

FEBRUARY 12, 2020, TOWN BOARD

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Root, County of Montgomery and State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 1048 Carlisle Road, Sprakers, New York on the 12th day of February 2020.

PRESENT: Gary Kamp Supervisor
Donald Bramer Councilman
Dominic Cuomo Councilman
LuEmma Quackenbush Councilwoman
John VanKersen Councilman
Laurel Eriksen Town Clerk
Robert Subik Attorney

ABSENT: Donald Oeser Superintendent of Highways

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcia Shults, Deputy Clerk; Stella Gittle, Assessor; Clifton Dorrough, Code Enforcement Officer; Tom Eriksen, Justice; Richard Bingham, John Lyker and Noah Radliff, Planning Board Members; several residents

Supervisor Kamp opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag.

David Jordan from Montgomery County Office of the Aging thanked the Town for their financial support as well as giving a report on the number of residents that they were able to provide services for in 2019.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilman Bramer to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting as presented.

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen Nays 0

REPORTS

Reports were available from the Dog Control Officer, the Justice and the Supervisor. There were no reports from the Code Enforcement Officer, the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent.

The Attorney reported on the progress of complying with the NYS Division of Human Rights’ Stipulation of Settlement.

The Assessor reported on the STAR program and the faults with the State’s verification process for residents who do not have to file a NYS income tax return.

The Planning Board asked that a moratorium be placed on utility scale solar energy systems which are also known as solar farms. This will be addressed in new business.

AGENDA

Supervisor Kamp presented the agenda for the meeting. Councilwoman Quackenbush motioned seconded by Councilman VanKersen to adopt the agenda.

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen Nays 0

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the Town website Councilman Cuomo reminded residents that we are not the owners of the website and that Montgomery County owns and updates the site with the information that we provide them. At times they update quickly but there are times that they can take months to get it updated. There is no charge to the town for this website. The Code Officer will be contacting the County about the asbestos testing and destruction and removal of the old highway garage.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2020 Ayers Memorial Shelter contract was received.

RESOLUTION 3 of 2020

BOARD MEMBER Quackenbush presents the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLVED that the Town Board has agreed to accept the 2020 contract with the Ayers Memorial Animal Shelter in the amount of \$4,500.00 and that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign said contact.

SECONDED by Board Member Cuomo. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen Nays 0

A letter was received from the Canajoharie Little League seeking sponsorship from the Town for the 2020 season. Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilman Cuomo to give the Canajoharie Little League \$200.00, the same amount that was given in 2019 and to pay this from the youth budget line, A7310.4.

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen Nays 0

Putting a moratorium on utility scale solar energy projects was discussed.

RESOLUTION No. 4 of 2020

BOARD MEMBER Quackenbush presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLVED that for a period of six (6) months commencing upon passage of this Resolution by the Town Board a Moratorium is hereby enacted on the construction or installation of any new UTILITY SCALE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS which are also known as SOLAR FARMS within the Town, and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Code Enforcement Officer is hereby prohibited from approving or issuing any building permits for any SOLAR FARMS while this Moratorium is in effect. Nothing in this Resolution shall prohibit a homeowner from installing solar panels for the generation of electrical power for his/her own domestic consumption and usage.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER Bramer. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen Nays 0

The Code Enforcement Officer frequently receives request from title search companies seeking information on any violations, fines, open permits, visual inspections and any other issues associated with specific properties. There is not an established fee for this service but these companies will send a check to cover expenses usually in the amount of \$20.00.

Resolution 5 of 2020

BOARD MEMBER VanKersen presents the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS title search companies send research requests for property inspections to be completed by the Code Enforcement Officer, and

WHEREAS a fee for these property search requests has not been established

RESOLVED that a charge of \$100.00 be paid for each title search request received by the Code Enforcement Officer.

SECONDED by Board Member Cuomo.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Cuomo, Quackenbush, VanKersen

Nays 0

ABSTRACTS

Abstract #2 of the general fund for vouchers numbered 17-53 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$63,464.74.

Abstract #2 of the highway fund for vouchers numbered 8-22 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$53,563.61.

Councilwoman Quackenbush motioned seconded by Councilman VanKersen to accept the audit of abstract #2 of the general fund in the amount of \$63,464.74 and abstract #2 of the highway fund in the amount of \$53,563.61. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN

Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilwoman Quackenbush to adjourn at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurel Sherrie Eriksen, Town Clerk