

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
August 11, 2021

The Town of Manlius Town Board hybrid meeting in-person and virtual live streaming with Supervisor Edmond Theobald presiding and the following Board members present:

Karen Green, Councilor
Sara Bollinger, Councilor
Elaine Denton, Councilor
John Deer, Councilor
Heather Waters, Councilor
Katelyn M. Kriesel, Councilor

The following Town Officers were present:

Tim Frateschi, Attorney for the Town	Allison A. Weber, Town Clerk
Ann Oot, Town Manager	Rob Cushing, Highway Superintendent
Mike Crowell, Police Chief	

1. Attendees

In-Person Meeting Attendees: Daniel Tyrel, Fayetteville. Prerna Deer, Fayetteville. Warren Linhart, Manlius. Daniel Kain, Utica. Casey Cleary-Hammarstedt, Tom Bassett, Manlius. Jason Klaiber, Eagle Bulletin. Denis Mahns, Manlius. Ari Spinoza, Fayetteville. Chad Rogers. Terry Brown.

Virtual Meeting Attendees: Roni Morgenstern. John Belton. Valerie Beecher. Lesley Pease. Chad Rogers. Fred and Vicki Keeney. Cristina Tapia. WSTM cnycentral. Michael Fogel. Ellen Hammer. Andrea Belton. Allen Olmsted. Paul Staab. David Froelich.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Theobald, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Councilor Denton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Theobald welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending.

3. Open Podium – No Requests

4. Approval of Minutes – July 28, 2021

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Denton, to approve the minutes of July 28, 2021, as submitted by Town Clerk Weber.

Ayes: Supervisor Theobald, Councilor Green, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Deer, Councilor Waters, Councilor Kriesel

Nayes: 0

All in Favor.

Motion Carries.

5. Approval of Abstract # 15

Councilor Bollinger made a motion, seconded by Councilor Green, to approve Abstract # 15 in the amount of \$375,642.79 as submitted by Town Clerk Weber.

TOWN OF MANLIUS		
Fund Summary		
Abstract # 15 - 2021		
CODE	FUND	TOTALS
A	General Fund Townwide	\$242,431.17
B	General Fund Town	\$13,617.89
CM1	Police Trust	\$381.28
DA	Highway Fund Townwide	\$34,611.90
DB	Highway Fund Town	\$69,673.98
SD1	Consolidated Drainage # 1	\$1,253.00
SD3	Consolidated Drainage # 3	\$2,506.00
SL1	Overhead Lighting	\$1,550.09
SL2	Underground Lighting	\$2,048.75
SL3	Entry Lighting	\$99.74
SL4	Garden Park Lighting	\$627.33
SL5	Ratnaur Bridge Lighting	\$2,334.31
SR1	Manlius Trash District	\$185.87
SR2	Manlius Res Brush District	\$185.87
SS1	Manlius Con Sewer District	\$18.61
TA2	Trust & Agency - Other	\$4,117.00

Ayes: Supervisor Theobald, Councilor Green, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Deer, Councilor Waters, Councilor Kriesel

Nays: 0

All in Favor.

Motion Carries.

6. Municipal Building Feasibility Study Update

Supervisor Theobald stated the Town has been working on a Municipal Building Feasibility Study for the last three years. Supervisor Theobald introduced Terry Brown and stated he and his team will give a presentation of the history and current standing of the study.

Chad Rogers, King & King Architects gave a presentation covering the goals and space needs of a future Municipal Building based on the feasibility study.

Mr. Brown stated they are considering property on North Burdick St., in which a developer is willing to enter a public-private partnership for the municipal building. Mr. Brown stated that the next step will be to work with a developer to provide a more detailed project presentation.

7. 457 Deferred Compensation Plan – Presentation New York State Representative Dan Kain

Mr. Kain of the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan explained how the plan works and the services provided. Mr. Kain stated that the fees (minimum of \$20.00, maximum of \$80.00 per year) are paid by the participants. Mr. Kain stated there is no contract with this plan and it can be adopted at any time.

After a lengthy Town Board discussion, it was decided the Town would switch from Lincoln Financial to the NYS Deferred Compensation Plan.

Councilor Kriesel made a motion, seconded by Councilor Denton, to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the State of New York as outlined in the resolution presented.

Ayes: Supervisor Theobald, Councilor Green, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Deer, Councilor Waters, Councilor Kriesel

Nayes: 0

All in Favor.

Motion Carries.

8. Proposed Local Law to place a Moratorium on the Processing of Commercial Solar Array Applications

Supervisor Theobald stated that at the public hearing held July 28, 2021 the Town Board received several comments on the proposed solar moratorium. Supervisor Theobald reviewed the history of the proposed solar moratorium and stated that the local law was brought to the Town Board for consideration because of concerns from the Planning Board. Supervisor Theobald stated the OCPB determined the local law will have no significant adverse effects and commends the Town for their initiative to examine solar development and regulations as it relates to the Town's comprehensive planning efforts.

Supervisor Theobald polled each of the Town Board members regarding their position on the proposed moratorium. Councilors Waters, Denton, Deer and Kriesel stated that they would vote no for the moratorium. The common themes for these Councilors opposition to the proposed moratorium were:

1. The coming updated Comprehensive Plan will address issues in the 2016 Solar Array Code.
2. Currently the local electric grid has a limited capacity to accept additional solar arrays which will limit the number of projects.
3. The statement from Planning Board Chairman Lupia and Member Beecher stating that after the research they have done they are in favor of proceeding with solar array projects and stated the Planning Board has the tools to process the applications.

Councilors Bollinger, Green and Supervisor Theobald would vote yes to adopt the proposed moratorium. The common themes for these Councilors support for the proposed moratorium were:

1. There should be additional updates to the 2016 Solar Array Code before current projects move forward.
2. The financial aspect of Solar Arrays is not completely clear currently.
3. The boards need additional time to get a more comprehensive understanding of commercial solar arrays.
4. There are still members of the Planning Board who support the moratorium.

Councilor Green made a motion, seconded by Councilor Bollinger, to Approve the Local Law Adopting a Moratorium on the Processing of Commercial Solar Array Applications.

Ayes: Supervisor Theobald, Councilor Green, Councilor Bollinger

Nayes: Councilor Denton, Councilor Deer, Councilor Waters, Councilor Kriesel

Motion Failed: 4-3

9. Recreational Marijuana Sales Legislation – Tabled

10. Salt Springs Water District Project – Tabled

11. Authorize Preparation of Bid Documents for Trash & Brush Contracts

Attorney Frateschi stated that the trash & brush contract bid packets have been prepared and Town Board authorization is required to publish the bid advertisements.

The Town Board discussed the possibility of including composting in the bid and changing how the brush might be picked up.

The Town Board tabled the matter until the August 25, 2021, Town Board Meeting.

12. Highway Superintendent

Superintendent Cushing stated the highway department is catching up on the paving projects after experiencing weather delays.

13. Attorney – No New Business

14. Town Clerk

Town Clerk Weber stated she has received comments from residents expressing concern that they cannot hear conversations due to the poor sound quality for the virtual meetings. Town Clerk Weber requested that the Town Board consider purchasing additional audio equipment to correct the problem.

Councilor Deer stated he would like to use some of the American Rescue Plan funds to purchase new microphones for the Board Room and previous estimates indicate that it could cost up to \$25,000 to correct the sound issue. Councilor Deer stated that in the meantime the Town could purchase a second Owl device.

15. Police Chief

Chief Crowell gave the following report:

1. Three new officers are in the police academy and are doing well.
2. Two new civilian employees are also doing well in their positions.

The Town Board discussed the large apartment fire that happened on W. Pleasant St. and what the community could do to help the displaced tenants.

16. Town Manager

Town Manager Oot stated that the Town Budget Calendar has been prepared and distributed to the Town Board.

17. Committee Reports

Councilor Bollinger stated the Comprehensive Steering Committee had their first meeting and the recording will be available soon on the town website. Councilor Bollinger stated there will be another meeting on August 17th at 6:00 PM for the Focus Group Co-leaders to be briefed on their duties. The steering committee will meet on October 14th.

18. Supervisor – No New Business

19. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made by Councilor Green and seconded by Councilor Kriesel the Board voted unanimously to adjourn regular session at 8:32 PM.

Ayes: Supervisor Theobald, Councilor Green, Councilor Bollinger, Councilor Denton, Councilor Deer, Councilor Waters, Councilor Kriesel

Nayes: 0

All in Favor.

Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Allison A. Weber
Town Clerk