

Board Meeting
August 10, 2017

The Gerry Town Board met at 6:30 PM, August 10, 2017, at the Gerry Town Hall for the regular monthly board meeting.

Present were: John R. Crossley, Supervisor
Richard C. Heath, Councilman
Gary J. Swan, Councilman
Randy J. Zahm, Councilman
Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
Brian T. Anderson, Highway Superintendent
William Duncanson, Jr., Town Attorney

Absent was: Linda Bartholomew, Councilwoman

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Received a notification from the Department of State Finance letting us know the Town equalization rate will be at 96.5% for 2018 and Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor is good with this number.
- 2) Received a letter from Mr. Caflisch from the County Tax Dept. notifying the town that they would like to raise the senior low income exemption for the County taxes and that it should not affect the levy or tax cap. Supervisor Crossley spoke with Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, regarding this and he said the town is actually low for this exemption and he would recommend it to raise especially if the county is raising their exemption. The county is looking at the income guidelines to be a\$22,000.00 which it was at \$20,000.00 and currently the town is at \$12,500.00 and he suggested it should raise to \$15,000.00 or \$16,000.00. Supervisor Crossley is going to meet with the accountants and if no board members have an objection he would like to look into raising this exemption for the town and will let the County know the Town is on board with them as well. The Town Board agreed.

OFFICERS REPORT:

ZONING OFFICER:

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, had to go to an emergency meeting but he left the following report.

August 2017

4 Permits issued this month

17 Pending permits

DOG CONTROL OFFICER:

No Report was given.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, reported everything has been going well and they will be chipping the streets in the area for the next two days. Mr. Anderson commented that the window in the tractor blew out again and they have been using two tractors and he is concerned as it's the second time this happened and they have put in about \$900.00 in repairs already. He asked the Town Board if he should look into trading the tractor or do something. Supervisor Crossley noted that yes definitely that they can't keep fixing it so Mr. Anderson will look into this and bring back quotes for next month's meeting.

Councilman Swan commented that the Town Highway Garage is looking rough and suggested repainting it and Supervisor Crossley said there definitely should be enough money for repairs for this year and Councilman Heath suggested having the Part Time Mower do the job if he would like. Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, will ask Mr. Carlson, Part Time Mower if he would be willing to do the job and let the Town Board know.

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, asked Town Clerk, Recia Myers, if she asked about the lowering of the speed limit on Route 60 from Old Chautauqua Road to the top of the High School and she spoke with Councilman Heath regarding her request and she will have a resolution ready for the next meeting.

ASSESSORS REPORT:

Kevin Okerlund, Assessor, submitted the following report.

The State of NY has issued the final equalization rates and the Town's is 96.5%. I have updated the computer system with new "marker codes" from the State of NY. This update will show those property owners who have signed up with the State for the STAR Credit Check program that they are on the program. A sentence will be posted on their school tax bill stating: "A STAR reimbursement check of \$_____ will be mailed to you upon issuance by the NYS Tax Department." The assessment roll will be filed Friday with the County for school tax bills which will be mailed out the first part of September.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS & AGENCIES:

Town Park:

Councilman Heath discussed the septic line at the park with Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, how it needs fixed but right now they are working on it and they think it was crushed in an area and they will replace it soon. Councilman Heath thanked the Town Highway on getting the woodchips for the playground and working on the septic too. Supervisor Crossley commented that it looks good as well.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Resolution No. 34 - 2017. Appointment to Assessment Review Board. A motion was made by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

Resolution No. 35 – 2017. Authorizing Town Clerk to Hold a Rabies Clinic. A motion was made by Councilman Zahm, seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

Resolution No. 36 -2017. 2017 Budget Transfer. A motion was made Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilman Zahm. Approved.

Minute approval for the August Board Meeting and Supervisor's Monthly Report. A motion was made by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Crossley and Brian Anderson met with the Town of Ellicott Highway Superintendent and Supervisor and the landowner Todd Beckerink regarding Knight Road. The State said that lower Cobb road has never been considered a road and Ellicott wants nothing to do with the road and the landowner Mr. Beckerink wants nobody on it and that area is not in the Town of Gerry, the top of road is. The suggestion was for the Town of Gerry to just dead end the road and block it off at top and the landowner was going to gate it at the lower part. Seven citizens attending the meeting and they were not happy as they felt the fire trucks could not get to them and if they were to get flooded they would have nowhere to go. Ellicott said they will continue plowing that area as they have always and they feel our town shouldn't have to go all the way there if they are already there.

Councilman Heath said should they look into having it a private road and give to landowners, after discussions, William Duncanson Jr., Town Attorney, commented the decision is ultimately up to the Highway Superintendent if he wants to just block it off and have it a dead end or look into having it a private road. They are going to give it a month to get the addresses of the landowners and discuss with everyone and report back next month to make a decision.

NEW BUSINESS: A Budget Session was set for September 21st at 5:00 PM.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilman Swan to enter into executive session regarding the particular employment of a specific person at 7:34 PM with the request of having the Town Attorney included in session, seconded by Councilman Heath. Councilman Swan made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:40 PM, seconded by Councilman Heath. Approved. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Highway Fund Vouchers # 112 –127 totaling \$10,561.65 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilman Zahm. Approved.

General Fund Vouchers # 235 – 261 totaling \$3,121.76 was approved on a motion by Councilman Zahm seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, September 14, 2017 at the town hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM on a motion by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heath.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers
Town Clerk

