

Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Poland Board December 10, 2019

Town Supervisor Kelly Snow called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the pledge to the flag. In attendance were Town Council members Stevan Hatfield, Norm Gustafson and Terry Walker. Absent was Councilman Corey Swanson. Also present were Highway Superintendent Larry Mee, Assessor Heather Young-Deyell, Code Officer Eric Yager, Justice Judith Shields, Assemblyman Andy Goodell, and town residents Elaine Kapuscinski, Gerrit Cain, Mary Fales, High School Student Waylon Wilshire and Post-Journal stringer Rose Mary Carver.

Supervisor Snow asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the November 12th regular Board Meeting. There being none, *Councilman Walker made a motion, seconded by Councilman Gustafson to accept the minutes as presented.*

Ayes: Snow, Hatfield, Gustafson, Walker

Motion carried.

****First Privilege of Floor****

1) Town resident Elaine Kapuscinski approached the board regarding her concern on the speed of the vehicles in front of her residence/business. Mrs. Kapuscinski invited each board member to visit her residence and experience the issue first hand. A speed study was done, per Mrs. Kapuscinski previous request on July 5, 2018, and a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation was sent to the town. The letter revealed a speed study was conducted and after the state considered the data that they obtained, they determined not to reduce the existing 35 MPH speed limit at that time. The town sent a letter to Mrs. Kapuscinski on August 30, 2018, relaying this information to her that we received from the state. Supervisor Snow will reach out to the state again regarding this matter and she advised Mrs. Kapuscinski to do the same.

2) Town resident Garrit Cain stated that while running for County Legislator, he spoke with many town residents concerned about having the resources to do major repairs and upgrades to their homes but they are worried about their assessment increasing due to their property improving. After speaking with Assessor Heather Young-Deyell on this matter, she found the Property Tax Law 421F. This is a state property tax law which needs to be adopted locally and it is a decelerating sliding scale exemption for capital improvements over \$3,000 and up to \$80,000. Mr. Cain asked the board to consider adopting this law. Supervisor Snow will present this information to the Town Attorney and revisit this topic at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1) The Organizational Meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm (prior to the January Board Meeting).

2) The Annual Audit will be scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at 6:30.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Town Hall - replaced front yard light that was only two years old

2) Employee Training - Supervisor Snow has reached out to the insurance broker in regards to any recommendation for training videos for Sexual Harassment training. It was also brought to the board's attention, that New York State has Sexual Harassment

Video and training methods on their website.

3) NY Street Lighting LED Project- No new updates. Highway Superintendent Mee will be attending the County Highway Superintendent's meeting and will approach John Meyer regarding this issue.

****Second Privilege of Floor****- no response

SUPERVISOR

1) The town Christmas party is on December 17th at 12pm

2) The board discussed, in a previous executive session, the new highway employee requesting prorated reimbursement of the HSA account for the time after his probation period to the end of the year. Due to the retired highway employee receiving the HSA account that was funded last year, there was not enough money funded for the new employee. The highway contract does not cover any terms of prorated HSA accounts. After a board discussion, the matter was tabled due to the board having a split vote on this issue. The board will revisit this when all the board members are present.

TOWN CLERK

1) The town's Dog Control Officer Rebecca Capitano's new cell phone number is 640-0541. The Town Clerk's office has updated the necessary contacts; including the town website and Facebook page.

2) The new computers for the Assessor, Town Clerk and Highway Department are installed and running. The Zoning Officer's computer has been also switched with one from the Highway Department. All is working well.

3) The first day of Tax Collection is January 6th.

ASSESSOR

1) The current assessment database has been sent to the Chautauqua County Real Property Tax office for the Town/County Tax bills.

2) All valuation documents have been printed and I am spending the next 2 months completing data entry of all new values for the 2020 assessment roll.

3) There have been several calls regarding renewal of the Enhanced STAR exemptions. This year is unlike any previous years, in that, property owners no longer file renewal applications with their local assessor. Last year, they completed a mandatory additional form in their renewal that allows NYS Tax and Finance to review their income and relay their eligibility to me automatically. Owners that no longer file a tax return may receive a letter and worksheet form NYS Tax and Finance to continue receiving the exemption. As always, I welcome any questions and concerns regarding these changes.

4) I do continue to administer NEW Enhanced STAR applications, and remit that information to the state. I also still collect the Agricultural exemptions, and Veterans exemptions.

HIGHWAY

1) Brush cutting sides of the roads

2) Sand & Salt is delivered and ready for use

CODE OFFICER

Permit requests are still coming in.

Supervisor Snow reported on town issues:

1) Posted information on our Facebook page regarding the Annexation Meeting for December 18th at 7:00pm in the Scharmann Theater at Jamestown Community College.

MONTHLY REPORTS

JUSTICE JUDITH SHIELDS - reported 43 Vehicle & Traffic and 3 Criminal with \$5,370.00 forwarded to Supervisor.

CEMETERY- ALAN SHORT- 11/13/19-12/10/19: Still preparing for winter weather as weather permits; collecting old pots and flowers for disposal in the dumpster; moved the benches inside for storage and painting; put up snow plow flags around the driveway; plowing will only be done as needed for a funeral; continuing to mark the corners of the new surveyed section; Tucker Burial Ground Cemetery needs some tree trimming and removal soon; mowed and trimmed Tucker for last time this year on 11/30 and Ted Card is doing our grave openings in Mr. Lawson's absence.

DOG CONTROL BRIAN KING - November: Trained with Darla; nothing else to report.

LIBRARY- DIANE CAREY - 12/10/19: More than a week ago, we had a patron trip over rebar that was exposed when a parking abutment was plowed out of position and the rebar was left sticking up out of the ground. I am open to suggestions where plowing the parking lot is concerned. I have a couple solutions to purpose. #1 We could purchase 3'-4' reflectors to screw into the rubber parking abutments so the plow drivers can see where they are. #2 The abutments can be pulled up for the winter (along with the rebar that holds them in place) and stored in the basement. Please get back to me with either a choice or another solution.

The story of Ebenezer Scrooge (A Christmas Carol), was very well received by our community. It was wonderful to hear the positive feedback from everyone. Next year I will know to talk with others, to maybe coordinate the timing for a Christmas event a little better.

Our last paint night for 2019 was a huge success! We sold out again and did two paintings. I will definitely be holding more paint nights that include teens. We will be starting paint nights up again in January. It's a great fund raiser and fun for everyone that attends. We will also start selling the paintings I do for these events as another fund-raising effort. I'll post more information as I work out the details.

Still no word on the grant - I'll keep you posted.

Winter hours started December 2nd. Our attendance has remained the same and people are more than in agreement with an earlier closing time and the reasons behind my decision. Opening earlier on Mondays and Thursdays has worked out as well. Over all - people are fine with the change.

November attendance was 635, and our circulation was 1162 in total.

We will be closing for the Christmas holiday - Monday, December 23rd - January 2nd. I will be in the library a few days during this time to empty the book bin and to work on organizing the shelving but not open to the public.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday.

PLANNING BOARD - no report

ZONING BOARD - no report

RECREATION (REBECCA LINDQUIST) - no report

HISTORIAN - REBECCA LINDQUIST- no report

TOWN CLERK BONNITA WALLACE reported \$1,130.41 paid to Supervisor with \$1,502.27 total disbursed.

ZONING OFFICER GEORGE GUSTAFSON - (ZONING REPORT) reported zero (0) Complaints received, zero (0) Notices of Violation issued and \$1,395.00 in fees forwarded to Town Clerk.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ERIC YAGER - (BUILDING CODE REPORT) zero (0) Inspections Performed, and zero (0) Certificates of Occupancy were reported.

TOWN SUPERVISOR SNOW distributed prior to the meeting the Agenda and Monthly Supervisor's Reports for General Fund, Highway Fund, Payroll Fund, Money Market accounts and General & Highway Budget Reports.

Supervisor Snow asked if there were any questions on the bills.

Councilman Walker made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hatfield to pay General Vouchers (430-475) totaling \$45,765.56, Highway Vouchers (166-182) totaling \$58,910.02, Light District #1 Voucher (12) in the amount of \$928.26, Light District #2 Voucher (12) in the amount of \$254.02 and Court Voucher (11) in the amount of \$4,539.00.

Ayes: Snow, Hatfield, Gustafson, Walker

Motion carried.

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Other Meetings: Tuesday, December 17th - Town Christmas Party,
Wednesday, December 18th - Annexation Meeting at JCC at 7pm,
Tuesday, January 14th- Organizational Meeting at 6:30 pm,
Thursday, January 30th - Annual Audit at 6:30 pm

At 8:21 p.m., Supervisor Snow made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hatfield to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Snow, Hatfield, Gustafson, Walker

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnita R Wallace

Town Clerk