

TOWN OF MURRAY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 14, 2020

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel, Michael Mele and Neil Valentine, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Assessor Louise Passarell, Legislator John DeFilipps, Deputy Town Clerk Annette Curtis

Also Present: Frank Long, Donna Smith, George Curtis, George Latendress, Pat Latendress, David Piedmonte, Sandra Piedmonte, Dave Knapp, Hank Bilohlavek, Kellie Gregoire, Mark Gregoire, Krista Wiley, Kerri Neale, Eric Fredendall, Art Knab, William Moroz, Tony Manno, Ted Karpenko, John Sansone

Supervisor Sidonio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Moment of silent reflection.

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Valentine approving the following salaries, appointments, standard work hours/day Motion Carried

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
ASSESSOR	\$25,000.00
ASSESSOR ASSISTANT/Hr.	\$25.00
BUDGET MANAGER	\$1,500.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER /Hr. PT.	\$25.75
CODE DEPARTMENT CLERK/Hr.	\$13.29
COUNCIL PERSON (4)	\$3,400.00
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	\$55,001.00
HIGHWAY CLERK/Hr.	\$13.64
HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES	\$4,800.00
MEO FULL TIME/Hr.	\$26.14, \$26.66, \$27.17
MEO PART TIME/Hr.	\$19.24
PLANNING & ZONING CHAIR/Meeting	\$60.00
PLANNING & ZONING MBRS/Meeting	\$30.00
REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS	\$643.00
SUPERVISOR	\$8,500.00
TOWN CLERK	\$32,312.00
TOWN CLERK DEPUTY/Hr.	\$13.29
TOWN HISTORIAN	\$1,000.00
TOWN JUSTICE (2)	\$13,574.00
TOWN JUSTICE COURT CLERK/Hr.	\$13.49
WATER BILLING CLERK/Hr.	\$13.64
WATER COLLECTIONS CLERK	\$10,975.00
WATER SUPERINTENDENT	\$10,901.00

APPOINTED POSITION
 AGRICULTURAL REP TO PLANNING BOARD
 ASSESSOR

INDIVIDUAL
 LYNN VENDETTI
 LOUISE PASSARELL

ASSESSOR ASSISTANT	LYNN WOOD
BUDGET MANAGER	JOSEPH SIDONIO
COUNTY PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE	FRED CASE
DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	LOUISE PASSARELL
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK	ANNETTE CURTIS
DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR	MICHAEL MELE
HIGHWAY CLERK	LOUISE PASSARELL
HISTORIAN	MARSHA DEFILIPPS
HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES	LOUISE PASSARELL
PROPERTY MANAGER	JOSEPH SIDONIO
REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS	CYNTHIA OLIVER
REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS DEPUTY	ANNETTE CURTIS
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSESSOR’S OFFICE	PAUL HENDEL, NEIL VALENTINE
REPRESENTATIVE TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY	LLOYD CHRIST, MICHAEL MELE
REPRESENTATIVE TO HWY. & WATER DEPT.	PAUL HENDEL, JOSEPH SIDONIO
REPRESENTATIVE TO JUSTICE COURT	LLOYD CHRIST, MICHAEL MELE
REPRESENTATIVE TO PLANNING & ZONING	LLOYD CHRIST, MICHAEL MELE
REPRESENTATIVE TO TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE	PAUL HENDEL, JOSEPH SIDONIO
REPRESENTATIVE TO YOUTH COMMISSION	PAUL HENDEL, NEIL VALENTINE
WATER BILLING CLERK	LOUISE PASSARELL
WATER COLLECTIONS CLERK	CYNTHIA OLIVER
WATER SUPERINTENDENT	EDWARD MORGAN

**STANDARD WORK HOURS/DAYS AS REQUIRED BY NEW YORK STATE
FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES ONLY.**

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STANDARD HRS/DAY</u>
ASSESSOR	6
ASSESSOR CLERK	6
BUDGET SERVICES	6
CODE OFFICER PART TIME	6
COUNCIL PERSON	6
HIGHWAY CLERK	6
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	8
HISTORIAN	6
LABORER PART TIME	8
M.E.O.	8
M.E.O. PART TIME	8
SUPERVISOR	6
TOWN CLERK	6
TOWN CLERK DEPUTY	6
TOWN JUSTICE	6
TOWN JUSTICE CLERK	6
WATER CLERK	6

Discussion regarding Water Superintendent attending regular town board meetings. Board is in agreement that it is unnecessary that he attend each meeting as they are satisfied receiving a written report each month. Motion by Mele, Seconded by Hendel to amend that item from the administrative list below to state water superintendent shall provide written monthly report on the Water Department Motion Carried

- Five Star Bank and the Bank of Castile be designated official depositories for the Town of Murray
- Batavia Daily News is designated the official newspaper of the Town of Murray and the Orleans Hub and Town Website as an additional means for issuing notices
- Town Officials authorized to attend schools as needed or required at Town expense
- Town Officials reimbursed \$.50/mile, vehicle allowance for use of personal vehicle on Town business
- Pre-payment of bills if due date is prior to the next board meeting to avoid late fees
- Town Board meetings to be held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7PM

Discussion regarding Highway Superintendent's monthly cell phone reimbursement. Supervisor Sidonio thinks \$100 per month is steep. Councilman Hendel stated the amount was established quite a while ago and asked all to remember that the Highway Superintendent is on call 24/7 regardless of the time of day or night. Motion by Mele Seconded by Christ to set Highway Superintendent's monthly cell phone reimbursement to \$75.00. Motion Carried

- Ed Morgan reimbursed ~~TBD~~ \$75.00 per month for personal cell phone use

Discussion regarding the vehicle use policy and marking of town vehicles with exception of Highway Superintendent. Councilman Hendel stated that license plates for every town vehicle says *Town of Murray*. In the future it can be amended. The vehicle use policy can be tabled until the Board has had time to review it. Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ to table the vehicle use policy and driver record check until reviewed by Board Motion Carried

- Water Superintendent shall ~~attend regular Town Board meetings~~ provide a written report on the Water Department each month
- EFPR Solutions be designated as accountants/bookkeepers for the Town of Murray
- ~~2020 Vehicle Use Policy, Driver Record Check Policy and the Town of Murray Code of Ethics~~

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Hendel to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for Town, Planning and Zoning Board meetings Motion Carried

- Adopt Roberts Rules of Order for Town, Planning and Zoning Board meetings

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ adopting the administrative policies as amended for the year 2020 Motion Carried

Supervisor Sidonio stated that there is a problem with the employee benefit package that was approved on 12/31/19. The policy is defective on its face because it provides for a basis of sick leave to an elected official based on accrued sick leave. Supervisor Sidonio has a letter from an

attorney at the Association of Towns which clearly states that elected officials are not entitled to sick time. The 2020 employee benefit package states the Highway Superintendent is entitled to accrued sick time. He would like to put this on the agenda as an item that needs to be reviewed by our attorney when one is appointed. This has nothing to do with regular town employees, just elected officials.

Councilman Hendel stated that this policy was already adopted in December. He is not prepared to make any decisions on this as it wasn't on the agenda the fact is though, it was adopted. Supervisor Sidonio is in disagreement stating that it was approved but not adopted and that he cannot go against the two recommendations by the attorney at the Association of Towns and the Court of Appeals.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele to close the organizational meeting at 7:36 PM. Motion Carried

TOWN OF MURRAY BOARD MEETING

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Sidonio.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ approving the minutes of the December 31, 2019 year-end meeting as submitted Motion Carried

Town Clerk

December receipts totaled \$393.00 with \$332.21 going into the general fund. Cindy gave the board a listing of taxes collected as of 01/13/2020. Tax collection is going well and Annette, the new Deputy Clerk is doing a great job.

Assessor

All exemption renewals have been mailed out and quite a few have been returned already. There have not been many sales but the sales we have had have been well over assessed value. Many seniors have come in or called regarding exemptions.

Highway and Water Department Report

Written Highway and Water report submitted.

Fourth quarter water breaks:

- 12/03 – 16563 Ridge Rd., water service under road leaking
- 12/23 – Ridge Rd. by Sandy Creek water service leaking
- 12/25 – 16015 Creed Rd., vacant house, pipes broke in basement. Neighbor noticed water running out basement windows, shut off at road.
- 12/30 – 2903 Kendall Rd., vacant house, water running out basement windows, shut off at road.
- MWA has raised rates for 2020. Rate per thousand up from \$3.58 to \$3.72 = 4%. Also raised monthly meter charge from \$160.00 to \$225.60 per month = 41%.
- Based on December 2019 usage, the increase will be about \$.38 more per thousand or \$1,054.40.

New Business

Discussion regarding the vacant Attorney for the Town position. Ads went in the Batavia Daily and the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle soliciting for an attorney for the town. Board members will review the resume's received by the end of next week. Date for interviews is February 8th. Leave the time open at this point until we know how many interviews will be held.

Spring resignation of Highway Superintendent and Highway employee. Supervisor Sidonio feels we need to have a discussion on the continuity of these two important posts in our Highway Department. Are we prepared given that the lead worker is also retiring? Councilman Hendel asked how can the board select a successor when he isn't gone? Councilman Christ thinks it is pushing the issue when we have not even been notified.

The 2019 Court audit needs to be completed. Both Judges are prepared at any time. Councilmen Mele and Christ will perform the audit. Councilman Mele will reach out to the Court Clerk to set up a date.

