

Work Meeting of the Murray Town Board

October 6, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Lloyd Christ and Randall Bower, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Highway and Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes, Elaine Berg, Ron Vendetti, Art Knab

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Sidonio at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance.

Health Care

Supervisor Sidonio informed all that there has been a change in staff at Bene-Care. He would like to make a change with our healthcare broker to Sheridan Benefits. Item to be put on October meeting agenda.

The cost of the policy the employees currently have is slated to increase 9%.

Supervisor Sidonio is suggesting to change from employee Health Savings Accounts (HSA) to Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA). Highway Superintendent Dirk Lammes would like to research both HSA and HRA before a decision is made. Councilman Bower stated that our policy renews in March so there is time before the Board makes a decision. Supervisor Sidonio said he will continue putting this item on our meeting agendas.

David Paul entered the meeting.

County Planning Board

The Town still has no representative to the County Planning Board. Councilmen Christ and Mele are representatives to Planning and Zoning. Please work on finding a candidate.

Training Opportunities – Planning and Zoning Boards

The Planning Department would like to have a resolution passed allowing other training avenues instead of the straightforward training classes. A draft resolution will be put on the October meeting agenda for discussion and possible adoption.

Private Road Signs

Supervisor Sidonio quoted from Opinions of the State Comptroller *‘If a road is privately owned, the town is not authorized to expend funds for the purchase and installation of such signs.’*

David Paul addressed the board stating that the Town of Murray has provided signs and installed them for other private roads in Town of Murray such as Sandy Creek Lane and Colucci Drive. He would like to know why he is being treated differently. Councilman Bower would like to do some research and address this issue at the next meeting.

C&H PC Proposal

C&H, PC has provided one quote for the virtual/video technology in the courtroom for meetings. Since the Justice Court will be able to use this technology for virtual arraignments, they provided us with a second quote with that included. Authorization for the expenditure for quote no. 2 from C&H PC will be on agenda for October meeting.

Standing Committees

Representatives to Town of Murray departments are currently as follows:

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| Assessor: | Hendel and Bower |
| Highway and Water: | Hendel and Sidonio |
| Justice Court: | Christ and Mele |
| Planning/Zoning: | Christ and Mele |
| Town Clerk: | Hendel and Sidonio |
| Youth Commission: | Hendel and Bower |
| Historical Society: | Christ and Mele |

These can be changed at the 2022 organizational meeting if the Councilmen would like.

Vertical Bridge

We've received a request from Vertical Bridge, (who are installing a telecommunications tower on Norway Road) to reduce the required bond amount to \$80,000 from \$150,000. The town's local law from 1997 requires telecommunication contractors to post \$150,000 decommissioning bond. The local law would have to be amended from the required \$150,000 to \$80,000. Councilman Bower stated that he is not comfortable with this change. There was a reason why the town required the \$150,000 bond when the local law was adopted. Decision to take no action. Supervisor Sidonio will pass the information along to the Planning Board Chairman and the Zoning/Planning attorney.

Municipal Solutions Agreement

Discussion regarding entering into an agreement with Municipal Solutions on an as-needed basis for general financial services. This item will be added to the October meeting agenda.

Public Hearing Hosted by EDA

The EDA will be hosting a public hearing in the meeting/court room on October 15th at 10:00 a.m. regarding Big Guys Campground's request for sales and mortgage tax abatement.

Budget Work Shop

Decision to hold work meeting on the 2022 budget prior to the regular October meeting. Work meeting scheduled for October 18th at 5:00 p.m. with the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments

David Paul stated that the Highway Supt. should put up a sign for his private road. This should be done for the benefit of 911 and because the Town has done it for Sandy Creek Lane and Colucci Drive. Colucci Drive is basically a driveway that leads to one house. He does not feel it is right or fair.

Mr. Paul also informed the Board that he is appealing Big Guy's Campground's special use permit. Mr. Paul's special use permit was multiple pages and Big Guy's is a half of a page.

Ron Vendetti believes there should be rules of engagement for public comments at the meetings. Sometimes comments are allowed and others none.

Mr. Vendetti asked why we have so many rules (10 pages) for David Paul concerning his special use permit but the site plan for A&M Auto does not comply with any of their rules? Why enforce the rules for some people and not others? A letter was written to the DOT regarding placing no parking signs at dangerous areas of A&M Auto. The signs were placed where they needed to be for safety reasons and they've mysteriously disappeared. This situation is a site distance problem and it will create an accident.

Regarding water loss; with around \$200 loss per day and the highway/water department taking care of roads, mowing etc., why not hire a company to find the leaks to get the water loss where it should be?

Ron has previously informed the board that late charges should not have been added to water bills during the pandemic. It is fraudulent to charge people late fees and every other town sent letters to residents explaining this. He is going to begin submitting letters to the editor and he will be in contact with Letitia James.

Supervisor Sidonio told Mr. Vendetti that the town is working hard and actively working to improve the town as much as possible.

Public Comments Closed.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower that the board enter into executive session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Motion Carried

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower that the board return to their regular session at 8:27 p.m. with no action taken. Motion Carried

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christ to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver