

Town of Murray Board Meeting via Zoom
May 18, 2020

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Assessor Louise Passarell, Attorney John Sansone

Pledge to the flag

Councilman Mele updated all on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). There are still positive cases turning up throughout the county and several addresses are in quarantine. As the county begins phase 1 reopening, there must be a written plan in place with guidelines to follow. With the warmer weather, there will be large gatherings. Now is not the time to let our guard down. This virus is spread easily and everyone needs to remain diligent in following the safety precautions.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele approving the minutes of the April Town Board meeting as submitted.

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

Town Clerk Report

April receipts totaled \$639.00 with \$572.55 going into the general fund.

Tax collection is over and all unpaid taxes have been turned over to the County Treasurer’s office. Cindy provided all with a Collection Summary Report that shows the amount collected, penalties collected and the taxes that remain unpaid. The Supervisor was given a check for the penalties collected in the amount of \$9,124.01.

Cindy sent our payroll certification to County Personnel listing Lynn Wood as Assessor Assistant. They contacted me saying that there is no such job title and one will need to be created. Louise filled out a New Position Duties Statement for *Assessor Assistant* and Cindy will turn it in to the County tomorrow.

Assessor’s Report

The Tentative Assessment Roll was filed on May 1st. Change of assessments have been mailed out. This week is the last week for informal hearings. Board of Assessment Review training could not be done due to the pandemic but Dawn Allen, County Director of Real Property sent information for Elaine Berg to complete on line.

Brief discussion regarding safe practices that will be put in place for Grievance Day.

Dawn Allen informed Louise that another flyover has been done and the cost to the town will be \$3,200. This is done every three years.

Highway and Water Department Report

Written report submitted by Ed Morgan.

All employees are back to work with each one doing separate duties. They've been equipped with face protection, gloves and personal sanitizer if they have to be near each other for any reason. They are asked each morning how they feel and if they think they have any health reasons not to be at work that would jeopardize themselves or other employee's well-being.

We have been doing necessary maintenance work on equipment preparing for the spring.

We have over 675 valves and 400 hydrants with limited work force. We are still listening and should have a complete once-around done within a few weeks.

Louise and I have been working every day since Covid-19 has been upon us. We do not share our office at the same time. She is in the Assessor's office while Ed is in the Highway/Water office.

We have completed roadside clean up from winter plow damage and are starting to repair lawn damage where we have had to dig up water leaks this winter and spring.

On a final note, I truly wish the very best for the Town of Murray residents in the future and the Town Board as they move forward in the search for my replacement.

Supervisor Sidonio stated that at the work meeting, we spoke about acceptable water loss. After speaking to Paul Chatfield and New York Leak Detection the consensus is that 10% loss is good but 20% is not acceptable.

Supervisor Sidonio asked if there was any information on CHIPs funding. Ed informed Louise that he did not think it was going to change. Will there be a delay? If so, can we find out? Councilman Mele said he believes the State has several years to pay.

New Business

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ appointing Councilman Randall Bower as the Town Board representative to the Assessor’s office and the Youth Commission.

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

After a lifetime of service, the Highway and Water Superintendent has decided to resign. Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Bower accepting the resignation of Highway and Water Superintendent Edward Morgan effective May 31, 2020

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

On Tuesday, June 2nd from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., LaBella Associates and the Town of Murray will be holding a ‘virtual’ public forum as part of its Comprehensive Plan Update, to explore opportunities to build on our resources such as the Erie Canal, streams, lakes, historic sites and agriculture, to benefit the Town and region.

Information will be added to the Town website.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele that the Town Board schedule a work meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. as needed.

After being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

This will eliminate the need to advertise each time a work meeting is scheduled. If needed, they will be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Discussion regarding the eventual re-opening of the Town Hall and the guidelines that need to be in place. Discussion included that all Town business will be conducted at the Town Clerk’s counter with a barrier between the office and the residents. Courtroom must be sanitized after each court session. There needs to be a daily log of every person that has entered the building. A possible walk-up window was also discussed.

Councilman Hendel volunteered to work on a draft of guidelines for reopening.

Old Business

There has been much discussion regarding the proposed amendment to the Town of Murray Zoning Map and Zoning Text Establishing a Senior Housing District.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ to adopt the local law entitled *"Amending the Town of Murray Zoning Ordinance to Establish a Senior Housing District for Individuals 55 Years of Age or Older"* and to amend the zoning map associated therewith.

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	2	Christ, Hendel
Nays	3	Bower, Mele, Sidonio

Motion Denied

Supervisor Sidonio will notify County Planning of the Board’s decision.

Other Business

Supervisor Sidonio received a letter from County Personnel and Self Insurance regarding Fire Department parades, activities, etc. Since the Fire Departments partake in these parades and/or activities voluntarily, they are not covered by the county insurance. Councilman Hendel stated that the Fire Departments are their own entity and the Town is not responsible.

All received a copy of the memo from EFPR Solutions with recommendations for being proactive for 2021 and possibly this year also. Councilman Hendel

suggested the Board go through each budget line item to see where we can make decreases. This should begin in June.

Discussion regarding the Highway and Water Superintendent position. If they chose to, the Town Board can appoint someone for the position until December 31, 2020. In November of this year, there has to be a candidate on the ballot to fill the remainder of Ed Morgan’s term which ends December 31, 2021. There can be no primary as it is too late. Any political party can put a person on the ballot with a Party Certificate Nomination Form.

Councilman Hendel thanked Cindy for putting the link for information on the re-opening of Orleans County businesses on the Town website.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele approving the Supervisor’s financial report and that the following bills be paid:

	Total
General Fund	\$27,515.01
Highway Fund	5,719.03
Water District No. 1	748.88
Water District No. 2	10,434.74
Water District No. 3	4,497.88
Water District No. 4	7.76
Water District No. 5	3.58
Water District No. 6	2,413.30
Water District No. 7	24.79
Water District No. 8	67.51
Water District No. 9	5.67
Water District No. 10	10.65
Water District No. 11	3,645.15
Water District No. 12	7.17
Water District No. 13	8.66
Water District No. 14	2.39
Water District No. 15	16.43
Water District No. 16	3.59

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the Board enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

Board entered into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the Board return to regular session with no action taken

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

Board returned to regular session at 9:57 p.m.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ that the Board meeting be adjourned

After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
Nays	0	

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver