

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting

66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407

December 28, 2022

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor

Penny Watkins, Councilwoman

Scott Hendrix, Councilman

John Brewer, Councilman

Rich Sweeney, Codes

Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent

Karl Manne, Town Attorney

Nancy Pollak, Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor

Jim Hawkins, Dog Control

Pam Jones, Town Clerk

Via Phone: Ozzy Sterling

Public: 3 people, see sign-in sheet

MEETING was called to order by Rovazzi at 5:40 at the Town Community Center. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve the November 29, 2022 minutes. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Brewer to approve the November 2022 Treasurer's report. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to approve the Town Clerk's November 2022 report for \$1,036.00. Carried.

MOTION by Rovazzi seconded by Brewer to approve Judge Engert's November 2022 report for \$425.00. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins seconded by Rovazzi to approve Judge Stone's November 2022 report for \$15,843.00. Carried.

BILLS

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to pay GFIM bill for \$731.40. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to pay bills as audited. Carried.

OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY - Newtown stated 6 consulting firms are interested in the Pinebush project. He has selected one and will notify them tomorrow. Newtown also stated that the highway garage roof should be finished by this Friday.

DOG CONTROL - Hawkins was absent but submitted activity sheet for November a copy of which was distributed to all.

CODES - Sweeney reported 33 permits have been approved with 1 pending. Nine are still in construction, 7 are finished and 5 are questionable. Sweeney also stated he will send out letters to those who are doing construction without a permit. He also stated the desire for a planning questionnaire which Rovazzi and Watkins agreed with.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to open Public Comment Session. Carried.

Legislator Bob Hollum was present (did not sign-in) and informed the group that each legislator was given 50K for their districts. He further stated that he would like to give the Town of German Flatts 20 to 25K but he needs something from us stating how the money will be used. He stated that the Village of Mohawk will get the rest of the money for the flood project. He was thanked by all.

Bill VanGorder was present with the insurance renewal proposal for 2023. He stated that there is an inflationary increase in the premiums but feels rates are fair. He went over the premiums for all the different policies the town currently has. Newtown stated that he sees some items that need to be removed. All agreed to continue discussion at a future meeting to allow Newtown time to review renewal policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Board is looking to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan. Step one would be a Statement of Intent. Resolution to begin, motion by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins. All were in favor.

Legislator Bob Hollum asked why we have never looked into shared services regarding insurance.

It was revealed that Jason Wellington would take over for Deown Hoag on a temporary basis. MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer. All in favor.

Date for January 2023 Organizational Meeting will be Friday, January 6th at 1pm. All agreed.

Watkins asked to move regular meeting to Thursday, January 20th at 1pm. All were in favor.

MOTION by Hendrix to enter into executive session, seconded by Brewer. All agreed. All (except Pollak) along with Sweeney, Newtown and Manne entered executive session.

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Watkins to end executive session.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer re: C&S/BridgeNY

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Watkins re: Culvert/GPI

The Comprehensive Plan was then discussed. Manne stated that he would like to go with a local company, but said that we should also reach out for quotes from others for comparison and transparency purposes. A person was contacted to do proposals. Rovazzi, Watkins and Sweeney met and interviewed him. Sweeney was very impressed. He was also impressed with the Oneida/Herkimer Counties planning board. He stated they will not write for us, only help.

The Homegrown Project Proposal was then discussed. Rovazzi will reach out and try to get a couple more proposals in the next 3 weeks.

Discussion regarding ways to get citizens input on Comprehensive Plan. Bulk mailings, website, newspaper were all suggested. A questionnaire included with tax bills was also mentioned but it's too late to include in current tax bills. The need to establish a Community Meeting was brought up. This will further be discussed.

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to adjourn at 7:30 pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pollak, Deputy Town Clerk, Town of German Flatts