

Town of Murray Town Board Meeting

March 8, 2016

Present: Supervisor John Morriss, Councilwoman Kathy Case, Councilmen Ed Bower, Lloyd Christ and Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Attorney Jeff Martin, Assessor Lynn Wood, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Vendetti, Bill Herring, Legislator John DeFilipps, Rick Collyer, Mattie Zarpentine, Joel Zarpentine, Joel Johnstone, David Thom, Dennis Piedmonte, Doug Piedmonte, Barry Strimple, Art Sielaff, Farin Seiler, Randall Piedmonte, Anthony Pearce, Neil Valentine, Tony Manno, Krista Wiley, Eric Collyer, Chris Whipple, Paul Rusin, Lynn Prest, David Piedmonte, Rosanne Regan, Joe Sidonio, Chris Virgilio, Kerri Neal, Ken Draper, Al Lofthouse, Bev Lofthouse, Anthony Peone, David Paul

Public Hearing – Local Law No. 1 of 2016 – Enacting a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy

Pledge to the flag.

Attorney Jeff Martin informed all that NYMIR, our insurance carrier made recommendation that the Town adopt a workplace violence policy incorporating a weapons ban for the Town Hall, Town Vehicles and Town property. The purpose of the public hearing is for residents to voice their opinion and for the board to make any changes they feel are in order. Keep in mind, this is just a draft of a proposed law. Other municipalities prohibit firearms and Orleans County prohibits firearms on all county property.

Kerri Neale stated that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and this proposed law is unconstitutional. He also stated that limiting the public to one comment per person is an infringement of their rights. David Piedmonte stated that it is dangerous for employees to have hours when they are in the building alone as it is an open invitation for someone to come in and do something. Paul Rusin from West Virginia stated that this was a recommendation from NYMIR, not a requirement and residents should be able to enter the Town Hall and carry their weapons. To pass this law would be putting everyone in the building at risk as they would have no way to defend themselves. Anthony Peone stated that the residents are the people who pay employee salaries. Matty Zarpentine read a letter that she emailed to the Supervisor and Town Board and reminded all that on March 12, 2015, the Town Board passed a resolution supporting legislation to repeal the NY SAFE Act and informed the Board of her disappointment that they would consider this proposed law. David Tom, Chairman of SCOPE stated that the Board is attempting to suspend the constitutional right of the people that elected them. By creating a gun-free zone, the Town building will be a target of choice for

perpetrators who carry out criminal acts with firearms. He asked the Board to vote against this proposed local law. Louise Passarell, speaking as an employee stated that she has no problem with the banning of firearms at the Town Hall. Roseann Regan asked, if this law was passed, how would it be enforced, would there be a Sheriff at the door? Randy Piedmonte stated that our insurance company should not dictate the laws we have. Joe Sidonio asked if this applies to Councilwomen and Councilmen as well.

Councilman Paul Hendel thanked those present for attending and for giving their opinions. He said that one half of one section of the proposed law deals with firearms. Does anyone present have any comments about the other ten and a half sections?

Public Hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

Regular Town Board Meeting

Supervisor Morriss thanked all for coming and for their opinions. He stated that in light of the public's comments and opinions, the Board obviously needs to take a closer look at the proposed law.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel approving the minutes of the February meeting as submitted. Councilman Bower abstained Motion Carried

Supervisor Comments

Supervisor Morriss spoke about the new meeting format and rules for addressing the Board that are now printed on the back of the agenda.

Comments on Agenda Items:

No comments.

Assessor

The office has been very busy with walk-ins, working on the update and taking care of exemptions.

Old Business

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Hendel to table proposed local law no. 1 of 2016 Motion Carried

Councilman Hendel addressed the public regarding discontinuation of June Fest and referenced a February 10th Orleans Hub article where Clarendon residents encouraged Holley to keep June Fest going. The article went on to state that the Town of Murray decided not to fund their portion. He wanted to make clear that the funds for June Fest were added to the budget the Board

adopted in November. The reason for June Fest's discontinuation is because there is a lack of individuals willing to step up and help organize and run the Festival, and not the Town's lack of funding it.

