

TOWN OF POMPEY TOWN BOARD MINUTES

The Town Board of the Town of Pompey held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 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 5:02 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; Zoom Host Veronica Hotaling.

R-75-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Dennis to approve the payment of General Fund Abstract Nos. 98-108, totaling \$4,146.07; Highway Fund Abstract Nos. 51, totaling \$27,359,00; Special District Abstract Nos. 8-9 totaling \$2,390.52. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-76-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to accept the March 1, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell thanked the board members for holding the special meeting. He explained the purpose of this meeting is to seek authorization to purchase of a new truck, which was budgeted for last year. He has been working with Tracey Road Equipment on finding a tougher truck which will be better for the hills of Pompey. He would like to upgrade to a heavy duty truck with heavy duty transmission, axels, and frame but his budget is \$17,000 short. Accountant Tom Chartrand stated that there is money in the surplus fund balance left over from last year. The vendor us under county contract. The request required a special meeting as the quote is only good for 30 days which ended short of the next regular meeting and the cost of steel continues to rise. Tom did not want to lose this quote.

R-77-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Larkin to approve the following transfer:

HIGHWAY FUND

From: DA599	Fund Balance	2020 Closing Balance	<u>\$86,000.00</u>
		TOTAL:	\$86,000.00
To: DA5130.2	Machinery	Equipment	\$46,000.00
DA9950.0	Transfer to Reserve	Inter-fund Transfer	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
		TOTAL:	\$86,000.00

All in favor. Motion carried.

R-78-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to approve the purchase of a 2022 Freightliner 114SD 4X4 plow truck equipped with plow, wing, hydraulic/sander under Onondaga County Contract #8996 from Tracey Road Equipment for the sum of \$231,159.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell has been working on getting proposals for the purchase of a new water treatment and conditioning system for the Highway Garage. He had three different companies come and test the water. One company said the water was too hard and gave him a written refusal to install a system for us. Another company said that we need to have a new well drilled. The third company, Amber Well Drilling, provided a written proposal for the purchase of a new water treatment system. Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell explained that the water is extremely hard and the new boiler that was purchased last year in the amount of \$30,000.00 needs to be protected. The purchase of a new water treatment system was budgeted for last year in the amount of \$7,000.00.

R-79-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to accept the proposal from Amber Water Pros for the purchase of a water treatment and conditioning system for the Highway Garage for the sum of \$6,7000.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo received a letter of engagement from Arcadis for landfill monitoring. The cost has slightly increased from the previous year. Councilor Larkin asked if this service is contracted through Arcadis or if we can get three quotes to see if there is a cheaper option for landfill monitoring. Supervisor Rotondo replied that this is not contractual, it is a professional service. Her concern is that monitoring needs to be done this month, as March is the first month for landfill monitoring which is done in the first and third quarters. Councilor Larkin said that in the future, she would like to get three competitive quotes to see if we could save the town some money. Supervisor Rotondo agreed with Councilor Larkin and will look into this matter in the next quarter.

R-80-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Larkin to accept the Landfill Monitoring Agreement through Arcadis contingent on legal approval and review and as it relates to the first quarter monitoring. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo gave an update on LED lighting on Citation Drive. She received several emails from residents who live on Citation Drive that do not want streetlights. The emails were read into the record.

Ms Rotondo, My family and I moved from the University area in the City to the corner of Citation and Gardner in Pompey in 1996 to escape noise and lights. Over the past 25 years, we have paid over a quarter million dollars in property taxes for the privilege of dark skies. As Covid wreaked havoc with our lives and trapped us at home, gazing at the stars became a stress outlet and a lone source of joy. I dread the prospect of losing this joy with the placement of light pollution in our front yard. I urge the Town leadership to leave nature alone, and to forego the proposed lights. Thank you, *Dr. Kamal Jabbour*

Dear Ms. Rotondo, It has come to our attention that a proposal for street lighting on Citation Dr. in Pompey is being discussed at your Board Meeting tomorrow evening. I am writing to express our opposition to this proposal. I have lived at 2880 Citation Dr since 1988. I have never once felt that the street was poorly lit at night or that the lack of lighting created an unsafe environment. We experience very little auto or pedestrian traffic especially at night. Criminal activity has not been an issue of concern that would necessitate additional street lighting. We respectfully ask the Board to decide against this proposal in an effort to preserve our rural environment. Sincerely, Coreen and Donald Trombley, Pompey, NY

We have lived on Citation Drive for 27 years and I do not want streetlights on our street.
Howard and Lorraine Moskow

