

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 6:00 PM January 11, 2023 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilwomen Snow and Pitt, councilmen DeRosa and McCarthy, Nancy Tagliafierro, town attorney and approximately 10 interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Colon, resident from 53 Akindale Road, said regarding the resolution for the new building inspector, he asked if Mr. Basile would be operating alone and are there any provisions for him to make more than what is stated in the resolution.

Supervisor Schmitt said there is already a number budgeted for this year.

Mr. Colon asked if Mr. Basile has previously or in any capacity, has he worked with Gary Beck or Z3, Kearney, Jucca or anyone else that is related to this town.

Mr. Basile said he has never worked for Mr. Beck in any capacity but he is associated with Mr. Beck. He knows Mr. Beck but has never been employed by him or had any personal dealings with him.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION 2023-040
Payment of Bills for the Town of Pawling**

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling bookkeeper has reviewed and prepared the vouchers and has offered them for review, and

WHEREAS, the vouchers have been approved in accordance with the Town of Pawling policy, and

WHEREAS, the vouchers have been numbered 20211256 through 20221372, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby accepts the vouchers as prepared and on the recommendation of the bookkeeper and hereby authorizes payment of said vouchers for the Town of Pawling on this date in the amount of \$487,291.88.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

**RESOLUTION 2023-042
Appointment of Building Inspector for the Town of Pawling**

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling had previously authorized the services of Z3 Consultants to serve as building inspectors for the Town of Pawling during the 2022 calendar year, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling intends to employ a full-time building inspector to perform code enforcement, building inspector, zoning administration, stormwater management, and office management duties, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling does hereby appoint Thomas J. Basile as the full-time building inspector of the Town of Pawling, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Thomas J. Basile shall receive a \$82,000 salary as set forth in the duly adopted budget for the Town of Pawling for calendar year 2023 and that said salary shall be payable in 26 week bi-weekly installments commencing on January 23, 2023.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

Mr. Basile explained his background and experience and said there were a lot of opportunities to make great change in Pawling. He appreciated the board’s trust in letting him do this.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2023-043
Authorization of Reimbursement of Medicare Part-B for the Tax Collector

WHEREAS, Barbara Tyson, the elected tax collector of the Town of Pawling, has requested that the town reimburse her for the cost of her Medicare Part B premium, and

WHEREAS, the employee handbook of the Town of Pawling does hereby state that the town board may, at its discretion and in accordance with plan documents, modify or eliminate this reimbursement for any retiree, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling does hereby authorize the bookkeeper of the Town of Pawling to reimburse Barbara Tyson for \$2,041.20 for her Medicare Part B premium.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2023-044
Appointment of Transfer Station Attendant

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Maria Sierra, a vacancy has been created within the transfer station, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that superintendent of highways Robert Brill has employed Robert Leo to fill the vacancy of transfer station attendant and shall receive \$17.06 per hour.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

RESOLUTION 2023-045
Billing for Pawling Water District #2

WHEREAS, Pawling Water District #2 bills need to be approved by the town board, and

WHEREAS, the bills have been prepared and submitted in the amount of \$13,803.65 for the period of October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 by the water district clerk,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of the Town of Pawling hereby accepts the billing as recommended for Pawling Water District #2.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt

SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

PAWLING FREE LIBRARY

The board entertained a presentation by Mr. Chris Fisher, new director at the Pawling Free Library. Mr. Fisher stated some statistics, saying since 2017, the Pawling Free Library has served over 428,000 people, not counting digital services patrons. The library offers over 5,000 programs, which have been attended by 54,000 residents. Some of his goals are to get people to come into the library, the building project, engaging seniors, restart relationships, expand home bound services, engage the Spanish speaking community by offering bilingual story time and engaging children. He would like to expand the programs to better serve the town.

BOARD DISCUSSION

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said he received a draft RFP for the PWD #2 water meters and isolation shut off valves. The document needs to be reviewed. He planned to attend the PJSC meeting to ask them about the meters they use to possibly help decide on what types of meters to purchase. Regarding the Route 22 sewer extension, he felt the board should discuss and make a decision on this soon. He is glad to have Mr. Basile sign on as building inspector, as he has been trying to find a full time building inspector for four to five years.

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow said there was a joint meeting with all municipalities regarding the ethics committee. Their board is in receipt of some questions. She asked the board to look over the draft and be ready to discuss at the first meeting in February.

Councilman DeRosa asked if the ethics committee could be asked for an opinion.

Councilwoman Snow said it will be an intermunicipal board made up of five towns. It is her understanding that any concerns will be submitted in writing to the chair of the ethics committee and would then go to the board. She asked that everyone be prepared to discuss this at the first meeting in February. She suggested a public hearing in March. Councilwoman Snow said regarding Comcast, the Town of Pawling’s contract is up in 2033. She asked if there are any boosters the town can ask for.

Supervisor Schmitt said he has reached out to Comcast, and technology is changing all of the time. He has spoken to Verizon about additional antennas for better service. He can reach out again.

Councilwoman Pitt said she has been in contact with Comcast throughout the year and the feedback she has gotten is that Comcast has improved service dramatically within the past seven months.

Councilwoman Snow said one of her goals is to get the employee handbook updated this year, as well as outsourcing human resources.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said he, supervisor Schmitt and Mr. Cavacinni met with Laberge in Albany and went over current grants and future grants. They also talked about the grant for “The Inn”, and they are still waiting for a contact person to work with. Once that happens, a meeting will be scheduled for next steps.

PITT

Councilwoman Pitt said regarding the full time building inspector, this was something that was a goal for the board and it is a big accomplishment. She read over the intermunicipal agreement for the ethics committee, and she had many questions, which she proceeded to ask.

Councilwoman Snow answered some of the questions but said she would get the answers to the questions she could not answer.

Ms. Tagliafierro said if the board is not adopting a new local law for the town code regarding the ethics provisions, then the board does not need to have a public hearing, it would just need a resolution to sign the IMA.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said NYSEG is in town doing tree trimming for preventative maintenance. He said the time he and councilman McCarthy spent in Albany with Laberge was very productive. This board is very grant oriented and will continue to stay very competitive in obtaining grants. Supervisor Schmitt said an important member of the community was lost this week, Fayne Daniels. She was a graduate of Pawling in 1948 and she was 91 years old. She passed on January 5th. She and her family have been involved in the community for many years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Colon, resident from 53 Akindale Road, said councilwoman Pitt asked phenomenal questions regarding the ethics committee. In regards to the \$500,000.00 grant for Lakeside Park, he can't find anywhere that it is stated that it is a matching grant. He asked if anyone followed up on Kearney development, because they say there is no call for senior housing but there is a two year waiting list on some of their developments. Regarding the planning board, James Schmitt's employee was put on the planning board and voted on “The Wood's” project. He questioned Gary Beck's work at “The Woods” and asked if anyone was aware of the conflict of interest. He requested that the board look into this further. He also felt the intensity issue should be looked at.

Ms. Tagliafierro said there really isn't a mechanism for the town board to look into this further. She supposed someone could challenge it somehow. Legally speaking, the time to challenge the issuance of the building permit has lapsed already, it is supposed to be done within thirty days of the building permit being issued. The applicant has an approved site plan, the approvals he needs from the planning board, and he submitted those with an application to the building inspector, she wasn't sure how much discretion there is for the building inspector not to issue the building permit.

Councilwoman Pitt said her goal over the next year is to take a deep look at pay scales for the employees to see who is behind and who needs to be brought up, for both elected and non-elected folks.

Jessica Figueroa, resident from 52 Akindale Road, asked if the matter with the building inspector would be investigated. Regarding the ethics committee, how are alternates to be selected.

Councilwoman Snow said following interviews, the board would vote on the alternates.

Ms. Figueroa said with regarding Nancy Tagliafierro, newly appointed town attorney, her bio mentions that she previously worked for Keane & Beane. Keane & Beane represent Kearney, the famous name behind “The Woods” development. She asked if the board has investigated this possible conflict of interest.

Supervisor Schmitt said no.

Ms. Tagliafierro said the town board has no investigative role. The comment makes a lot of irresponsible assumptions. This person has no idea under what conditions she left that firm. She also left that firm twelve years ago and most importantly, she never advised the planning board on any of the issues regarding the people she mentioned.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilman DeRosa at 6:55 PM, seconded by Councilman McCarthy in memory of Mrs. Daniels and her family, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk