**Minutes**

**Town of Persia Board Meeting**

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

**March 14, 2024**

**Workshop to discuss the Reuse Plan Study at 6:30pm**

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

**All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Happy St. Patty’s Day!**

**Happy Easter!**

**Happy Dyngus Day!**

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:

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore

Jack Broyles

**Supervisor John T. Walgus:**  \* Recently I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Kenneth Morris, CEO of the Brooks/TLC Memorial Hospital system. I asked him about the potential closing of Gowanda Urgent Care. Mr. Morris said “We have ZERO plans on the closing of our Urgent Care. Brooks – TLC is evaluating ways to bring more services to the area and will share more, as things develop. We would like to see higher utilization of the services at the location and need community support.” “Also, there has been NO discussion to use Lakeshore Hospital to house immigrants. There are potential buyers, but their intentions of use have not been disclosed at this time”. I asked him how the community can support Gowanda Urgent Care and he responded that “Open communication and learning more about why some choose another provider would be helpful so they can focus on our efforts. Example – In 2022, approximately 400 Gowanda residents went to other Urgent Care centers outside of Gowanda, there may be many reasons to choose another provider, but there is limited awareness as to why. Positive public support can be helpful to encourage folks to utilize local medical facilities. “He went on to say “Let me connect with my team to see if there are any other ideas” they can focus on. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the financial statement from February. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the Supervisors report. \* The design team for the mitigation of the second-floor plans wrapped up yesterday and the design estimator will be working on pricing and should know something by Friday. \* The Village of Gowanda’s Pt. Peter Reservoir Rehabilitation Project Pre Construction meeting was held with Contractor Legend Excavating of Cassadaga NY, GPI Engineering, NYSDEC representatives and local officials including Village Engineer, Mark Burr. Permits have been acquired and on-site work will commence by the end of this month (March 2024). The soil from the reservoir after being tested (DEC requirement) should begin arriving at Gateway Park by May/early June. The project completion date is projected to be September 30, 2024. The Town Highway Dept. has downgraded Pt. Peter Rd. to approx. 8 tons from Broadway Rd. to the reservoir because of the deterioration of the North side of the Cattaraugus creek bank on Pt. Peter Rd. \* We received three applications for the Code Enforcement Officers job. The interview committee of Richard Bridges, Dabid Redman and Mark Hojnacki will be interviewing on March 18th, they will then make their recommendation to the board. \*Lastly a big happy birthday to Constable Tom Povhe.

**Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley**: \* absent

**Councilmember Robert O. Dingman:** \* I received communication from Cattaraugus County Legislature Andrew Burr that I have been reappointed to the Thatcher Brook Task Force. \* The Chamber of Commerce meeting was last night; They are exploring ways to include other towns into their organization.

**Councilmember Gloria J. Tomaszewski: \*** Read the Assessors report. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the Justice Court audit that was completed on February 8th.

**Councilmember Theresa A. Girome: \*** I attended the Village Board meeting on March 12th. The next meeting will be April 16th. Village elections will be held on March 19th at the Village Hall from noon to 9:00pm. This spring, a big trash pick-up will be on April 29th.

**Councilmember Seth H. Howard:** \* Read Highway and the General abstracts.

**Assessor Liz Lerow**: \* by email \* Because exemption renewal applications are due March 1st, February is always one of our busiest months answering taxpayer questions, processing applications, contacting applicants for additional information, etc. To best serve these applicants, we also take time to call those who have not returned sufficient backup with their renewal applications. Reminder letters were sent on February 1st to all applicants whose application had not yet been received. \* Renewal applications for Agricultural Assessment and Senior Citizen Exemption are being submitted and processed. So far, 94% of Agricultural Assessment and 90% of Senior Citizen renewal applications have been processed. \* The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. \* There were five property transfers in January. 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 February – 57

Total Collected: $ 669.00

Towns Portion: **$ 382.46**

**\*** I ask for a resolution to approve the minutes from February 8th.

**RESOLUTION # 16 Audit of Claims**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

The following was

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED that the bills contained on Abstract #3 for General and Highway have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:**

**Abstract 3– General Vouchers # 39 to # 55 = $3,107.22**

**Abstract 3 - Highway Vouchers #9 to # 16 = $ 4,497.67**

**RESOLUTION #17 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Dingman

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

 NAYS - 0

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes from February 8, 2024.**

**RESOLUTION # 18 Financial Report**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

 NAYS - 0

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

**RESOLUTION # 19 Supervisors Report**

On a motion of Councilperson Girome

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

 NAYS –0

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

**Ending Balances as of February 29, 2024, as follows:**

**General Fund Checking - $ 31,900.71**

**General Fund Savings - $ 587,179.99**

**Highway Fund Checking - $ 50,999.19**

**Highway Fund Savings - $ 290,702.63**

**Trust & Agency Payroll - $ 5,978.36**

**Highway Reserve Fund - $ 29,862.01**

**Building Reserve Fund - $ 38,502.02**

**RESOLUTION #** 20 **Justice Court Audit**

On a motion by Councilmember Howard

Seconded by Councilmember Dingman

ADOPTED AYES- Howard, Dingman, Girome, Tomaszewski, Walgus

 NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to accept the Justice Court Audit that was performed on February 8, 2024.**

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus closed the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of town residents Bruce N. Marx, James D. Smith and Michael Capozzi. at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Trumpore

Town Clerk