**Minutes**

Town of Persia Board Meeting

8 West Main Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

March 10, 2022

**Workshop 6:30pm to discuss solar array project**

**Board meeting 7:00pm**

**All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Bid opening for Fire Alarm System for Highway Garage**

**Happy St. Patrick’s Day & first day of spring**

**Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 19th.**

Roll Call:

Supervisor: John T. Walgus: present

Councilperson: Theresa A. Girome: present

Councilperson: Gloria J. Tomaszewski: present

Councilperson: Robert O. Dingman: present

Councilperson: Seth H. Howard: present

 Others present:

Highway Superintendent: Daniel H. Ackley

Town Clerk: Denise M. Trumpore

Jack Broyles

Tenley Howard (7:35)

Jared Howard (7:39)

**Bid Opening**

**7:00 – Addressable Fire Alarm System**

1. **FSC Systems - Jamestown NY - $4,610.00- $480 monitoring/yr.**
2. **Total Protection – Hamburg NY - $ 8,182.00 - $432 monitoring/yr.**
3. **DFT Communications – Fredonia NY - $4,040.65 - $39.99/mo. monitoring/yr.**

\*After a brief discussion with Highway Supervisor Ackley, the board decided to go with the lowest bidder, DFT Communications with a bid of $4, 040.65 with a monthly monitoring fee of $39.99.

**Supervisor John T.** **Walgus:**  \* I have processed payroll and paid the prepays. \* I ask for a resolution to accept the financial report for February. \* I also need a resolution for the Supervisor report. \* I received word from Mr. Chuck Bell who is handling the CDBG application for the micro-brewery at the Wicked Glen; since too much time has lapsed since our public hearing, the state requires we hold another public hearing, so I would like a resolution to hold a public hearing to submit a CDBG application on Wanda Koch’s behalf to the NYS Office of Community Renewal for a micro-brewery at 29 South Water Street. \* I have received notification from the Commissioner of Public Works of Cattaraugus County that they are recreating the Thatcher Brook Watershed Task Force. In the past, the Deputy Supervisor and I were appointed by the past Chairman of the Cattaraugus County Legislature Paula Stockman, I have responded to their request that Deputy Supervisor Robert O. Dingman and myself be reappointed to the TBWTF for the period beginning January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2023. \* In your packet’s tonight is information that our insurance companies strongly suggest that we initiate for a multi-factor authentication program or MFA protocol for all our computers or devices that can access the internet. This is a way of blocking cyber-attacks on the town’s electronic accounts by blocking access to them by any other person or program that does not have the authority to do so. I have asked ACME Business Solutions, our computer company that we deal with for a quote to provide this service/protocol based on our insurance companies’ (The Evan’s Agency & NIMIR) recommendation which you will find in your packet. I will be asking for a resolution to accept ACME Business Solutions’ quote for a MFA program/protocol. \* After speaking with our town attorney, James Musacchio, he recommends and I agree that we enter a contract with MDA Consulting Engineers, PLLC of Ellicottville NY to aid with the proposed RENUA EMW Gowanda NY Solar Farm, LLC located a 10212 Broadway Road. They have participated in the review of similar projects in several other municipalities in WNY and that their experience can/will be a valuable resource to the town. Their proposed estimated compensation is $8,000.00. I am asking for a resolution to sign the contract with MDA Consulting Engineers to represent the town with this project on the advice of consul. \* Back in September of 2019 the Dog Control Officer resigned and never completed a dog census. After speaking to our current DCO, she would like to restart the census this spring. I will speak with her next week about this project. \* I will need to know who plans on attending this year’s Farmer/Neighbor Dinner on April 13th ASAP. I need your reservation and the names who will be attending, and I will send a personal check to reserve our table. \* I have received a thank you letter from the Cattaraugus Region on our recent donation to the Meals on Wheels/ Friends of Aging Fund of Cattaraugus County. \* As a standard operating procedure, I have executed our annual agreement with our accounting firm Bahgat & Laurito Baghat CPAs of Fredonia for the fiscal year. \* The town signed a property access request for the USDA to place traps for an invasive pest, the European Cherry Fruit Fly. The traps may be placed on town of Persia owned properties. \* We will need a budget modification due to ARPA funds for services provided by our accountants. \* Late last year, we spoke with Mr. Curtis Reynolds of DFT Communications Corporation about increasing the wireless broadband deployment and internet connectivity in the town. He proposed using ARPA funds, I have received the quote from DFT and will be asking the Village of Gowanda to partner with us for this project. Late in 2020 Gowanda Mayor Smith who is also a principal in the Gowanda School district contacted me about letting school children into the town hall to use our wireless internet access because of the COVID pandemic, and I explained to him that the town had already started a wireless internet program and we were looking to expand the capability south to the rest of the town. I advised him that at the time the town was on partial lockdown because of COVID and access for the public was limited to the clerk’s window only. The total project cost is $31,708.80. DFT would contribute $11,708.80 with the town and village contribution of $10,000.00 each. I have yet to hear back from the village representatives. \* There will be a Joint Planning & Zoning Board meeting on March 21st at 7pm here at the town hall. \* I have completed the General Ledgers for all our accounts for 2021. \* I also have our AUD (Annual Updated Document) that is required by NYS OSC and is available if you would like to read it, it is 71 pages. \* A one-party control of the State Legislature who are the democrat legislators from the big cities downstate have proposed a sales tax “holiday” on gas and diesel fuel, if they initiate this it will adversely affect us as most of the sales tax, we collect is from fuel sales and goes to the highway department to offset the cost to the taxpayers. \* And lastly, a big happy birthday to our Court Constable Tom Povhe this month.

**Highway Superintendent Daniel H. Ackley:** \*Read highway bills. \* I ask the board to go with the lowest bidder, DFT Communications for the addressable fire alarm system. \* Highway took two training seminars. \* Done some repair work on the upper part of the shop, all materials are going up in price. \*On a side note, if anyone is interested in solar farms being put up, they should contact the Town of Otto, they are having a lot being installed right now.

**Councilperson Theresa A. Girome:** \* I attended the Village Board meeting on March 8th. \* The Village election will be March 15th from 12 to 9pm at the Village Hall. \* This spring, the bridge on Hill Street will be sandblasted and painted. The Hill Street Road will be shut down while improvements are made. \* The next Village Board meeting will be April 5th at 6:00pm.

**Councilperson Robert O. Dingman:**  \*I have nothing to report on the water district. \* Economic Development, Planning & Tourism has chartered a train for March 30th. The Chamber of Commerce entertained the people from the farmers markets, and it was learned that they do not want to use the AVM site for future farmers markets. The Chamber is also looking into having their office open more often.

**Councilperson Seth H. Howard:** \*read general bills. \* I was prepared to partake in the Ambulance meeting via ZOOM, but they forgot me again. \* I received the notes from the March 3rd meeting at the Collins Correctional; Staffing is down, Collins Correctional is not one of the six facilities marked to close. \* Eight staff members tested for COVID, no inmates. \* Unusual incidents and use of force numbers are down. \* Outside work crews are authorized to resume work. \* Regarding the Gowanda Correctional facility, no initiative is in works to repurpose the building, however the range and powerhouse are still in use.

**Councilperson Gloria J. Tomaszewski:** \* I talked with Crystal Abers, Director of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism; she said the county has an abundance of COVID tests available. \* I would like to have a workshop on April 14th, at 6:30pm to discuss the solar array project.

**Assessor Kate Harrington:** (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 haven’t returned a renewal application in mid-February, reminding them the deadline is quickly approaching. Reminder letters are sent to the handful we do not have good phone numbers for. \* The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions. \* Added four sales for January. More information about Cattaraugus County sales can be found here: https: //maps2.cattco.org/MonthlySales/Jan2022.htm.

**Town Clerk Denise M. Trumpore**: \*

Total transactions for February – 35

Total Collected: $ 544.00

Towns Portion: $**327.30**

**\***I ask for a resolution to accept the minutes fromFebruary 10th.

**RESOLUTION # 19 Audit of Claims**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

The following was

ADOPTED AYES – 5 Dingman, Howard, Girome, Tomaszewski, 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 # 43 to #56 Total: $ 19,358.16**

**Abstract 3- Highway Vouchers # 9 to # 15 Total: $ 11,214.08**

**RESOLUTION #20 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 February 10th.**

**RESOLUTION # 21 Financial 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 financial report for February 2022.**

**RESOLUTION # 22 Supervisor’s Report**

ON a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Tomaszewski

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

NAYS –0

**RESOLVED to approve the Supervisors report for February 2022.**

**RESOLUTION # 23 Establishing a public hearing for the New York State grant founding under the Federal Community Development Block Program and specifically for CDBG- economic development grants for the Wicked Glen brewing project.**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Persia intends to apply to New York State for funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program in 2022 to support the creation of a brewing operation within the Wicked Glen located at 29 South Water Street, Gowanda, New York 14070; and**

**WHEREAS, the Town may apply for funding for the following programs and activities, infrastructure, Community Planning, Microenterprise, Housing, Small Business and Economic Development activities; and**

**WHEREAS, a public hearing is held as part of the process to solicit public input with respect to potential applications and program activities; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Persia Town Board establishes a public hearing for April 14, 2022, at 7:00pm to hear public feedback on the intent to apply to New York State for funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program in 2022 for the Wicked Glen project.**

**RESOLUTION # 24 Multi-Factor Authentication program (MFA)**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to accept ACME Business Solutions quote for a Multi-Factor Authentication program (MFA).**

**RESOLUTION # 25 MDA Consulting Engineers - RENUA**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS –0

**RESOLVED to enter a contract with MDA Consulting Engineers to represent the town with the RENUA 5MW Gowanda Solar Farm.**

**RESOLUTION #26 Budget Modification**

On a motion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to increase the 2022 General Fund Town Wide expenditure budget by $125.00 due to the ARPA funds for services provided by Bahgat & Laurito Baghat, CPAs. This will increase A4029 – ARPA – Revenue and A1320.49 – Independent Accounting – ARPA.**

**RESOLUTION #27 Addressable Fire Alarm System**

On a motion of Councilperson Howard

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED to accept the bid from DFT Communications for an addressable fire alarm system for $4,040 and $39.00 for monthly maintenance to be installed at the highway garage.**

**RESOLUTION # 28 Wireless deployment and internet connectivity**

On a motion of Councilperson Dingman

Seconded by Councilperson Girome

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

NAYS – 0

**RESOLVED** **to approve $10,000 to the upgrade of our wireless broadband deployment and internet connectivity if the Village of Gowanda also agrees to spend $10,000.**

**RESOLUTION #29 Workshop**

On amotion of Councilperson Tomaszewski

Seconded by Councilperson Howard

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

AYES - 0

**RESOLVED TO HAVE A WORKSHOP ON April 14th at 6:30 pm to discuss the solar array project.**

Hearing no objection, Supervisor Walgus adjourned the meeting in memory of Cathy Austin, Joyce Stitzel, and Town of Dayton Clerk Ruth V. Bennett at 8:00 pm.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Denise M. Trumpore

Top of Form

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Town Clerk