

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
June 23, 2021

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
John Brewer, Councilman
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Ozzie Sterling, Councilman
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Absent: Andy Dutcher, Highway Superintendent
Rich Sweeney, Codes Compliance Officer
Jim Hawkins, Dog Control Officer

Public: 7 people, see separate sign in sheet.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Rovazzi at the Town Community Center. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve May 26, 2021 minutes. Brewer and Watkins abstained. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Brewer to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's report. Carried.

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to approve the May 2021 Town Clerk's report for \$1,547.00. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Engert's May 2021 report for \$1,114.00. Brewer abstained. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve Judge Stone's May 2021 report for \$5,705.00. Brewer abstained. Carried.

BILLS

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Sterling to pay the GFIM bill for \$789.60. Carried.

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

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OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY- Dutcher was absent, no monthly reports were turned in. Atty. Manne will investigate into seeing if a Highway Superintendent can be appointed instead of being elected.

DOG CONTROL- Hawkins was absent. June 2021 report was turned in.

CODES - Sweeney was absent. At the May 2021 meeting, Sweeney requested to have all minimum building permit fees increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00. MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to increase minimum building permit fees from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Carried. MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to have building permit fee increase take effect January 1, 2022. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Brewer to open public comment session at 5:51pm. Carried.

Public Comment - None

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to close public comment at 5:52pm. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

American Red Cross blood drive June 30, 2021 1:30pm - 5:30pm at Town Community Center.

Herkimer County Resolution- A copy of a resolution passed by Herkimer County Legislature was received June 14, 2021 asking NYS governor NOT to sign Senate bill S7196/Assembly bill A6762 seeking to impose liability on law-abiding firearms business for the criminal misuse of firearms.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Park Rules & Regulations Signs - Rovazzi will work on this as soon as London Bridge project is completed.

Cannabis Law - Discussion on new cannabis law and steps the Town will need to do in future.

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PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW NO. 1, 2021

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Brewer to open Public Hearing on Local Law No. 1, 2021 amending the Town of German Flatts zoning law to establish regulations concerning solar energy systems at 6:04pm. Carried.

Public Comment - 1 resident spoke being against the project. Atty. Manne informed her and the Board this hearing was to pass a local law to control regulations concerning solar energy and was being introduced to protect the residents and Town.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to close public hearing on Local Law No. 1, 2021 at 6:21pm. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to adopt Local Law No. 1, 2021. Carried AYES 5 - NAYS 0

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW NO. 2, 2021

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to open public hearing on local law No. 2, 2021 at 6:22pm providing for the establishment and requiring permit applicants to fund an escrow account for the payment of professional services required to properly review submitted applications. Carried.

Public comment - None

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Brewer to close public hearing on Local Law No. 2,2021 at 6:25pm. Carried

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Brewer to adopt Local Law No. 2, 2021. Carried. AYES 5 - NAYS 0

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Mowing - Watkins sent a picture to board members showing Heath Road Cemetery that needs to be mowed. Town has a legal obligation to mow abandoned public cemeteries 3 times a year. A letter will be sent to Dutcher stating the implications of the Town not maintaining these properties as previously discussed and agreed upon.

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Federal Single Audit RFP - Rovazzi will send out letters to 6 different auditing firms, inquiring availability to perform a federal single audit in accordance with 2CFR2

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to have Rovazzi send letters to solicit quotes for federal single audit. Carried.

London Bridge Progress Update - Johnson Flooring began work Monday laying floors. Rovazzi and Blauvelt have been working for weeks stripping wallpaper, pulling rugs out, repairing walls, doors and painting.

NEW BUSINESS

London Bridge YWCA Lease Agreement - Discussion on drafted lease. Term of lease will be 5 years, rent will be \$4020.00 for first 3 years with an increase of \$130.00 per month (\$4150.00) for the 4th and 5th years, removal of snow from sidewalks will be renters responsibility and any renewal term(s) after the initial term shall be on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Lessor and Lessee prior to the expiration of initial term.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve lease agreement. Carried.

ARPA Funding Submission Accept or Decline Funding? -

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to have Rovazzi request ARPA money. Carried.

Court Clerk Interim Appointment - Board approved the appointment on Joanne Young as Court Clerk Interim as of June 14, 2021 at \$20.00 per hour, with a maximum of 19 1/2 hours a week. Judge Stone stated the interim Court Clerk hours should fall between 11-14 hours per week due to the Judges assisting with the Court Clerk work/duties. Young is scheduled to work till 12/31/21.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Brewer to approve appointment of Joanne Young as Court Clerk Interim at \$20.00 per hour per Judge Stone's recommendation. Carried.

Town Park Rental BBQ's - Board approve renters to have BBQ's at Town Park for fund raising for non-profit organizations. Rental application and fee are required.

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Next meeting Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:30pm German Flatts Community Center.

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to adjourn at 7:18pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela A. Jones".

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts