

# TOWN OF FLOYD BOARD MEETING

## Minutes – March 5, 2024

At 7:30 PM Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. called the meeting to order, stated that all Town Board Meetings are Voice Recorded and led the pledge of allegiance.

Town Officials present: Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr., Councilmen Alston J. Huey Jr., Fred Mazza, Daniel Schwertfeger, Robert Evans, Town Clerk Tracy Sexton, Highway Superintendent Jerome Alexander, Water Superintendant Michelle Kotary, Town Attorney Kathryn Festine, Zoning and Building Codes Officer Kenneth Pfendler, ZBA Chairman Tim Begian, and ZBA Member Don Kinsey. NOCOG Representative Joe Rowlands were present as well.

### Approval of Minutes:

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion to approve the February 6, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes as presented by the Town Clerk, seconded by Councilman Robert Evans, carried.**

### Approval of Warrants:

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion to pay the General Warrants from Claim #24A064 to Claim #24A115, totaling \$15,122.43 seconded by Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger carried.**

**Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. made a motion to pay the Refuse & Garbage Warrants from Claim #24SR023 to Claim #24SR034 totaling \$5,083.45 seconded by Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr., carried.**

**Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. made a motion to pay the Water Improvement Warrants from Claim #24SW029 to Claim #24SW049, totaling \$88,956.43 seconded by Councilman Robert Evans, carried.**

**Councilman Robert Evans made a motion to pay the Highway Warrants from Claim #24DA044 to Claim #24DA071, totaling \$78,354.79, seconded by Councilman Fred Mazza, carried.**

**Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. made a motion to pay the Trust and Agency from Claim #24TA017 to Claim #24TA032, totaling \$2,923.33, seconded by Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger, carried.**

NOCOG Municipal Representative Joe Rowlands briefly discussed announcements. See attached announcements.

Zoning, Building and Fire Codes Enforcement Officer Kenneth Pfendler gave a Zoning, Building and Fire Code Report of activities. See attached report. Supervisor Streiff complimented Ken on some situations he has handled and said he appreciates all of his hard work.

Water Superintendent Michelle Kotary was absent but gave a report. The water meter replacement project is almost done.

ZBA Chairman Tim Begian said there is nothing to bring forward this month.

#### Comments from the Public

Martin Nasci from Colonial Life discussed how his company can save our town and its employee's money. It is a voluntary, supplemental insurance program that employees can enroll in that will save money on taxes.

There was a discussion between the town board, the town attorney, and a town employee's spouse regarding an issue with New York State retirement.

A town resident asked if anything else had been done to resolve an issue with her neighbor. Zoning and Codes enforcement officer Ken Pfendler said they will be taking the issue to court.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

##### Budget Amendments:

###### General Fund:

- (a) Decrease Contingency A1990.4 by \$2,000.00
- (b) Increase Town Clerk C.E. A14104.1 by \$2,000.00

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion to approve the above general fund amendments, seconded by Councilman Robert Evans, carried.**

#### Mower Trailer:

Highway Superintendent Jerome Alexander Jr. is recommending the town purchase a 6' by 10'' tow- behind trailer to haul our mowers on when we have to mow various cemeteries, road cul-de-sac's etc.

Presently all the town has is the heavy duty trailer, which is in use quite often hauling things for the highway department and is also quite difficult for one person to hitch up and maneuver.

If the board approves this purchase Supervisor Streiff recommends an increase in the Cemetery C.E. account to pay for this item.

Jerome has obtained 3 quotes:

- a) Taylor's Trailers in Rome, NY for \$3,200
- b) Northland Trailer Sales Marcy, NY \$3,600
- c) T.M.S. Trailer Sales, Rte 233 Clinton \$2,595 (State Contract Price)

**Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger made a motion to purchase a 6 foot by 10 inches tow-behind trailer and to increase the Cemetery C.E. account to pay for this trailer, seconded by Councilman Fred Mazza, carried.**

**Spousal Insurance:**

Under recently enacted NYS Law, Spousal Liability Insurance, on all the town vehicles is now mandatory, unless we elect to opt out.

The additional cost for this coverage is \$329.00.

Supervisor Streiff discussed this with Highway Superintendent Jerome Alexander and they both felt this coverage was unnecessary since no one except town employees should be riding in the town vehicles.

Therefore, Supervisor Streiff recommends the town opt out of this coverage.

**Supervisor Streiff made a motion to opt out of Spousal Insurance on all town vehicles, seconded by Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr., carried.**

**Insurance Renewal:**

Bill Cole, President of Gate Cole Insurance, is unable to be here tonight, but he met with Supervisor Streiff, Town Clerk Tracy Sexton and Highway Superintendent Jerome Alexander Jr., on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, to review coverages and 2024-2025 premiums for liability and property coverage.

After review the total Premium for the year, including Utica Mutual, Crime Policy, Erie & Niagara, Historical Society Policy, comes out to be \$47,885.88.

This represents about a 9% increase over what the town paid last year. Supervisor Streiff did some research and found out 20 years ago the town was paying approximately \$37,000.00 plus per year.

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion to approve and pay Gates Cole Insurance and its subsidiaries, for the total Premium (for 2024-2025) for the above insurance actions as stated and to allow for payment upon invoice with actual amounts to be audited at the next official Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger, carried.**

**Baseball Field Request:**

Once again, the town is in receipt of a request from Holland Patent Central School, Athletic Director Michael Deuel, requesting permission to use the Town Park baseball field for modified baseball team practice and home games for the 2024 Spring Sport Season. In return they are agreeing to assist us with the upkeep and maintenance of the field.

**Councilman Robert Evans made a motion authorizing the Holland Patent Central School to use the Floyd Town Park, Baseball Field as requesting and that The School provide the Town a certificate of Insurance listing the Town of Floyd as an additional Insured under its Insurance policy, seconded by Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr., carried.**

Conference Registration:

Reminder for an upcoming Local Government Conference at Turning Stone on May 1st and 2nd this year. Supervisor Streiff asked town officials to please look over the program and let the Town Clerk know no later than March 19<sup>th</sup> if they would like to go either or both of these 2 days.

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion for the Town Clerk to register and make payment for any Town official who desires to attend this conference and for the payment to be audited on the next official town board meeting, seconded by Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr., carried.**

Highway Maintenance Agreement:

Highway Superintendent Jerome Alexander Jr., asking for approval of an Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for 2024.

**Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger made a motion to Approve an Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for 2024 as Presented by Our Highway Superintendent, seconded by Robert Evans, carried.**

Property Usage:

Once again this year, the Floyd Fire Department is requesting to use the Town Property behind the Firehouse to set off Fireworks during their annual Field Days, scheduled for June 28, 29 and 30 2024.

As a condition for usage, the Fire Department has agreed to provide the town with an insurance certificate listing the town as an additional insured under their policy.

**Councilman Fred Mazza made a motion to approve the Floyd Fire Department to use Town Property behind the firehouse to set off Fireworks during their annual Field Days and to list the town as an additional insured under their policy, seconded by Robert Evans, carried.**

Slaughterhouse Permit Renewal:

Our Town Clerk Tracy Sexton has received a request for the Annual 2024 Renewal of the Slaughterhouse Permit for Copper City Packing, INC., located at 8301 Old River Road in the Town of Floyd.

**Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr. made a motion authorizing Town Clerk Tracy Sexton to renew the license for operating and maintaining a slaughterhouse in the Town of Floyd, to Copper City Packing INC., for Calendar Year 2024, seconded by Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr., carried.**

MEO Operator for Sanitation Department:

Supervisor Streiff recommends the hire Joseph Kelsey, who lives at 8272 Old Floyd Rd., as an MEO starting at a rate of \$23.00 per hour effective on or about March 19, 2024.

Joseph would be hired as probationary for a period of 90 days.

**Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr. made a motion to hire Joseph Kelsey in the Sanitation Department as an MEO starting at a rate of \$23.00 an hour effective on or about March 19, 2024 for a probationary period of 90 days, seconded by Councilman Fred Mazza, carried.**

ARPA MONEY:

**Councilman Alston J. Huey Jr. made a motion to approve \$200,000.00 from ARPA to Water SW for Meter Project, seconded by Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr., carried.**

Road Posting:

Authorization for Highway Superintendent to Post Certain Town Roads with a 6-ton weight limit as Weather and Road Conditions Dictate.

**Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. made a motion to authorize our Highway Superintendent to Post Certain Town Roads from March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> or when he sees fit. They will be closed to any vehicle with a gross weight in excess of 6 tons and for the Town Clerk to place notice of road posting in the legal notice of the Rome Sentinel, seconded by Councilman Fred Mazza, carried.**

Informational Records:

Supervisor Streiff is going to do additional research and go to some banks regarding a bond for an additional \$200,000 for the water project above. He will discuss more information about this at next month's meeting.

Supervisor Streiff discussed the problem with state retirement and tax returns for some employees. The retirement system changed and was not accepting the reports that town employees were trying to send in. The New York State retirement system is being unforgiving with this situation and the Town Attorney is going to write a letter in the next 1-2 weeks.

Supervisor Streiff also discussed hiring an outside Payroll Service. It is becoming too much work for town office employees to handle and so Supervisor Streiff is researching companies to hire for this.

Attorney Festine recommends the town set up a Highway Equipment Reserve fund to have a budget line for savings. This is money left over from the end of the year that goes into these reserve funds.

Supervisor Streiff discussed sales tax and how it is up \$30,000 from last year but the mortgage tax went down \$17,000.

Supervisor Streiff got notified that the state has come in and done its annual study and raised the towns equalization rate 1.5%. This is in line with town's surrounding us.

**ADJOURN:**

**At 9:11 PM Supervisor Willard H. Streiff Jr. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Daniel Schwertfeger, carried.**

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Town Clerk