

PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF THE MURRAY TOWN BOARD (via zoom)
December 21, 2020

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Interim Highway Superintendent Louise Passarell, Lynn Wood, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Moore, Beth Schmidt
Present via Zoom: Councilmen Randall Bower and Michael Mele

Public Hearing Local Law No. 2 of 2020 Repealing Local Laws No. 4 of 2006 and No. 1 of 2012 Providing Payment in Lieu of Health Insurance

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ to open the public hearing. After being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

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

Motion was thereupon adopted.

This proposed local law would repeal the local laws of 2006 and 2012 that provide payment to employees in lieu of health insurance.

No comment from those present or via zoom.

Public hearing closed at 7:09 p.m.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel to open the regular town board meeting.

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

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

Resolution was thereupon adopted.

Sandy Shaw, Director of the Holley Community Free Library informed all that the library received a \$75,000 building grant to fix issues with the building. Work will begin within a couple weeks. Due to the resurgence of COVID-19, the library will return to curbside service beginning Saturday. The foyer will be open and people can drop off or pick-up books. They are taking phone call requests for books and those will be packaged in bags and placed in the foyer for pick up.

Beth Schmidt of the Sandy Creek Cemetery Association spoke about the transition that will eventually take place, giving the Town more responsibility with the cemetery. This will not be an immediate transfer, but gradual, probably within the next 2-3 years. Beth will need to educate the town with the maps and a treasurer will be needed.

Legislator DeRoller updated all on county affairs. COVID testing at the fairgrounds was briefly discussed. The county approved a budget of just over \$73,000,000. They made sales tax distribution for 2021 whole. The county has eliminated both part-time and full-time positions. The need for broadband accessibility in our county was discussed.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel approving the minutes of the public hearing and the regular November 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 was thereupon adopted.

Town Clerk

November receipts totaled \$2,212.60 with \$1,372.79 going into the general fund.

Cindy and Annette have been preparing the tax bills for mailing and will load our tax file into the system tomorrow. Cindy had Dawn Allen put a note on the tax bills stating that people can put their tax payments in the drop box by the front door and we will mail a receipt for every payment received. We are trying to limit the number of people coming into the building as COVID numbers have risen.

Assessor

Supervisor Sidonio congratulated Louise for achieving the level of State Certified Assessor. She has had a great role model in Lynn Wood who has been in that position for 25 years.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ adopting the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 202.83 suspending and/or modifying Subdivisions 7, 7-a and 9 of section 459 of the Real Property Tax Law, and subdivisions 5, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, to the

extent necessary to permit the governing body of an assessing unit to adopt a resolution directing the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2021 assessment roll to all property owners who received senior and/or disability exemptions on the 2020 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons, and further dispensing with the requirement for assessors to mail renewal applications to such persons. Provided however, that the governing body may, at its option, include in such resolution procedures by which the assessor may require a renewal application to be filed when he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2020 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Town Board of the Town of Murray hereby directs the assessor to grant senior and disability exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2021 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons, and further dispensing with the requirement for the assessor to mail renewal applications to such persons.

That the assessor shall require a renewal application to be filed when she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2020 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

That this resolution shall take effect immediately and be limited to only renewals for 2021

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

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

Resolution was thereupon adopted.

Code Enforcement

Kevin reported two fires in the month of December; on Bennetts Corners Road and Skyline Circle. Both were electrical fires. The home on Bennetts Corners Road had several non-compliant issues. They have 15 days to comply. The Skyline Circle mobile home fire was caused by a nicked wire while renovating an empty unit. They did not have a permit for the work that was being done.

58 permits have been issued this year with three more pending.

Highway and Water

In beginning to plow, a couple issues came to light with our oldest truck (#553) which is a 2005. The exhaust had to be replaced, the steering was lost and a drag link had to be replaced. We will probably be seeing other issues.

CHIPs money of \$81,500 should arrive by the end of the year.

Councilman Hendel stated we have always had our big trucks on a 15-year replacement. If we have a 2005 truck, we should start getting prices for a new one.

Tim Hungerford completed the audit of the water billing. The questions he had were explained and Louise is comfortable with the report. Supervisor Sidonio stated that it was money well spent. Tim narrowed his focus on the third quarter. Joe's concern has always been that we need to confirm the data that we are using is accurate. Moving forward we know we have reliable data and that our system is working.

Councilman Hendel thinks the report has shown good light on our water department. He stated that we need to be careful with the amount we are charging for our water and whether it's going to be enough. We approved a rate increase for water but we need to make sure it is going to be enough. Supervisor Sidonio suggested checking on it quarterly and to allocate the cost of water across the districts in an equitable fashion so each district can stand alone.

Louise credited Dennis Mandigo who spearheaded many repairs this year and has taken the lead.

The water department changed 17 meters, the oldest being from 1999. There are two one-inch meters they would like to change in the spring.

Brief discussion regarding the water district refinancing. When first beginning this process, the projected savings was estimated at \$514,000. Presently, the projected estimated savings is \$630,000 over 25 years.

Regarding raising the water rates; although the water rate is going up, the taxation is going down. The more you consume, the more you'll pay.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the water rate be increased to \$4.99 per thousand gallons beginning January 1, 2021.

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

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

Resolution was thereupon adopted.

There are two proposals for bookkeeping; Hungerford Vinton LLC and EFPR Group. Supervisor Sidonio is not prepared to make any decisions tonight. The board should look them over and we will have a decision for the Organizational meeting.

Supervisor Sidonio informed all that the town needs to have a junk tire policy in place as there was an incident with an individual dumping a load of tires behind the town hall. The individual claimed he had permission. Louise stated that a number of residents do this and there needs to be a sign that gives them the message that this is not allowed.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2020 entitled *A Local Law repealing Local Laws No. 4 of 2006 and No. 1 of 2012 that Implemented Limitations for the Payment of Cash in Lieu of Health Insurance Coverage to Eligible Employees of the Town of Murray*

SECTION I PURPOSE AND INTENT

It is the purpose and intent of this Local Law to repeal in its entirety, Local Laws No. 4 of the Year 2006 and No. 1 of the Year 2012.

SECTION II AUTHORITY

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the grant of powers to local governments provided for in section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York to adopt and amend local laws.

SECTION III REPEAL OF LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF THE YEAR 2006 AND LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2012

As of the effective date of this instant local law, the existing Local Laws No. 4 of the Year 2006 and No. 1 of the Year 2012 will be repealed.

SECTION IV

Consistent with the provision of the Municipal Home Rule Law, this local law shall take effect 30 days after its adoption by the Town of Murray Board, or the date of filing with the New York State Secretary of State, whichever is earlier.

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

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

Local Law No. 2 of 2020 was thereupon adopted.

There will be no year-end meeting. The next time the Board meets will be at our January organizational meeting.

Louise stated that she heard that Supervisor Sidonio instructed the incoming Highway Superintendent not to re-appoint her as Highway Clerk come January. Supervisor Sidonio denied this and said that the appointment is the Highway Superintendent’s choice, not his.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel that the Board enter into executive session at 8:15 p.m. for 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 was thereupon adopted.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele that the Board return to regular session at 9:03 p.m.

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

Ayes	5	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele, Sidonio
------	---	--------------------------------------

Nays 0

Motion was thereupon adopted.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel to approve the supervisor’s financial report, the payroll modification for Dennis Mandigo and that the following bills be paid:

General Fund	\$23,281.18
Highway Fund	\$23,256.67
Lighting	\$1,161.09
Water District No. 1	\$511.00
Water District No. 2	\$4,322.97
Water District No. 3	\$4,059.68
Water District No. 5	\$300.00
Water District No. 6	\$2,839.71
Water District No. 7	\$281.51
Water District No. 8	\$678.70
Water District No. 9	\$166.68
Water District No. 10	\$2.59
Water District No. 11	\$3,312.24
Water District No. 15	\$166.68

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

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

Resolution was thereupon adopted.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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

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

Resolution was thereupon adopted.

So, adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver