

Town of Murray Town Board Meeting

February 9, 2016

Present: Supervisor John Morriss, Councilwoman Kathy Case, Councilmen Lloyd Christ and Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Attorney Jeff Martin, Assessor Lynn Wood, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Vendetti, Jim Krencik, Eric Collyer, Chris Whipple, Sandy Shaw, Krista Wiley, Kerri Neale, Randy Piedmonte, David Piedmonte, Paul DeGraff, Joe Sidonio, Sandra Piedmonte, Farin Seiler, John Lusk, Pat Neary, Rita Neary, Neil Valentine, Bill Herring

Absent: Councilman Ed Bower and Highway & Water Superintendent Ed Morgan

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Case, Seconded by Christ approving the minutes of the year-end meeting and the January 12th meeting as submitted Motion Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Joe Sidonio addressed the Board about issues regarding the Highway Superintendent:

- He questioned if the Highway Superintendent retired from his position
- He questioned if the Highway Superintendent is receiving his pension
- He questioned the amount the Highway Superintendent receives in lieu of health insurance based upon the Town of Murray local law.

Mr. Sidonio also spoke of his concerns regarding the report from the Comptroller's office based on their audit. He also voiced his concern in the increase of the Town's tax rate.

Assessor

Lynn Wood stated that office activity is the same as last month. With exemption time still upon us, many residents have been coming in and they are also still preparing for the 2016 update.

Code Enforcement Officer

Ron has finished re-indexing the codes for the town code book. Board members have updated versions and he would like them to schedule a work meeting to go over these. When completed this could be put in pdf form for the Town website giving anyone access to it.

New Business

A work meeting was scheduled to begin reviewing the code indexing that Ron has been putting in place. The Town Board will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Proposed local law no. 1 of 2016 was discussed. This was brought about by NYMIR as a result of their yearly walk-through of the Town's facilities. All employees will be required to go through workplace violence training on a yearly basis. GCC's The BEST center offers these training sessions and recommended two session, two hours each for the first year. After the first year, employees can attend a refresher course yearly.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Case introducing Local Law No. 1 of 2016, enacting a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy for the Town of Murray Motion Carried

A public hearing on this proposed local law has been scheduled for March 8th at 7:00 p.m. to be held before the regular March Town Board meeting.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel accepting the proposal of \$2,000 from Labella Associates for preparing the Rural Development application for grant funding and loan assistance for Water District No. 3, Extension 1 Motion Carried

Motion by Case, Seconded by Christ accepting Labella Associates proposal of \$5,000 for Environmental Review Services for Water District No. 3, Extension 1 Motion Carried

Councilman Paul Hendel addressed some important points regarding a letter to the editor entitled 'Murray Residents Question Why Tax Rate Growth' in the Orleans County Hub authored by a resident of the Town. Councilman Hendel distributed a chart of the ten towns in Orleans County and tax rates for each town from 2012 to 2015, showing the Town of Murray among the lowest in the years 2012 through 2014 with Murray falling in the middle in years 2015 and 2016. Councilman Hendel also distributed a list detailing the amount of fund balance used for tax relief beginning with 2011 and stated that in using this fund balance of \$55,942 over the last five years in order to keep taxes down, there is presently no fund balance left to offset taxes as we've been done in the past.

Councilman Hendel distributed a list of 1990's tax rates converted to 2016 dollars. When looking at the tax rates of the years 1994 through 1997, and converting those dollars to 2016 dollars, you can see that the tax rates were much higher then than they are today. In 1996 the Town Supervisor was making the equivalent of \$4,000 more per year than what the present Town Supervisor is making.

Lastly, Councilman Hendel discussed the tax cap and went through the formula to arrive at the tax cap which he said sounds complex but really is not. He informed those present that the Town Board works hard to keep the tax rate as low as possible while maintaining the level of service our residents deserve.

David Paul entered the meeting.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel supporting Orleans County resolution 20-116, to Restore Funding Parity Between the Capital Plans of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the NYS Department of Transportation Motion Carried

Supervisors Legislators meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, RSVP by the 18th.

Brief discussion regarding the weight restriction on the Bennetts Corners Road bridge and safety concerns because of this. Ed has gotten permission from the State to use our small one-ton pick-up with a minimal amount of salt on board to maintain the approaches

of this bridge in the winter months. Although the structure is owned by the State, they continue to say that closing the bridge is the Town's responsibility.

Attorney

Jeff, with the help of the Assessor's office has identified all parcels to be included in proposed Water District No. 3, extension 1. Jeff, Ed Morgan and Paul Chatfield will be meeting within the next couple of weeks to strategize and discuss the circulation of petitions. There are some out of district users that may not want to sign a petition since they have been connected to district 15 for years at a lower amount than what a new district would be.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk receipts for January totaled \$639.20 with \$553.98 going into the general fund. Cindy gave the Board a tax collection summary for the month of January. The Town Clerk's office has collected 70% of taxes owed, totaling \$2,777,801.11. A total of \$1,417,281.98 due to the Supervisor for Town purposes has been paid. A total of \$1,257,282.00 has been turned over to the County Treasurer thus far.

Public Comments

Comments from those present included:

- When the budget process begins. Each work meeting is posted on the Town website and is published in the Batavia Daily. Any person wishing to attend is more than welcome. Once the budget is in place, we hold a public hearing and residents can give their input or ask any questions they may have.
- Pat Neary questioned the practice of the public picking up drain pipe at the Town Hall.
- Richard Downey questioned the bond repayment amount that was on his tax bill. He was told that the first year's amount was less as he wasn't charged for a full year and he was reminded that the Town Board held a public hearing on the bond-repayments of each water district on November 24, 2015.
- Krista Wiley asked about the process of overriding the tax cap. It was explained to her that a local law was adopted to override the tax cap. The local law was introduced and the next month a public hearing was held. It was adopted at the meeting following the public hearing. Krista spoke about efficiency experts and that there is a cross section of our community that has no disposable income and the tax increase is a hardship for many of them. How can we bring people to our community and how can we increase revenue?
- Joe Sidonio questioned the minutes' accuracy regarding Precision Packaging's fire pump. He was informed that when first discussed, a rough figure was given to the Board as the actual cost was unknown. The Town agreed to pay one-third of the cost and a 'not to exceed' amount was agreed upon. After receiving documentation, the actual dollar amount that the Town would pay was brought before the board which ended being less than the 'not to exceed' figure originally stated.
- Concerns were voiced regarding the Bennetts Corners Road bridge weight limit.

- Kerri Neale was unaware that Holley Volunteer Ambulance no longer exists and that Monroe Ambulance is now servicing the Town of Murray.
- There were concerns expressed regarding the proposed local law no. 1 of 2016. Attorney Jeff Martin reminded all present that this is a recommendation from NYMIR as the Board does not want to run the risk of NYMIR dropping us from their insurance coverage. He will research this issue further with NYMIR.
- Joe Sidonio publicly apologized for his earlier outburst directed at Councilwoman Kathy Case.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Case that the following bills be approved and paid:
Motion Carried

General Fund	Claims 30-61	\$13,980.24
Highway Fund	Claims 15-25	\$19,173.82
Water District No. 1	Claims 3-4	\$385.48
Water District No. 2	Claims 5-7	\$192.92
Water District No. 3	Claims 4-5	\$2,689.98
Water District No. 4	Claims 1-2	\$1,427.40
Water District No. 5	Claims 1-2	\$813.72
Water District No. 6	Claims 8-12	\$2,886.57
Water District No. 7	Claims 1-2	\$3,154.00
Water District No. 8	Claims 1-2	\$2,223.90
Water District No. 9	Claim 1	\$714.90
Water District No. 10	Claims 3-5	\$1,130.70
Water District No. 11	Claims 8-13	\$5,132.04
Water District No. 12	Claim 1	\$528.03
Water District No. 13	Claim 1	\$1,130.25
Water District No. 14	Claim 1	\$359.80
Water District No. 15	Claims 1-3	\$2,088.20
Water District No. 20	Claim 1	\$1,268.60

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Case to adjourn the meeting Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
