

## **Village Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting**

**March 13, 2023**

**The monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 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 Scott Pello, Trustee; and Jeffrey Fowler, Trustee.

**Absent:** Ryan McGrath, Trustee.

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

**Guest(s):** Janice Kozma, Ernie Wheeler Melissa Wadkinson, Chuck Johnson, and Chris Grosbent.

### **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.

### **Public Hearing for New Law Authorizing a Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firemen**

Scott Pello made the motion to open the public hearing at 7:15 PM. Jeff Fowler seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Mayor Jan Tighe gave an overview of the proposed local law. The law would allow a tax exemption for volunteer firefighters that have a minimum of 2-5 years of service, a primary residence in the Village and determine the percentage of the exemption. Chris Grosbent and Chuck Johnson, of the Ringgold Fire Department, noted that renters will not qualify for the exemption and a firefighter would have to be an active member per the Fire Department's rules and regulations. Chris Grosbent pointed out that volunteer service is down among the fire service across the state and the exemption may encourage more volunteers. The other local districts that will be voting on the exemption will be the Town of Richland, the Pulaski School District and Oswego County. The state offers a \$200.00 income tax credit for first responders. The income tax credit cannot be used along with the property exemption. Three firefighters within the department currently live and own property in the Village. The more robust a Fire Department is in a locale the more money homeowners saved in home fire insurance. Alan Engelbrekt asked if a cap can be placed on the number of firefighters allowed to apply for the tax exemption. Jan Tighe thought that yes, the Village should be able to cap the number of applicants.

Jeffrey Fowler made a motion to close the hearing at 7:35 PM with a second from Scott Pello. The motion passed 4-0.

## **Public Hearing for Zoning Code Change**

Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to open the public hearing for the proposed change in Zoning Code § 160-42 Regulations for Business B-1 District. A. (28). The Village proposes to remove the word "Hotel" under (A) Permitted Uses and keep the word "Hotel" under B. Uses requiring special permits (14.) Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

There was no public comment and Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to close the hearing with a second from Scott Pello. The motion passed with all in favor.

## **Agenda Items #2: Public Comment**

Melissa Wadkinson requested an update on the Sidewalk to School Project. Alan Engelbrekt requested that a current quote be provided for the project. There was some discussion about whether the Village Board has completely approved the entirety of the project. This inquiry will be reviewed and revisited. Jan Tighe noted that she sent a letter to the Board with the signature of Angel Rodriguez approving the project. Additional in-kind contributions are being sought from the School District, Town, etc.

## **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes**

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2023. Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Agenda Item #4: Approval of Staff Reports**

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to approve the DPW, Code Enforcement and Police reports from February 2023. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Fowler and passed 4-0. Jeffrey Fowler has questions for the DPW Supervisor on the specifics of the maintenance of Village benches. Cathy Spinney noted that the permanent Village Municipal building benches have been overhauled and returned.

## **Agenda Item #5: Approval of Vouchers**

The motion to accept the Vouchers was made by Alan Engelbrekt and seconded by Jeffrey Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report with a second from Ryan McGrath. The motion passed with all in favor.

## **Agenda Item #7: Old Business**

- A. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion for the Village to adopt the Local Law for the Real Property Tax Law to offer Village residents who are active volunteer firefighters a

property tax exemption up to 10%. Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed 3-1 with Alan Engelbrekt voting no.

Scott Pello made the motion to set the membership requirement for the exemption at a minimum of two years as an active member of the Ringgold Fire Department. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion and it passed 3-1 with Alan Engelbrekt voting present.

The motion to set the tax exemption at 10% was made by Jeffrey Fowler and seconded by Scott Pello. The motion carried 3-1 with Alan Engelbrekt voting present.

- B. Alan Engelbrekt made a motion to approve the zoning code dropping the word "Hotel" in Zone Code section § 160-42 Regulations for Business B-1 District. A. (28). Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- C. The Board agreed to set a meeting March 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM to review a tentative 2023-2024 budget and a public hearing on April 10, 2023, at the regularly scheduled Village Board of Trustees meeting.
- D. Mayor Jan Tighe gave a brief description of the status of various grants.
- E. There was no Haldane Report. The Haldane Board will be meeting soon.

#### **Agenda Item #8: New Business**

- A. The Village cemetery has lots that are unsuitable for full burials that are large enough to be sold for cremains. The proposed prices for these lots were discussed at \$500.00 for cremains and \$600.00 for full burial. The prices will not be set until the 2023-2024 Budget Workshop scheduled for March 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to approve the sale of the two different types of lots. Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.
- B. Village Office
  - 1. Village employees are listing job descriptions and responsibilities for each department and position to ensure the continuation of knowledge if an employee leaves or has an extended illness.
  - 2. Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to reappoint Craig Allen for another term to the Sewer Board with a second from Jeffrey Fowler. The motion carried 4-0.
  - 3. The Village office is working on a policy to submit new local laws to eCode360 for updating the code books and the website.
  - 4. CPR classes will be available for Village employees for \$75/person at NOCA.

- C. The Sewer Board requested that the Village Board review the proposed “grease trap” law and give some thoughts for fees and fines. The Village Board will review the proposed law and come back to it.
  
- D. New Grant Opportunities.
  - 1. A grant request was submitted to NYS Archives for funds to convert the Snow Memorial Building stage to Village record storage.
  - 2. The Village will apply for Congressionally Directed Spending Grants to Senator Schumer’s office for the Arches and Dam and House Representative Tenney for water and sewer projects.
  
- E. Other
  - 1. PROP has plans for a spring clean-up Saturday April 22, 2023.
  - 2. Various old Village appliances and furniture were auctioned off on the Auction International website for a total of \$121.50. It was determined that the various printers and monitors that are no longer in use at the Village can be sold at a minimum of \$5-10.
  - 3. PROP, Kern Yerdon and Assemblyman Barclay will be receiving thank you notes for their letters of support regarding the application for grant funds from Senator Schumer’s office.
  - 4. The builders of the new Family Dollar would like their Building Permit Fee lowered. The rationale is that the building will be basically a pole barn with shelving. If the formula is strictly followed for square footage the fee would be \$1,843.00. The builders are requesting that the Village cut the fee to \$920.00. Jeffery Fowler made the motion to decline cutting the fee with a second from Alan Engelbrekt. The motion was carried 3-1 with Scott Pello voting no.

**Agenda Item #9: Executive Session/ Adjournment**

The was no executive session. Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to Adjourn at 8:34 PM and Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing will be on April 10, 2023, at 7:15 PM.**

**Presented & Approved**

**Jennifer Gibbs**

**Deputy Clerk**