

# TOWN OF FLORIDA BOARD MEETING

October 17, 2022

7:00pm

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 Harold Alikonis, Councilman Matthew Gogis, Councilman Mark Quiri, Councilman Steve Rackowski, Attorney Deb Slezak and Town Clerk Emily Staley.

Councilman Mark Quiri led the salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Councilman Steve Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis to accept the Agenda; all in favor and passed.

**Motion** by Councilman Mark Quiri and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to approve and accept the minutes from the September 19, 2022 Board Meeting; all in favor and passed.

## **Committee Reports:**

### *Communications & Announcements:*

- Nothing at this time

### *Assessor:*

- Continuing with field work. Beginning to review and get ready to send out Agricultural Exemption paperwork. Working with Emily to write up a letter of information.

### *Engineering:*

- Nothing at this time.

### *Attorney:*

- Attorney Slezak reached out to Ms. LaBate's attorney regarding the continuing issues with her septic. Has received no response so she has requested to be returned to the Court's calendar to be addressed.
- The assignment for the Verizon lease is at the County and waiting for approval and signatures.
- The Planning Board gave a negative report/recommendation for the PUD application. Waiting for the appeal to be sent to the Town Board and will be put on next month's agenda.
- Fire Department contract looks good. Attorney Slezak will take a hard look at it and let Supervisor Mead know if anything needs to be updated/changed and it can be added to the November Agenda.

### *Planning and Zoning:*

- The Town Board did receive the Planning Boards report/recommendation regarding the PUD.
- The applicant sent a notice that they would be appealing the recommendation.

### *Building Maintenance:*

- Field lights need to be replaced. Cost of \$31,264 for all of them. Wait for Spring. Councilman Harold Alikonis suggested a meeting with the team using the field to get a plan in place for next year and what the intent is from the team. Supervisor Mead needs to finish his review and update to the contract.

### *Highway:*

- New mower is in as well as the truck. The old truck is going to auction.
- Steve Anderson presented a quote for a new mower to replace the 2010 mower. There is enough in the 2023 Budget to purchase it.

### *Water and Sewer:*

- Nothing at this time.

### *Youth:*

- October 29 Trunk or Treat from 4:30 – 6:00 in Minaville. 10 Trunks and 10 houses are signed up to hand out candy.
- November 1 gift sign ups need to be turned in for Santa's visit which will take place on December 3.

- Movie night November 18; Potter, pizza, popcorn at 6:30pm.

*Veterans:*

- Veteran’s Day Service on November 13 at 2:00pm. Apple turnover with ice cream and coffee afterwards outside if the weather cooperates. If inclement weather it will move indoors.
- Moving forward with the work to place the cannon at the Veteran’s Memorial Park. The rock is in place. Need stamped concrete done. Quotes came back very high for the work. Decided to do the placement of the rock with the Highway Department’s help. Contractor to do concrete met ½ way with the price total. Not sure if it will be done this year or next. Still need the informational panel and will need some financial help to complete the project.

*Old Business:*

- Nothing at this time.

*New Business:*

- Montgomery County is offering a training portal for the DPW workers and have asked if Towns in Montgomery County want to participate. Cost is approximately \$180 per year per employee and they will have access to equipment training and safety videos as well as workplace behavior training videos. Will there be an insurance break for this? Supervisor Mead will find out.
- The Town Dump will be closed on Wednesday, October 26 for concrete work under the dumpsters. It will re-open on Saturday, October 29.
- Councilman Gogis received another anonymous letter regarding the Schaufelberg property and the illegal salvage business being conducted. Attorney Slezak said she would speak to the new Zoning Enforcement Officer and bring him up to speed.
- Budget recap. Supervisor Mead went over a few items in the 2023 Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary Budget for 2023 will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office. The Veteran’s Committee asked for an increase in their yearly amount. Supervisor Mead said he would recommend an increase from \$4,000 to \$6,500 and the Board agreed. The Committee also gave a breakdown of the costs that will need to be covered to finish the work for setting the cannon and also for work to be done for access to the tank. Councilman Alikonis had no issue with the Town paying for the work that needs to be done to complete something that is such a huge asset to the Town. Supervisor Mead said all bills for the cannon concrete work and the tank work should be given to the Town to be paid.

1. **RESOLUTION #77** sponsored by Councilman Steven Rackowski and seconded by Councilman Mark Quiri to authorize Elma’s Tax Service to perform the Justice Court Audit for the year 2022 for Justice Stephen M Brown; all in favor and passed. Councilman Matthew Gogis Abstained.
2. **RESOLUTION #78** sponsored by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Harold Alikonis, to set the Public Hearing on the Town of Florida’s 2023 Operating Budget for Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:00pm at 214 Fort Hunter Road; all in favor and passed.
3. **RESOLUTION #79** sponsored by Supervisor Eric Mead and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to appoint Gerald Podolec, 113 Railroad Street, Fort Hunter, NY; as Town of Florida Zoning Enforcement Officer for the remainder of the year 2022; all in favor and passed.
4. **RESOLUTION #80** sponsored by Councilman Harold Alikonis and seconded by Councilman Matthew Gogis to Amend the 2022 Operating Budget for the purchase of Highway Equipment. Resolution decreasing the General Fund Balance by \$249,114 and increasing Appropriations, DA5130.2 by \$249,114 for equipment purchase; all in favor and passed.

*Public Comment:* Opened at 7:48pm

Mike Jennings, 189 Burhmaster Road spoke against the PUD.

Ken Moritz, 270 Belldons Road, stated there is an issue with the PUD. Against approval of the PUD.

Bettina Courtens, 127 Langley Road, ongoing issue with her neighbor and her chickens. Asked if there is the possibility of mediation through the Right to Farm Law that the Town passed. Her neighbors are using retaliatory tactics in the form of posting No Trespassing signs right on the property line facing her house. Would like mediation if possible.

Elma Phillips, 795 Pattersonville Road, would like the PUD regulations removed from the Zoning Ordinance.

Carol Henderson, 2110 State Highway 5S, Can a new traffic study be done? Traffic is speeding. No recent study done since Dollar General opened. If there is a new study done, how does she get it. Supervisor Mead said he would call and see if there was one available.

*Public Comment:* Closed at 7:56pm

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

**MOTION** by Councilman Matthew Gogis and seconded by Councilman Steve Rackowski to accept the Supervisor's Report; 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 8:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Emily Staley - Town Clerk