

DATE OF MEETING: October 5, 2015

PLACE OF MEETING: Village Hall, Pawling, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Robert Liffland
Trustee Stan Mersand
Trustee John Burweger
Trustee Dan Peters
Trustee Earl Slocum

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for the victims of the shooting in Oregon.

MOTION by Trustee Peters to open the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2015 adding a new chapter 65 of the Village Code Entitled "Property Maintenance" at 7:01 P.M.
SECONDED by Trustee Mersand. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Trustee Burweger went over the proposed Local Law (see attached). Trustee Mersand said it was a very comprehensive law that was proactive on the part of the village. Trustee Peters stated it was a good idea and would prevent the deterioration of properties. Trustee Slocum said he was in favor of the law and it had been needed for a long time. Mayor Liffland agreed with Trustee Slocum. He asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Joe Downey, a property owner from the Village of Pawling, said it was important to him people keep their properties looking nice so it would keep property values from going down. He said people should be given proper notice and the problem should be fixed within a reasonable time and if the problem was not fixed there should be fines imposed.

Mr. Gerry Christensen, a resident of 59 West Main Street, complimented the Board on a good job regarding the law. He said he lodged a complaint about the property across the street from him a month ago and had not received any follow up on it. He said the Board had to enforce the law or it would be an exercise in futility.

Mr. Downey said that people should keep their front yards nice. He asked how the Board penalizes people who do not comply once a notice is issued. Trustee Burweger said the cost would go on their taxes.

Mr. Lou Musella, a resident of Gristmill Lane, commended the Board on their efforts. Mr. Musella said he agreed with Mr. Christensen that the biggest problem with the law would be enforcement.

Ms. Betsy Montgomery, a resident of 13 Quaker Hill Drive, said the law would take more than a part time employee to enforce. She said it looked to be very time consuming and asked if it would add more village costs for salary. Trustee Mersand said he was hoping there would be an initial surge that would correct a lot of things which would put everybody on notice to clean up their properties. He said the surge would dissipate and the law would become self policing. Ms. Montgomery asked what the penalties were. Mr. Brian Morgan, a village attorney, responded the penalties were the same penalties as all the other ordinances but any costs would be relieved on the property owner's taxes. Ms. Montgomery asked what would happen if

a bank owned the property. Trustee Peters said the village would work with the bank to have the problem rectified.

Mr. Downey said the Highway Department should be involved as well – if they see an infraction they should leave a notice on that property.

Mr. Dan Panzer, a resident of Elm Street, asked who was responsible for the sidewalks.

Mr. Christensen suggested having a Trustee meet with the Building Inspector to make a list of all complaints received in regards to the proposed law and make a list so that each item could be addressed.

Mr. Drew Montgomery, a resident of 13 Quaker Hill Road, said it seemed most of the problems came from bank owned or abandoned properties. He said the law seemed very invasive as to what an owner has to do on his/her own property.

Mayor Liffland said he wanted to keep the Public Hearing open to allow for more comments.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to keep the Public Hearing open until the next meeting. **SECONDED** by Trustee Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to return to regular session at 7:49 P.M. **SECONDED** by Trustee Peters. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to approve the Village Green and Public Assembly Events Permit Application received from Rabbi Zalman Sandhaus for placement of a menorah on the Village Green. **SECONDED** by Trustee Peters. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to approve the Mayor signing the sewer easement with Trinity Pawling. **SECONDED** by Trustee Peters. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Peters to approve a contract with Advance Testing to provide soil testing on the “Lower” and “Upper” Reservoir Dam boring samples without Hydrometer Analysis at a cost of \$165.00 per sample (total of 45 samples X \$165.00 = \$7,425.00). **SECONDED** by Trustee Slocum. Trustee Mersand asked if the Board did not approve the samples would the Board be able to proceed with the project. Trustee Peters replied it was necessary to proceed. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Peters to approve the proposal from Municipal Solutions regarding grant assistance dated September 24, 2015. **SECONDED** by Trustee Slocum. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

There was discussion on the pawlingtaxcut.org organization. Mr. Sollazzo said the local governments should be consolidated; there should be a reassessment and new Zoning and Planning plans. Mr. Downey said the village needs to invest in the business district.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to approve the minutes from September 21, 2015. **SECONDED** by Trustee Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mersand to pay the September bills in the amount of \$133,447.49.
SECONDED by Trustee Peters. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Slocum to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 and go into Public Comment.
SECONDED by Trustee Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Burweger to open regular session and go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel at 8:46 P.M. **SECONDED** by Trustee Peters. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION by Trustee Burweger to close Executive Session, return to regular session and close the meeting at 9:32 P.M. **SECONDED** by Trustee Mersand. There was no discussion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Village Clerk