

**Murray Town Board Work Meeting**

August 12, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Town Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Moore, Barbara Johnson, Elaine Berg, Assessor Louise Passarell, Tim Luksha, Ron Vendetti

Pledge to the American Flag.

Discussion about businesses along Ridge Road. The comprehensive plan committee presented a revised zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan after getting input from public hearings. Councilman Hendel believes there should be a greater opportunity for business development on Ridge Road. It is a major thoroughfare. He does not see how this part of the plan is in the best interest of all residents of our town. When the comprehensive plan was updated 12 years ago, it was the intent that new businesses be developed in the hamlets of the town. That obviously didn't happen. We don't have to allow every kind of business. The town can list the types of businesses that would or would not be allowed through our zoning. Elaine Berg stated that we should be welcoming to businesses and restrict the ones you do not want. Limiting the size of new businesses was discussed. Kevin Moore stated that the Town can basically control what businesses come into the town by having it written out. You can set standards for landscaping, signs and designs. We can preserve our rural atmosphere but also provide services for our residents.

Supervisor Sidonio said that he would like to see Bob Vendetti's property on the corner of Fancher and Ridge Road (Old Wishing Well Motel) zoned as business so it can be opened up for short- and long-term rentals. He also thinks the old Christo's diner property should be allowed to be reopened as a business.

Supervisor Sidonio, Elaine and Tim will bring the concerns to the whole committee.

Brief discussion regarding Planning and Zoning Boards. Kevin asked since the major planning and zoning projects are nearing completion, does the Town Board want to continue with Maureen Werner's legal services for these boards? All in agreement that Ms. Werner's legal services for the planning and zoning boards will be on an as-needed basis to be determined by Kevin Moore or Chad Fabry.

Discussion about adult use cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites. All in agreement that the Town should opt out at this time. At the August Town Board meeting, a local law opting out will be introduced. At that time, a public hearing can be scheduled.

Regarding the Sandy Creek Cemetery, the Town can legally do work at the cemetery with no contract needed.

Discussion regarding healthcare. A grandfather plan needs to be developed. Cost continues to increase. Councilman Bower stated that healthcare went up 3% last year and the employees paid 5% more than last year. HSA accounts vs. HRA accounts was discussed. With an HRA, any unused funds would be kept by the Town. Councilman Hendel said the Board needs to discuss the

options and then have a meeting with our employees. Tim Hungerford would be a good person to have at the meeting.

The town hall is in need of a cleaner or cleaning service. All in agreement for Cindy to place an ad for cleaning services and that the applicant must be insured.

Assemblyman Hawley will be here holding a town hall meeting on Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. in our courtroom.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Bower to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

After being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Oliver