

## TOWN OF POMPEY TOWN BOARD MINUTES

The Town Board of the Town of Pompey held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021. It was held via video conferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law and Executive Order 202.1. This is based upon notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State, and Local officials related to the COVID-19 virus. Board members remotely attended the meeting by connecting to video conference from an electronic device. For the public's viewing, the video conferencing meeting was hosted via Zoom and by livestreaming on the Town of Pompey's Facebook page.

Supervisor Rotondo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following remotely attended: Supervisor Renee Rotondo, Councilors Judy McElhannon, Ann Christmas, Carl Dennis, Sheila Larkin; Accountant 1 Tom Chartrand; Attorney for Town Tim Frateschi; Codes Officer Bob Rodriguez, Town Clerk Nikki Reid; Energy Programmer at Central New York Regional Planning and Developmental Board Chris Carrick; Solar Committee Chairman John Shaheen, Zoom Host Veronica Hotaling, along with 10 residents.

A moment of silence was had for a beloved community member, Eugene Barber, who will be sorely missed.

R-60-21            Motion by Dennis, seconded by McElhannon to reopen the Solar Energy System Local Law Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. This is the third continuation of the Public Hearing that was held on January 19, 2021 and February 1, 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo stated that there are two documents for the public's review on the Town of Pompey's website; a revised version of the Solar Local Law as well as a response to community feedback from energy program manager Chris Carrick of the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board.

### **Public Comment:**

Gregory Herlihy: Can you please clarify will the Town of Pompey be the entity holding the bond for a private landowner. Clarify what execute the bond means? What assurances are there that the money will be there should the initial company that places the panels there goes out of business? As someone who might potentially be interested in installing one of these systems, I have had discussions with business associates in other areas of the state who have told me there is potential for heavy metals to seep out of the panels under normal operating conditions, and allow for ground contamination. I was told the heavy metals contained within the panels could cause for the need to remediate the ground beneath the site at astronomical cost. Do

you have any research that speaks to these concerns? I think many of us would hate to have our children see more properties like the old Village Pump twenty years from now.

James Loomis: What powers a neighbor that opposes a particular site would have?

Supervisor Rotondo also received 24 letters from various town residents that are in support of a solar project not presently before the Town Board.

R-61-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Dennis to close the Solar Energy Systems Local Law Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Accountant Tom Chartrand updated that the LED lighting project has been started. The Town had to come up with approximately \$13,000.00 in order to begin, but will be getting back \$6,387.00. He is asking the board to appropriate \$10,000.00 of that closing balance until the rebate is received through NYSERDA.

R-62-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to approve the following transfer:

GENERAL FUND

From: A599	Fund Balance	2020 Closing Balance	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
		TOTAL:	\$10,000.00
To: A5182.4	Street Lighting	Contractual	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
		TOTAL:	\$10,000.00

All in favor. Motion carried.

Accountant Tom Chartrand gave an update on the Supervisor's monthly and year-end reports. General Fund: Spending at 21% (big bills paid in January); Revenue at 82%. Highway Fund: Spending at 9%; Revenue at 88%.

R-63-21 Motion by Christmas, seconded by McElhannon to accept the February 2021 bank reconciliation reports and monthly reports for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-64-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Dennis to approve the payment of General Fund Abstract Nos. 66-97, totaling \$21,013.79; Highway Fund Abstract Nos. 32-50, totaling \$32,716.63; Special District Abstract Nos. 7-7, totaling \$620.34. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-65-21 Motion by Christmas, seconded by Dennis to authorize Town Clerk Nikki Reid to post a Legal Notice which states that the financial statement for the year 2020 has been completed for the Town of Pompey and the Southern Onondaga County Joint Garbage and both have been filed with the State Comptroller. Copies are on file in the Town Clerk's Office where they may be inspected by all interested parties during regular Town Clerk hours. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-66-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to accept the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Nikki Reid suggested hosting a shredding/recycling event in honor of Earth Day. She reached out to Shred Solvers and they are able to host the event on April 24, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event would cost \$150 per hour. Residents can bring up to ten garbage bags worth of shred-able material. There will also be a pharmacist on site that will be disposing of unwanted prescriptions: however, needles nor controlled substances will be accepted. Also on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Reid suggested a Community Cleanup Day. Residents can help clean up garbage throughout the community and bring it to the Town Hall during the shredding event.

R-67-21 Motion by Larkin, seconded by McElhannon to allocate no more than \$500 to Shred Solvers on April 24, 2021 for the purpose of hosting a shred event for Earth Day. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Nikki Reid requested at least two board members to audit the Town Clerk and Tax Collector accounts: Supervisor Rotondo and Councilor Larkin offered to audit the books. Bookkeeper Chartrand also requested the Supervisor account to be audited, Councilor Larkin and Counselor McElhannon offered to audit the Supervisor's books.

Superintendent Purcell was absent due to the weather.

Town Attorney Tim Frateschi updated that the New York State Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan has been drafted and reviewed by the board members and the union.

The plan must be adopted by April 1, 2021. The draft plan reflects what has already been done in the past to address COVID as well as how it will be addressed going forward. The plan can always be amended in the future if needed.

R-68-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to adopt the New York State Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-69-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by McElhannon to authorize Supervisor Rotondo to sign the Board of Elections Contract. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-70-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to approve the 2021 Enhanced Services Contract. All in favor. Motion carried.

Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Rodriguez will be starting fire inspections this week. 12 permits have been issued year to date. There are two new houses being built and five applications are in process for new builds. Codes Enforcement Officer Rodriguez is taking NYSERDA training and has realized that the current 2020 building permit application does not collect the proper information. He will work with Attorney Frateschi to update and revise the Town's building permit application.

Supervisor Rotondo stated that the Town's fireworks permit is outdated. She will be working with Attorney Frateschi to update to meet the provisions of the Penal Law.

Town Councilor Dennis has received a revised quote from Winslow Painting, as the previous quote did not include the hallway or the cupola.

R-71-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by McElhannon to award the painting contract for the painting of the foyer, cupola, and hallway to Winslow Painting for \$2,900.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

\$3,000.00 was put into the budget this year for a new town server. The current server is out of warranty and the operating system needs to be updated. Dan Bender from Net Managelt, our IT management company reached out to Supervisor Rotondo to offer a server he built for one of his customers who recently went out of business. Although the server is used, it's in great condition and Dan is willing to extend the warranty for another three years. He offered to sell the server for \$1,500.00.

R-72-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Larkin to spend \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a Dell Server. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo updated the progress on the Clean Energy Community project. If the town achieves four benchmarks, then we qualify for all types of NYSERDA funding. She was notified that the town received their first credit for energy benchmarking; John Shaheen has been spearheading this and monitoring the town's energy usage WITH DATA/BILLING PROVIDED BY Tom Chartrand. We will be receiving the second credit shortly once the LED lighting conversion is completed. Code Officer Rodriguez is currently taking energy code enforcement training which is another one of the standards that will give the town our third credit. Once we get our unified solar permit revised, that will give us the fourth credit.

The Pompey Historical Society was contacted by Pompey Hollow Club author, Jerry Antel. He would like to donate his writing studio and the white rock to the Historical Society. The Pompey Historical Society reached out to Supervisor Rotondo with two separate requests. They asked for a storage room in which to put 10,000 books on pallets. They are also asking permission to put the white rock and possibly the writing studio on the town's property.

R-73-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to authorize the Pompey Historical Society to use the Town of Pompey's property for the placement of the white rock donated by Jerry Antel. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo gave the Board Members a copy of the Historical Society Report. Ruth Hotaling could not participate in the zoom meeting. A copy of the report has also been put on the Town of Pompey's website.

Supervisor Rotondo gave an update on the progress on the request for street lighting on Citation Drive. National Grid reported that the placement of a streetlight at the intersection of Citation and Route 20 would cost roughly \$111 annually. To place another streetlight at the intersection of Citation Drive and Gardner Road would cost \$95.97 annually. The board members agree that they will have to drive by at night in order to vote on this matter. Supervisor Rotondo reached out to Pompey Hill Fire Chief Mike Smith to see if those intersections had any safety precautions and he stated that there have been no accidents at those locations.

The Special Event Permit Work Group met last month and are not inclined to enact a local law. They agree that creating checklist for events would be better so that the host/sponsor knows exactly what is required. Supervisor Rotondo will work with Town Attorney Tim Frateschi to form an appropriate checklist to be used for future events.

Supervisor Rotondo and Town Bookkeeper Tom Chartrand met virtually with our OCEBA Representative and KBM consultants to discuss the town's health insurance plan. The reality is that it will be very difficult for the town to change plans. The first issue is that the town has incurred debt from very significant expenses due to being self-insured, which debt would need to be paid off if the town left the plan. The second issue is that the town has provided such a rich and generous plan over the years that it is unlikely that participants will want to change and any significant change to health benefits now requires union approval. For a small municipality, this plan is expensive to support. The out of pocket is so low and it gets a lot of usage. Supervisor Rotondo will be offering some informational sessions with town staff to explain our options and how changes in plan usage can reduce the costs. Supervisor Rotondo remarked that since we now have a Union in place, they get to weigh in on any significant changes in health benefits. The Town is now very limited on what we can do as far as insurance goes.

Supervisor Rotondo updated that she got the State Aid to Municipalities application filed at Senator May's office, as per the authorization that the board gave her at the February 1, 2021 meeting. This will be a long process but at least it has been started. She also sent a proposal to Onondaga Water and Protection for four different uses of the \$200,000 in funding that is available through the Sewer Consolidation Lease. The proposed usage of the funds are the drainage issue in the Preserves, the replacement of the 3 furnaces in the town hall with energy and cost-efficient heat pumps, a water and oil separator for the Highway Garage, and possibly the replacement of the original Highway Garage Roof.

**Public Comment:**

Don Saleh - Solomon Seal – Pompey Pines: He would like to know if the Town Board would be able to look into creating a separate district for brush pickup in the northern part of the town. A lot of people end up renting or borrowing trucks and going to OCCRA. Some people throw their brush in the ditches and other unsavory ways of getting rid of it. It would be nice to have a designated area for brush pickup.

Greg Herlihy: I am afraid that you are wasting your time addressing employee health care until your union contract expires next year. However, you could immediately address health plans for elected officials.

R-74-21            Motion by Dennis, seconded by Rotondo to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Reid  
Pompey Town Clerk