Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pamelia held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at the Municipal Building, Route 37; Supervisor Scott Allen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Council members present were Lisa Brenon, Kenneth Hart and Ricky VanTassel. Engineers John Condino and Dustin Clark and Supervisors Clerk Annie Snyder were also present. Council member Rusty VanTassel and Highway Superintendent Bruce Call were absent.

Moment of Silence

Supervisor Allen asked for a moment of silence for the victims of 9 - 11.

Minutes approved

Minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Lisa Brenon and seconded by Ken Hart. All voted aye; carried.

Scott Allen reported that he has received five pages of comments from Jefferson County on the proposed Solar Law. Therefore, he will postpone tonight's Public Hearing to the October meeting to review these comments.

Scott stated he thinks it will also be in the Town's best interest to put a moratorium in place on Solar development at the October Public Hearing to do the review before voting on the Solar Law.

Engineer John Condino stated that a moratorium in not intended to discourage Solar development, but will give the Town Board time to enact the Solar Law.

Public Hearing

Ricky VanTassel made a motion and Lisa Brenon seconded to open a Public Hearing at 7:13 pm to adopt a Solar Law in the Town of Pamelia.

Scott Allen stated he feels it would be best to table the Public Hearing and do it at the October 9, 2023 meeting at 7:15 pm.

Also, Scott would like to have the Town possibly put a moratorium in place on Solar development in order to get the Solar Law implemented, maybe a four month maximum.

Lisa Brenon made a motion and Ricky VanTassel seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm and table the Public Hearing on the Solar Law to October 9, 2023 at 7:15 pm. All voted aye; carried.

Junkyard License

Ricky VanTassel made a motion and Ken Hart seconded to approve the renewal of the Junkyard License for Northstar Auto and Salvage. All voted aye; carried.

Board of Assessment Review Reappointment

Ricky VanTassel made a motion and Ken Hart seconded to reappoint Stan Hajdasz to the Board of Assessment Review which ends September 30, 2023, for a five-year term. All voted aye; carried.

ZBA Vacancy

Scott Allen reported that there is a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He stated that Dan Casero had previously served on the Board and is willing to serve again.

Lisa Brenon made a motion and Ricky VanTassel seconded to appoint Dan Casero as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective October 1, 2023. All voted aye; carried.

Scott Allen stated that he had met with Community Bank representatives on August 8, in regards to Money Market and CD's. He stated that Money Market rates are now at 3% and CD's are 4.75% for 18 months. He will pursue this and hopes to have more information by the next meeting, for the possibility of moving money from the General Fund.

Dollar General Lawsuit

Scott Allen received notification in July for the lawsuit with the Town by Dollar General for a reduction in their Real Property Assessment.

Scott stated that the Town Attorney settled the case out of court for an assessment reduction from $963,000 to $842,000 in exchange for a stipulation of discontinuance of the lawsuit.

Resolution #23

Ricky VanTassel offered Resolution #23 and Ken Hart seconded authorizing settlement of the tax assessment litigation brought by Trutz Bella and Dollar General. All voted aye; adopted.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was opened at 7:28 pm on a motion made by Lisa Brenon and seconded by Ken Hart whereas the Town would like to establish a moratorium on energy storage development to allow the Town to come up with a comprehensive plan for battery storage.

Attorney Bill Buchan suggests a one year moratorium.

A discussion followed.

Supervisor Allen asked for comments from the Public.

Gary Mack stated that National Grid plans to install solar transmission lines through his property and others in the Town.

Scott Allen asked twice for comments. There were none.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:43 pm on a motion made by Ken Hart and seconded by Ricky VanTassel. All voted aye; carried.

Lisa Brenon made a motion and Ken Hart seconded establishing a moratorium in the Town of Pamelia on the development of battery storage systems within the Town until comprehensive regulations are adopted. All voted aye; carried.

