

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting  
66 E Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407  
December 27, 2023

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor  
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman  
Scott Hendrix, Councilman  
John Brewer, Councilman  
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor  
Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent  
Karl Manne, Town Attorney  
Rich Sweeney, Codes  
David Moynihan, Dog Control  
Nancy Pollak, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Pam Jones, Clerk  
Ozzie Sterling, Councilman

Public: 6 people attended, see sign-in sheet.

MEETING was called to order by Rovazzi at 5:35 pm, at the Town Community Center.  
Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION by Scott Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to approve the minutes of  
December 12, 2023. CARRIED.

Rovazzi acknowledged a guest, Mr. Robert Smullen, Assembly district 118, who briefly  
spoke about his commitment to upstate New York. Rovazzi acknowledged Michael  
Stone and Justin Dibble were present and looking forward to their new roles as  
councilmen.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Nothing to report

#### BILLS

Watkins made a motion to pay bills seconded by Brewer, unanimously approved.

## OTHER REPORTS

Highway – Newtown stated he would like to change the uniform vendor to a local vendor who would provide better quality with a lower cost. Also regarding uniforms, Newtown proposed employees purchase their uniforms themselves and then be reimbursed. Newtown stated the Town netted \$3650 from the sale of poles. Also Newtown suggested that we, the Town sell CDL classes. It was agreed that it will be discussed at a future date. Newtown contacted Emrich Surveying for a proposal for a site plan for the salt building the Town is proposing to have constructed. Motion was made by Brewer, seconded by Watkins, CARRIED.

Dog Control - Moynihan spoke regarding injured animals; he asked what to do in that instance. It was discussed that 1<sup>st</sup> offer the injured animal to the humane society and if the humane society could not be contacted at the time he was to obtain the advice of a vet. Moynihan was informed per the court that he may place multiple unlicensed dog licenses on a single appearance ticket, separated by a slash.

Codes – Sweeney reported that the Town has done 38 building permits so far this year, with a possibility of one more. He has also worked on solar. Sweeney suggested that we not shorten the environmental impact statement; page 2, number 19.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

## OLD BUSINESS

Regarding court consolidation time line, Attorney Manne, stated that each of the Towns are in the process or have already approved resolutions to complete a consolidation study/plan. Attorney Manne also stated that each Town would need to hold a public hearing and approve 20-30 days after advertised in the newspaper, etc. Watkins asked who would be preparing the plan and Rovazzi stated the intention was for the Towns and Court to prepare the plan. Attorney Manne stated it may be a conflict for Judge Stone so he recommended that if the plan was not going to be hired out, the Supervisors should prepare the plan with input of the Judge if necessary.

## NEW BUSINESS

NYMIR insurance renewal proposal; Mr. VanGorder couldn't attend tonight's meeting due to personal reasons. Vangorder recently informed Rovazzi that the 2024 NYMIR renewal didn't include the same coverage regarding municipal network security. Rovazzi has contacted the Town IT regarding this issue. The Town and IT have been in communication with NYMIR and there is a plan in place to have the security updated by January 1, 2024. Upon notifying NYMIR of the network security update completion, the

existing coverage will be included in the 2024 renewal policy. Motion by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer.

The Bridge NY/Culvert Consultant Proposal, Newtown stated that we should hire a professional service for this. Rovazzi and Newtown have met with JGK to prepare the application, upon acceptance of the proposal for services. Motion by Watkins seconded by Hendrix. CARRIED.

Regarding Local Law #3, 2023, authorization to use Video Conferencing for Town Board Meetings; Attorney Manne advised that the state executive order allowing this law, is set to expire in a couple of months and advised the board should wait to see if the state passes an extension. Motion by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to table until we have more knowledge. All in favor.

Motion was made by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to go into executive session. They went into executive session at 6:20 pm.

Motion by Brewer to exit executive session, seconded by Watkins. Among items discussed were:

Compensatory time to be included in the overtime section of the Handbook.

A maximum of 60 hours per calendar year upon approval of Department Head and not to accrue beyond one year. If the comp time is not used within one year, the employee will receive pay at the overtime pay rate earned at the time. Motion by Hendrix seconded by Brewer to approve comp time.

Organizational meeting will be January 2, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Next January meeting will be January 31, 2024

Motion by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Pollak, Deputy Clerk