

TOWN OF POMPEY TOWN BOARD MINUTES

The Town Board of the Town of Pompey held its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and was also livestreamed via Zoom platform. In attendance were: Supervisor Renee Rotondo, Councilors Ann Christmas, David Angello, Bill Lipe; Highway Superintendent B.R. Way; Accountant Tom Chartrand; Town Attorney Tim Frateschi; Zoom Host Veronica Hotaling.

Supervisor Rotondo called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was had for the residents, Jack Lavoie and Andrew Reisman, who passed away in October 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING – OVERRIDE THE PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR 2023

6:36 Councilor Loomis joined the meeting.

Attorney Frateschi explained the local law before the Board. It would override the State tax cap of 2% for 2023. This law needs to be adopted by 60% of the Board to be effective. Attorney Frateschi explained that if the property tax cap override law is not passed, and the Town goes over the cap, there could be financial penalties to the Town.

R-176-22 A motion was made by Supervisor Rotondo to waive the reading of the notice of public hearing, seconded by Councilor Christmas. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-177-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilor Lipe. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Chartrand explained that because of the special districts, primarily the Manlius Fire Protection District, the tax levy in the 2023 town budget will probably exceed the 2% cap. If the special districts were not considered as part of the tax cap, the increase would have been under the tax cap by approximately \$45,000.00 The Town part of the budget is going down. Discussion ensued regarding the fire districts and their impact on the budget.

- Deborah Grenier asked whether people in different fire districts pay different for the service. Mr. Chartrand said they do.
- Nancy Furdock asked whether the Town can use only the Pompey Hill Fire District to provide fire protection for the entire Town.

Attorney Frateschi explained the legal limits of this suggestion. Supervisor Rotondo said that the Board is very aware of the costs of fire protection on the Town and will be looking at ways to work with the fire departments to ease the budget impact in the future.

R-178-22 A motion was made by Supervisor Rotondo to close the public hearing on Local Law 2022-3, seconded by Councilor Christmas. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-179-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to adopt Local Law 2022-3 which overrides the 2023 property tax cap as presented by the Attorney for the Town, seconded by Councilor Lipe. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 PRELIMINARY HIGHWAY, GENERAL FUND, FIRE DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS BUDGET

Mr. Chartrand went through each budget fund and explained the budgeted funds to the Board.

- The General Fund is \$269,387, a decrease of \$75,589 amount from 2022.
- The Highway Fund is \$1,412,369, an increase of \$67,512 amount from 2022.
- The Fire District Budgets are as follows:

Pompey Hills Fire District	\$543,172
Manlius Fire Protection District	\$721,767
Delphi Falls Fire Protection District	\$192,500
Delphi Falls Ambulance Protection District (CAVAC)	\$18,140

- Drainage Districts at \$30,000, a decrease of \$1,500 amount from 2022.

- SOTS is at \$350 per unit, an increase of \$25 per unit from 2022 with a per unit charge of \$350.00.
- Water Districts at \$55,070, a decrease of \$1,815 amount from 2022.
- Lighting Districts at \$6,100, a decrease of \$100 amount from 2022.

R-180-22 A motion was made by Supervisor Rotondo to waive the reading of the notice of public hearing, seconded by Councilor Lipe.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-181-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

- Nobody from the public requested to speak during the public hearing.

R-182-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to close the public hearing on the 2023 Preliminary Budget, seconded by Councilor Lipe.

The Vote was called and unanimously approved by the Board.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET VOTE

Mr. Chartrand then presented each fund that makes up the Budget to the Board for approval as follows:

R-183-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to approve the General Fund as presented and Highway Fund as presented, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-184-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to approve the Delphi Falls and Manlius Fire Protection District Budgets as presented, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-185-2 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to approve the Water District Budgets as presented, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-186-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to approve the Drainage District Budget as presented, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

R-187-22 A motion was made by Councilor Christmas to approve the Southern Onondaga Trash Systems District Budget as presented, seconded by Councilor Angelo.

The Vote was called by Supervisor Rotondo and unanimously approved by the Board.

All Funds being heretofore approved by the Board, the Preliminary Budget for 2023 was unanimously adopted by the Town Board.

TOWN FINANCES

Town Accountant Tom Chartrand gave an update on Town Finances.

2022 Spending Revenues report to date:

General Fund: Spending at 74%; Revenue at 95%.

Highway Fund: Spending at 60%; Revenue at 92%

R-188- 22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Angelo to accept the Supervisor's Monthly Statements for October 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-189- 22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Loomis to approve the October Bank Reconciliation Reports for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-190- 22 Motion by Supervisor Rotondo, seconded by Councilor Lipe to approve the payment of General Fund Abstract Nos. 373-402, totaling \$26,112.47; Highway Abstract Nos. 169-189, totaling \$269,769.50; Special District Nos. 27-27, totaling \$419.19. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-191-22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Loomis to approve the following budget line-item transfers:

GENERAL FUND

From: A9040.8	Employee Benefits	Workers Compensation	200.00
To: A9060.8	Employee Benefits	Hospital	200.00

HIGHWAY FUND

From: DA510	Estimated Revenue	CHIPS 2021 carry over	10,805.00
To: DA5112.2	Improvements	Capital Outlay	10,805.00

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

R-192-22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Lipe to accept the October 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo explained that the postage meter contract with Pitney Bowes was expiring. The old meter is not functioning properly. She reviewed the proposed five (5) year contract with the Board which is at a reduced price of \$1880, down from \$2106 per year. The Board was pleased with the lower price on the lease.

R-193-22 Motion by Councilor Lipe, seconded by Councilor Angello to approve the 5-year lease with Pitney Bowes under the terms and conditions as presented by the Town Supervisor. All in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Highway Superintendent B.R. Way reported:

- that the Gradall was delivered in October and he is waiting for the radio to be installed
- He also reported that the salt barn is full with sand and salt
- He received \$84k for a payloader he auctioned off (Councilor Angello expressed his appreciation for the work the Highway Superintendent puts in to auction equipment rather than trade them in)
- The Highway Department worked with Town of Fabius on putting the snow fence along Purcell Road
- Plows are on the trucks for the winter
- Recognized all the employees of the Highway Department by name for their hard work over the summer and the preparation for getting ready for the upcoming winter snow-plow season
- Pompey Hollow Bridge should be done by Thanksgiving
- Snow and ice contract with the County was signed for 2-year term with a 3% increase per year

Highway Superintendent B.R. Way also presented a Memorandum he prepared for the Town Board identifying the places place the no parking signs on Sweet Road (between Pratts Falls and Hamilton Roads) should go (the Town Board passed a local law at the October meeting to place “no parking” signs on Sweet Road).

R-194-22 Motion by Supervisor Rotondo seconded by Councilor Loomis to approve the location for “No Parking” signs on Sweet Road as set forth in the Memorandum presented to the Town Board by the Highway Superintendent, which Memorandum is filed with Local Law 2022-2. All in favor. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Tyler Johnson presented his report on the number of Building Permits that have been issued, stop-work orders and also reported that the Town has resumed commercial fire inspections.

TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Attorney Frateschi presented proposed Local Law 2022-4 that would repeal the existing Pompey Building and Fire Code and replace it with a new Building and Fire Code. The main changes have to do with certain environmental considerations, parking garages, operating permits, and virtual inspections. The resolution before the Board is to set a date for a public hearing for the new Building and Fire Code.

R-195-22 Motion by Councilor Loomis, seconded by Councilor Christmas to set the date for the public hearing on Local Law 2022-4 that would repeal and replace the Pompey Fire and Building Code with the State recommended changes on December 5, 2022 at 6:35 pm at Town Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Frateschi presented proposed Local Law 2022-5 that would clarify and update the home occupation law by requiring site plan approval by the Planning Board for home occupations. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Board wanted to allow home occupations in accessory structures or eliminate that possibility going forward, with existing home occupations in accessory structures being allowed to operate. The resolution before the Board would set the date for the changes outlined by the Town Attorney. Discussion ensued about whether to allow home occupations in accessory structures but the Board decided to leave the draft law “as is” and hear from the public.

