

**Murray Town Board Meeting**

September 13, 2016

Present: Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Paul Hendel, Councilwoman Kathy Case, Councilmen Lloyd Christ and Ed Bower, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Assessor Lynn Wood, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Vendetti, Attorney Jeff Martin, Louise Passarell, Stan Kemp, Dennis Piedmonte, Dave Piedmonte, Elaine Berg, Ian Berg, Richard Downey, William Moroz  
Absent: Supervisor John Morriss

Pledge to the flag.

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

**Public Comments on Agenda:** David Piedmonte said that people paid \$350 to have their business name on the 'Welcome to Murray' signs with the agreement that these signs would be maintained and he doesn't think they have ever been painted or kept in good condition. Councilman Hendel said that is the reason it is on the agenda tonight.

Joe Sidonio entered the meeting.

**Assessor** Lynn Wood spoke briefly regarding vacant land sales. The Town has had 13 of these sales in the last six months. The state will be coming up with a plan to address these sales in order to bring our equalization rate back where it should be. Lynn will be attending the NYS Assessors' Association meeting and seminar in Lake George next week. Lynn informed all that he has gotten many positive comments about having the Assessor's office downstairs.

**Code Enforcement Officer** Ron's department has been keeping up with property maintenance and mowing issues. Ron spoke of two zombie houses that the bank is taking action on. Ron was able to gain entry to these houses and they both have serious issues. There is a new home that is almost complete and another is two-thirds of the way finished and possibly another to come.

Ron asked the Town Board to consider an executive session regarding a personnel matter.

Kerri Neale entered the meeting.

Jeff Martin briefly discussed disclosure laws regarding property conditions. Councilman Hendel asked Ron to let the Board know if any grants become available for zombie properties.

### **New Business**

The 2015 Justice Court audit needs to be completed. As Paul was trained by Councilmen Bower and Christ last year he can be in charge of the audit. Councilwoman Case offered to help.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower adopting the following resolution;

"RESOLVED, that proposed Town of Murray Local Law No. 3 of the Year 2016 entitled "A Local Law Regulating the Stopping, Standing and Parking of Motor Vehicles on Lynch Road in the Town of Murray" be and the same hereby is introduced, and a public hearing shall be held on October 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM to consider the adoption of such local law; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Heath and Martin, Attorneys for the Town of Murray, shall attend to publishing a legal notice in *The Batavia Daily News* at least five (5) days in advance of such public hearing."

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

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Case adopting the following resolution;

"RESOLVED, that proposed Town of Murray Local Law No. 4 of the Year 2016 entitled "A Local Law Repealing Local Law No. 1 of 2007 Regulating the Outside Storage of Unlicensed Vehicles in the Town of Murray" be and the same hereby is introduced, and a public hearing shall be held on October 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM to consider the adoption of such local law; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Heath & Martin, Attorneys for the Town of Murray, shall attend publishing a legal notice in *The Batavia Daily News* at least five (5) days in advance of such public hearing."

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

Work meetings need to be scheduled for a number of things such as, policies, practices, procedures, and water districts. There has been a lot of conversation regarding water districts. We may have to increase water rates. Councilman Hendel stated that there has been a controversy with stealing water, which is totally false. He suggested we tap into some of the expertise

in other areas and question how they manage their water districts and what their policies and procedures are. October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM will be a budget work meeting. October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM will be a work meeting regarding the water districts.

Supervisor Morriss and Councilman Hendel met with the citizen budget committee. They seemed enthusiastic and asked many questions.

Discussion regarding the "Welcome to Murray" signs. They are in bad condition. Councilman Hendel put Ron in charge of putting together some sort of proposal to area businesses and the cost. Jeff is sure the amount paid for the advertisement is expired but he will pull the old agreement out. Jeff will email the old agreement to Cindy and she can forward it to the Board.

Five Star Bank would like to meet with the Town. Board is in agreement that this is a good idea. Board is also in agreement to set up a meeting with Dan Botsford of Bond Financial and possibly Carrie Butler of Bene-Care regarding health insurance options.

**Attorney** Jeff Martin discussed proposed water district no. 3, ext. 1. Dawn Kuras of Rural Development has put together a finance package. The Environmental Review is done but we need to know figures of financial assistance from Rural Development. Once again, the rules have changed regarding bond repayment units. All the information is current as the 2016 tax roll is final and available. Next will be to get people in the service area to take petitions around and hopefully get enough signatures to warrant moving forward.

**Town Clerk** Receipts for August totaled \$2,430.00 with \$865.97 going into the general fund. The office has been busy with sporting license sales, although sales have dropped in the last couple years. Cindy thinks it may have to do with people now being able to purchase their licenses on line.

### **Highway and Water Superintendent**

Written report submitted:

- 1) Paved Hindsburg Road between Sandy Creek and East Transit Church Road (last gravel section in Town)
- 2) Because of asphalt de-escalation, we have saved enough to pave part of the rear parking lot this month
- 3) Repaired water leak on Route 31, Water District No. 1
- 4) We have had three more new water service hoop-ups this month with two more to install
- 5) We have been out flushing dead end water mains
- 6) Worked with the railroad and paved approaches to Lynch Road crossing

- 7) Still working with Iroquois Job Corps to paint some of our fire hydrants at no charge. We will be supplying material to do the job. They should be starting in early September

**Public Comments**

Stan Kemp asked if bond repayment unit charges for current water customers will change regarding possible changes in water rates. Councilman Hendel was speaking of the rates for the actual water we sell. It is important to gather information regarding each water district and make decisions that we all can live with. Mr. Kemp said he is very grateful for public water.

Councilman Christ spoke of the accusations that he was stealing water from a hydrant. This is totally false. A bill was sent to him by the Town and the bill has been paid. He has the paid receipt with him for anyone who would like to see it. He explained the situation of being short 150 foot of pipe. He borrowed a fire hose from Bob Vendetti which he attached to the hydrant and the meter was attached to that. All water used was metered, billed and paid (\$1,118.95) for. Water Billing Clerk, Louise Passarell stated that this is normal procedure for many farmers in the Town. Lloyd was billed as all others are. A reading of the meter was taken before and after his use.

Joe Sidonio would like to be on record that he noticed the fire hose on the hydrant. He had no knowledge of whose property it was. He stopped because on the surface, it looked suspect. A NYS Trooper pulled up to him and asked what the problem was. Mr. Sidonio told the Trooper that he was looking at the hydrant as it looked suspicious. He is not ashamed of saying that there was a fire hose on a hydrant.

**Supervisor’s Comments**

Councilman Hendel said he had the opportunity to meet with the Planning Board and challenged them to think about updating our Comprehensive Plan. He asked them to think bigger as nothing happens in neighboring towns that doesn’t affect us all. Think about a comprehensive plan for eastern Orleans County, possibly including Murray, Kendall and Clarendon. Paul thinks it needs to be looked at a little differently as in the past. We are not our own little island anymore. Citizens from these towns should form the committee.

Motion approving the Supervisor’s financial report and that the following bills be paid:

General Fund	Claims 242-271	\$16,025.18
Highway Fund	Claims 113-128	\$42,858.77
Water District No. 1	Claims 20-21	\$450.50
Water District No. 2	Claims 30-33	\$7,539.22

Water District No. 3	Claims 26-28	\$6,348.20
Water District No. 4	Claims 13-14	\$130.10
Water District No. 5	Claim 11	\$70.10
Water District No. 6	Claims 46-49	\$3,378.07
Water District No. 7	Claims 15-16	\$148.65
Water District No. 8	Claim 15	\$70.10
Water District No. 9	Claim 12	\$70.10
Water District No. 10	Claims 21-22	\$72.69
Water District No. 11	Claims 48-51	\$6,407.06
Water District No. 12	Claim 11	\$70.10
Water District No. 13	Claims 10-11	\$127.60
Water District No. 14	NONE	\$0.00
Water District No. 15	Claim 13	\$70.10
Water District No. 20	Claim 6	\$70.10

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Case that the Board enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter Motion Carried

Board entered into executive session at 7:50 PM.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower to return to regular session  
Motion Carried

Board returned to regular session at 8:07 PM.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver