

Town of Murray Board Meeting

August 16, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Attorney John Sansone, Assessor Louise Passarell, Highway and Water Superintendent Dirk Lammas, Scott Underwood, Raymond Santoro, John Fitzak, Elaine Berg, Dave Piedmonte, Tom Rivers

Moment of Silence

Pledge to the American Flag.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele approving the July Town Board work meeting minutes as presented. Motion Carried

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Bower approving the July 2021 monthly Town Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion Carried

Town Clerk

Receipts for July totaled \$821.60 with \$536.48 going into the general fund. The office has had more traffic since the beginning of the month as sporting licenses have gone on sale. New flooring is needed in the Town Clerk's office. The old linoleum has holes and is bubbling up. Town Board said to get prices.

Assessor

Louise Passarell said she has no report but has something she'd like to say. Supervisor Sidonio told her if it doesn't have to do with the Assessor's report then it can wait until public comments.

Highway and Water Superintendent

The department finished wedging up E. Transit Church and Hindsburg Rd. They are scheduled for chip sealing for the last week of August if all stays on schedule. Working on mowing and repairs.

The water department has been working on finding leaks. Discussion regarding resident on Hindsburg Rd., north of the canal who would like to hook up to water. The project would be very costly. Board directed Dirk to first speak to Paul Chatfield then report back to them.

Brief discussion regarding the Village of Holley's request of helping pay for the specialized two-way valve that would help with fire flow. This was discussed previously. It would be installed in the meter pit in front of the elementary school.

New Business

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ to renew the Town's insurance policy with NYMIR and increasing our deductible from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00

Motion Carried

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel introducing proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2021 entitled *A Local Law Opting Out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites.*

Motion Carried

The public hearing on this proposed local law will be held September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the Town Board work meeting to follow.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ appointing Elain Berg to the Town Planning Board to fill the vacancy. Term to expire on 12/31/2021.

Motion Carried

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christ authorizing the Town of Murray to declare August 14th Fancher Monument Memorial Day.

Motion Carried

Supervisor Sidonio would like to prohibit or refrain town employees from contacting our town attorney. If there are any issues, they should go through the Supervisor or a board member. This will alleviate the town being charged for this.

Attorney John Sansone informed all that he does not charge the town if an employee makes a phone call to him. He reviewed his bill and stated that if there is work that needs to be done by him as a result of the phone call, then yes, he charges the town which is standard procedure.

Mr. Sansone is not happy that the Supervisor implied that he is charging the town for a simple phone call. If the Supervisor or a Councilman has a problem or question, the proper procedure would be for them to ask him directly and it should at the least, be on the meeting agenda.

Councilman Hendel stated that if an employee has an issue, they should be able to contact the Town Attorney. We should not shut the door on employees that need to speak to him.

After the last meeting when Councilman Bower was not permitted to vote because of dialing in remotely, Councilman Hendel contacted the Association of Town regarding the Open Meetings Law. If proper notification of the town board member's location is given, that board member can participate in the vote. Councilman Hendel believes this is a great opportunity for some of our American Rescue Plan money to have a proper video conferencing system installed for our meetings.

Public Comments

Ron Vendetti spoke of the solar law and informed all that the committee still has not contacted him. Mr. Vendetti stated that it is a criminal offense that the water department charged late fees on water bills during the pandemic. He asked to have all late fees removed and refunded to those who have paid. He also spoke of A&M Auto being in violation of its site plan, the parking by the

rail road tracks that is to be used for rail road purposes only. Ron believes that something needs to be done to put the town in order again.

Supervisor Sidonio said they have been working hard at improving planning, zoning and code enforcement which is not an easy thing to do.

Councilman Christ would like the board to consider hiring David Paul part-time for code enforcement. This can be discussed in executive session.

Louise Passarell said that she has worked for the Town for 13 years and has always put 100% into her job. She has spent much time getting her state certification as an assessor. Dirk has been great to work for but for the last year and a half, she has been harassed and attacked by Town Supervisor Sidonio. Apparently, an elected official can act this way, do and say awful things to the employees with no consequences ever. Because of this, she feels that she has to remove herself from this situation and no longer work for the Town.

Supervisor Sidonio asked her if she is resigning. Louise said yes. Mr. Sidonio asked that she put it in writing and Louise said no, that it will be in the minutes of the meeting. Louise left the meeting.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele to close public comments.

Motion Carried

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christ accepting the resignation of Louise Passarell as Highway Clerk, Water Billing Clerk and Town Assessor.

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

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele that the Town Board enter into executive session regarding a personnel matter at 7:52 p.m.

Motion Carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele that board return to regular session at 8:20 p.m. with no action taken.

Motion Carried

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

Motion Carried

General Fund	\$23,787.59
Highway Fund	\$40,615.48

Water District 1	\$781.44
Water District 2	\$20.47
Water District 6	\$40.83
Water District 10	\$2.59
Water District 11	\$41.97
Water District 16	\$877.35
SW8310.4	\$309.78
SW8320.4	\$1377.72
SW8320.401 N	\$13,833.90
SW8320.401 S	\$8,390.61
Light Districts	\$637.44

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Christ to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver