

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
Public Hearing Comprehensive Plan
66 East Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
November 21, 2024

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Justin Dibble, Councilman
Mike Stone, Councilman
Rich Sweeney, Codes
Karl Mane, Town Attorney
Pam Jones, Town Clerk
Absent: Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent
David Moynihan, DCO
Public: 10 People attended, see sign-in sheet

MEETING was called to order by Rovazzi at 5:00pm, at the Town Community Center.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Watkins to approve the October 29, 2024 minutes.
Hendrix abstained. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to approve the September 2024 Treasurer's report. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve the October 2024 Treasurer's report. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to approve the Town Clerk's October 2024 report for \$31,507.50. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve Judge Engert's October 2024 report for \$695.00. Dibble abstained. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Stone's October 2024 report for \$23,860.00. Dibble abstained. Carried.

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BILLS

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Hendrix to pay GFIM bill for \$427.05. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Dibble to pay bills as audited. Carried

OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY – Newtown was absent due to work. Rovazzi informed the Board of Newtown's desire to add 2 more At-Will positions for a total of 4.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve establishing 2 more At-Will position as MEO at \$21.54 per hour. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve Jeffrey Langerlaan, starting date 11/14/2024 and Donald Gregory starting date not yet determine, as At-Will MEO at \$21.54 per hour. Carried.

Newtown reported snowblower is up to \$2,500.00 and old tiers are at \$1000.00 on the auction site. Board approved the sale of these items at those prices.

DOG CONTROL – Town accepted \$2,000.00 from the Village of Ilion towards stray dogs for DCO. Rovazzi reported someone was interested in donating a chip reader to check dogs microchip to see who the dog belongs to. Rovazzi will check with DCO to see if he would be interested.

CODES – 22 permit granted, 5 pending. Sweeney reported solar project is moving along. Sweeney is taking online training.

SUPERVISOR/CLERK –

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve reallocation of stipend (registrar of Vital Statics) from Kathy Cloutier to Pam Jones amount of \$250.00. Carried.

Rovazzi filed the 2025 Town budget and tax cap. Final installment for salt building structure has been paid.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to open Public Comment. Carried.

Bill Jaquish inform the Board of many large dump trucks with loads of large tree stumps and brush being dumped on Casey Road. Jaquish reported the trucks came from Montgomery County. Sweeney and Rovazzi will contact the DEC with the Town's concern of transportation of invasive species and proximity to nearby stream.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to close Public Comment. Carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

ASSOCIATIONS OF TOWN DELEGATE

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to appoint Rovazzi as voting delegate and Watkins as alternate or Stone as alternate if Watkins can't make it for the 2025 Business Session of the Association of Towns. Carried

NEW HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT RECEIVED – Town is not in agreement with terms of new contract received from HCHS. The present contract is good till 2028. Atty. Manne did send a letter to HCHS.

THANKSGIVING DONATION – Town received a \$25.00 donation from the Friends of German Flatts Town Park, after they reneged on doing the Thanksgiving coffee/donuts get together, at the Community Center, after the Fort Herkimer Thanksgiving Church service.

PUBLIC HEARING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to open Public Hearing at 6pm. Carried. Matt VanSylke was introduced by Rovazzi (VanSylke joined the meeting remotely). Rovazzi explained that most towns have these plans, which help protect the town and residents but encourage new development. Not to restrict residents but to help Town Board move forward and help guide future development. The floor was open for questions.

Dorothy Hoskey asked if New York State can override plan. VanSylke said only if unconstitutional. Mrs Ferreira ask for VanSylke experience. Mr. Ferreira asked about large plots of land development. Rovazzi noted the Town being an agricultural area this helps save the land for this use. Who has final approval of developments? May need a public hearing first before Board approval.

Rovazzi added the Town hopes to adopt this plan at the next Board meeting which is December 17, 2024.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to close Public Hearing at 6:38pm. Carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

BOOKKEEPER/PAYROLL POSITION

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins at 6:42pm to enter into executive session to discuss bookkeeping/payroll position. Carried.

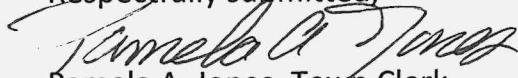
MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Hendrix at 7:23 to exit executive session. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to hire Pay Chex Payroll of Rochester as the Towns' payroll department. Starting the first payroll in January 2025, at a cost of \$5,447.00 which includes a \$200.00 onetime set-up fee then \$5,247.00 annually. Carried.

NEXT meeting December 17, 2024 at 5:30pm

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to adjourn at 7:27pm Carried

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela A. Jones", written over the printed name.

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts