

BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2016

The Gerry Town Board met at 6:30 PM, February 11, 2016, at the Gerry Town Hall for the regular monthly board meeting.

Present were: John R. Crossley, Supervisor  
Gary J. Swan, Councilman  
Richard C. Heath, Councilman  
Linda D. Bartholomew, Councilwoman  
Todd R. Anderson, Councilman  
Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk  
Brian T. Anderson, Highway Superintendent  
Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Crossley called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. The Chautauqua County Department of Taxation sent a notice to the Town of Gerry of foreclosures in the Town which are still going through the process.
2. Bahgat and Laurito sent the annual agreement for their services to be signed and returned.
3. A memorandum regarding the Cassadaga Wind Project was sent showing pictures of the locations of the study areas and sites for their projects located in Sinclairville and Cattaraugus County and surrounding areas.

**OFFICERS REPORT:**

**Zoning Officer.**

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, turned in the following report:

January and February 2016

9 pending permits

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, commented that it has been quiet. The Dollar General is possibly putting in a store where the Valley Shack is located, they are going through the process of buying the land now and have been asking numerous Zoning questions.

**Dog Control Officer.**

Troy Kennelley, Dog Control Officer, reported that he wrote several unlicensed dog appearance tickets for the month.

**Highway Superintendent.**

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, commented that it has been quiet and the tractor should be in at the end of March and the new truck is running good.

**Assessor's Report.**

Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, reported that March 1<sup>st</sup> is the taxable status date and all STAR, Aged, and Agricultural exemptions need to be filed on or before March 1, 2016. They can also be postmarked. He will be sending out 2<sup>nd</sup> notices out next week to those who have not yet reapplied and call the last week of February. He will doing fieldwork soon next week for new construction, property changes, and requested property reviews. Supervisor Crossley spoke with Mr. Okerlund regarding the raising of taxes on vacant land and agricultural land he said farmers are capped at 2% for taxes so it should not affect them but vacant land can go up. Supervisor Crossley is requesting for Mr. Okerlund to attend the March Board Meeting to go over everything with the Town Board and he said Kevin is looking at all options before and the next step would be to call the State.

#### **COMMITTEES, BOARDS OR AGENCIES:**

#### **SPECIAL ORDERS:**

Resolution No. 17 – 2016. Agreement to Spend Town Highway Repair and Improvement Funds. A motion was made by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

Resolution No. 18 – 2016. Authorizing Municipal Cooperative Agreement for Highway projects and Maintenance and Designation of Coordinators for the Town of Gerry. A motion was made by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

Resolution No. 19 – 2016. 2016 Budget Transfers. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bartholomew, seconded by Councilman Anderson. Approved.

Minute approval for the January Board Meeting, and the Annual Audit Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Consolidation.**

Supervisor Crossley commented that they will be meeting next Monday to look at paperwork and he said it is looking less favorable as the money keeps reducing from the state for help for the consolidation of the Towns and Village. He will report more after the meeting.

##### **Liability Insurance.**

Supervisor Crossley noted that the insurance did raise a little more to have the Justice and Justice Clerk bonded and also there are taxes included.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Route 60.**

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, asked if they have found out anything more on commercializing Route 60 in the Town of Gerry for businesses, as he is interested in obtaining a dealer license. Supervisor Crossley commented that he has spoken with Town Attorney, William Duncanson Jr., and that was all discussed and put together in the Comprehensive Plan and if they were to change it, it will be a long process as everything in the current plan would have to change. Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, noted that in Charlotte they made Route 60 all commercial and in has been going very well. He also said for the Town of Gerry Comprehensive Plan they only have the hamlet listed as an exception currently. Supervisor Crossley requested for the Zoning Officer to put together a

list of all the businesses that are operating on Route 60. Councilwoman Bartholomew commented that she spoke with Town Attorney, William Duncanson Jr., and he said it would be a lot of money and time to change and asked how a decision is made for a business within the hamlet. Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, commented that it depends on the actual district and the character of a property and a use variance is hard to obtain. Councilman Swan noted that it could really upset some people and it would have to be discussed thoroughly.

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, stated that there is a problem because the State doesn't care about the Town's Zoning Codes and people will obtain without going through the local process. Dave will research all businesses to make sure they are compliant and show all operating businesses for review located on Route 60 and will report back to the Town Board and they will have to decide to go further with the request to do this or not, Public Hearings will be required as well.

**Town Hall.**

Supervisor Crossley noted that they will be cleaning out the upstairs at the Town Hall on Saturday morning and if anyone can make it would be great if can't that is fine. The water system at the town hall is going to get replaced soon too as the bladder tank is bad and the water softener.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

Highway Fund Vouchers #1 –19 totaling \$12,487.61 was approved on a motion by Councilman Swan; seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

General Fund Vouchers #31 – 64 totaling \$137,687.22 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heath; seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next board meeting will be held 6:30 PM, March 10, 2016 at the town hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM on a motion by Councilwoman Bartholomew; seconded by Councilman Anderson.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers,  
Town Clerk