

Meeting of the Murray Town Board

May 17, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Highway & Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes, Assessor Louise Passarell, Scott Underwood, David Piedmonte, Director of the Community Free Library Sandy Shaw, Elaine Berg, Klein Lowell, Lindsay Fredendall, Jeanne Spada, Samantha Mendehall, Tracy Ries-Stock, Laura Perri, Bill Bosley, Mark Gregoire, Kellie Gregoire David Knapp, Amy Machamer, Amelia Sidonio, Arthur Knab, Sam Lammes

Moment of silent reflection.

Pledge to the American Flag.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele approving the minutes of the April Town Board meeting as submitted.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried

Town Clerk

April receipts totaled \$1,708.00 with \$1,607.16 going into the general fund.

Taxes have been reconciled and were brought to the County Treasurer last week. 92% of property taxes were collected. Cindy gave a check to the Supervisor for \$7,405.00 from tax penalties and returned check fees collected.

Last year the Election Inspectors were paid \$11.80 per hour and that is what we budgeted for. Minimum wage has gone up to \$12.50 per hour so that is what the inspectors will be paid this year. It will only be about a \$200.00 increase for the year.

Assessor

The tentative roll was filed on May 1st. Grievance day is on May 25th from 10:00 a.m. – noon and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Highway and Water Department

The signage on Gulf Rd. and throughout the Town was checked along with the Golf Course. The TE-9 form was submitted and Dirk is now waiting to hear back from the State.

Fire hydrant on Hurd road was leaking due to rotting bolts. That has been repaired.

The guys found and repaired another water leak on Groth Road, near Ridge Road.

Steering box went in the oldest 10-wheeler and it has been replaced.

Dirk completed a revised version of Form 284 (*Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies*) This revised form will give himself more leeway so he doesn't have to be as specific with the projects the department plans to do.

Dirk spoke to Suit-Kote and Midland regarding paving. They need to chip seal some roads that have already been paved but are starting to crack. This all depends on the availability of subcontractors.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ adopting Form 284, Agreement for the Expenditures of Highway Monies for the year 2021

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

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel declaring the New Holland backhoe, Serial #31026982 as surplus equipment.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Bower declaring the John Deere grader, Serial #612A01812T as surplus equipment.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

New Business

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele that the Murray Town Board hereby authorize that the Town of Murray Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021, entitled *A Local Law Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Wind, Solar, Biomass Energy or Other Alternative Sources of Renewable energy* be referred to the Orleans County Planning Board for review.

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

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel scheduling a work meeting on June 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the Comprehensive Plan Committee to present the Proposed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning amendments to the Town Board

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Bower to revise the pay rates for MEO's on the 2021 Employee Benefits Policy as follows:

Todd Knight \$24.13/hour effective 02/17/2020
Scott Underwood \$24.13/hour effective 05/26/2021
Robert Cone \$26.88/hour effective 05/31/2021

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Supervisor Sidonio read aloud a letter from Amy Machamer withdrawing her application for a position on the Town Planning Board.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Hendel creating a Clerk Part-Time position for the Building Department

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele appointing Diane Herzog as part-time clerk to the Building Department, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, she be compensated \$15.00 per hour and \$30.00 per meeting and that she is authorized to work up to 20 hours per week, effective May 18, 2021.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was thereupon unanimously carried

It was brought to Councilman Hendel's attention that while finishing up a job, two of our highway workers noticed an elderly woman lying in her front yard. These men stopped and assisted her and also went back to her house that evening to check on her. He stated this is just one example of the great people we have working for the Town.

Councilman Hendel reminded all that tomorrow is the school budget and community free library vote at the high school.

Supervisor Sidonio spoke of grandfathering healthcare benefits for employees and create a clause in the policy that all people employed by the Town on this date, are entitled to the benefit package they currently have. Councilman Bower stated that he and Supervisor Sidonio previously agreed that they would go through policies, costs and benefit packages and bring the information back to the Board. Supervisor Sidonio would like to do away with the whole concept of domestic partnership and current employees can be grandfathered in.

Supervisor Sidonio also stated that we are deficient in our employee handbooks and should hire a professional to create one. Councilman Bower put together a folder with employee policies to give to new employees but Supervisor Sidonio thinks there needs to be more included.

The Town of Murray does not have a representative on the County Planning Board. Perhaps the Chairmen of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board could recommend a member from one of these boards.

Tracy Reis of 55 East Avenue spoke regarding the need for licensed daycare in the Town of Murray. If a daycare is found outside the school district, the bus will not pick them up. Parents cannot work if there is no daycare. The school is offering no help and she is looking for assistance.

Councilman Hendel said he will gladly speak to the school superintendent to see if there is anything we can do. He is happy to open the conversation between the school and town board.

Public Comments:

Sandy Shaw, Director of the Community Free Library encouraged all to vote for the library tomorrow at the polls for the school budget.

Klein Lowell of 2720 Norway Road stated that the proposed campground on County Line Road is a multi-million-dollar project and will be a huge asset to the town. He questioned the status of the project. Supervisor Sidonio stated that there is a Planning board meeting scheduled for tomorrow and they will be presenting their plan then.

Ron Vendetti asked for a copy of the proposed comprehensive plan and zoning changes.

He questioned the need for a moratorium on wind, solar, etc. Supervisor Sidonio stated that our current law is out of date. Mr. Vendetti said it is suspicious, as the town has laws on the books that are much older than four years. Supervisor Sidonio said if the experts say no updates are needed then nothing will be changed.

Mr. Vendetti discussed the governors executive order in regards to water/utility billing and that there will be no late charges assessed. The Town water bills continue to be mailed out with late charges, and no payment options.

Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes and Water Billing Clerk Louise Passarell both understand the executive order to mean that if any resident conveys a financial hardship due to the pandemic, the Town would not charge a penalty.

Amy Machamer informed Tracy Reis that ABCD may be very open to thinking outside the box and consider expanding their daycare for all and not just agricultural families and migrant workers. She stated that Stuart Mitchell, Executive Director of PathStone would be someone to speak with.

Louise Passarell stated that Supervisor Sidonio was present when our healthcare representative told an employee that they do offer coverage to domestic partners. Our representative informed the employee which form to fill out and email to her. Supervisor Sidonio said nothing about holding off on the change, or that it was not allowed. Supervisor Sidonio said that he did email the board regarding this. Louise said that email was sent after the meeting with our healthcare representative.

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

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

General Fund	\$16,055.97
Highway Fund	\$8,900.81
Water District No. 1	\$626.78
Water District No. 2	\$6,793.49
Water District No. 3	\$3,443.00
Water District No. 6	\$3,184.46

Water District No. 10	\$2.59
Water District No. 11	\$3,326.62
Water District No. 15	\$2,607.01
SW8320.4	\$8,801.50
SW8310.4	\$19.96
Street Light Districts	620.64

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele that the Town Board enter into executive session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele that the Town Board return to regular session at 10:08 p.m. with no action taken

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously adopted

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver