

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
January 27, 2021

Present : Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
John Brewer, Councilman
Ozzie Sterling, Councilman
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Jim Hawkins, Dog Control
Rich Sweeney, Codes Compliance Officer
Karl Manne, Town Attorney
Pam Jones, Town Clerk

Absent : Andy Dutcher, Superintendent of Highways

Public: 3 people attended, see separate sign in sheet.

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Rovazzi at the Town Community Center due to the Coronavirus. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Rovazzi to approve January 5, 2021 minutes. Brewer and Hendrix abstained. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to approve December 2020 Treasurer's Report. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Brewer to approve Town Clerk's 6 month Treasurer's Financial Report, July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve Tax Collector's 6 month Treasurer's Financial Report, July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. Brewer abstained. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve Judge Stone's 6 month Treasurer's Financial Report, July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. Brewer abstained. Carried

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Engert's 6 month Treasurer's Financial Report, July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. Brewer abstained. Carried.

Town Clerk's, Judge Stone's and Judge Engert's reports for December 2020 were left at Town Office, will be approved next month.

BILLS

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

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OTHER REPORTS

RECEIVER OF TAXES - A new payment Drop Box was installed in the Town Hall's entryway for tax payers to drop off their payment without actually coming in to the building. Rovazzi would like to put a drop box for cars to drive up to outside, for all Town Offices payments.

HIGHWAY - Dutcher was absent. Sterling asked if Dutcher's truck had its details put on yet and if Dutcher turned in his mileage report, Rovazzi answered no to each, I spoke with Dutcher on Monday and he said he was waiting on Mr. Critser to contact him.

Board wants Dutcher to turn in his report and have details put on his pick-up truck by this Friday, January 29, 2021. Board asked Rovazzi to contact Mr. Critser tomorrow to check the status of the lettering and see if the lettering could be done by Friday, January 29, 2021 or find out a date when the truck will be lettered.

Board wants Dutcher to turn in his mileage report before each monthly board meeting.

DOG CONTROL - Hawkins turned in report for January 2021, had 7 calls in Ilion, 2 calls in Mohawk, wrote 20 tickets with a February court date and was contacted by New York State Police for a dead dog on State Route 5-S, which he took to the Herkimer County Humane Society to have disposed of.

CODES - Sweeny turned in his 2020 Annual Report Permits Application Summary with 31 permits issued.

Sweeney updated permit application and sent out letters to people who did work without getting a permit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to open Public Comment session. Carried.
No one spoke.

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to close Public Comment session. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Town Community Center on February 3, 2021 from 1pm - 6pm.

Association of Towns Annual Meeting/Training will be virtual this year, February 14 -17, 2021. Anyone interested must register and pay online.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Handbooks - Board reviewed and discussed employee handbooks with some changes being made with the wording. Jones will send board revised copy to review, to be approval at next month's meeting.

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Police Report Filed - A Police report was filed with the Mohawk Police Department regarding the taxpayer who entered the Tax Office without a mask on and giving Hyer a hard time when asked to please put one on. This is the second incident by this resident, next time action will be taken.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to approve resolution with regard to the Executive Order issued by Governor Cuomo regarding renewal for the partial tax exemption for Real Property of senior citizens in accordance to subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law. Senior citizens who receive this exemption on the 2020 assessment roll will NOT be required to renew this year due to covid-19. Carried.

Annual Town Justice Audit - Watkins and Hendrix will audit the Town Justices records before the next meeting, a resolution of the audit will need to be approved at the February 24, 2021 meeting.

Extension of Richfield Street Bridge Grant until May 2021 to do minor work (wing wall, fencing protection and other miscellaneous items), about a week of work. Rovazzi reported project is right around budgeted amount and we are in good shape.

Trail Accessible Restroom - Rovazzi asked for authorization to purchase material needed to start work on restroom in Community Center's basement. Hendrix would like a cost estimate first before approving authorization. Rovazzi will prepare a cost estimate for the next meeting.

Grant Application - Rovazzi contacted Michelle Palmer about getting a grant for Manion Heights Water District to help with the upcoming meter installments and try to help lower the burden for the residents of Manion Heights. Palmer doesn't think work needing to be done, will be eligible for grant, being that it's a small project.

Rovazzi asked Attorney Manne if Town could refinance Bond with a lower interest rate. present rate is 5% and will continue to increase every 4 years by 1/4% till 2044. Manne will review Bond and call a Fiscal Advisor for advice.

National Grid installed Town Park parking lot light on January 6, 2021. Rovazzi would like to replace light on east end of parking lot with a LED.

Rovazzi would like Highway Department to remove snow between sidewalks and parking lot to avoid having people climbing over the snow bank and increasing the chance of a fall.

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Virtual Meeting Options - Brewer gave Board report with 4 different companies each having 2 to 3 plans with different options and prices. Board liked the GO TO MEETING business plan at \$16.00 a month, billed annually at \$192.00 a year. Rovazzi would like to get information from Northland before board makes a decision. If Town needs to go virtual for the next meeting Rovazzi will contact one of the options. Jones needs to know of change in meeting schedule to put in Times Telegram at least a week in advance.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Town Community Center.

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to adjourn at 7:12pm. Carried.

Respectful submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts