

Village Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

August 14, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 14th of August 2023, in the Auditorium of the Snow Memorial Building, 4917 North Jefferson Street, Pulaski, NY 13142.

Members Present: Jan Tighe, Mayor; Alan Engelbrekt, Deputy Mayor; and Jeffrey Fowler, Trustee.

Absent: Ryan McGrath, Trustee and Scott Pello, Trustee.

Village Staff/Officials in Attendance: Cathy Spinney, Village Clerk/Treasurer; John Howland, Code Enforcement Officer; Michael Martin, Chief of Police, and Jennifer Gibbs, Deputy Clerk.

Guest(s): Melissa Wadkinson, Heidi Tompkins, Tricia Hax, Karl Hax, Ed Gilson, Amy Dobrzynski, Mark Dobrzynski, Daniel Postal.

Agenda Items #1: Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM with Mayor Jan Tighe leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Agenda Items #2: Public Comment

Tricia Hax was contacted this afternoon via Facebook messenger from the Village Office's Facebook page regarding a vendors permit that the Village required from vendors. The office previously gave her incorrect information that a license was not required for food trucks or stands like hers and was trying to reach her to apologize and correct the matter. Tricia Hax read Chapter 96 of the Village code that if a vendor was on private property a vendor would not require the license and questioned why various nonprofits, agricultural vendors and a local restaurant owner were not required to pay the monthly fee. It was noted that non-profits and agricultural vendors were exempt in the code from the permit requirement. It was decided that the Code Enforcement Officer and the Village lawyer would review the code for clarification and notify Tricia Hax of the decision. It was agreed that a review and update of the code is necessary.

Heidi Tompkins reviewed the monthly report from the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes

Alan Engelbrekt made a motion to approve the June 12, July 14 and July 18, 2023, minutes. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Staff Reports

Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to approve the DPW, Code Enforcement and Police reports from June 2023. The motion was seconded by Alan Engelbrekt and passed 3-0.

Agenda Item #5: Approval of Vouchers

The motion to accept the Vouchers was made by Jeffrey Fowler and seconded by Alan Engelbrekt. The motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item #6: Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Alan Engelbrekt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with a second from Jeffrey Fowler. The motion passed with all in favor.

Agenda Item #7: Old Business

- A. The Village Board reviewed the minutes from Haldane Board. It was noted that there is interest in a pickleball court inside the skate rink.
- B. Policy/Local Law Review
 1. The Board reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 100 of the Village Code regarding property maintenance. The changes included that the Village would enforce a 9" height limit for grass and other vegetation in all but the following locations:
 - On portions of underdeveloped property in front of a wood tree line.
 - On portions of unsubdivided lands more than 10 feet from a public sidewalk or street open to the public, where practical.
 - On portions of undeveloped lots in a subdivision less than 60% developed.
 - If an area is not maintained the area to be cut and removed, by the Village, will be the following: Infront of the building on the property to the street, and each side of the building to the property line and the back of the building up to 5 feet. The actual cost of such cutting and removal, plus \$100.00 will be charged to the property owner.
 - Every effort should be made by the property owner to keep noxious plants from spreading.

Jeffrey Fowler noted that it would be a good idea to cull more of the wording of the Law for clarification. Jan Tighe said should be glad to take any suggestions. Jeffrey Fowler was working on that and going through the rest of the Village Code to reduce confusion and redundancy. Melissa Wadkinson requested that we make the proposed changes to the law available on our webpage about a week before the next meeting.

Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to bring these changes to a public hearing at the next regular meeting on September 11, 2023. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

2. A reworked version of the Fulton Junk and Debris law was reviewed. The purpose of the changes would be to create an administrative hearing process to expedite enforcement and remediation of violations of abandoned junk such as vehicles, furniture, appliances, etc. on private property.

The motion to take the junk and littering law to a public hearing at the next regular meeting was made Jeffery Fowler and seconded by Alan Engelbrekt. The motion passed 3-0.

3. The public hearing regarding the proposed changes to the sign law was published incorrectly and the hearing will be held at the next meeting as voted on August 14, 2023, at the Special Board meeting. Jeffrey Fowler made a motion to hold the public hearing at the next meeting. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
4. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to hold a public hearing to change Chapter 96-4 (C) to read: Before such license is issued by the Village Clerk/Treasurer, if selling or distributing alcohol, the applicant will be required to post a surety bond in the amount of \$2,000.00 with a surety company licensed to do business in this state. Said bond shall be approved as to form and sufficiency by the Village Attorney and Village Clerk/Treasurer before such license is issued. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. The Board reviewed suggested revisions to language in the solar law to reflect the following:
 - Residential and B1 districts would be allowed private solar only and require a special permit for any ground mounted solar.
 - B2 districts commercial solar would be allowed but would require a special permit for ground mounted solar.
 - Industrial districts would be allowed commercial and private solar whether roof or ground mounted. The ground mounted would require a special permit.
 - All rooftop solar is allowed and all ground mounted solar would require a special permit.

