

The regular meeting of the Prattsburgh Town Board was called to order on January 17th, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. at the Prattsburgh Town Hall Prattsburgh, NY. Supervisor Wordingham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Albert Wordingham	Supervisor
Angela Einwachter	Councilwoman
Elizabeth Peck	Councilwoman
Janette Payne	Councilwoman
Pete Scheid	Councilman
Edward Brockman	Legal Counsel
Kim Sobolewski	Town Clerk

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Einwachter, seconded by Councilwoman Peck, the January 3rd, 2022 Minutes were accepted as presented.

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion made by Councilman Scheid, seconded by Councilwoman Einwachter, the January 2022 financial report was accepted as presented by Supervisor Wordingham.

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

AUDIT OF BILLS

On a motion made by Councilwoman Einwachter, seconded by Councilwoman Peck, the board approved payment of the following bills on ABSTRACT #1 to be paid as presented. The total amount to be paid on ABSTRACT #1 is \$231,520.71. (Voucher#1-44)

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

APPROPRIATIONS

On a motion made by Councilwoman Einwachter and seconded by Councilman Scheid with all board members in agreement the January 2022 appropriations were accepted as presented.

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

HIGHWAY

Highway Supervisor Perry gave his January 2022 monthly report.

CODE/WATER

Permits- 4
Appearance Tickets-1
Renewals-0
Building Inspections-1
Septic Inspections-0
UFPO-10
C of O/C-1
Compliance Inspections-1
Code Complaint-1
Compliance Orders-0
Remarks-1/4/22 Chimney Fire Inspection

12/21/21- Met with contractor for roof at the Reservoir building
12/22/21- Turned off water at 10707 County Route 74 (Rathbun)
12/23/21- Installed new meter base at 10766 Fairgrounds Rd (Hill)
12/23/21- No power alarm at the pump house 5:30 am
12/28/21- Put riser on valve box at the Reservoir
12/28/21- Filled out and sent highway work permit for DOT
12/29/21- Noticed water usage was up about 40,000 gallons per day
12/29/21- Read meters trying to find leak
12/29/21 to present- Looking for our leak by listening to hydrants, valve boxes and other means
1/6/22- Met with EJP salesman and EJP service contractor to look at their service truck and also to look for leak
1/7/22- Found and repaired leak on 8" main at 62 N. Main St. Not our leak we've been looking for
1/10/22- Found burst pipes at 30 Chapel St. Turned off at curb box
1/10/22 – 1/13/22- Started shutting off mains to locate leak. 9:30pm to 12:30 am
1/11/22- Took monthly water sample from town hall to the lab
1/14/22- Dug up service at the bottom of Cook School Rd and replaced curb box

SUPERVISOR

General

We had a very productive organizational meeting and first full board meeting. A list of town projects in need of completion has been created. The board will be addressing these projects starting this month along with new business.

The vouchers will be made available for the Board members to review on the Friday before the meeting from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M., Monday (day of the meeting) all day, and at 6:00 P.M. before the meeting.

After numerous phone calls and emails we received confirmation that the county had the necessary environmental work done on the Cohocton- Prattsburgh landfill that is due to the D.E.C. by the end of January 2022.

Tim Hoose and I discussed the equipment and repairs that he needs to do his job. Tim is going to put together a list of equipment and associated costs to present to the board.

Planning/Development

I sent a request to Matt Sousa (County Planner) to address the Town Board regarding the importance of a Town Planning Board. He will be attending our February 17th meeting to address the Board about establishing a Planning Board.

I was contacted by Jamie Johnson that the Air-Flow property at 52 North Main is under contract to be sold to a landscaping company.

Highway

I had a meeting with John Perry regarding the Steuben Foods project. T&R contractors are currently removing soil that is contaminated. There is a drainage problem on the old Howe Street that is currently owned by Steuben Foods. John Perry is going to contact T&R to discuss the issue. John and I also discussed the purchase of the new pick up to replace the one that is currently in need of repair. John is going to update the quotes.

John Perry and I discussed purchasing a computer for him. This purchase would allow John to document his monthly, email it to Kim to be included in the minutes. John would also be able to source services and parts more efficiently.

Jack Wheeler confirmed that shared services will remain the same as last year.

Water

An inexpensive battery pack was located for the Water Dept. Meter Reader. This should resolve most of the issues in collecting data.

J.C. Smith and I had a meeting to discuss the long term plan concerning the infrastructure of the Water Department. We called Jason Bellis from the Larson Group to put together the cost of an engineering study for the Town Board to discuss at our February meeting.

Sewer

Councilman Pete Scheid and I had a meeting with Jamie Johnson, J.C. Smith (SCIDA), and Jason Bellis from Larson Design Group. We discussed the current status of the sewer project and the strategy going forward with respect to reports and funding.

American Rescue Plan Act

The town received a grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We have been given an extension on the utilization of those funds so I've begun pursuing opportunities for the best use of that money. I had a discussion with Jason Bellis at Larson Design Group and once we send Larson our information regarding ARPA they will be able to assign someone to help us through the process.