The Town is undergoing a comprehensive plan review/update. Supervisor Sidonio gave credit to Bob Miller and the Town Board for having the insight and vision to embark upon this as it is very important. The comprehensive plan states who we are as a community and as a town. LaBella and Associates will be amending our zoning ordinance to reflect the updates to our comprehensive plan. LaBella will be the lead agency and they would like community involvement and official involvement from the Town. A steering committee needs to be formed. Councilman Hendel said the committee should consist of people from various positions within our community. He believes the committee should be compensated for their work as it is a ten to twelve- month task with at least seven meetings and four community meetings. Supervisor Sidonio will get feedback from LaBella to see how large of a committee they recommend.

Old Business

Discussion regarding the Town-wide LED lighting project. Supervisor Sidonio and Councilman Mele evaluated the brightness of the street lights in the town and the wattage in many of the LED lights is too much. National Grid is replacing the sodium-based lights with the same wattage LED lights and it is not needed. In some areas your sight is limited because of the brightness. If we wish to adjust the wattage of certain lights, National Grid will do so at no charge. All in agreement that we need to put traveler's safety first and agree with the wattage Councilman Mele and our first responders think is appropriate.

Regarding the Board's zoning referral to County Planning; Councilman Hendel stated that there was a unanimous vote in October by the Town Board to send Mr. Paul's referral to County Planning for an amendment to our Zoning Ordinance. The application was lacking the Supervisor's signature. Councilman Hendel got former Supervisor Miller's signature and returned the application to County Planning. The correct procedures were followed and it is on the County Planning Board agenda for their January meeting.

Other Business:

Councilman Hendel spoke briefly about commercial solar pilot program. NYS Real Property Tax Law amended section 487. It exempts renewable energy projects (wind, solar, farm energy systems) from paying real property taxes. A county, town, village or school can choose to disallow the exemption and a payment in lieu of taxes can be negotiated instead. Councilman Hendel believes if the comprehensive plan is a vision for our town for the next ten years, this needs to be addressed when updating it. Currently there are no renewable energy projects in the works for the Town of Murray.

Supervisor Sidonio had a great conversation with Marsha DeFilipps, our Town Historian and with Danny Mawn of the Historical Society. What tangible, historical property do we own as a community? Do we own any historical documents or historical artifacts? This is something that should be looked into.

Supervisor Sidonio would like to look into grants that are available for the town whether it be for record storage and preservation or anything else available for the Town.

Also going forward Supervisor Sidonio believes the town policies and procedures should be reviewed, such as the Code of Ethics. Make sure they are all up to date and also implement policies that we should have in place such as a computer breach policy.

Legislator DeFilipps informed the Board that County Historian Matt Ballard would be a good resource to turn to regarding historic documents. Also, regarding the Code of Ethics; some towns have chosen to go with the County Code of Ethics. Kathy Bogan, County Attorney would be the one to contact.

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

General Fund	\$13,881.02
Highway Fund	\$55,250.77
Water District No. 1	\$108.85
Water District No. 2	\$6,494.54
Water District No. 3	\$74.26
Water District No. 4	\$74.26
Water District No. 5	\$74.24
Water District No. 6	\$2,904.09
Water District No. 7	\$44.86
Water District No. 8	\$74.26
Water District No. 9	\$44.84
Water District No. 10	\$439.26
Water District No. 11	\$3,881.55
Water District No. 12	\$74.26
Water District No. 13	\$44.86
Water District No. 15	\$74.26
Water District No. 16	\$74.24

Public Comment Period

Dave Piedmonte suggested the Town get involved with something such as blue ribbons etc. to show support for our police officers.

There is a small solar farm on the corner of Buell Road and Route 31 in Medina for anyone interested in seeing it.

When evaluating the street lights, Mr. Piedmonte suggested doing so in the rain as you will get a different perspective when it is wet outside.

Kerri Neale thinks it is a great idea for elected officials to be present at the meetings. Possibly have a certain number of meetings they have to attend.

Could the Board consider working something out with the Village of Holley and have the town and village meetings at different days/times so residents could attend both meetings?

Art Knab stated the Town's back parking lot lights are too bright and it is dangerous as you cannot see when it is raining.

Art discussed a fence situation he is having and Supervisor Sidonio suggested he speak to Chad Fabry.

Supervisor Sidonio suggested Kelly Gregoire look into the Urban Forestry Council Grant Program for planting trees within the town.

Councilman Hendel reminded all that the Orleans County Canal Corridor Waterfront Revitalization group will be holding a public meeting on January 21st at 7:00 PM at the Hoag Library to discuss their projects.

Ed Morgan is being honored with the Public Works Leader of the Year Award by the American Public Works Association. Congratulations to him, it is well deserved.

Councilman Hendel informed all that he received a phone call from a resident asking why the Town Board held an illegal meeting that was not publicly posted. He realized they were referring to the Town Planning Board meeting where there were members of the Town Board present. Just to be clear, we do not do things illegally or unethically. No Town Board business was conducted but people are watching to make sure we do things right.

Brief discussion regarding this issue. The Supervisor and/or Council Persons have the right to be in the same room as long as no Town business is conducted.

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver