

Town of Murray Public Hearing and Town Board Meeting

November 8, 2016

Present: Supervisor John Morriss, Councilpersons Ed Bower, Kathy Case, Lloyd Christ and Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Attorney Jeff Martin, Assessor Lynn Wood, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Vendetti, Jack Welch, Krista Wiley, Kerri Neale, Sandy Shaw

Pledge to the flag.

Public Hearing – 2017 Town Budget

The public hearing was opened at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Morriss thanked the citizen's budget committee for the time and effort they put in to the budget process. Ms. Wiley said that it is a tough job and people don't have any idea what goes into this process until you go through it. A lot of effort goes into it. All of the questions and thoughts that go into the budget process are the same things we deal with in our own homes. Supervisor Morriss also thanked the Board, department heads, Bob Fox and Shelby Bennett from EFPR for their time and work spent on the budget.

Because of the 2016 update, assessment for the Town is over 3 million which has helped considerably. Town wide tax rate is down from 3.12 per thousand (2016) to 2.06 per thousand (2017) and Outside Village is down from 1.80 per thousand (2016) to 1.77 per thousand (2017).

No further comments from those present.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 PM

Town Board Meeting

Assessor Lynn and Louise spent a couple days on the road looking at improvements. They still have a few more to look at. Homeowners have been calling or coming in for their STAR exemption. It is a big change for the people who have moved and changed their residence.

Motion by Christ, **Seconded** by Case approving the October meeting minutes as submitted **Motion Carried**

Code Enforcement Officer Ron has completed most of the fire inspections on businesses within the Town. One business was reluctant and got an attorney involved. Ty-Lin did the inspection and Ron has a full report in his office. There are a few things that need to be done to get them into compliance. Ron has not yet put together the letter to the State for 'no parking' signs but he

will. The office is still working on property maintenance issues. Those will slow down along with building due to the winter weather. Ron anticipates more new homes being built next year.

Ron would like the Board to enter into an executive session later in the meeting to discuss a personnel issue. He congratulated the Board for their work on the budget. Ron also congratulated the Board on the dismissal of the County Health Department's false charges regarding the water distribution system. Putting politics aside, the residents should thank the Town Board for the job they do.

Old Business

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Hendel that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Tentative Budget for the year 2017 has been duly presented to the Town Board by the Budget Officer, and a duly publicized public hearing was held on the 8th day of November, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. on the preliminary budget prepared by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS at which time all persons desiring to be heard were heard; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 109 of the Town Law of the State of New York, the Town Board of the Town of Murray hereby

ADOPTS THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET, as amended, altered, and revised, as the Budget for the Town of Murray for the year 2017.

Upon being put to a vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

New Business

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Case that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Murray hereby authorizes Highway Superintendent Edward Morgan and Town Supervisor John Morriss to sign the five (5) year Agreement for Control of Ice and Snow and for Mowing on County Roads, terminating September 30, 2021.

Upon being put to a vote, the following voted in favor of adoption of the resolution: Supervisor Morriss, Councilpersons Bower, Case, Christ and Hendel.

The following voted against adoption: none

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Supervisor Morriss informed all of the November 1st meeting he attended regarding the County Animal Contract. As the proposed increase was more than the towns were able to pay, the County is now proposing to take over animal control for all towns. Individual towns would continue licensing dogs and the county will get revenue from violations. Currently, each municipality has their own local laws but the county is proposing the towns repeal their local laws and operate under the same animal laws making it easier for the County Animal Control officer to oversee each municipality. Specific details are not set at this point but this is what they are leaning towards. Discussion of having a dog census or survey mailed to each specific household in the Town. Cindy said the census the Town Clerk's office mailed out about 10 years ago generated hundreds of new licenses.

Attorney Jeff Martin informed all that Local Laws No. 3 and No. 4 have been filed with the Department of State. They were filed on October 21st so are now officially in place.

Jeff was able to locate the original Town of Murray advertising sign agreement. The agreement goes back to the year 2000 with each business paying \$450 covering a three-year period, to have their business name on the signs with two businesses on each sign.

Jeff discussed the administrative meeting that he, Supervisor Morriss and Ed Morgan appeared at. The Hearing Officer recommended the violation the Town was charged with be dismissed. Jeff thought it was a beneficial meeting not only because the charge against the Town was dismissed but helping us recognize that there are probably some ways we can tighten up certain procedures. Remember that there are 377 fire hydrants within the Town of Murray and overseeing such a large water system is a huge task but is a job that is done well.

Councilman Hendel thanked Jeff for representing the Town. Because of Jeff's hard work, the truth came out. He also asked if we knew when the *no* parking signs will be put up on Lynch Rd. since concert season at the school is almost upon us. Ron will get the letter to the state written so this can be completed.

Town Clerk Cindy reported October receipts totaled \$1,401.00 with \$955.55 going into the general fund.

Privilege of the Floor

Sandy Shaw, Director of the Community Free Library was present to inform the public that the library received a \$20,000 bullet aid from Senator Ort’s office. The library will be implementing more children and young adult programs, monthly adult programs. They will also be hiring a part-time children’s librarian. Ms. Shaw’s goal is to offer more for our community and to get the word out that our library offers more than just books.

Kerri Neale spoke of his concerns regarding water hydrants, who puts on and takes off the meters and who monitors when someone signs out a meter. Can the Town have workers hook them up? He doesn’t know what the answer is but perhaps all towns need to take a look at their water rules and regulations. Supervisor Morriss stated that the Town cannot have their workers standing by at each hydrant to monitor. Councilman Hendel said if we don’t have confidence in our water users, farmers and/or haulers and if the community doesn’t believe we are keeping the water system safe, then maybe we shouldn’t do it. Jeff Martin said you have to balance the need. What disturbed the town the most was that the charge was based on a picture. Ed Morgan is probably the most knowledgeable man in the county where water is concerned and he never got the courtesy of a telephone call. Common sense would dictate the health department would have picked up the phone, not wait ten days and send out a violation (that ends up being dismissed) which gives the Town of Murray a black eye. This wasn’t handled correctly administratively. The director of the County Health Dept. has not once picked up the phone and talked to the Supervisor or anyone at the Town but can give an interview regarding this to the hub. Councilman Hendel stated that it is incumbent that the Orleans Hub to do a follow-up article, siting the fact that there was no violation on the part of the Town of Murray. In fact, the violation notice that ended up being dismissed was issued solely on a photo. Supervisor Morriss again thanked Jeff Martin for his hard work and for his professionalism at the hearing.

Motion by Christ, **Seconded** by Case approving the Supervisor’s Financial Report and that the following bills be paid: **Motion Carried**

General Fund	Claims 299-324	\$17,691.28
Highway Fund	Claims 139-147	\$4,996.64
Water District No. 1	Claims 23-25	\$383.32
Water District No. 2	Claims 38-40	\$433.06
Water District No. 3	Claims 30-32	\$4,872.05

Water District No. 4	Claims 15-17	\$1,774.52
Water District No. 5	Claims 13-14	\$908.75
Water District No. 6	Claims 54-57	\$1,020.67
Water District No. 7	Claims 17-18	\$4,430.09
Water District No. 8	Claims 17-18	\$5,081.09
Water District No. 9	Claims 13-14	\$1,784.00
Water District No. 10	Claims 24-27	\$3,433.11
Water District No. 11	Claims 58-64	\$8,355.93
Water District No. 12	Claims 12-13	\$909.65
Water District No. 13	Claim 12	\$3,785.46
Water District No. 14	Claims 4-6	\$3,527.66
Water District No. 15	Claims 15-17	\$3,034.91
Water District No. 20	Claim 8	\$1,580.70

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Case that the Board enter into executive session to discuss possible future employment Motion Carried

Town Board entered into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Bower to return to the regular board meeting with no action taken

Motion Carried

Regular meeting resumed at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower that the meeting be adjourned

Motion Carried

So adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Oliver