

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
March 23, 2022

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting

66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407

March 23, 2022

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Ozzie Sterling, Councilman
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Jim Hawkins, Dog Control
Richard Sweeney, Codes
Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent
Karl Manne, Town Attorney
Andrea Fisher, Deputy Town Clerk
John Brewer, Councilman

Absent: Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Pam Jones, Town Clerk

Public: 10 people attended, see separate sign in sheet

MEETING was call to order at 5:32pm by Rovazzi. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes. Brewer abstain. Carried

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Brewer to approve the March 2, 2022 minutes. Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

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MOTION by Sterling, seconded by Hendrix to approve February 2022 Treasurer's Report.
Carried

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve the Town Clerk's February Report for \$553.50. Carried

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Engert's February 2022 report for \$1,211.00. Brewer abstained. Carried

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Sterling to approve Judge Stone's February 2022 report for \$15,186.00. Brewer abstained. Carried

BILLS

MOTION by Sterling, seconded by Hendrix to approve GFIM February 2022 report for \$420.60.
Carried.

MOTION by Brewer to pay February 2022 bills as audited, seconded by Hendricks. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

US LIGHT ENERGY SOLAR- Zack Lissard of US Energy Solar and Chris Koenig of C.T. Male Associates gave a presentation in response to RFP (Request for proposal) on an updated O&M Plan, CESIR Report, and a sample Community Solar Bill for the project located at 316 Warren Road, Mohawk. Town will look over proposed budget and make a decision next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan voiced concerns regarding property values resulting from the proposed US Light Energy Solar project.

MOTION by Sterling to hire legal counsel specializing in solar engineering to give advice, seconded by Rovazzi.

OTHER REPORTS

DOG CONTROL- Jim had four calls from Mohawk, One call on route 5s in Ilion. There were two nights of making calls, and one day with a zoom meeting. A couple of dogs were picked up, two of which were adopted out. To discuss with court enforcing compliance of registering their dogs.

CODES- Sweeney had two building permits with 2-3 pending. Two certificates of occupancy for 2021. Working on planning and zoning for the area so it's similar to surrounding townships, and is in favor of zoning. Also submitted model code for review, state requires us to have it in our local laws, as pursuant to section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, unless otherwise outlined. It also will detail the duties of the codes officer, and conditions of a parking garage permit, among other updates. Sweeney will look compare and contrast to make sure that there is no overlap in current state or local laws.

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Attorney Karl Manne to review and advise. Will revisit again at a later date. Sweeney will keep working on it with the help of the Town of German Flatts Clerk's office.

HIGHWAY- Carmen sold 2019 Ford F2 for \$38,000, with the difference it's going to be \$1,621 towards the 2022 truck. Carmen would also like to entertain the idea of getting a fuel tank at the garage. If we opted to for a tank it would be on a lease basis. Company is 100% liable for the tank, and would cost zero to the Town to install. Stipulation would be that we have to purchase fuel from Buehl fuels at State Contracted price, and pay for a 120-volt pump. Can be secured inside the Town Barn. Rovazzi to check with insurance. Will revisit next meeting. Carmen has been working with Mohawk Municipal Commission. The Town qualifies for a grant to replace all light fixtures at zero cost to the Town and is a 25% savings on electric bill each month. Covid-19 has presented challenges with getting a snowplow. Carmen has met with Tracey Road Equipment, Utica Mack Trucks, Peterbilt to get an idea, if we were to move forward what kind of time frame. The decision among equipment dealers seems to be that it would approximately 2-3 years to purchase. By giving them a letter of intent, it gets us on a waiting list that if a spot opens up in 2 years we would have the option to buy a snowplow.

MOTION by Brewer to get on waiting list for snowplow, seconded by Hendrix. Carried.

Carmen would like to trade 8 used tires we have with another municipality within the town for a brine tank/pump system.

MOTION by Rovazzi to trade tires for Brine tank, seconded by Sterling. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION by Rovazzi to open public comment, seconded by Brewer. Carried.

1 person spoke.

MOTION by Rovazzi to close public comment, seconded by Hendrix. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Handbook Discussion is still being looked over and revised. Will be revisited at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Trash day will be Saturday, May 21st from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Town Garage.

MOTION by Hendrix to approve 2022 F350 Pickup Truck for \$39,621. Seconded by Brewer. Carried.

MOTION by Rovazzi to approve Town Office Secure Document Cabinet purchase from Hummel's, seconded by Sterling. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix to approve Justice Court Resolution, seconded by Rovazzi. Carried.

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MOTION by Hendrix to approve OPRHP Contract Amendments, seconded by Brewer. Carried

MOTION by Hendrix to approve contract amendment C138937, seconded by Brewer. Carried

MOTION by Brewer to approve contract amendment C141195, seconded by Hendrix. Carried.

Discussion was had on ARPA funding and how it should be spent, the board would like to allocate a portion toward the water meters and account for remaining as loss revenue.

MOTION by Hendrix to approve ARPA April Reporting, seconded by Sterling. Carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER # 5- To record sale of old equipment to purchase new equipment.

Increase revenue \$9,200.00 from 2022 budgeted amount of \$0 in fund DB2665.0 account Sales of Equipment.

Increase expenditures to \$9,200.00 from 2022 budgeted amount of \$0 in fund DB5130.2 account Machinery, Equip & Cap Outlay.

MOTION by Brewer to approve Budget Amendment #5, seconded by Hendrix. Carried

RFP for Professional Services approval

MOTION by Hendrix to engage with MRB group for Town Engineering Services Solar array, seconded by Brewer.

MOTION by Brewer to engage with Knauf Shaw for Town of German Flatts Proposal for Solar Project Attorney for legal counsel, seconded by Hendrix. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Brewer, seconded by Hendrix to enter into executive session at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION by Rovazzi to exit executive session at 8:24 p.m., seconded Sterling. Carried

MOTION by Brewer that it has always been the policy of the Town Board not to allow remote work without express approval. And all department heads are reminded of that policy, and to remind their employees of that policy. Going forward any department head that violates that policy will be subject to discipline and/or any employee that violates that policy will be subject to discipline effective immediately. Town business is to stay within the office. Seconded by Hendrix. Carried

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Sterling to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Carried

Next meeting to be April 5, 2022.

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Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Fisher, Deputy Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts