

BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The Gerry Town Board met at 6:30 PM, September 8, 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
 Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
 Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer
 Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor

Absent were: Linda Bartholomew, Councilwoman
 Todd Anderson, Councilman

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Crossley commented that the grant for the consolidation put together by Chris Grant was submitted and approved to go on to the next phase. Supervisor Crossley attended a meeting in Dunkirk and they discussed this and there is money available to hire a consultant to sit down and go over every town/village budget in detail and then all the boards need to sit down together to go over the project and then open up to the public for discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter was received from Chautauqua Works thanking the town for having them work with them for this year's Summer Recreation.
2. A notification letter was received regarding a bankruptcy filed by the Atlas Corporation.
3. Received three letters regarding the Town Park from residents who rented out pavilions regarding the bees there and the men's door not locking. Supervisor Crossley discussed the complaints with Park Chairman, Richard Heath. The door lock is forwarded on to Brian

Anderson, Highway Superintendent, and the bees are being taken care of for next year. An apology letter will be drafted to Mrs. Barmore.

4. A letter from the Dept. of Transportation was received regarding eligible funding for transportation related projects and they discussed the sidewalks that need to be done and expanded and will forward on to Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, to check into.
5. A letter from ISO explaining the classification of the new water system in Sinclairville and Supervisor Crossley noted that more hydrants were added and helped the Village's insurance.
6. A flyer was received with an invitation to the Sinclairville History Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th.

OFFICERS REPORT:

ZONING OFFICER:

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, reported that the Zoning Board had two meetings on variances last month and the first meeting was with the Broadway Group which was denied due to a setback problem. Dave Crossley noted that he advised the group before they turned in their permit to rework the setback and they ended up turning in the same original site plan he told them to rework and they just wanted a yes or no answer. They had angry people but the Board could not legally approve due to the setback. The company has the opportunity to rework and come back, in all he felt the Zoning Board did their job correctly for both variance requests.

The second request was with Heritage Village regarding the equestrian stable they approved the request although they put stipulations of not having blacktop around horses and a reduction in parking places was requested and they will decide later if they need more. Many residents and residents of Heritage Village had concerns of the water table and the manure and this meeting was strictly just for the site plan which the Planning Board will meet at end of month to go over those concerns. Heritage Village residents were mad as they felt it was secretive but Dave noted that Heritage Village had 8 meetings there and only a few residents attended these. Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, also suggested

looking at the bridge on Damon Hill as it may need looked at before it becomes a busy area. Councilman Heath will check on that with the county.

September 2016

5 permits issued

10 pending permits

DOG CONTROL OFFICER:

No Report was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, was absent but submitted a report noting that the tractor is being put together next week and the blacktopping is finished.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, presented papers explaining the recent drop in the equalization rate as vacant land is under assessed. The state is doing revals now to see what is trending and he feels it will drop next year due to this. He has a tentative schedule for a reval for the town in 2018. The equalization rate was actually at 93.53 but the state gives a 5 % leeway to add so the final rate for 2016 is 98%. He could have selectively raised vacant land but did not want the headaches. All the equalization rate is the ratio to assessed value to market value. He said as long as there is equity in town everything should be fine. Councilman Swan asked if you have 100 acres with a house on it, is this considered vacant and Kevin Okerlund, Assessor, explained that it is not considered vacant it would be considered residential, only if it has nothing on the land it is considered to be vacant. Supervisor Crossley noted that when the rate came down it adversely affected school taxes and he said it does because of the shifting of school district vs. County/town. The board decided to see how the rate is around 2018 to see if they should reval and Kevin has no problem extending it to, depends on rates and factors. Mr. Okerlund noted that he would not hire GAR again as they were pricey and just hire a few people to help him the next time a reval is done.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS & AGENCIES:

Town Park:

No Report.

Town Picnic:

No Report.

Holiday Festival:

Recia Myers, Town Clerk, reported that they will be meeting on Sept. 29th and everything is going well. It seems there is more items scheduled to happen this year than last year and they made \$64.10 from the can drive in July.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Resolution No. 35 - 2016. Authorizing Town Clerk to Hold a Rabies Clinic. A motion was made by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

Resolution No. 36 - 2016. Appointment for Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilman Swan. Discussion. Approved.

Minute Approval for the August Board Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Maple Grove Cemetery. Supervisor Crossley has been trying to get a hold of the man that lives next door to the cemetery and is still working on everything.

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Law No. 2 of 2016 was introduced regarding a local law providing for the administration and enforcement of the New York state uniform fire prevention and building code and a public hearing will be set for October 13th at 6:45 PM.

Supervisor Crossley received a few phone calls from residents regarding the four corners and they requested to have a 3 light intersection like the Village of Cassadaga, but after thinking on it Supervisor Crossley noted that that would not

work out as the timing and the numerous turning at the intersection so he felt he should not approach the request at this time.

A Budget Work Session was set for September 20, 2016, beginning at 5:00 pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Highway Fund Vouchers #128 - 144 totaling \$110,690.67 was approved on a motion by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

General Fund Voucher's #254 - 293 totaling \$4,719.65 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, October 13, 2016 at the town hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM on a motion by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers,
Town Clerk