

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held on May 20, 2021 at 7:30PM

Present: Frank Palermo, Supervisor
Thomas Burke, Jacqueline Hernandez and Robert Hunter, Council
Absent: Tyler Etzel, Council
Also Present: Joseph Gianzero, Parks Leader; Christopher Caruso, Police Sergeant; John Smith, Library Board; Rey Hernandez, Parks Committee; Maria Hunter, Beautification Committee

I. Public Input:

Brandon Calore reminded all that First Responder Day is June 12 (rain date June 19). The 5K will begin at 9AM with registration starting at 8AM - preregistration will be available soon.

Martha Lopez stated there has been a lot of discussion about what the Town is or is not doing to maintain the cemetery. She spoke with David Fleming, an attorney with the Tug Hill Commission, and he told her what the Town is doing they are supposed to but there is an outcry that they want you to do more. She also noted there is a law that allows a Village to take over a cemetery if it chooses to do so, which she has told many times to those that created a big hoopla over the cemetery. She also noted it is very expensive to maintain a cemetery and she pointed out further the neglect has not happened just over the past three years but has been occurring for decades. What is being insinuated is that this Board is responsible for the decay. The portion of the cemetery that is still operating, there are laws that allow them to access State funds for the restoration and taking over of the abandoned portion. She asked what the Board has done to investigate this as there has been a lot said. Supervisor Palermo stated all the commotion is political and the people did not even know there was a cemetery until Kevin Lynch introduced them to it because a different project they planned failed. He believes once the election is over none of the people will “give a damn” about the cemetery. When Sheila Conroy was the Supervisor the Cemetery of the Highlands used to do the maintenance and told her they wanted \$200 from the Town to continue doing so, which she told them no. The Town mows the grass three times a year, which is what is required by law. He also noted his office has been looking into a grant to have work done on that piece of property but ownership needs to be determined first. His secretary has been working with the Methodist Church and the cemetery, the church has an attorney involved as well. According to the tax maps, the church owns the property. His office is also working to determine what makes a cemetery “abandoned”, adding that people have been buried there recently, which the cemetery makes money on. He concluded by stating it is far more complicated than the Town “just going in there” and if the Village wants to take it over, they can have it. The property is owned by someone and you cannot just go onto someone’s property and do whatever you want to do. The Town is doing all it can – behind the scenes because it does not need the publicity. Clerk Potvin stated she recently took a class about abandoned cemeteries and she will provide a copy of the presentation to the Town Board. Councilwoman Hernandez stated she also saw there was a discussion held on social media and feels that people would have called the Supervisor’s office for answers. She noted the Board is actively researching the legal ownership of the cemetery and will continue to maintain the grass there until it is resolved. Councilman Burke stated a few months ago he attended a meeting about this issue with the cemetery and the group of people that have been posting about it. He agreed the Board is doing everything it can do resolve the issue.

Maria Hunter noted the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 30, with lineup beginning at 12:30PM on Bond Street and step-off at 1PM. The parade will commence on Bond Street, travel north on Route 32, ending at the back of Cemetery of Highlands. She urged all residents to attend and show

support, also urging all that live along Route 32 to decorate their properties to show their patriotism. She then congratulated Clerk Potvin on being nominated by the Village for the “Women of Distinction” award presented by Assemblyman Schmitt earlier this week. She thanked the Town Board for nominating herself as well.

II. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept receipt of the minutes of the meeting held May 6, 2021.

ADOPTED	AYES	3	Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
	ABSTAIN	1	Palermo

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Burke, seconded by Supervisor Palermo, to approve Abstract 10 containing vouchers 210641 – 210715 and totaling \$307,707.02.

ADOPTED	AYES	4	Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
	NOES	0	

c. Budget Modification(s):

Motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to approve modifications to the FY2021 budget as follows:

- Buildings/Grounds – increasing A1620.101 (Buildings/Grounds Compensated Absences) by \$45,557 and decreasing A1620.100 (Buildings/Grounds Personal Services) by \$45,557;
- General Fund – increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$2640, A1680.401 (Subscriptions/Microsoft & LogMeln) by \$2640;
- Senior Center – increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$2020, A7620.466 (Expenditure of Donations) by \$2020;
- Attorney – decreasing A1420.414 (Attorney Litigation) by \$25,000 and increasing A1420.417 (HLE Litigation) by \$15,000, A1420.418 (ELT Nepera Litigation) by \$10,000;
- General Fund – increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$498, A3020.400 (Emergency Notification) by \$498;
- Animal Control – increasing A3510.463 (Computer Software) by \$55 and decreasing A3510.411 (Office Supplies) by \$55;
- Justice Court – increasing A1110.412 (Postage) by \$350 and decreasing A1110.411 (Office Supplies) by \$350;
- Refuse – increasing SR599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$2500, A8160.400 (Contractual Expenses) by \$2500;
- Parks – increasing A7110.200 (Equipment) by \$300, decreasing A7110.433 (Ticket Issue) by \$1513 and increasing A7110.404 (Playground Equipment/Installation) by \$1213;
- General Fund – increasing A599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$1000, A2655 (Minor Sales) by \$377, A8090.400 (Environmental Contractual Expense) by \$1377

ADOPTED	AYES	4	Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
	NOES	0	

III. New Business:

a. Acceptance of Bids – Fuel Oil No 2:

Clerk Potvin stated a bid opening was held this morning for the purchase of Fuel Oil No 2 supply July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022. The public notice was printed in the Times Herald Record on April 20, 2021 and only one bid was received:

H Reynolds and Son, Central Valley, NY -

- 1) They will deduct \$0.20 per gallon off the current selling price (which is \$2.899)
- 2) They will offer a capped price lock when details are available. This is not included in the bid and will be invoiced separately if opted into.
- 3) They will not charge any sales or petroleum tax
- 4) They will supply 24-hour oil/service as per their service agreement
- 5) They provided a copy of their contract and noted the contracts will give an additional \$0.20 per gallon discount for the Police Station (two boilers, one hot water heater), Central Valley Library and Animal Shelter
- 6) For the Police Station Only – they will cover all labor on boiler units and materials will be billed at cost. The water heater is completely covered.

Motion was then offered by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept the bid and award the contract to H Reynolds & Son.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

b. Acceptance of Bids – Propane:

Clerk Potvin stated a bid opening was held this morning for the purchase of propane supply July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. The public notice was printed in the Times Herald Record on April 20, 2021 and only one bid was received:

Combined Energy Services, Thompsonville, NY –

Wholesale plus \$0.6666 per gallon for 1000 gallons at Community Center and 500 gallons at the Police Department

Motion was then offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept the bid and award the contract to Combined Energy Services.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

c. Appointment to Parks and Recreation Committee:

Supervisor Palermo stated only one letter was received. He noted the advertisement has been on Facebook© for over a month on four different pages and anyone that lives in Woodbury had an opportunity to see it. He added he also announced it at the last Board meeting he attended. He has heard that people feel this was not done properly which he feels is wrong and unfair. Councilwoman Hernandez stated we normally advertise in the newspaper and that was not done to which Supervisor Palermo stated it was not required. Councilwoman Hernandez recommended we advertise the position as that is our usual practice and Supervisor Palermo stated he does not feel it is necessary for this appointment and the Board should be happy that someone was interested. Councilman Burke stated at a previous Parks Committee meeting it was also discussed. Motion was then offered by Supervisor Palermo, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to appoint Brandon Calore to the Parks and Recreation Committee to fill the vacant seat with a term to expire December 31, 2024.