R-196-22 Motion by Supervisor Rotondo, seconded by Councilor Christmas to set the date for a public hearing on Local Law 2022-5 that would clarify the approval of home occupations in the Town for December 5, 2022 at 6:40 pm at Town Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Frateschi told the Board that a letter has gone out to cell tower owners in the Town requesting that they provide information to the Town ensuring that the Town Code is being followed regarding reporting, insurance, structural integrity and updating the Town on ownership. He will keep the Town Board informed of the feedback he receives.

TOWN COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Councilor Christmas and Councilor Angello reported that they did the annual audit of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Judge Amond's Office. There were no irregularities found and they are requesting the Town Board accept the audits.

R-197-22 Motion by Councilor Loomis, seconded by Councilor Lipe to accept the audits of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Judge Amond's Office for the fiscal year 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Rotondo stated that Holbrook Heating would like to get a portion of the "hold back" the Town is keeping for the heat pump work they recently completed. The only outstanding issue that must be completed is the installation of the wireless interface device.

R-198-22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Angelo to release all but \$1,500 of the hold back for the heating pump contract that was approved earlier this year to Holbrook Heating, the \$1,500 to be released upon the installation of the wireless interface device. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo reviewed the software contract with Williamson, dated October 13, 2022, which would provide custom Municipal Accounting and Budget Preparation software the new Town's accountant needs to keep the Town's books and interface with various State of New York Agencies for reporting of the Town's financials. The cost of the software is \$17,250, which is significantly less than originally anticipated by the Town because the new accountant will not require payroll software. The funds for this program will come from ARPA.

R-199-22 Motion by Councilor Christmas, seconded by Councilor Loomis to authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into the contract presented at the meeting with Williamson to provide the software necessary to assist the new Town accountant in keeping the Town books and filing the necessary reports with the State at a cost of \$17,500. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo explained that the new Town accountant is also recommending that Williamson store the financial information from the new software in a cloud-based system instead of a standalone server. The redundancy in this system will protect the

Town. The cost of such service would be, \$895 for a one-time set-up fee, \$1,030 per year for the annual access fee and additional device registrations (as necessary) at a rate of \$635 per year. The funds for this will come from ARPA.

R-200-22 Motion by Christmas, seconded by Loomis to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a contract with Williamson to provide cloud-based storage for the Town financials at a rate of \$895 for a one-time set up fee; \$1,030 per year for annual access fee and additional device registration (as necessary) at a rate of \$635 per year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo reported that the NYS DOT has determined that it will not reduce the speed limit on NYS Route 20 in the area of Shea Road.

Supervisor Rotondo reported that she visited the Pompey Hill Cemetery and met with those who oversee keeping and maintaining it. They need the Town's help. After speaking with the Town Attorney, she believes the Town may be able to help because of the historic significance of the Cemetery to the Town. There will be a meeting on November 10, 2022 at 7 pm at the Pompey Community Church to discuss the reorganization of the Cemetery Association and she invites the Board and the public to attend.

Supervisor Rotondo reported that the Tree Lighting at Pompey Historical Society will be on Sunday, December 4, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Saleh – Thanked the Board for the decorum it has shown during what could have been contentious meetings. The Board should be proud of the way it has handled itself.

Deborah Greiner – She appreciates the new accountants. She still thinks the Town should do an annual outside audit. She claims that that Town of Manlius does an outside audit annually.

Mark Greiner – Talked about being a nurse. He's held accountable by the State as a nurse. That's why he thinks there should be an annual outside audit of the Town.

Councilor Angello stated that with the new accountant coming into the Town, he believes their review of the Town's financials will be as good as any outside audit. He has not seen any indication of a problem that would require an outside audit, which would be expensive. The other Town Board members agreed with Councilor Angello's statement regarding an outside audit.

Nancy Furdock – She said that a State Representative she heard said the State can do an outside audit for free. Supervisor Rotondo stated that he was probably referring to a State Comptroller's Audit, which they do not normally do unless there is a problem. Ms. Furdock then asked if she could opt-out of garbage pick-up in the Town. She has a hard time bringing the garbage to the curb. Supervisor Rotondo explained the process

of creating the Southern Onondaga Trash System and why it only made sense for everyone to be in the District (there are geographic and distance challenges between houses in the Town that would make it inefficient to allow people to opt-out). She will speak to SOTS about opt-out, however.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Frateschi

Attorney for the Town of Pompey