I had a discussion with Jamie Johnson regarding ARPA money and possible consultants. I had a meeting with Nichola Ostrander from Ostrander's Consulting regarding the funds available to the town through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). Nichola emailed a summary of our meeting on 1/19/22 that was shared with the Town Board.

Jeanette Underhill and I had a great conversation with Sarah Brancatella (attorney for Associations of Towns) to discuss ARPA. She answered all our questions regarding the use of the ARPA money. We believe at this time there will be no need to hire a consultant so that we can utilize the full amount of funds available.

If you have any questions or concerns, or just want more information on how your town government is working for you, please feel free to contact me at 607-522-3744 or email alwordingham@gmail.com.

EMINENT DOMAIN

On a motion made by Councilman Scheid, seconded by Councilwoman Einwachter, the following was approved:

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

Town of Prattsburgh
Resolution No. 1 -2022

Continuation of Policy By the Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh Not To Use Eminent Domain For Any Purpose Related to Private Enterprises

Motion by Councilperson Scheid, seconded by Councilperson Einwachter to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh adopted a policy not to utilize the power of eminent domain with respect to any pseudo public purpose promulgated by any private enterprise in the Town of Prattsburgh or its environs; and; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh is a municipal corporation of the State of New York, with the authority to use the power of eminent domain for public purpose; and

WHEREAS, certain projects proposed by private enterprise within the Town of Prattsburgh or its environs could possibly request that the Town Board utilize the power of eminent domain for a pseudo public purpose related to their proposed project, including wind energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh wishes to continue its policy opposing such use of eminent domain by continuing a policy applicable thereto.

Now Therefore, Be It RESOLVED THAT,

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh determines that it will not utilize the power of eminent domain for any purpose related to any private enterprise project, particularly any wind energy proposal, in the Town of Prattsburgh or surrounding areas, nor will the Town Board consider any requests that the Town Board consider using the power of eminent domain for any such pseudo public purpose.

HIGHWAY PICKUP

On a motion made by Councilman Scheid, seconded by Councilwoman Peck, the following was approved:

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

Town of Prattsburgh
Resolution No. 2 -2022

Expenditure From the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund For Purchase of a Ford F-350 Pickup Truck

Motion by Councilperson Scheid, seconded by

Councilperson Peck to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Prattsburgh previously established a "Type" Highway Reserve Fund pursuant to GML §6-c for "Highway Equipment" which presently has a balance of approximately \$60,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Prattsburgh is desirous of purchasing a Ford F-350 pickup truck, the cost of which will not exceed \$40,000.00; and

WHEREAS, under the Local Finance Law (LFL) §11.00.28 the "period of probable usefulness" (PPU) for said item appears to be five (05) years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

1. The Town Board finds that pursuant to LFL 11.00.28 the PPU for such equipment is five (05) years, the cost thereof expecting not to exceed \$40,000.00.
2. The Town Supervisor is authorized to expend monies from the "Highway Equipment" reserve fund DA 230 for the acquisition of a Ford F-350 Pickup truck for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, provided that the Town procurement policy is adhered to and such expenditure is subject to audit and payment authorization by the Town Board.
3. This resolution is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Article 7 of the Town Law.

Date of Adoption: January 17, 2022

PROPERTY TAX RENEWAL

On a motion made by Councilman Scheid, seconded by Councilwoman Payne, the following was approved:

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye
Town of Prattsburgh

Resolution No. 3 -2022

Whereas, on December 26, 2021, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 11.1, and

Whereas, this Executive Order allows for the automatic renewal of the real property tax exemptions afforded in subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of Section 459-C of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law if the assessing unit adopts a resolution directing the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, and

Whereas, this would allow the Low-Income Senior/Disabled property owner to not have to file an exemption application with the Town of Prattsburgh Assessor in order to continue their exemption on the 2022 Assessment Roll, and

Whereas, this law also allows the governing body of the assessing unit to put a local option for when the assessor might require a require a renewal application, now therefore let it be

Resolved, that the Tow of Prattsburgh Town Board, by majority vote of the members of the Town Board, allows the Town of Prattsburgh Assessor to automatically grant exemptions for RPTL 459-c and RPTL 467 as were received on the 2021 Assessment Roll onto the 2022 Assessment Roll, and be it further

Resolved, that the Assessor can review the 2022 income for property owners whose income may have dropped in 2020 to ensure that the largest exemption is granted to the property owner if the income is provided by the federal deadline to submit income taxes with an extension, and be it further

Resolved, that the Assessor can require a renewal application to be filed by taxable status date, in instances where the Assessor has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 Assessment Roll may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

On a motion made by Councilwoman Einwachter, seconded by Councilwoman Peck, the board authorized Supervisor Wordingham to interview and hire a consultant to assist with the American Rescue plan implementations.

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Scheid, seconded by Councilwoman Peck and duly carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Councilwoman Einwachter- Aye
Councilwoman Peck-Aye
Councilwoman Payne-Aye
Councilman Scheid-Aye
Supervisor Wordingham-Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sobolewski Town Clerk