcements:*

- Letter from GAR announcing the completion of the Town's revaluation. GAR recommends follow-up for the next four (4) years to keep the Town's assessments even. A quote for the service was included. Supervisor Mead will meet with the Assessors to discuss this.

#### *Legislative:*

- Nothing at this time.

#### *Engineering:*

- Steve Lefevre from Barton & Loguidice was present to give an overview of the services they will perform for the Town regarding the ongoing Article 10 process for the large solar array proposed in the Town of Florida.

#### *Attorney:*

- Gary Francisco matter is coming back to court December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm. He has been continuing to make progress at the property.
- Cushing Stone & Cranesville Block grieved their assessments in court. They had appraisals done which came back very low and will drop the tax revenue in the Town significantly. Attorney Slezak has been in contact with Dave Barnett of GAR and he recommended the Town have a preliminary and court ready appraisals done in order to be prepared for future court dates. A preliminary appraisal will cost two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and a court read appraisal will be eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per parcel. He will be sending a proposal over to the Assessor's for them to review with Deb. The appraisal exchange is scheduled for February 2019 with the court date scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Discuss of the PUD at the last Planning Board meeting was successful. Rich Romeo asked that the language giving the Town Board final say over the approval be changed to the Planning Board having final approval and Supervisor Mead stated that he and the Board had no issue with that. Mike Crowe of FMBF will make the changes and have the final draft ready for the next Board Meeting for review.

#### *Planning and Zoning:*

- Mike Taylor, Planning Board Chairman updated the Board on the Vida-Blends site plan review. It got initial approval from the Planning Board and has been sent to the County Planning Board for their suggestions and/or approval. A public hearing needs to be scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion** by Supervisor Mead and seconded by Councilman Robataille to refer Local Law #4 “Temporary 180 Moratorium on construction of solar energy systems and equipment and solar facilities to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their review and to make any amendments to the Solar Zoning Ordinance that they see necessary. All in favor and passed.

Supervisor Mead also asked the Town Board for their input and suggested to the Planning Board that they meet outside of regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings and have a workshop or workshops to go over the current ordinance and then send on their suggested changes to him.

- Johns Sampone informed the Board that permits issued are over 100 and work on all projects will be steady through the winter.
- Paul Slansky said the vehicles on East Church Street in Fort Hunter have been moved. He contacted Mr. Nadler about the building falling down. Councilman Rackowski is concerned about the continued mess on Merry Road. Suggested Paul forward the information on to Attorney Slezak for her to take action legally.

*Building Maintenance:*

- Supervisor Mead, Highway Superintendent Anderson, JME and Borderline met at the Town Hall to review progress on the demolition and reconstruction of the interior of the Hall. They are moving along
- Steve Anderson stated the new water line has been installed in the other garage. Dave Jablonski repaired the gutter that was falling off the roof.

*Highway:*

- Highway Superintendent, Steve Anderson stated that the current warranty for the loaders is expiring and extended warranties can be purchased if the Board approves. It was suggested that Steve call Teachout to see about selling the loaders at auction and possibly purchasing new ones.
- Steve also put a quote before the Board requesting approval to purchase a new 1 Ton pick-up truck. He still has \$40,000 in his equipment line plus will be able to put the money received from an auction sale on the purchase price. It is on the rotation to be replaced.

**MOTION** by Councilman Robataille and seconded by Councilman Philips to authorize Highway Superintendent Steve Anderson to purchase a 2019 Ford F350XL 4x4 at a cost not to exceed fifty-three thousand eight hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$53,899) from Carbone Auto Group. All in favor and passed.

*Water and Sewer:*

- Chlorine analyzers need to be serviced. Steve brought in a contract from HACH for the service. Will not need to contract with the City of Amsterdam for any service issues. The Town will handle things in house.

*Youth:*

- Christmas Party is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm
- Emerald Cinemas; November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Veterans:*

- Nothing at this time.

*Old Business:*

- Nothing at this time.

*New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #69** was sponsored by Councilman Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Robataille to authorize the transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Reserve Fund Balance to Account A1620.4 Buildings & Grounds Contractual for payment of the Town Hall Renovation project to Borderline Excavation as per contractual agreement. All in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #70** was sponsored by Councilman Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Alikonis to authorize the passage of the 2019 Budget for which a public hearing was held on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All in favor and passed.

**Adopted:**                   \_\_5\_\_ Ayes \_\_0\_\_ Nays \_\_0\_\_ Abstentions

**Roll Call Vote:**           Supervisor Mead - Aye  
                          Councilman Alikonis – Aye  
                          Councilman Rackowski – Aye  
                          Councilman Robataille – Aye  
                          Councilman Phillips – Aye

3. **RESOLUTION #71** was sponsored by Councilman Robataille and seconded by Councilman Phillips to authorizing the Deputy Supervisor Steve Rackowski to sign the contracts for snow and ice control/removal on county roads with Montgomery County. Supervisor Eric Mead Abstained, all others in favor and passed.
4. **RESOLUTION #72** was sponsored by Councilman Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Rackowski to authorize the hiring of Barton and Loguidice, P.C. to assist the Town of Florida with the pending Article 10 process with High River Energy and the NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and Environment (Siting Board). All in favor and passed.
5. **RESOLUTION #73** sponsored by Councilman Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Alikonis to authorize Elma Phillips of Elma’s Tax Service to perform the Justice Court Audit for the year 2018 for both Justice Stephen Brown and Justice Louis Carleo III. Councilman Ron Phillips abstained all others in favor and passed.
6. **RESOLUTION #74** sponsored by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Robataille to set the Public Hearing date for December 17, 2018 at 6:45pm for discussion of the Planned Unit Developments proposed for addition to the Town of Florida’s Zoning Ordinance. All in favor and passed.
7. **RESOLUTION #75** sponsored by Councilman Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Robataille authorizing Supervisor Eric Mead to sign the Dog Shelter Service Agreement between the Montgomery County SPCA and the Town of Florida for the period beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019 and that the amount paid to the SPCA will stay at seven thousand dollars (\$7,000). All in favor and passed.

*Public Comment opened at 8:05pm.*

- Ed Berry, 131 West Church Street, Fort Hunter. Questions regarding NYS Rising funds.
- Vijay Puran, 859 Bullshead Road, Amsterdam. Does the Town have a Comprehensive Plan? Yes. Pleased to see an engineering firm has been hired to assist with the Article 10 process. The residents on and around the project are also a party to the case.

*Public Comment Closed @ 8:15pm*

**MOTION** by Councilman Phillips and seconded by Councilman Robataille to remove the bill for Association of Towns Dues and amend the audit of bills to reflect this removal. All in favor and passed.

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

**MOTION** by Councilman Robataille 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 Councilman Rackowski; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Staley  
Town Clerk