

TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

February 24, 2020

7:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board was called to order at 7:01 pm by Supervisor Eric Mead. Also present for the meeting were Councilman Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Steve Rackowski, Councilman Guy Robataille, Attorney Deborah Slezak and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

Councilman Guy Robataille led the salute to the flag.

Motion by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to strike **RESOLUTION #37** from the minutes of January 20, 2020 as there was not a quorum after Deputy Supervisor Steve Rackowski abstained from voting. All in favor and passed.

Motion by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to accept the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Supervisor Eric Mead to approve and accept minutes of the January 20, 2020 Board Meeting as amended; all in favor and passed.

Committee Reports:

Communications & Announcements:

- Jessie Rowe and Anthony Krolkowski were present to observe the Board Meeting for their Participation in Government class for Ms. Mary Brown at Fonda-Fultonville School.

Assessor:

- Lisa Jablonski informed the Board that she has been asking people if they would be interested in being on the BAR with no success. Jackie Vogel moved out of the town and that leaves a spot open. Jennifer Phillips offered to be on the BAR. The Town Board expressed that it would be a good idea to advertise first to see if anyone would step up. An ad will be run in The Recorder February 27, 28, 29 and March 5, 6, 7.

Engineering:

- Nothing at this time.

Attorney:

- Initial court conference with Judge Tomlinson and Ahmed Shah's attorney is scheduled for mid-March. This is an information gathering conference and Attorney Slezak's office has reached out to Mr. Shah's attorney for appraisal information with no success.
- Attorney Slezak has spoken to Dave Everett, Attorney working on the Amazon project proposed for the Lott Holding building on Route 5s. He is concerned with the timeline of approvals between the Town Board and Planning Board. He asked about the Planning Board doing a Special Meeting to approve the Zoning Ordinance changes and Deb said that could be possible but could not give a firm answer until the Planning Board meets on Monday, March 2nd. Mr. Everett then asked about doing a "segmented" SEQR which Attorney Slezak was not comfortable with because the SEQR process is not meant to be broken into sections to prevent a project that would have an impact from having no impact. The Planning Board is currently Lead Agency and will be doing the negative declaration if that is what it is to be.
- Attorney Mike Crowe will be attending a meeting in Albany with the siting board regarding the High River Energy Solar project. More information will be forth coming.
- Councilman Harold Alikonis asked Attorney Slezak about giving Paul Slansky the power to remove signs that were put up illegally in the Town. He currently can write letters and make phone calls but if companies/people don't comply he has no legal grounds to remove the signs and it is the thought of the Town Board that he should. It was mentioned to add the Highway Department as being able to assist him if necessary. Attorney Slezak said she would work on getting it changed in the Zoning Code.

Planning and Zoning:

- John Sampone is getting ready to do the final inspection of the Dollar General warehouse. He asked if there were any issues that he needed to be aware of or did the Board have any questions. Supervisor Mead said he has a call into Mark Payne to get the word out to the drivers coming in with merchandise that Denise and Fort Hunter Roads are not to be used by tractor trailers and drivers need to use Route 5S only. John said complaints are still coming in regarding the lighting on site and he is going to speak about that and see what solution can be done. Part of the issue is the greenery planted has not grown up and that it will be years before it is an appropriate screen.
- Chuck Dumblewski and the Lott Holding project are coming back to the Planning Board in March. A building permit was submitted for the Lott Holding warehouse project and we are waiting for the check to be sent before it can be issued.
- Councilman Steve Rackowski asked if the trees that are dying around the solar array on Nadler Bros property around the solar array were going to be replaced? John said he would look at the maintenance agreement that should have been included and call the builder.
- Councilman Rackowski also asked about the schoolhouse on Route 30S that had the dogs abandoned inside of it; what was the status? John said it was posted as a hazardous building and no one can go inside. It is not a livable residence; it's just for storage. The building needs to be cleaned and sealed on the inside. He has sent a letter to the owner with no response; will send another letter and if no response then he will send the information over to Attorney Slezak and she will look into the process of what it would take to have the building cleaned up and then the clean-up charged to the tax bill.

Building Maintenance:

- The grant the Court applied for to have a generator installed to run the whole building in a power outage was accepted and they received half of the cost of the amount for the installation of the generator. Work began last week with the company working on the electrical wiring in preparation for the installation. Next is putting the propane tank in the ground and running those lines.

Highway:

- Nothing at this time.

Water and Sewer:

- Pump house heater motor failed. It is fixed and up and running.

Youth:

- Easter Egg Hunt is coming up. No meeting scheduled as of yet.

Old Business:

- Nothing at this time.

New Business:

1. **RESOLUTION #39** sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Guy Robataille to set the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Amendments as recommended to the Town Board from the Planning Board for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:50pm. All in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #40** sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to refer the proposed Amendments to the Town of Florida Zoning Code to the Montgomery County Planning Board for their thoughts and comments. All in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #41** sponsored by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Guy Robataille to authorize Supervisor Eric Mead to sign the contract with Prime AE to provide engineering services as TDE for 1785 Route 5S Warehouse Project. All in favor and passed.

Motion by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to amend the agenda to add **RESOLUTION #42** appointing Keith Rackowski as Animal Control Officer for the year 2020. All in favor and passed.

4. **RESOLUTION #42** sponsored by Guy Robataille and seconded by Harold Alikonis to appoint Keith Rackowski, 292 Fort Hunter Road, Amsterdam, NY as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Florida for the year 2020. All in favor and passed. Councilman Steve Rackowski abstained.

Public Comment opened at 7:44pm.

Anthony Krolkowski and Jessie Rowe each asked one question of the Town Board. Anthony asked for an explanation of SEQR and Jessie asked Supervisor Mead how he decided he wanted to be Supervisor.

Public Comment closed at 7:48pm.

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

MOTION by Councilman Guy Robataille to approve the Supervisor's Report was seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis; all in favor and passed.

MOTION by Councilman Matthew Gogis to adjourn was seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Staley
Town Clerk