

Village Board of Trustees Special Meeting

December 20, 2022

A special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held on the 20th of December 2022, in the Auditorium of the Snow Memorial Building, 4917 North Jefferson Street, Pulaski, NY 13142.

Members Present: Jan Tighe, Mayor; Alan Engelbrekt, Deputy Mayor; Jack Jennings, Trustee; Ryan McGrath, Trustee; and Scott Pello, Trustee.

Absent: None

Village Staff/Officials in Attendance: Cathy Spinney, Village Clerk/Treasurer; Josh Smith Code, Enforcement Officer; Amanda Bennett, Account Clerk; and Jennifer Gibbs, Deputy Clerk.

Guest(s): Jeffery Fowler, Carl Falk, Bob North, Jim Soule, Janice Kozma, David Rockwell, and Ben Ives.

Agenda Items #1: Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with Mayor Jan Tighe leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Agenda Items #2: Public Comment

Agenda Item #3: Resolution for USDA Application for Front Loader

Ryan McGrath made the motion to approve USDA Application for the Front Loader. The grant is for \$21,000. The loan will be for \$69,000 and the trade in for the current equipment is \$38,379.00. Scott Pello seconded the motion and with a roll call vote the motion passed 4-1. Alan Engelbrekt voted no.

Agenda Item #4: Article 160-6 in the Village Code

The Oswego County Human Resources Administrator sent a letter to the Mayor regarding suggesting we repeal Article 160-6 in the Village Code because it is in violation of Civil Service Law. Mayor Jan Tighe also checked with NYCOM for advice, and they agreed with Oswego County. The process to repeal this law would be to advertise a public hearing at the next Village Board meeting to strike this law. Jan Tighe noted that the DPW, Police and Code Enforcement officers were appointed for two-year terms at the December 2021 Organizational meeting. Jan Tighe made points of support to advocate for the current Code Officer's appointment. Ryan McGrath and Jack Jennings made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the personnel issues. Alan Engelbrekt seconded the motion. There was some disagreement whether the Board was allowed to go into Executive Session for this matter and it was decided not to. Jan Tighe made the point that if Josh Smith the Code Enforcement wasn't reappointed the Village was likely to be sued for wrongful termination.

Jan Tighe made the motion to hold a public hearing to edit Article 160-6 from the Village coded because it is no longer in-line with Civil Service employment laws. No one seconded the motion and it failed.

Ryan McGrath had questions regarding Civil Service Section 75 rights.

Scott Pello made the motion to reappoint Joshua Smith as the Code Enforcement Officer. Jan Tighe seconded the motion. The motion failed with Jan Tighe voting yes. Jack Jennings abstained because he was not ready to make that decision without more discussion in an Executive Session. Alan Engelbrekt, Scott Pello and Ryan McGrath voted no.

Janice Kozma, Carl Falk, and David Rockwell spoke in favor of keeping the current Code Enforcement Officer.

Alan Engelbrekt and Scott Pello questioned some code violations that have been sent out. Jan Tighe noted that complaints should go through the Village Office so they can be addressed with a clear process.

Agenda Items # 5-11: Tabled until the next Village Board meeting.

Agenda Item #: Adjournment

Jack Jennings made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 PM. Ryan McGrath seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Next Regular Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing will be on January 9, 2023, at 7:15 PM.

Presented & Approved

Jennifer Gibbs

Deputy Clerk