

**Murray Town Board Public Hearing and Work Meeting**  
August 2, 2023

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Michael Christopher and Gerald Rightmyer, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Barbara Johnston of LaBella Associates, Highway and Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes, Steve Keon, Stacey Keon, Robert Miller, Neil Valentine, Eugene Sadwick, Jim Sadwick, Douglas Piedemonte, Dennis Piedmont, David Piedmonte, Scott Bringley, Kellie Gregoire, Amy Machamer

**Public Hearing** – Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

Motion by Rightmyer, Seconded by Bower to open the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.  
Motion Carried

Barbara Johnston of LaBella Associates gave an overview of the plan put together by the committee members and Ms. Johnston. Committee members are Alexis Penna, Amy Machamer, Michael Mele, Supervisor Sidonio, County Planner Jim Bensley and Robert Batt. Its purpose is to help/support farmers in our community. The map of farmland that is suitable for protection is to direct development away from the high-quality soils. This is a plan, not a law and does not affect property owners and only expresses the policy of the town to support agriculture. Owning land in an agricultural district does not require you to farm and it does not mean you cannot build.

Doug Piedemonte of Lynch Road spoke of the blue areas on the map and that good farmland should be drained as there is good land under water. This land could be reclaimed if it was drained perhaps by the town.

Dave Piedmonte of Lynch Road stated the same. Drainage needs to be addressed. Ditches need draining as he has lost around 15 acres of useful land.

Wally Liese of Gulf Road suggested that County Soil and Water can help with the ditching.

Barbara Johnson said County Soil and Water would be helpful with the planning of a ditching project. Perhaps developing a plan for each year for certain areas.

Elaine Berg of Fancher Road said not much was mentioned about organic farming in the plan. Ms. Johnson agreed that the town could guide residents of the steps needed in order to farm organically.

Amy Machamer spoke of the water lines in agricultural districts with great soil that have gone in whether they wanted them or not. Their farm is straddling many water districts and her family is paying for 10% of one of the water lines.

Neil Valentine of Fancher Road stated that the grant was to pay for the development of the plan. What will be done to ensure that the plan's recommendations are being considered? Will there be more costs?

Supervisor Sidonio stated there is no need for further investment or spending as we will maintain the committee and giving information to land owners will be part of their responsibility. Ms. Machamer stated it is imperative that everyone stays updated to give information to residents.

No further public comments.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christopher to close the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.  
Motion Carried

### **Town Board Work Meeting**

Brief discussion of suggestions of usage of ARPA funds. Councilman Bower suggested paying for the meeting room ceiling costs. Codes 360 would be helpful to all residents and landowners in Murray. We will need to ask Diane for the actual cost of the software/program. Another suggestion was to use part of the funds for security cameras for the building.

Brief discussion of a Town investment policy. NY Class brokerage house could come to a future work meeting to discuss this.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Rightmyer authorizing the Supervisor to sign the contract for bookkeeping services with Local Government Support Services, LLC. We will have the same team as we have now at EFPR Solutions. Motion Carried

### RESOLUTION 2023-039

At a work meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Murray, duly held on August 2, 2023, Councilman Michael Christopher moved adoption of the following resolution; Councilman Randall Bower seconded the motion:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Murray Board hereby accepts the License Agreement made as of this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2023, by and between “Grantor” The Town of Murray and “Grantee” Millspaugh Construction Company, LLC dba Sam & Son Company; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Murray hereby authorizes Supervisor Joseph Sidonio to sign the License Agreement.

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

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Christopher to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver