

Murray Town Board Meeting

April 19, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Kevin Moore, Deputy Clerk Annette Curtis, Assessor Louise Passarell, Attorney John Sansone, Brian Fauci, Wayne Fauci, Elaine Berg, Sandy Shaw, Wally Liese, Carol Liese, Dave Knapp, Kerri Neale, Krista Wiley, Tom Rivers, Amy Machamer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of silent reflection.

Pledge to the American flag.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel approving the minutes of the March 2021 board meeting as submitted Motion Carried

Elaine Berg of 3211 Fancher Road was present to give hers and Tim Luksha's recommendation of C&H PC to develop the new Town of Murray website. C&H has done many websites for surrounding towns, they are reasonably priced, they are local and they were the only vendor to put together a mock website for us to view. All departments should submit anything new they'd like on their webpage as soon as possible. Brief discussion of online payments, planning and zoning meeting minutes, local business listing, and the need for a Town logo.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Bower to retain C&H PC to create a new Town of Murray website at the cost of \$1,409.26. Motion Carried

Councilman Hendel thanked Elaine for the hours she has spent on this project.

Brian Fauci of 17165 Gulf Road presented a petition to the Town Board asking for a reduction of the speed limit to 30 miles per hour on Gulf Road.

Discussion regarding the issues with speed on Bennetts Corners Road from the bridge, transitioning to Gulf Road until County Line Road. Speeding vehicles and pedestrians walking the area is dangerous and will lead to accidents. Discussion of possibly putting up stop signs where Gulf Road and Bennetts Corners Road connects. The Town can put up stop signs but cannot do anything about speed limits. Double solid lines were also discussed.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel authorizing Highway Superintendent Dirk Lammes to solicit a speed study on Gulf Road to reduce the speed limit to 30 miles per hour.

After being put to a vote, resolution was unanimously adopted.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel authorizing Highway Superintendent Dirk Lammes to investigate and double stripe Gulf Road and Bennetts Corners Road as he sees appropriate and requesting Supervisor Sidonio to send a letter to the NYS Police Department and the Orleans County Sheriff's Office requesting an increased law enforcement presence in that area.

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

Town Clerk

Receipts for March totaled \$931.00 with \$869.50 going into the general fund.

180 late tax notices were sent out on Thursday. Taxes collected is over \$3.5 million with almost \$450,000 remaining unpaid. To date, 90% have been collected.

Hickory Ridge has given us notice that they are applying to the NYS Liquor Authority for a new liquor license which will allow them to sell beer and wine from their RV store. They are also applying for a renewal of their ball park beer license which allows them to sell beer from their beverage cart.

Assessor

The office has been busy preparing for the tentative roll May 1st. Grievance Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25th: 10:00 a.m. – noon and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Louise would like to use the courtroom as they did last year.

Highway and Water

The department has been busy filling potholes, checking culverts. They have had calls from residents on Hindsburg, Creek, Hulberton and Gulf Roads about problems with drainage. He will be checking to see what the issues are.

They are almost done changing out the oldest meters. New York Rural Water was out listening to hydrants and have not found anything so far.

Dirk is meeting with a representative for a new water billing system. What we have now is very outdated. A new system would allow us to see where we are with water whenever we need to instead of waiting on a quarterly basis.

Brief discussion about water rates for farmers. Councilman Mele said when we have a cost increase, we need to raise our rates accordingly. We cannot sell for less than we're buying it. Councilman Hendel stated that we don't charge farmers as much as we do for residential in order to support agriculture and our farmers. It is reasonable to raise their rates since our cost increased by 25¢.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Mele to raise the water rate to farmers from \$4.25 to \$4.50 per thousand gallons.

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

Dirk had a discussion with the Village of Holley in regards to new charges that are not in the water agreement. Joe and Dirk will speak to the Village and then if needed, John Sansone will look at the agreement.

Building Department

Kevin informed the Board that Special Use Permits are valid for two years. There should be an inspection and a renewal fee paid and this has not been done as far back as Kevin can see.

Brief discussion regarding the Town's solar law and the need for a better one. We should do this now as this is a hot topic. John Sansone will put a moratorium together for all alternative energy systems and have it to the Board before next month's meeting.

Kevin has turned in his resignation. His last day will be May 1st. With extra duties he has gotten at the Town of Clarkson, there is not enough time to do both towns. The Board thanked Kevin as he has had to address some large projects.

Annette has also turned in her resignation as clerk to the building department, planning and zoning boards. Her last day in that position will be May 1st.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele accepting the resignation of Kevin Moore as Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshall and Zoning Officer and the resignation of Annette Curtis as Clerk to the Building, Planning and Zoning Departments

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

The Planning Board Chairman asked Supervisor Sidonio to retain special council for our Planning and Zoning Board meetings during this time. These attorney fees are to be paid by the applicants.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele to retain Jeff Martin as council for Planning and Zoning Board matters as needed at \$175/hour with the fees to be borne by the project's applicant.

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

New Business

Discussion regarding domestic partner healthcare. In creating a domestic partnership category certain criterion must be met. The employee must also know there is a tax liability in doing this. John said there are three ways you can establish that an employee is eligible. John's choice would be an affidavit where the employee is swearing the information they are giving is correct and true. John will work on the criteria and present it to the board.

Brief discussion regarding town renewable energy laws. All in agreement for John to work on a moratorium to present to the Board next month.

Old Business

Councilman Bower informed all of the \$2,500 quote for audio visual during our meetings. This includes a camera in back, wiring, speakers and labor.

Public Comments

Brief discussion regarding the Assembly Bill to divide New York State.

Amy Machamer informed the Board that regarding alternative energy sources; NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets has extensive experience in this area and their legal team is well-versed. She recommends the Town Board and Mr. Sansone make use of their years of research and knowledge.

Councilman Hendel commented on Supervisor Sidonio’s latest social media posting where he identifies the Town Board as ‘the no-show board’. That post had people questioning the work ethic of the board. These people should look at Town Board attendance record of 100% for the regularly scheduled meeting each month. That doesn’t include the work each member does outside of the formal meetings. Supervisor Sidonio states he wants to form a good working relationship with the Town Board but the posting of these disrespectful comments does not promote a positive working relationship.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the Town Board move into executive session along with Attorney Sansone to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

After being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

Town Board moved into executive session at 9:03 p.m.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Bower that the Town Board return to their regular session at 9:42 p.m. with no action taken.

After being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele to approve the Supervisor’s financial report and that the following bills be paid:

After being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Ayes	4	Bower, Christ, Hendel, Mele
Nays	0	
Abstain	1	Sidonio

Motion Carried

General Fund	\$9,878.53
Highway Fund	\$13,537.22
Water District No. 1	\$870.94
Water District No. 2	\$20.43
Water District No. 3	\$137.92
Water District No. 6	\$69.00
Water District No. 7	\$55.06
Water District No. 10	\$2.59

Water District No. 11	\$41.03
Water District No. 14	\$207.00
SW8320	\$12.00
NORTH	\$9,337.50
SOUTH	\$6,415.76

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Mele to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

After being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Oliver