

Regular Meeting
Town Board, Town of Glen
March 13, 2023
Held at Town of Glen Town Hall

Present: Supervisor, Tim Reilly
Councilmember, Ron Crewell
Councilmember, Rosalie Farina
Councilmember, Susan Whiteman
Councilmember, Russ Kelly
Town Attorney, William Mycek

Absent: Town Clerk, Roxanne Douglass

Bills were audited and ordered paid as follows:

GENERAL OPERATING FUND – GA	\$ 64,256.58
GENERAL OPERATING FUND – GB	\$189,928.74
WATER DISTRICT 1 OPERATING FUND	\$ 6,098.17
WATER DISTRICT 2 OPERATING FUND	\$ 12,359.75
SEWER DISTRICT 1 OPERATING FUND	\$ 4,236.28
SEWER DISTRICT 2 OPERATING FUND	\$ 5,248.42

Supervisor Reilly called the Town Board meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Salute to Flag and moment of silence were held.

At 7:05 pm, the Public Hearing for Purpose of Contracting with the Town of Glen Volunteer Fire Department was started. Supervisor Reilly read the newspaper notice for the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Public Hearing closed by motion by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Kelly – 5 voting aye – so approved.

Supervisor Reilly called for motion to approve Regular and Special meeting minutes. Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Whiteman – 5 voting aye – so approved.

Resolution for approval of Claims – moved on motion by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Whiteman – 5 voting aye – so approved.

Resolution No. 20 to Approve Contract for Fire Protection on motion by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Whiteman – 5 voting aye – so approved. Councilmember Whiteman commented that the document states payment by March 1. Supervisor Reilly stated that the date will stay as March 1 and that a public hearing won't be needed for 5 years.

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Resolution No. 23 for Requesting Speed Limit Reduction. Reilly read the Resolution. Motion by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Kelly. Comment by Councilmember Crewell that this was tried to be done in Hamlet and a hearing was needed. Supervisor Reilly commented that he received a call from a resident who lives on the road. Supervisor Reilly called the Montgomery County Sheriff to put a radar trailer on the road to record the data in a performance study. Councilmember Reilly had a discussion with Eric Mead stating that it was a lengthy process, and the first step was to pass a resolution. Supervisor Reilly said this will allow data to be collected and then we can move forward. – 5 voting aye – so approved.

Resolution No. 24 for supporting application for Fiscal Year 2024 Community project Funding Request. Motion by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Kelly. Councilmember Reilly discussed that he had a zoom meeting with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik regarding a salt facility that will be part of the request. Supervisor Reilly made out the application and applied for a \$300,000 grant for this project. This project does require some matching funds. Supervisor Reilly talked with Prime Engineering and will get a quote together. The resolution will be put as supporting documentation. Councilmember Whiteman asked if this will be a larger facility then we have now and is there any issue with our current salt facility. Supervisor Reilly responded that our salt facility is in good shape but cannot hold the entire salt needed for the winter season, this will improve our efficiency and we would keep both salt facilities. – 5 voting aye – so approved.

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Supervisor Report

- Updates to District 2 sanitary meter weir. Proposal is at the Village and DEC offices for review and comment. To date we have not heard back from either. Prime again contacted each for comment if any. Plan to go out to bid in late March to stay on schedule.
- Veterans Flag order has been submitted with the County.
- Radar Speed indicator requested for Fisher Road.
- Email County Ice and Snow agreement follow-up with the Commissioner (Meade)
- Signed / Executed the Codification agreement with General Code.
- Office of State Comptroller Audit is currently being done.
- Three Highway employees were randomly selected for Alcohol and drug testing this month.
- March 3rd Zoom meeting with relating to Rural emergencies and response, A team is developing an Eapp for communication improvement in rural areas. Councilmember Whiteman provided notes of the meeting. Councilmember Whiteman stated that this addresses the fact that Glen has poor internet. Approximately 20 phones will be provided to resident to do an evaluation. The project will run through October.
- On March 3rd, a zoom meeting for applications for community funding grant. March 8th, submitted preliminary application to Congresswomen Stefanik's office for a community funding grant for salt storage facility.

Regular Meeting

- Yearly State Burn Ban begins March 16, and runs through May 14.

Steve Helmin provided a presentation on Valuation of Solar. Helmin has talked to Town of Root and Town of Mohawk and has sent letters to the County and Assembly. Helmin said this is important to the Town of Glen because it may artificially affect revenue to the town. For solar appraisals, it has been ~\$500,000 per megawatt but the assessment model comes up with less than that, ~\$200,000 per megawatt. What could happen is the developer could come back to the Town of Glen regarding the assessment and pilot agreement. Helmin asked the Town Board to contact State Representatives and provided a template that was put together from several different towns. The budget is due April 1 and the Legislative branches are finalizing the budget and you don't want this to be part of the budget. Helmin discussed what was in the proposal. The assessment model is part of the budget and it talks about backdating which will eliminate the law suit from the towns. We will get very little benefit if this goes through and tax revenues will not be there. Given the time before April 1, as a town, we can send a letter to elective officials.

Supervisor Reilly discussed a letter from the Supervisor Town of Hempstead regarding the government budget proposal to override local zoning to achieve housing target. It's time for the local government to be heard.

Town Council Report

- Councilmember Crewell had a meeting about the 2006 Town Use Management Ordinance. It should be going out to the Planning Board and we should be hearing about it after their April Meeting. Councilmember Kelly said that there be more comments and the Planning Board should look at those.
- Councilmember Whiteman contacted Central East Connect Project for an update. They are still working in the Town of Glen, restringing the wire. The project should be complete in late 2023.

State of County Report – no report given

Building & Code Enforcement Report – Supervisor Reilly said he didn't get a report from the Code enforcement officer and that he attended a 4 day training course.

Planning Board Report – no report given. Supervisor Reilly said that the Planning Board meeting was canceled in March and that the next meeting will be in April

Superintendent of Highways Report – Bill Beddig said they are all set

Historian Report – Steve Helmin reported that the Bi-Centennial meeting was on April 25 with 8 people attending the meeting. The tentative date for the celebration is July 25 at the Glen

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Volunteer Fire Department. The group discussed many ideas, such as recognizing the oldest farm and people in the town. The next meeting is this Saturday at 11:00

Water / Sewer Report – Dennis Mihuka said everything is quiet

Assessor Report – Stella Gittle attended another course for solar assessment. Gittle stated that the pilot agreement is not in compliance with state law and suggested that the town set aside dollars in a separate fund in preparation for the future. The violation of state law is that you cannot take in more money than the assessment. Some towns have got the solar companies to agree to a separate agreement with the town. Gittle said to not sign pilot agreement as the assessment will change very year. The full market value of the farm will go down every year. The assessment that should be used for evaluation, solar companies do not like it. Gittle also discussed the senior exemption for low incomes. It's in the budget to pull the social security payments out of the calculation. The assessor association has asked to contact legislators to take this out of the budget. Supervisor Reilly discussed the pilot agreement with the Town of Glen solar project, whereas, in the pilot, the first payment is in 2023 and the Town of Glen has not received a payment yet.

Animal Control Officer's Report – Report filed

Zoning Board of Appeals Report – no activity

Town of Glen Volunteer For Department Report – no report submitted

Supervisor Reilly stated that we have an auditor here and they asked that the Town Board update by resolution at the next meeting (April) that the Town members review policies (Sexual Harassment Policy & Fund Balance Policy). Copies of the policies were provided to the Board members.

Supervisor Reilly discussed a letter from TRC which identified their proposal for Solar as one application. Reilly stated that there are two separate proposal and the Town does not endorse one solar application or any solar. Reilly will follow-up with Town council and Solar Council. Reilly said this is costing the Town money and is a constant strain on the budget.

Public Comment –

- David Russo commented that the expenses for solar should be put on the solar companies that are doing the work.
- Steve Helmin said that he had to respond to TRC about the Town history. TRC is a subcontractor to ConnectGen. Helmin stated that there is a public hearing for Broad band connectivity on March 21.

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- David Russo said he is still waiting for NYS to get back to him. The Army Corp of Engineers don't regulate under 12.5 acres.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm made by Councilmember Kelly, seconded by Councilmember Whiteman – 5 voting aye – so adjourned.