ADOPTED AYES 3 Palermo, Burke, Hunter
 NOES 1 Hernandez

d. Acceptance of Revised Resignation – A Padilla:

Supervisor Palermo noted when Angelica submitted her resignation, she had her title listed as “Assessor Clerk”, but it is actually “Clerk” and Orange County Department of Human Resources will not accept the resignation due to this error. Therefore, a motion was offered by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to again accept the resignation of Angelica Padilla from the position of Clerk with the last day of work being May 28, 2021.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

Supervisor Palermo stated Angelica began as a volunteer intern many years ago to help the Assessor’s office. When she was not in school, she would work and was a very valuable person to that office. He wished her the best of luck in her venture.

IV. Old Business:

a. OC Community Grants:

Supervisor Palermo stated no additional project suggestions have been received since the public hearing was closed.

V. Department Reports:

a. Supervisor Report – April 2021

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Burke, to approve the Supervisor Report for April 2021 with receipts totaling \$398,991.95 and disbursements totaling \$873,920.13.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

b. Town Clerk’s Report – April 2021

c. ACO Report – April 2021

d. Police/Communications Report – April 2021

e. Library Board Minutes – April 20 and 27, 2021; Library Director Report - April 2021

f. Parks Committee Minutes – April 27, 2021

g. Parks, Building & Grounds Report – April 2021

h. Beautification Committee Minutes – May 6, 2021

i. Budget vs. Actual – Year-End 2020 and April 2021

VI. Board Member Comments

Councilman Burke stated this past week the soil was delivered to the pool and they are doing a great job – it has been packed down hard. Boring will be done next, which he is hoping will be by the end of next week. The contracts will then be signed and the construction can begin. He congratulated Maria Hunter and Clerk Potvin on their awards.

Councilman Hunter stated he attended the Second Annual Women of Distinction Awards held by Assemblyman Schmitt earlier this week. Seventeen women were recognized with Woodbury having two individuals named. He congratulated Clerk Potvin and his wife, Maria, and thanked each for all they do.

Councilwoman Hernandez stated she agrees with Councilman Hunter and that it is nice to see strong women in the community doing what they do. She then noted she is appreciative of Supervisor Palermo for finding funding for the all-inclusive park that is planned. Over the past several years families that have struggled to find an area for their children to play will now be able to use this park

(once constructed) to fit their children’s needs. It will be located next to the tennis courts in an enclosed area. She has spoken to a number of families with special need children and they provided incite of how it should look. She is very excited about this project and will share the final design once it is done. She then noted she looks forward to seeing the community at the Memorial Day Parade.

Clerk Potvin congratulated Maria Hunter on her award.

Supervisor Palermo stated the 2021 Tentative Assessment roll is on the website under the Assessor’s Page. He congratulated Clerk Potvin and Maria Hunter on their awards. In a few weeks the work on the courthouse will begin and the Town has finally received the grant funds. Every window will be replaced, the front and rear entrances will be redesigned to meet Code for the disabled and the siding will be replaced. There will be a plaque hung once all is completed that will list all past judges going back to 1887 – which is about 45 individuals. He feels this will be a great tribute to all that served in this position.

Parks Leader Gianzero stated on the website there is a place to preregister for the 5K run. A flyer will be distributed once it is completed. Earl Reservoir will be open Memorial Day weekend – some guidance has been received from the Health Department but nothing about COVID as of yet. There are no sports there since the guidelines have not been released, same for the camp. Councilwoman Hernandez stated she forwarded to him the guidance that has been issued from the State recently. Leader Gianzero stated a lot of new families have signed up for passes which is great and he feels the parks will be busier this year than last year. The parks are in pristine condition and his department is staying on top of everything. He asked that if anyone sees something that needs to be done to please call him and he will see to it. He then noted the cemetery was mowed this morning – he wanted to wait until it was closer to the parade but that didn’t happen. Councilman Burke asked if his department will be having Saturday hours and Leader Gianzero stated they begin this weekend – 10AM-Noon.

8:15PM - Executive Session:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Burke, to enter into an executive session to conduct interviews with potential part-time dispatchers.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Burke, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

No minutes of the executive session were recorded.

VIII. Adjournment:

This information was not provided to the Clerk.

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk