

Town of Pine Plains Town Board Meeting

July 20th, 2023

The Town of Pine Plains Town Board convened for a regular schedule meeting at the Town Hall on the above date at 7 pm. Supervisor Walsh, Councilman Bartles, Councilwoman Jones, Councilman Zick and Councilman Ambrose were present. Also in attendance was Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky, Highway Superintendent Carl Baden, PPWIA/Engineer Ray Jurkowski, Officer in Charge John Hughes, and twelve members of public.

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Councilwoman Jones motioned to approve the June 15 Town Board minutes, June 27 Special Meeting minutes, and July 10 Informational Meeting minutes, second by Councilman Zick 5-0 Pass.

Jones motioned to accept the June 2023 Town Clerks report, second by Zick 5-0 Passed.

Councilman Ambrose motioned to pay the following bills- General Bills 20195-20221, 20223-20242, Highway Bills 20243-20258. And Water Bills 3212-3218, second by Jones 5-0 Passed.

No Public Comments.

Department Reports- Highway- Superintendent Carl Baden let the Board know that the department has been cleaning up from the storm. Baden has been in contact with Brian Scoralick from Soil & Water about damage to Tripp Road, and the Woodward Hill Culvert project. Mowing maintenance has continued, and maintenance on equipment. July 26 & 27 the Highway Department will be oil and stoning. Baden also let the Board know the municipal parking lot is finished. Baden asked for approval of the Amended Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys, motioned by Zick to authorize expenditures second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed. Baden stated there will be a Legal notice sent out for bids for materials for 2024.

Town Attorney- Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky started discussing Firefighter/Ambulance Volunteer Tax, there would need to be an amemdment made to Local Law to include no fire tax, no water tax, and no light tax. Councilman Bartles wouldn't want that because it is not unify throughout the Town. Bartles motioned not to apply exemptions to the Local Law, second by Jones 5-0 Passed. Replansky discussed Library petition. Replansky has a Resolution Certifying and Approving the Petition of the Pine Plains Free Library for increase in the Operating Budget of the Library to the Sum of \$166,900.00. Jones feels the resolution is not required due to the adversarial relationship between the Library and Town Board. Bartles motioned to withdrawal Resolution, seconded by Zick 5-0 Passed. The Attorney of the Town reviewed the Police coverage contract with the Town of Stanfordville. The contract needs to be signed by the Town of Stanfordville then sent back to the Town Board for a preliminary vote in August.

Public Hearing- Solar Moratorium- Zick motioned to opened Public Hearing second by Jones 5-0 Passed. Warren Replansky discussed the Local Law Enaction of an Eight Month Moratorium on the Processing and Approval of New Applications for Tier 3 Solar Facilities. Replansky did make an amendment to Section 3. Exemption Part A. Replansky is waiting for comments from

the Planning Board. Allison Galliher, who lives on Skunks Misery Rd loves the community and doesn't feel that Carson Power has any ties to the community. This Solar Project wouldn't provide any benefits to the community. It would take away from local companies such as Central Hudson. Galliher feels it will affect the landscape of Pine Plains and local habitat. Kevin Walsh from Lake Rd explained that even though Carson would build the Solar Field, Central Hudson would still charge a delivery fee. Walsh believes Wind/Solar is the way to leave less of a carbon footprint, that these types of alternate power will benefit the environment. Jones reminded the public that this public hearing is to impose a moratorium on the current Solar Local Law. Eric Galliher from Skunks Misery Rd is in favor of the Moratorium passing but all current Solar Applications should be placed in the Moratorium. Jackie Elliot will be writing up comments and sending them to the Board. Daniel Aronstein residing at Prospect Farm Extension is in favor of the Moratorium but feels that current Solar Projects should also be included in the Moratorium. Jones motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing for this evening, second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Town Attorney- Warren Replansky discussed a Resolution Accepting Proposed Local Law Abolishing the Offices of Three Elected Assessors and Establishing the Office of a Single Appointed Assessor Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, Jones motioned to set a public hearing on August 17, at 7:10 p.m. second by Zick 5-Aye 0-Nay Passed. The senior citizens exemption will be discussed at the August meeting. The Town attorney has a update on a tax certiorari case to discuss in executive session.

Department Report- Building Inspector- Report on file.

Water/Engineer- Ray Jurkowski read his report (on file). Jurkowski discussed with the Board about the meter reading software having upgraded to a new cloud-based system which will eliminate the use of handheld devices and allow portable devices such as a phone or tablet. The new package will cost \$12,743.80. Zick motioned to authorize purchase of new meter reading software, second by Jones 5-0 Passed. Jurkowski discussed with the Board that the bid opening took place for the Softball Dugouts, the low bid was \$149,750 and the high bid was \$169,460. There was one alternative material bid for \$21,600. He recommends holding onto the current bids and sending out a rebid just for alternative materials. Jurkowski also discussed that Engineer George Schmidt has received permit from DEC and will be putting the Woodward Hill Culvert out for bid.

Animal Control- Report on file.

Police Department- Office in Charge John Hughes read report on file.

New Business- Journal transfer \$2,816.88 from 51104.03 General Repairs CE, into 51122.03 Permanent Improvement, Ambrose motioned to approve transfer, second by Jones 5-0 Passed. Bartles wanted to have a Police Commissioners meeting to discuss the future of the Police force.

Old Business- Willow Roots did a presentation for a Flea market at the properties 8 & 12 North Main St. Jones motioned to try a flea market 2 times a month for one day at the location said above, second by Ambrose, 5-0 Passed. Supervisor Walsh wanted to discuss the clean-up at 41 Hoffman Rd. Walsh feels the Town should get an estimate from the Zoning Code enforcement officer Drew Weaver, then add the amount to the tax rolls of 41 Hoffman, under the Maintenance Law.

Ambrose motioned to move into executive session to discuss litigation and personal second by Jones 5-0

Zick motioned to return to regular session, second by Jones 5-0

Zick motioned to approve Highway secretary Karen Pineda to increase work hours to 20-32 hours a week. Second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Jones Motioned to adjourn, second by Ambrose 5-0 Passed.

Supervisor Walsh

Town Clerk

Councilman Ambrose

Councilman Bartles

Councilwoman Jones

Councilman Zick