Jeffrey Fowler recommended that the Village either pick “solar panels” or “solar energy systems” throughout that section of the code for consistency. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to hold a public hearing at the next meeting on September 11, 2023. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

C. Updates on Projects and Purchases

1. The contractor began working on the railroad arches. They should be stabilized by November 30, 2023.
2. The Stormwater Mitigation Project, that will include Lake Street, Bridge Street, and the Maple Ave extension, should be moving forward soon with a preliminary plan. The engineer that was working on it previously has been replaced.
3. The water tower was drained, inspected, and refilled. The Village is looking for funding for repainting the tower.
4. The Sewer project is waiting for 1 more easement to be signed and will be checking on a stormwater pipe with a camera that has been a problem. Once these are resolved the Sewer Board hopes to get permission from the EFC to go out for bid.
5. Highlander Construction came and left. They will be back to finish the balance of the restoration work.
6. The USDA Loan and grant is still in the works for electric vehicles.

Agenda Item #8: New Business

A. Grant Applications

1. The CFA grants for improvements to Dunbar Field and the dam the Village of Pulaski is applying for have been submitted by the deadline.
2. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to submit a Letter of Intent for the NY Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward grants, solicit Letters of Support and continue with the application process. An informational public meeting will be held for residents and businesses. PROP has been talking about producing a video to submit in the application. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Heidi Thompkins of the Tug Hill Commission noted that the Commission offers Metro Data for free to its members. This information can be included in the application.

- B. A copy of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Village of Pulaski and the Pulaski Public Library was included in the packet for the Board's review and suggestions.
- C. Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to accept the resignation of Sue Peters from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Shawn Doyle from the Joint Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Fowler and passed unanimously.
- D. The motion to approve the high bids submitted for equipment that was listed for sale on Auction International was made by Alan Engelbrekt. A 2007 International Tymco Street Sweeper for \$9,700.00, a 2012 Husqvarna Zero Turn Mower for \$2,550.00 and a large table lamp for \$10.00. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
- E. The Village Board tabled the motion to hire a Code Enforcement Officer after discussion that included that the Board would like more details about hours, the job description, etc. and agreed to have a special meeting to discuss the matter more. Jan Tighe requested that the Board members offer suggestions on what they were looking for so a code officer could be hired before the current one retires at the end of the year.
- F. The United Way is having a Stone Soup event on September 14, 2023, at the Fire Hall from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM. They would like to request permission from the Board to allow a few directional signs to be placed at the South Park for one day. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to approve the temporary signs and Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion. It passed with all in favor.

Agenda Item #9: Other

- A. It was noted that the sign law was changed last year to not allow political signs at all on Village property.
- B. Daniel Postal a representative for the Solar Company AES that is working on developing a ground mounted solar farm asked the Board to clarify that the proposed law require all ground mounted solar to obtain a Special Use Permit from the Village in all districts. Jeffrey Fowler and Jan Tighe confirmed that ground mounted solar would be allowed in the Industrial and Business 2 (B-2) districts only. Mr. Postal said he has been working with the Balcom family to develop solar on his land that was rezoned to Residential 3 (R-3) a couple years ago and the proposed law would no longer allow solar. Mr. Postal asked if the Board would be amendable to rezoning the land to accommodate a ground mount solar project. The Board noted that the Village needs more

housing development and there is limited available land and a solar development could tie up potential land for said housing. The project is projected to use approximately 30 acres of land. There will be a public hearing for the proposed changes to the solar law on September 11, 2023.

C. Thank you notes will be sent out to those who submitted Letters of Support for the CFA grants to:

- Ed Gilson, Austin Wheelock, Senator Mark Walczyk, Congresswoman Tenney, Superintendent Tom Jennings, PROP and Bonnie Scoville of the Pickleball Association.

Thank you notes will also be sent to Director Vern Dunsmore of the Health Department, Shawn Doyle for his service on the Joint Comprehensive Plan, and Sue Peters for her service on the ZBA.

Agenda Item #10: Executive Session/ Adjournment

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM with a second from Jeffrey Fowler. All were in favor.

Next Regular Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing will be on September 11th, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

Presented and Approved

Jennifer Gibbs

Deputy Clerk