

BOARD MEETING
MARCH 10, 2016

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

Present were: Richard C. Heath, Deputy Supervisor
Gary J. Swan, Councilman
Linda D. Bartholomew, Councilwoman
Todd R. Anderson, Councilman
Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
Brian T. Anderson, Highway Superintendent
William Duncanson, Jr., Town Attorney

Absent was: John R. Crossley, Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Doug Callan introduced himself to the Town Board and explained how he works for the local newspaper, the Post-Journal, and has been in the region for years and has studied and values the importance of local government.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A thank you note was received from the Valley Historical Society for the annual donation that was made from the Town of Gerry.

OFFICERS REPORT:

Zoning Officer:

Zoning Officer, David Crossley, submitted the following report for March 2016.

6 Permits issued
9 Permits pending.

Zoning Officer, David Crossley, stated that this week he spoke with a company from Georgia noting that they will be putting up a telecommunication tower on Route 60 near Kimball Stand area and that they are licensed by the federal government and the DEC and they need not any approval from the Town for any zoning laws or requirements. After talking with Town Attorney, William Duncanson, Jr., he contacted the DEC and they have never heard of this company. Councilman Swan asked if they can purchase land and then have this tower put up and Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, noted that yes but only they will have to go through the Planning Board to request a special use permit and then it has to be approved. Dave Crossley,

Zoning Officer, commented that the Dept. of Transportation and the Public Service Commission is looking into this and they have been extremely helpful.

Dog Control Officer.

DCO Kennelley, was absent and no report was given.

Highway Superintendent.

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, noted everything is going good but he had to obtain three more quotes for the tractor that was given permission to purchase in December 2015 as they changed models and could not put a belly mower on the Case.

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, gave the Town Board the three quotes from Laporte Farm Equipment, Larry Romance & Son, Inc. and Z & M Ag and Turf and noted that the best price came from Larry Romance & Son, Inc. with a New Holland which was \$1,400.00 less than the original Case Price. After discussion, Councilman Swan entertained a motion to allow Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, to purchase a New Holland Boomer 54D Series with all options for a total of \$66,012.00, with a less state bid discount of \$16,977.00 and the less trade of the Kubota L3940 of \$22,000.00 which would take the total price owed to Larry Romance & Son, Inc. of \$27,035.00, Seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

Assessor.

The Assessor was absent but submitted the following report:

In January equalization rates are calculated looking at 4 distinct property classes. Class A is residential properties, Class B is commercial, Class C is farm and vacant lands, and Class D is utility properties. Attached to report is a preliminary report for equalization rates and the ratios are as follows:

Residential 95.40%
Commercial 96.14%
Farms/Vacant 81.75%
Utility 97.17%

In addition, since State Lands make up more that 5% of Roll they are added into the equalization rate calculations and the state land ratio is 89.27%. The state then sums the assessments and estimated market values to arrive at a weighted mean for the Town. Although the State is showing a ratio of 93.53% the state allows us to add up to 5% to the rate. Therefore we will have an equalization rate of 98% for 2016. My initial thoughts were to trend the vacant/farm class to bring that class in line with the others, which is legal to do. However, speaking with Town Supervisor, John Crossley, after looking at the pros and cons we decided that the best option would be to just wait and do all the properties at the next revaluation, which is tentatively scheduled for the 2018 roll year.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND AGENCIES:

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Resolution No. 20 - 2016. Shared Services Agreement to Address Derelict Structures. A motion was made by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

Resolution No. 21 -2016. 2016 Budget Transfer. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bartholomew, seconded by Councilman Anderson. Approved

Minute approval for the February Board Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS.

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS.

Part Time Mower.

After discussion the Town Board will have the mowing position advertised until April 1 2016 and interviews will be held the week before the Town Board meeting to have it approved for then.

Easter egg Hunt.

Recia Myers, Gerry Town Clerk, commented that Heritage Village would like to have the Easter Egg Hunt there this year on March 26th at 11 am under the direction of Carrie Johnstone. Recia Myers, Town Clerk, asked if the Town Board would like to have someone from the town that day available and if they are going to donate the \$100.00 that is reserved for the annual egg hunt to Heritage Village and if she should help advertise as well. The Town Board agreed to all and are very happy to see community involvement. Mrs. Myers will contact Ms. Johnstone to go over details to help with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Town.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Highway Fund Vouchers #20 - 39 totaling \$5,078.19 was approved on a motion by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

General Fund Vouchers#65 - 88 totaling \$3,751.64 was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Bartholomew, seconded by Councilman Anderson. Approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, April 14, 2016 at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM on a motion by Councilman Anderson; seconded by Councilman Swan.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers,
Town Clerk