**Minutes**

**Town of Persia Board Meeting**

**8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070**

**April 11, 2024**

**Supervisor John Walgus calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm.**

**All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance**

Roll Call:

Supervisor: John T. Walgus: present

Councilmember: Theresa A. Girome: present

Councilmember: Gloria J. Tomaszewski: present

Councilmember Robert O. Dingman: present

Councilmember: Seth H. Howard: present

Others present:

Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore

Jack Broyles

**Supervisor John T. Walgus:**  \* I ask for a resolution to accept the financial statement from March. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the Supervisors report. \* We also have a resolution brought forward to oppose part O of the RAPID Act in Governor Hochul’s Budget proposal for 2025. \* A big Happy Birthday wish to Councilmember Theresa Girome on the 23rd of April.

**Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley**: \* Highway will oil and stone Persia Road soon. \* I ask for approval to purchase a Massey Ferguson 4710 tractor with loader from Java Farm Supply for $73,976. \* I also ask for approval to purchase a roadside mower LEVAVTE LS270 and a box scraper from Rodgers & Son for $15,400 as a package deal. \* A am also looking into buying a trailer to haul the lawn mower to the three cemeteries to mow.

**Councilmember Robert O. Dingman:** \* I attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting last night; they are actively working on bringing in other towns to the chamber. \* I have not received any word on the next Thatcher Brook meeting.

**Councilmember Gloria J. Tomaszewski: \*** Read the Assessor’s report.

**Councilmember Theresa A. Girome: \*** No report

**Councilmember Seth H. Howard: \***Read General bills. \*Pat Volk past away this month, Pat was instrumental in the Gowanda Ambulance which she was president and Persia’s representative. Pat will be greatly missed.

**Assessor Liz Lerow**: \* by email \* The 2024 exemption deadline was March 1st. Property owners who did not submit a renewal application were reminded either by phone or mail. \* Pursuant to 506 of NYS Real Property Tax Law the Notice of Completion of Tentative Assessment Roll must be displayed on the bulletin board at the Town Hall and published in the town’s official paper. I have provided a copy of this notice for you to post on your bulletin board and send to your official paper. This notice must be published in your official paper once in mid-April. \* The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. There were 4 property transfers in February. You can find more information about those sales here: htttps://www.cattco.org/real-property-and-gis/sales

**Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore:**

Total transactions for March - 50

Total Collected: $ 698.00

Towns Portion: **$ 269.36**

**\*** I ask for a resolution to approve the minutes from March 14th. \* I am happy to say the 2024 tax collection is over for the town, I collected $1,104,533.75 with $216,213.31 being returned to the county as unpaid.

**RESOLUTION # 21 Audit of Claims**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Girome, Tomaszewski, Howard, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #4 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:**

**Abstract 4– General Vouchers # 56 to # 67 = $ 7,392.11**

**Abstract 4 - Highway Vouchers #17 to # 21 = $ 4,388.44**

**RESOLUTION #22 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Howard, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes from March 14th.**

**RESOLUTION # 23 Financial Report**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Tomaszewski, Howard, Girome, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to accept the financial reports for March.**

**RESOLUTION # 24 Supervisors Report**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

ADOPTED AYES –5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS –0

**RESOLVED to accept the Supervisor’s Report for March**

**Ending Balances as of March 31, 2024, as follows:**

**General Fund Checking - $ 30,948.06**

**General Fund Savings - $ 578,019.37**

**Highway Fund Checking - $ 50,276.63**

**Highway Fund Savings - $ 280,449.15**

**Trust & Agency Payroll - $ 6,207.49**

**Highway Reserve Fund - $ 29,865.80**

**Building Reserve Fund - $ 38,561.87**

**RESOLUTION # 25 Opposing Part O of the RAPID Act**

On a motion by Councilmember Howard

Seconded by Councilmember Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED**

**WHEREAS, New York Governor Hochul has released the Executive Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, which includes Part O of the Transportation, Economic Development, and Environmental Conservation Budget bill entitled the Renewable Action through Project interconnect and Deployment (“RAPID”) Act; and**

**WHEREAS, the RAPID Act seeks to move the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service, and seeks to consolidate and expedite permitting procedures for major renewable energy and electric transmission facilities under a new Article VIII of the Public Service Law; and**

**WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine sound environmental review of major electric transmission facilities by requiring ORES to render a permit decision within a single year, otherwise the facility shall be automatically approved, regardless of project size or impact on private property or conservation lands; and**

**WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will constitute a significant deprivation of Private Property Rights by extended the power of Eminent Domain to the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said power being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and**

**WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine the protection of natural resources by allowing conservation easements to be extinguished anywhere in the state, including the Adirondack Park and Catskill Parks, for the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said authority being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and**

**WHEREAS, if passed, the RAPID Act will further erode home rule and local decision-making enshrined in the New York State Constitution, Local Government Bill of Rights, Statute of Local Governments, and Municipal Home Rule Law, usurping the rights of local governments to determine how communities and property within their jurisdictions develop, and contravening the purpose of comprehensive planning outlined in Section 272-A of Town Law; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, The Town of Persia Board strongly opposes the passage of Part O contained in the Governor’s Article VIII Revenue Bill relating to the expedited siting of major electric transmission facilities, the use of Eminent Domain, and the extinguishing of conservation easements, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, Town of Persia Board calls on the Governor of New York, members of the State Senate, and members of the State Assembly to ensure that Part O, and particularly the offending provisions identified herein, be excluded from the New York State budget or any other legislation, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, Town of Persia Board opposes state or federal action that would weaken or eliminate New York’s long-standing tradition of home rule and local government authority, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Town of Persia is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator George Borrello, NYS Assembly Joseph Giglio, and the New York State Association of Towns.**

**RESOLUTION #26 To purchase a Massey Ferguson 4710 tractor with loader for $73,976.00 from Java Farm Supply Inc.**

On a motion of Councilmember Howard

Seconded by Councilmember Girome

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Dingman, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to purchase a Massey Ferguson47100 tractor with loader from Java Farm Supply inc. for $73,976.00**

**RESOLUTION #27** **to purchase a roadside mower LEVANTE LS220 and a box scraper from Rodger & Sons Inc. as a package deal for $15, 400.00.**

On a motion of Councilmember Dingman

Seconded by Councilmember Dingman

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, Walgus

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to purchase a roadside mower LEVANTE LS220 and a box scraper from Rodger & Sons Inc. as a package deal for $15, 400.00.**

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of town residents Jennifer Schneider and Stanley Sadjak Jr. at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk