

TOWN OF PERTH

Regular Town Board Meeting

February 2, 2023

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Fagan, Councilman Lewandowski, Councilman Betz, Councilman Fisher and Councilman Barker

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk, Judith English; Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq.; Tax Collector, Ann Morck; Fire Chief, Peter Watrobski; Planning Board Chairman, Ronald Cetnar; Member of the Fire Auxillary, MaryLou Coughlin; Member of the ZBA, Joe Priamo; Member of the Board of Assessment Review, Paul Priamo; James and Vickey Skiff; Lynn Morck; and Kevin Sitterly.

Supervisor Fagan opened the Meeting at 6:00 p.m. A salute to the flag was conducted and a moment of silent prayer observed. He also wished to give his condolences to the Skiff family on the death of Mildred Skiff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Close-Out Meeting held on Thursday, December 29, 2023 were offered for approval by Councilman Betz and seconded by Councilman Lewandowski. All were in favor; motion carried.

The minutes from the January 5, Organizational Meeting were offered by Councilman Lewandowski and seconded by Councilman Betz. All were in favor; motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications as listed on the Agenda are filed in the Town Clerk's Office where they are available to anyone who wishes to see them. There were no late communications.

UPDATE FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Lewandowski read the Dog Control Officer's Report, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes. **Ms. Patricia Ashbey, DCO** states that there were four dog calls in the Month of December, and they all have been taken care of. She has been conducting a dog census, and has told residents that all dogs must be licensed by March 31st or she will be issuing tickets for a violation of Town and State Law, which could result in a fine.

She reports six dog calls for January 2023 one resulting in a pick up with the dog returned to its owner. There was one dog bite.

Councilman Betz read the **Assessor's** reports from December 2022 and January 2023, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes. The senior residents of Perth have been coming in to do their renewals as well as residents with their agricultural renewals. The volunteer firefighter tax exemption will be considered for next year, as there is not enough time to get it implemented for the March 1, 2023 deadline this year.

Town Attorney, Carmel Greco Esq. reported that the New York State Department of State did not accept the Town's Local Law #1 2022 because it was not mailed to them until January 2023. It was passed by the Town Board on December 29, 2022 but as it was New Year's weekend it was not mailed until January 4, 2023. Subsequently we have to rename the law Local Law #1-2023. It will take effect as soon as the Department of State receives it.

Town Attorney Greco also stated that he is working on the recommendations made by the Town of Perth Planning Board regarding the installation of solar farms. There will be no panels installed on land labeled prime agricultural soil. Setback restrictions will be extended to 500 feet. The height of the panels will be extended to eight feet or perhaps twelve feet. He states that he will have the new zoning law for solar farms ready for the March Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Fisher stated that residents that used to farm their land but no longer do, should not have to pay taxes on the property if they are not able to make some money on it by installing a solar farm. **Supervisor Fagan** assured him that very little land would be prohibited from use as a solar farm.

Mr. James Skiff stated that the Town of Mayfield has had problems with the set back regulations that they have imposed. **Paul Priamo** asked if the setbacks were for distance from the road only or from adjoining properties. **Supervisor Fagan** answered that the setbacks apply not only to the road but also to adjoining properties.

Supervisor Fagan stated that he is wrapping up all of the paperwork for 2022. He is busy taking orders for the trash cans to be used with the new garbage truck. He did not realize how busy Town Hall is.

Supervisor Fagan volunteered to deliver the trash cans to residents that do not have a truck to pick them up with. **Councilman Fisher** also offered to help. The **Perth Volunteer Fire Company** has also stated that they would be willing to assist with the delivery.

Paul Priamo asked if the residents would be able to buy an extra lid for the trash cans in case they broke one? **Supervisor Fagan** answered that extra lids would be available. **Supervisor Fagan** also stated that the Town will save money on Workman's Compensation, since the Highway employees will no longer be in danger of injury as they were when riding on the back of the old truck, and constantly jumping on and off it. No full time Highway employees will lose their job because of this change in garbage pick-up. He went on to say that there is a six week wait for the new trash cans to be delivered to the Highway Department.

Supervisor Fagan reported that in her State of the State Address, Governor Hochul mentioned that the the Federal Government has given New York State money to help with Medicaid costs. Medicaid accounts for the biggest share of taxpayer money. He hopes that Governor Hochul sees fit to use the Federal money to alleviate the Medicaid burden on Fulton County.

Fire Chief, Peter Watrobski, reported that they have been working with the new owners of Viriol Medicinal Marijuana. It is a larger company, and they are expanding. He also discussed the proposed tax exemption for volunteer firemen. It would not help anyone who does not own property, or who does not live in the Town of Perth. The Fire Company has been working on fixing the dry hydrants in the Town.

Tax Collector, Ann Morck, announced that she will not be running for reelection this year. She has been the Town of Perth Tax Collector for sixteen years. She stated that she has enjoyed it immensely. She will be sorely missed by the residents, and the employees working at the Town Hall. The laughter that came from her office as she took care of the residents was a tonic for all. All of the residents present wished to give her a big thank you for her service to the Town.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Mr. James Skiff and Vickey Smith of Bishop Road asked when their road will be paved. It is the last dirt road in the Town of Perth. **Supervisor Fagan** stated that he does not have the name of the roads that will be paved this year. The Highway Superintendent, David Dopp will know which roads will be paved this year by March. The bids for paving go out then, and the roads to be paved will have to be included in the bidding sheets.

The **Skiff's** would also like to know when Spectrum will make cable service available on their road. **Supervisor Fagan** stated that he has been in contact with Spectrum, and he will let the Skiffs know of any developments regarding cable service on their road.

Mr. Paul Priamo asked if the driveway on the west side of Town Hall could be paved. The way it is now is dangerous. **Supervisor Fagan** stated that he would see if the paving company that obtains the road paving bid for 2023 would give them a deal, by including the driveway space with the road bids.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION # 35- AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MONEY

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes the transfer of the amount of \$385.00 from Account A1990.4 Contingent to Account A3510.4 Control of Dogs Contractual.

Offered by: Councilman Lewandowski
Seconded by: Councilman Betz

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION #36- AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON ABSTRACT #2-2023

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Perth authorizes the payment of bills on abstract #2-2023 as follows:

General Prepaid	6-14	\$6,401.69
Highway Prepaid	1-3	\$7,067.01
Highway	1-13	\$36,205.83
General	10-32	\$17,994.39

Offered by: Councilman Lewandowski

Seconded by: Councilman Betz

Each Councilman present indicated their approval by signing each voucher.

A vote was taken with the Supervisor and all of the Councilmen present voting in favor; motion carried.

With all of the business concluded for the evening a motion was made by Councilman Betz at 7:48 p.m. to close the Meeting. Councilman Lewandowski seconded the motion; all were in favor: Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Perth will be held on March 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Complex 1849 County Highway, Perth, NY

Respectfully submitted,

Judith English
Perth Town Clerk