

BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

The Gerry Town Board met at 6:30 PM, September 14, 2017, 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
- Randy J. Zahm, Councilman
- Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
- Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent
- Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor
- William Duncanson Jr., Town Attorney
- Brooke Johnson, Recreation Leader

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Brooke Johnson, Recreation Leader, gave a letter to all the board members outlining the Recreation activity for the 2017 season. Ms. Johnson asked the Town Board if it was ok to use money leftover as she did not use it all for Recreation to buy new Halloween decorations as the fire hall has donated but all the decorations are very outdated and need repaired. The Town Board was fine with that and she asked about the judging for the Halloween party and Councilman Heath noted to do whatever works for her.

Brooke Johnson, Recreation Leader, noted that they did a lot of crafts and had 3 swimming trips this season and averaged about 20 kids a day. Councilwoman Bartholomew asked what the median age was of kids this year and Brooke said probably 5 or 6 years old, she had a lot of younger kids this year. Ms. Johnson said she had no issues this year the workers were good only a few cases where kids were picked up late and some parents stayed at park during the Recreation hours in which case the Park Committee decided to discuss that for next year. Brooke Johnson, Recreation Leader, also wanted to look into possibly

doing a bigger trip next year to the Buffalo Zoo but was concerned about the hours and money. Town Attorney, William Duncanson, commented that the Town of Charlotte has one big trip to Splash Lagoon where the parents pitch in and he suggested getting ahold of them to possibly combine a trip and she said she would contact them. Councilman Zahm suggested on maybe having a trip to the local farms in area as well. Ms. Johnson noted that the kids also made thank you cards to the Anderson family for donating corn and for the Town Yard Sale they made signs and they really enjoyed it, Recia Myers, Town Clerk, thanked her for helping her have them advertise.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **OFFICERS REPORT:**

#### **ZONING OFFICER:**

Dave Crossley, Zoning Officer, was absent and no report was submitted.

#### **DOG CONTROL OFFICER:**

No Report was received.

#### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:**

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, reported that things are winding down for the summer and they started to spend the CHIP money and will be finishing up stoning the roads within the week. They took most of the flags down except for a few and Supervisor Crossley thanked him.

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, said that Kevin, Part Time Mower would work on painting the Town Highway Garage and asked Councilman Swan if he could set up a color and he said he will take a look at it and they will start working on it.

Councilwoman Bartholomew asked Brian about several areas that have dead tree limbs on the sidewalks in town and Brian noted that they will be trimming them and cleaning them up before the winter. Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, asked Councilman Heath about the detour signs in Ross Mills and the brick areas and Councilman Heath commented he asked them to fix it and he will call them again to make sure they fix it and Brian will place sand there temporarily.

### **ASSESSOR'S REPORT:**

Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, presented papers showing the breakdown of how to understand the equalization rates. The equalization rate is the ratio of market value to assessed value. The paper showed the breakdown of Residential which dropped about 2% to 98% this year and commercial and utilities were not looked at and kept the same. Farms and Vacant lands were at a 71% value which the state appraised and state lands are made up of 5% of the tax roll. The actual rate was at 92.27 but the state gives the town an extra 5% to work with which makes it 97.27. Mr. Okerlund says he is happy with the rate and would only worry about it if it dropped under 90%.

A few questions regarding the budget were answered and Councilman Swan asked who assessed the State lands and Mr. Okerlund commented the state. Councilman Zahm asked Mr. Okerlund what the process of a re-val was. Mr. Okerlund said it is important to have equity and fairness in the town and he said when areas are going up and down on market values is when they need to evaluate and have one. Flyers are sent out to the public first informing them and appraisers come out and assess all homes within the town, informational meetings are set up and then Grievance day and the final roll is processed in July. 2012 was the last re-val in which 16 cases were grieved and everything ran smoothly.

Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, noted that he sent paperwork to Recia Myers, Town Clerk, regarding the STAR credit checks as the state is the ones sending them out and processing all the new applications and they are supposed to be mailed out around the 28<sup>th</sup> of September and all residents have to call the state personally with questions regarding the checks. Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, asked Mr. Okerlund a few questions regarding assessments in which case Mr. Okerlund answered.

### **COMMITTEES, BOARDS & AGENCIES:**

**Town Park:** Supervisor Crossley noted that they are over budget on the Part Time Mower but they will discuss it at the Budget Session and Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, commented Kevin wondered when would be his last day and the Town Clerk noted that the pavilion is rented out twice in September. They will most likely be done with park activity in October.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:**

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:**

Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, noted that they barricaded the lower Cobb road and currently do not have signs but will be getting them, he asked Supervisor Crossley if he has received any complaints and he replied that he has not. Councilman Heath asked if the town was better off turning road over to landowners and after a discussion as William Duncanson, Town Attorney, commented that he just went through the process in Ellington and noted it's a lot of work and time and noted that the town felt way back that it should be an active road for a reason and he suggested not having it as a private road as its not costing the town ample money right now. Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, noted that they do minimal maintenance and will continue that. Supervisor Crossley will get all of the names of the owners and the Board agreed to leave it alone right now and will discuss later.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Recia Myers, Town Clerk, commented that she has been in touch with Southern Tier West and they are offering a grant for the digitizing of the cemetery records for the town and she has been in contact with the associations and they are all interested but they will need a signed letter from the Supervisor allowing them to go forward and then they will set up a meeting with all the associations and the representative from Southern Tier West to go over what all is needed. The Town Board agreed to move forward and have a letter drawn up and Mrs. Myers said she would notify the board when they will be having the meeting if they are interested.

Supervisor Crossley noted that they have sold 12 plots from the Maple Grove Cemetery and a bench is going to be placed by the Lundgren family as they both passed away and were buried there and they are looking into placing the bench closer to the road area.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

Highway Fund Vouchers #128 - 149 totaling \$128,900.70 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew.  
Approved.

General Fund Voucher's #262 - 298 totaling \$6,419.25 was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Bartholomew, seconded by Councilman Zahm.  
Approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, October 12, 2017 and a Budget Session on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm at the town hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM on a motion by Councilman Zahm, seconded by Councilman Swan.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers,  
Town Clerk