Ms. Reid: My husband and I own property on Citation Drive, at the intersection of Citation and Gardner Road in Pompey. In regard to the proposal to add streetlights, we are NOT in favor of any proposal for street lighting as it will interfere with astrophotography, wreck our mid-June lightning bug viewing and disrupt various habitats for nocturnal species we have been harboring on our properties. Thank you for considering our opinions in this matter. Dr. Marla Jabbour

Dear Ms. Rotondo,

I understand that a special town Board meeting will be held to discuss installation of street lighting on Citation Drive. I am unclear of the need for lighting, and have STRONG objections to the addition of lighting on this beautiful street for several reasons:

- Cost of maintenance and energy usage: Although I'm sure energy-efficient lighting can be installed, there is currently NO cost for lighting on this street. Will my electrical rates and/or taxes increase to pay for this lighting?
- Aesthetics of the night sky: I moved to this area from the Chicago suburbs, where even the brightest constellations were rarely visible. It was an absolute delight to once again be able to see the stars and even the Milky Way, undimmed by artificial lighting. We should be working to expand areas that remain dark, rather than installing more lights.
- Harmful effects on wildlife: a quick internet search on light pollution and birds/animals/wildlife will provide numerous examples of the harmful effects of night-time lighting on all kinds of wildlife, but especially on migrating birds who travel at night. Researchers at SUNY-ESF are studying the ill effects of artificial light on bats,

whose populations are crashing. I can't fathom a reason for adding the threat of unnecessary lighting in a rural area where birds and mammals are thriving.

If personal safety is a concern, I believe that adding street lighting will only make our area more attractive to outsiders. In my experience, city people accustomed to city lights are frightened by the darkness and tend to avoid this street after dark. I fail to see any benefit to adding lighting to my street but see many reasons against it. Thank you, Jane Fagerland, Citation Drive

Dear Ms. Rotondo, Today we became aware of a special Board meeting to consider street lighting for Citation Drive. We would like to voice our opposition to this proposal. We moved to Pompey to avoid city lights and noise, therefore, we strongly oppose this consideration of lighting in this rural area. Rich and Carla Rowlinson, Citation Dr

I live on Citation Dr. and just saw that there is a discussion at tomorrow night's meeting to have streetlights placed on our road. I will not be able to make it to the meeting as I'm working that night. However, I would like to have my thoughts heard. I am opposed to having the light(s). We moved to the country to live in a country atmosphere. Having streetlights disrupts that. Also our bedrooms face the road and the lights will disrupt our sleep and peace. We also love to sit at night and look at the stars without the interference of light pollution, which the streetlights will bring and interfere with our quality of life. The only cars that ever come down our road are people who live here, so it is not a high traffic area. We have had no car or pedestrian accidents, or crime to make these lights necessary. I and others moved here for the country atmosphere, please do not take that away from us. Thank you, Laini Amaritnant, Citation Dr.

Hi Renee, I appreciate you discussing my request for a streetlight on Route 20 at tonight's meeting but will be unable to attend. I feel that it is important that I explain my request, as to help everyone involved to make the best decision. My concern is related to a pattern that has developed over the years, as drivers are leaving the hamlet and accelerating down Route 20. Once drivers are no longer in the 40-mph zone they accelerate quite rapidly down the hill. Although there are signs indicating that passing on the right side is forbidden, drivers repeatedly pass on the right often when someone has slowed to turn onto Citation Dr. Often times there is more than one car passing on the right. The potential for this being a dangerous situation has long been a concern of ours. My thought was that if the street was lighted that perhaps it would alert other drivers to the need for slowing down for drivers who are turning. If you feel that a light is not warranted, then perhaps there would be a more effective way to address drivers passing on the right-hand side of the road.

Thank you for your time, Patty Feeney

Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell said it was very nice hearing from the residents and he understands their concerns with traffic eastbound as vehicles exit the 40 mile per hour zone and pick up speed going downhill. He suggested looking into a speed reduction 1.5 miles heading east from Route 20 and Shea Road.

The board agrees that no action will be taken regarding streetlighting on Citation Drive.

Supervisor Rotondo gave an update on public meetings. We are looking into purchasing a state-of-the-art audio/video system for the meeting room which will allow us to continue to meet live but also continue to livestream. She is hoping we will have the technology in place by May so that we can return to in-person meetings. All board members agree to continue virtual meetings until then.

Councilor Christmas would like to start the process of the speed reduction on Route 20 since it is such a lengthy process. Town Clerk Nikki Reid will work with Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell and Supervisor Rotondo on starting the process to request a speed reduction.

Supervisor Rotondo pleaded with residents to get vaccinated if possible so we can restore some normalcy. The county is opening up more opportunities for vaccinations.

Councilor Larkin questioned whether the infrastructure to build out inside the town hall will affect the Spectrum bill. She thinks we should reach out to Dan Bender.

R-81-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by McElhannon to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Reid
Pompey Town Clerk