Transfer of Sewer #9 Pump Station

Scott Allen presented a contract to the Board from Jefferson County which is a Permanent Easement Acquisition and Property Conveyance between Jefferson County and the Town of Pamelia. The Town of Pamelia is taking ownership of the Rt 12 Pump Station at the County site and will add to existing Sewer #9.

This site is being upgraded by Love's development of their property. They are upgrading all of the controls and adding other equipment to the site.

This will allow the Town to enter into a contract with Jefferson County for the final transfer of the property to the Town.

Resolution #25

Lisa Brenon offered Resolution #25 and Ken Hart seconded to enter into a contract with Jefferson County approving a contract for transfer of the existing Pump Station from Jefferson County to the Town of Pamelia. All voted aye; carried.

Barton & Loguidice

Engineer Dustin Clark updated the Board on the Water Project.. He reported that contractors expect to have all pipe installed for the Project in about a month.

Dustin stated that there will be approximately $600,000 left from the Water Project. Dustin suggests replacing pipe on Rt. 37 north from Rt. 342.

An estimate from North Country Contractors for the job is $650,000. Also, a two month agreement from Barton & Loguidice is approximately $150,000.

Dustin states that there is the possibility of using ARPA Funds to assist in this proposed project.

A discussion followed.

Lisa Brenon made a motion and Ken Hart seconded extending the contract with Barton & Loguidice, and to allow Supervisor Scott Allen to sign amendment No. 1. All voted aye; carried.

Resolution #24

Ken Hart offered Resolution #24 and Ricky VanTassel seconded authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign a change order with North Country Contractors for the Consolidated Water District #1 Project for additional water main replacements on Rt 37 north.

Also, it was agreed to allocate ARPA funds to help cover costs of this Project.

Roll call vote as follows: Scott Allen, yes; Ken Hart, yes; Lisa Brenon, yes; Ricky VanTassel, yes; adopted.

Dustin Clark also reported that the 781 crossing and Rt 81 drilling went well. Also, contractors are now doing cleanup.

Public Comments

Linda Alagna, 25887 Liberty Avenue, would like something done about the speeding on Liberty Ave. She stated that there are many children in the area and cars and construction vehicles speed through there. She is requesting a speed sign and a dead end sign be installed.

After a discussion, Scott will check into the possibility of a reduced speed sign.

Supervisor Scott Allen stated that Budget presentation is coming up and proposed October 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm to present the Tentative Budget. At the October 9, 2023 regular meeting, he would present the Preliminary Budget, and the Public Hearing and voting would be on October 30, 2023 at 7:00.

The Town Clerk will post the special meetings in the newspaper.

Lisa Brenon made a motion to set the above mentioned Budget meetings and Ricky VanTassel seconded. All voted aye; carried.

Truck Repairs

Scott Allen stated that contractor that replaced the transmission in the plow truck is not the company that caused the damage. The service was provided and payment should not be held back. He stated that there is potential to file a lawsuit against the tow truck company if it is determined they are at fault.

The Town Board decided to first contact the tow truck company to give them the option to pay the bill possibly through their insurance company.

Payment of the Bills

Lisa Brenon made a motion and Ricky VanTassel seconded to pay the General Fund bills totaling $13,556.41 No. 166 - 181, Highway Fund bills totaling $45,356.92 No. 110 – 120, Special District Fund bills totaling $35,006.24 No. 94 - 99, Capital Fund bills totaling $647,417.03 No. 49 – 56, which includes $639,165.28 for Water Tower, $4,520.25 for Water Main Replacement, $731.50 for Sewer 10 and $3,000 for Sewer 9, and Trust and Agency bills totaling $9,840.63 No. 13 - 16, and Love's Escrow Account totaling $16,350.

Scott Allen stated that there is a modification of the August minutes because a bill for Love's escrow in the amount of $3,140 was not paid. All voted aye; carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. on a motion made by Ricky VanTassel and seconded by Ken Hart. All voted aye; carried.

Gwen

Call

Town Clerk
September 11, 2023