New Business

Motion by Case, Seconded by Christ accepting the resignation of Dennis Piedimonte from the Board of Assessment Review effective immediately

Motion Carried

Councilman Hendel asked the Board to consider naming an 'Outstanding Citizen of the Month' for the Town of Murray, where the Town could recognize local business owners or volunteers who donate in any form to the Town and/or its residents. He'd be happy to work on this with Cindy. Let Paul know if you think it's worth pursuing.

Supervisor Morriss informed those present that they may like to consider forming a 'citizen budget committee', where a small group from the community could sit down with the Board as we start the budget process. This would help residents understand the budget process and what goes into it.

Attorney

At our last meeting, Richard Downey spoke about debt service for the water district he is in and that the debt service increased from the original amount of \$393.75. Jeff informed him that the first year, just a partial (\$393.75) was charged. When the petition was circulated, the projected annual debt service was \$634.87 and the actual charge ended up being lower than what we projected. If Mr. Downey would like copies of any documentation, he is welcome to have it.

Regarding the proposed local law, it is Jeff's recommendation that it needs revision, but that is the Board's decision. We are waiting for some clarification from NYMIR.

Town Clerk

February receipts totaled \$331 with \$284 going into the general fund. Cindy gave the Board a Tax Collection Summary report for February.

Public Comments

Art Knab questioned why the Town's official newspaper is stationed in Batavia. He was told that our official newspaper has to be a paid publication, not a free one such as the Pennysaver.

Joe Sidonio spoke of the NYS Controller's report and stated that in his review of the Town's budget, the amount that is charged in the water districts is more

than the principal and interest of the loan that was borrowed for that district, creating a surplus in each district. Joe handed out a spread sheet for the board. He stated that the Town has an obligation to refund these amounts if the residents were overtaxed and asked what the action plan would be to refund these funds. Mr. Sidonio also requested that this information be forwarded to an independent auditor such as Bonadio. Supervisor Morriss stated that the Town receives grant funding from USDA for most of the water districts. There are very strict guidelines with federal funding involved. Because of this, the Town has Bonadio and Associates perform an annual audit and the water districts are one of the biggest focuses of the audit. There have been no shortcomings brought to the Town's attention but it will be looked into.

Roseann Regan stated that lately there is a black residue on the underside rim of her toilet and sometimes there is a faint kerosene smell to her water. Supervisor Morriss said he will relay the information to Ed Morgan.

David Paul questioned the cost of a previous truck repair and said the Town could have saved money if it had been sent to a local repair shop. Eric Collyer informed him that it was the Town's oldest truck that he is referring to and the drive shaft put a hole right through the block. He stated that the Town was fortunate to only have paid \$25,000.

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

Motion Carried

General Fund	Claims 62-88	\$14,151.47
Highway Fund	Claims 32-43	\$24,611.60
Water District No. 1	Claims 5-8	\$295.90
Water District No. 2	Claims 8-11	\$266.22
Water District No. 3	Claims 6-9	\$4,241.46
Water District No. 4	Claims 3-4	\$57.68
Water District No. 5	Claims 3-4	\$44.24
Water District No. 6	Claims 13-19	\$1,987.48
Water District No. 7	Claims 3-4	\$151.78
Water District No. 8	Claims 3-5	\$926.01
Water District No. 9	Claims 2-4	\$284.22
Water District No. 10	Claims 6-10	\$465.90
Water District No. 11	Claims 14-20	\$1,564.46
Water District No. 12	Claims 2-3	\$57.68
Water District No. 13	Claims 2-3	\$57.68
Water District No. 14	NONE	\$0.00
Water District No. 15	Claims 4-5	\$124.89

Water District No. 20	NONE	\$0.00
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Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried

So adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
