Proceedings of an Emergency Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pamelia held on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at the Municipal Building, Route 37; Supervisor Scott Allen called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Council members present were Kenneth Hart, Lisa Brenon, Rusty VanTassel, and Ricky VanTassel. Attorney's Bill Buchan and Sharon Sutter were also present.

Resolution #24

Scott Allen offered Resolution #24 and Rusty VanTassel seconded Waiving Notice for a Special Meeting due to the fact that because of a major fire at the Hotis Motel, the situation has deteriorated significantly over the weekend due to the presence of a major water leak at the building that has caused the water to be shut off. Under applicable law the Town Board has certain actions that it can and should take to protect the health and safety of the current occupants acting in concert with the County of Jefferson on an immediate basis. All voted aye; adopted.

Supervisor Scott Allen reported that after the fire the water was turned off on February 11th and turned back on February 12th. A meter reading was done on February 14th and 15th and was still leaking.

Attorney Bill Buchan stated he has notified the owner. He stated that after the inspection of the building, if there is no imminent hazard to the residents, then no immediate action needs to be taken. If it is determined to be an imminent hazard, immediate action must be taken to protect the health and safety of the current occupants.

Scott Allen stated that RAVI Engineering will be coming on Monday to do an inspection of the building.

Attorney Bill Buchan stated that the Town has jurisdiction over the building and Jefferson County has jurisdiction over the occupants because they have placed them there.

Bill Buchan suggests appointing the Town Supervisor to fill the role of Code Enforcement for this situation and until further notice.

He also stated that the owner of the property has the right to meet and be heard as to his intentions concerning the building.

There was a discussion about the previous Resolution #22 of February 14th concerning the placement of a Town employee on administrative leave. Ricky VanTassel stated he did not understand that the Resolution included all duties including, Zoning and Code Enforcement and also Planning Board. After a discussion, it was determined that the leave does include all Town duties.

Also, there was a discussion on Code Enforcement on an interim basis.
Attorney Bill Buchan stated that the Town should bring someone in that is qualified, licensed and has direct experience and could be someone from another Town, County or Village.

After a discussion, The Town Board decided to modify tonight's Resolution to include Ken Hart with Scott Allen as Code Enforcement Officers.

Bill Buchan will also include in the Resolution that the Town Code Officers are authorized and directed to purchase materials to secure the building if it is determined that it is an imminent hazard to the occupants.

The Board discussed different possibilities as to shared services for Code Enforcement. Scott stated that there is an individual that has just retired from Code Enforcement for the City of Watertown, but Scott has not spoken to him yet. Also possibly bringing in the County for backup for vacations, sick time, or conflict of interest. Other municipalities contract with an individual who is trained and works with other Towns.

Resolution #25

Rusty VanTassel offered Resolution #25 and Lisa Brenon seconded authorizing the Supervisor and Councilman Hart to administer the Town Building Code and coordinate with Jefferson County to immediately safeguard the health and safety of the remaining occupants of the Hotis Motel due to conditions present after the fire on February 10, 2022.

Roll call vote as follows: Scott Allen aye; Lisa Brenon aye; Kenneth Hart aye; Rusty VanTassel aye; Ricky VanTassel aye; adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm on a motion made by Rusty VanTassel and seconded by Ken Hart. All voted aye; carried.

Gwen Call

Gwen Call
Town Clerk
February 20, 2022