

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2020

7:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Florida Town Board; was called to order at 7:00 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.

Clerk Emily Staley led the salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to accept the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Guy Robataille to approve and accept minutes of the August 17, 2020 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

## Committee Reports:

### *Communications & Announcements:*

- Supervisor Mead handed out the 2021 Preliminary Budget for all Councilmen to review and request any changes before October's meeting. No changes to salaries were made until after discussions were completed with the Highway employees regarding their salaries. Court fines and fees collected are down due to Covid and back log of hearing cases. Workers Comp premiums went up approximately \$5,000 for 2021; Town insurance premiums have not been quoted as of yet but expected to rise slightly. Revenues for Highway budget lines are holding steady.

### *Assessor:*

- Lisa is doing field work; following up on filed building permits and has two meetings for SCAR cases this week.

### *Engineering:*

- Doug Cole submitted an amendment to the cost for TDE for the NAPA project for the Board to review and Supervisor Mead to sign if approved.

### *Attorney:*

- Attorney Slezak informed the Board that Target Tax has withdrawn its Tax Certiorari case. She received a letter from their attorney. She will contact Lisa Jablonski to let her know. Ahmed Shah is moving very slowly; still no appraisal of the property in question.
- Attorney Slezak was asked by Paul Slansky to write a letter to Kyle Schultz regarding his pole barn being incomplete for multiple years now. The permit has expired and he needs to apply for a new permit or take the frame down.
- Deb asked about the funds for the top coat of paving the road in the Mohawk Hills Development. What was the amount and was that enough to cover the cost of the top coat? Also still need the clear title and the retention pond needs to have fence put around it.
- There was an issue with the amount that High River Energy put in their paperwork for the payment to the City of Amsterdam and School Taxes as well.

### *Planning and Zoning:*

- Paul Slansky reported that he is following up with a few new issues that have appeared in the Town; there is a shed that was placed against a garage on Quakenbush Street. Florida Reformed Church put a roof on with no permit. Dimanno on Snooks Corners Road has multiple vehicles in his yard with no license plates on them.
- Supervisor Mead spoke regarding the Henderson's request to have their property changed from R-1 to C-1 with Wood Processing added to the list of uses allowed in a C-1 Zone. They have been to the Planning Board for a Special Permit and were denied and sent to the ZBA for a Variance and were denied and have approached the Town Board now to request the Town Board make a Zone Change. Supervisor Mead said the brought a signed petition to the August Board Meeting and now their neighbor, Linda Kowalski, whose property is surrounded by theirs wrote a letter asking for her property to be included in the change of zone as well. Other options were discussed in regards to this including applying for a PUD (does not qualify) or adding the use of

wood processing to the R-1 (not appropriate). It was the decision of the Board after lengthy discussion to refer this to the Planning Board for their recommendations and to come up with the zone designations to allow this through a Special Permit and definition of the use in the Zoning Ordinance. This process will take approximately 3 months to get through. Councilman Gogis stated that he will be at the Planning Board Mtg to speak on behalf of the Town Board to explain their stance and what the Board is looking for as far as input from the Planning Board.

**MOTION** by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to amend the Agenda to add **RESOLUTION #57** to refer the Zone Change request regarding properties owned by Linda Kowalski, 2118 State Highway 5S (SBL 54.-1-6.2) and Steven Henderson, 2110 State Highway 5S (SBL 54.-1-6.111) from R-1 to C-1. All in favor and passed.

#### *Building Maintenance:*

- Discussion over replacing the sign at the end of the drive entrance to Town Hall with a digital LED sign. Supervisor Mead received two prices for signs; \$13,000 and \$15,500. Both signs are wireless and the Town Clerk will be the one handling the messages and updates on the sign. Councilman Alikonis said if the cost of the sign and installation can stay below \$20,000 he thinks it should be done. The rest of the Board agreed as well. Supervisor Mead will contact the salesman and place the order.

#### *Highway:*

- Steve Anderson got a quote for a new truck. Quote for trading in the loaders. If new ones are taken for delivery by the end of September the cost will be \$18,404; if taken at the end of the year or in 2021 the cost will be \$19,908. Money is available in the budget for equipment. If the current loaders are kept for another year then they will have to have maintenance at a cost of approximately \$2,000 per loader because all fluids and filters need to be changed out and it hasn't been done yet. There is no auction option available this year. Discussion regarding trading of loaders this year or waiting another year. Agreed to trade this year.

#### *Water and Sewer:*

- Steve Anderson forwarded information to Supervisor Mead regarding having the water tank cleaned and disinfected. It also needs to be painted and the corrosion rods need to be replaced/repainted. Eric suggested Steve reach out to former H.S. Bill Weller. Discussion over who should paint the tank and when. Beech-Nut volunteered to pay for having it painted if they can paint it to look like a baby food jar. The cost would be approximately \$450,000 to paint. It was pointed out that Town of Amsterdam received grant money to have their tank painted.

#### *Youth:*

- The Youth Commission is planning a Trunk or Treat event in the Village of Minaville. Kim Graff offered the use of his parking lot for people to park cars to hand candy out, the Fire Department will assist with parking and crossing pedestrians on Route 30. County DPW will close Langley Road from Route 30 to Kings Lane and ask the Sheriff's Dept to post a car to slow traffic down.

#### *Veterans:*

- Rudy Horlbeck spoke regarding Bellamy Builders drilling the tunnel for the new water/camera line. The T2 will be painted by the finishing trades apprentices. Planning for the Veteran's Day Service has begun. It will be November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Albert Staley is going to be reaching out to the engineer who has done some work for the park regarding placement of the cannon and rock. It was suggested that Rudy contact Tim Sievers regarding any family or history regarding the placement of the cannon and rock to be sure that there is not some stipulation that it has to stay in place in perpetuity.

*Old Business: Nothing at this time.*

#### *New Business:*

1. **RESOLUTION #56** sponsored by Councilman Guy Robataille and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis authorizing Supervisor Mead to sign the Amended contract with Prime AE for TDE services during the NAPA, 1961 State Highway 5S project. The amount Chuck Dumblewski needs to place in escrow is being increased by \$2,500. All in favor and passed.
2. **RESOLUTION #57** sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Guy Robataille to refer the Zoning Change request for properties owned by Linda Kowalski, 2118 State Highway 5S and Steven Henderson, 2110 State Highway 5S from R-1 to C-1 to the Town of Florida Planning Board for their input and recommendations. All in favor and passed.

*Public Comment: Opened at 8:33pm*

**Carol Henderson**, 394 Truax Road; speaking as the owner of Henderson Wood and Garden and on behalf of the owner of 2110 NYS Hwy 5S, Steve Henderson. She wanted to be sure of the process with the referral to the Planning Board. Supervisor Mead explained the process at length and Carol was satisfied with that. She also congratulated Eric and his family on the dedication of Mead Road.

*Public Comment: Closed at 8:34pm.*

**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 Matthew Gogis 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 Guy Robataille; all in favor and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Emily Staley - Town Clerk