

**Town of Murray Public Hearing and Town Board Work Meeting**

December 1, 2021

Present: Supervisor Joseph Sidonio, Councilmen Randall Bower, Lloyd Christ, Paul Hendel and Michael Mele, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Highway and Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes, Elaine Berg, Barbara Johnston of LaBella Associates, Art Knab

Moment of silence.

Pledge to the flag.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower to open the public hearing on the proposed comprehensive plan at 7:03 p.m. Motion Carried

Barbara Johnston of LaBella Associates was present and gave all a brief synopsis of the minor changes that were made since last public hearing.

Art Knab questioned if the flood zones have changed. Ms. Johnston said that the flood zone maps have not changed; that is done by FEMA.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ to close the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.  
Motion Carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ to open the public hearing on the proposed zoning law at 7:15 p.m. Motion Carried

Ms. Johnston presented the zoning amendments but there are no changes to the zoning map. Changes included residential agricultural district uses along Ridge Road and also lodging and small retail on Ridge Road are allowed with a special use permit.

Art Knab asked if any property changed from residential to commercial. Ms. Johnston said that none had changed.

Elaine Berg thinks that it was a compromise to make it a bit easier for business on Ridge Road.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Mele to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.  
Motion Carried

Thank you to Barbara and the committee for the time and work put into this project.

Ms. Johnston briefly went through the steps to be taken if adopted. She reminded all that this is a living document and can be changed with a public hearing and resolution.

Amy Machamer entered the meeting.

Councilman Hendel stated that the County Planning Board said the committee, with Barbara's guidance did a great job on both the comprehensive plan and zoning update.

### **TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING**

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower to open the work meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Motion Carried

### **COVID Policy**

Discussion regarding the town's COVID policy. Councilman Hendel said with Orleans County having one of the highest infection rates in the state, we need to monitor it and make changes and implementations as needed.

If we have to go back to virtual meetings, we will be ready as C&H PC is almost done with the live steaming set up.

Councilman Mele said we need to look at our current COVID policy because so much has changed since it was made. COVID vaccines were not even available at the time the policy was drafted. Decision to forward our current policy to Paul Pettit at the health department and ask him for suggestions.

### **Health Care**

Conversation regarding health care. Councilman Hendel stated he is not comfortable discussing changing employee health care with the current atmosphere.

Supervisor Sidonio went over a policy that is similar to what the employees currently have. He said this would not be taking benefits away from the employees. A bonus of the Independent Health is that it has an 'embedded' deductible instead of 'true family' deductible.

The Board wants to see both policies in their entirety. Supervisor Sidonio will forward both to the board.

Employee benefits policy was briefly discussed. Councilman Hendel asked Dirk to come up with an amount for clothing allowance as he thinks it needs to be higher.

Supervisor Sidonio asked the Board to think about the employee benefit package for 2022.

### **Court Consolidation**

All decided it is too early to make a decision regarding court consolidation. We will discuss it more in depth when we have more information. Supervisor Sidonio will relay this to District Attorney Cardone.

### **Community Action Request**

Brief discussion about Community Action's donation request. Councilman Bower will look into it and get an answer as to if this is something the Town can legally do.

**Vacancies**

Councilman Mele informed all that interviews for Code Enforcement will take place Monday or Tuesday. By the December meeting, they will recommend a candidate.

Interviews for attorney for the Town will take place on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Cindy will put a legal notice in the paper.

Ed Downey, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson will resign at the end of the year. They nominate their own Chairperson but this will leave a vacancy on the ZBA that will have to be filled.

**Renewable Energy Moratorium**

No action has been taken regarding the renewable energy moratorium. Councilman Hendel will bring examples for next meeting.

**Fee Schedules**

Fee schedules for all departments need to be updated. Tap-in fees were discussed among other fees. This should be reviewed every couple of years to keep current. Supervisor Sidonio will ask Chad Fabry for input regarding planning and zoning fees.

**Capital Plan for Highway Purchases**

Last meeting Attorney John Sansone said he would write the ad for bids for the truck the day after the meeting. Dirk gave John all the specs the following day and nothing has been done thus far. John also said he will have a resolution for the back hoe for next meeting. Councilman Bower asked if we can make an emergency purchase for the truck as it is needed for plowing this season.

Legislators DeRoller and DeFilippis will be invited to January's meeting.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the board enter into executive session at 9:21 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Motion Carried

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ that the board returns to regular session at 9:48 p.m. with no action taken. Motion Carried

The ad for the truck needs to be expedited and the backhoe resolution will be on the agenda for December's meeting.

Motion by Mele, Seconded by Bower to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m.  
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Oliver