

TOWN OF POMPEY TOWN BOARD MINUTES

The Town Board of the Town of Pompey held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 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.

Supervisor Rotondo called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was had for Doctor Philip Craul, Jyl Way, Carol Neubauer, and Leta Chrysler.

The following remotely attended: Supervisor Renee Rotondo, Councilors Judy McElhannon, Ann Christmas, Carl Dennis, Sheila Larkin; Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell; 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, Tatiana Parker from Senator Rachel May's Office, Zoom Host Veronica Hotaling, along with 13 residents.

R-39-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Rotondo to authorize Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell to spend funds per section 284 of Highway Law and to authorize Supervisor Rotondo and Board Members to sign the annual agreement as well. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-40-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to authorize Highway Superintendent Tom Purcell to sign the Onondaga County Water Authority work permit for Brickyard Falls Road and to authorize Supervisor Rotondo and Board Members to sign the permit. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-41-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to authorize the purchase of a 2021 RAM 3500 one-ton 4x4 pickup with a snowplow from Robert Green Truck Division in Rock Hill, New York for the sum of \$45,933.30, contract #PC68952. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-42-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to reopen the Public Hearing of Solar Energy System Local Law Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m. This is a continuation of the Public Hearing that was held on January 19, 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Attorney Tim Frateschi updated a few minor changes to the local law. The most significant changes had to deal with whether these would be allowed in Hamlet Commercial or Residential with an area variance. Also, if a side or rear yard abuts a roadway, ground mounted panels also must be lobated in rear yards only.

Public Comment:

Mary Baum, Sweet Road: Is this going to be voted on tonight? Also, would the Board consider changing the setbacks to more than 100 feet (i.e. 500 feet). What harm would it do to increase setbacks? It would be less visible from the road and further away from adjacent properties. The lot is 95 acres in size; I don't think 500 feet is a big ask. Residents should be aware that solar credits only equate to approximately \$60 per year off your utility bill as per an article on Syracuse.com

Stan Gorman, Sevier Road: Please explain part 13 dealing with Taxation. How it works for Tier 3? No current applications for any solar projects correct?

Shawn Stacer, Sweet Road: What will the town do to guarantee our wells are safe if one breaks and water runs off? The panels contain Cadmium and Lead.

Jennifer Granzow: What about questions submitted to the supervisor in writing, prior to the original public hearing date? Will they at least become part of the record?

Elizabeth Madonna, Coleman Hill Road: What roads in the area have 3 phase?

R-43-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by McElhannon to continue the Solar Energy System Local Law Public Hearing on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tatiana Parker from Senator Rachel May's Office gave an overview on State Aid to Municipalities funding. Supervisor Rotondo has been working with Highway Superintendent Purcell and Town Accountant Chartrand to determine the best use of this \$400,000.00 in state aid. The application process is a lengthy one - typically takes 18-24 months - but will take longer due to current circumstances. Ms. Parker cautioned that no purchases should be made until state approval comes through. Since this is reimbursement funding, the town would be required to spend its own funds to make the purchase and then be reimbursed by the state. Since the town has no reserves at the moment, the town would have to consider bonding for this purchase and then pay off the bond when the state reimburses us. There is no financial commitment on the part of the town at this stage. Town Accountant Tom Chartrand stated that we would most likely be applying for a snowplow truck or a payloader, which are both essential pieces of equipment. If our need changed between the time of our application and the award of the funds, the funding could be "repurposed" for another use. Supervisor Rotondo was seeking authorization from the Board to submit an application.

R-44-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Dennis to authorize Supervisor Rotondo to apply for the SAM Application. All in favor. Motion carried.

Accountant Tom Chartrand gave an update on the Supervisor's monthly and year-end reports. The General Fund came in under budget on several lines, with roughly \$180,000.00 in

unallocated fund balance. The Highway Fund also came in under budget, with roughly \$86,000.00 in unallocated fund balance.

R-45-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to accept the January 2021 bank reconciliation reports and monthly reports for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-46-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to approve the payment of General Fund Abstract Nos. 36-60, totaling \$1,398,152.06; Highway Fund Abstract Nos. 13-30, totaling \$16,099.82; Special District Abstract Nos. 3-5, totaling \$756,843.38; and the quarterly bill for Workers Compensation \$7,883.13 All in favor. Motion carried.

R-47-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to approve the following transfer of funds:

HIGHWAY FUND

From:	DA599	Fund Balance	Insurance Recovery	\$6,330.00
	DA5142.4	Snow Removal	Contractual	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
			TOTAL:	\$12,330.00
To:	DA5130.2	Machinery	Equipment	\$6,000.00
	DA5130.4	Machinery	Contractual	<u>\$6,330.00</u>
			TOTAL:	\$12,330.00

SPECIAL DISTRICT

From:	SF599	Appropriated Surplus	Fund Balance CAVAC	<u>\$5.38</u>
			TOTAL	\$5.38
To:	SF4540.4	CAVAC Ambulance District	Contractual	<u>\$5.38</u>
			TOTAL	\$5.38

All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Reid gave an update on tax season; it has been remarkably busy but going very well. We have collected over \$6.7 million at this point and have paid the Town off in full. We are still operating by appointment only. Town Clerk Reid made a request to the Board to purchase a new passport camera, as the one her office is using is over fifteen years old and, as a result,

passport applications have been rejected by the New York Department of State due to lack of clarity of the pictures.

- R-48-21 Motion by Christmas, seconded by McElhannon to approve the purchase of a CFS Products Platinum Passport Photo Printer System for \$549.95. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R-49-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to approve the January 4, 2021 and January 19, 2021 meetings minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R-50-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to authorize David Tessier to attend the 2021 Virtual Association of Towns Conference. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Attorney Tim Frateschi gave an update on the New York State Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan, as required by Governor Cuomo, which must be adopted by April 1, 2021. Town Attorney Tim Frateschi did send a draft form to all the Board Members; it also needs to be provided to the Union by the end of this week so they can offer their input. He advised the Board to review the draft so that we can move forward with implementing it, as it is required by law. Town Attorney Tim Frateschi also updated that he will be providing training for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Code Enforcement Officer Rodriguez gave an update on the fire alarm system, which needs to be replaced. Supervisor Rotondo explained that the JCAP grant is actually going to cover the cost for the purchase of a new system; which means this will not have to come out of our equipment line.

- R-51-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Larkin to authorize funds to be available for the purchase of the fire alarm system for \$1,057.92. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R-52-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Christmas to appoint Alma Hartnett as a member of the Ethics Board. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R-53-21 Motion by Christmas, seconded by Rotondo to accept the resignation from Karen Whalen from the Board of Assessment Review. All in favor. Motion carried.
- R-54-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Dennis to appoint Karen Whalen to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board created by Robert Neufang's resignation, which term ends in 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo gave an updated report on the swim program. She asked the board to revisit the conversation regarding registration fees.

- R-55-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to set a **suggested** fee of \$40 for the first child, \$30 for the second child, \$20 for the third child, and no more than \$100 for

more than three children, and to waive the mandatory registration fee for the 2021 swim program. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-56-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Larkin to authorize Supervisor Rotondo to sign the Web Master Letter of Agreement for 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

R-57-21 Motion by Rotondo, seconded by Dennis to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2021 Fire Protection Agreement between the Town of Pompey and the Manlius Fire Department upon legal review and approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo reported that the town was awarded \$6,308.00 from the Justice Court grant program. \$1,058 is to be used to purchase the fire alarm system and \$5000 for a new audio/visual system in the Court/Meeting room. IT manager, Dan Bender, is also putting together a proposal for a system with better audio, WIFI, and tv monitors which will benefit the Justice Court and the town boards that use the room.

R-58-21 Motion by Dennis, seconded by Christmas to award the painting contract for the painting of the foyer to Winslow Painting for \$2,000.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rotondo spoke with County Legislator David Knapp and was able to update that the digital speed readers will be arriving soon and will be put up in the spring. The County will also be putting up the speed limit signs on Sweet Road once the weather breaks. County Legislator David Knapp will be putting together an informational session on Farm Days so the community has the opportunity to hear about it and ask questions. Supervisor Rotondo also reported that a six-person Special Event Permit Work Group has been formed which includes County Legislator David Knapp, Town Supervisor Renee Rotondo, two residents involved with farming (representing agri-tourism and traditional farm business) - Daniel Palladino and Chris Larkin; and two concerned neighbors, Dan McClung and MaryBeth Pazaras. She also advised that she visited one of the cell towers and met with one of their engineers who shared a lot of great information. The ECC will be working on the cell tower inventory; Stan Gorman has agreed to spear-head the work. Once some responses from the companies come in, we can start inventorying what we have. Supervisor Rotondo did learn that most cell tower owners do not actually own their towers anymore, but have sold them to property management companies and then lease back space on the tower. As for an update on health insurance, it has been a difficult and complicated process but is being worked on.

Public Comment:

Stan Gorman: Thank you to the board for all your work!!!

Richard Moseson: I like the suggested fee approach.

James Loomis: Thank you for revisiting the swim program. The lives that the program saves

will never be known because they learned how to swim. Every kid loves and is attracted to water, we have many ponds, streams, and other waters in the town. A life skill of swimming is priceless. One thought about the solar projects; could these things end up like the towers issues years from now after they change ownership.

R-59-21 Motion by McElhannon, seconded by Dennis to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Reid
Pompey Town Clerk