

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
Public Hearings Local Laws No. 1 & 2, 2024
66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
August 28, 2024

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Mike Stone, Councilman
Justin Dibble, Councilman
Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent
Rich Sweeney, Code
Karl Manne, Town Attorney
Pam Jones, Town Clerk
Absent: David Moynihan, Dog Control
Public: 8 people attended, see sign-in sheet

MEETING was called to order at 5:30pm by Rovazzi, at the Town Community Center.
Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

CORRESPONDENCE

LOADSTAR ENERGY – Elias Abbasi and Terrence Nolan of Loadstar Energy gave a presentation on a proposed solar project on 25 acres of land own by Dan & Buddy Guido at 720 Warren Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to approve the July 24, 2024 minutes.
Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Stone to approve the Town Clerk's July 2024 report for \$1,298.50. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve Judge Engert's July 2024 report for \$1,758.00. Carried.

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MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve Judge Stone's July 2024 report for \$15,443.00. Carried.

BILLS

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

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

OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY – Trash day will be October 19, 2024. Newtown stated Bell Hill Road project has been started and salt building is near completed.

Bradley Gay hired on August 19, 2024 as MEO at \$21.54 per hour.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to send letter of intent to Henderson, to be put on the list for a 2026 10-wheel double snow plow/dump truck. Carried.

CODES – Sweeney reported 15 permits have been granted with 2 still in process. Bell Hill Road resident was issued a ticket, no response. Elizabethtown Road resident no response from Codes or Court.

SUPERVISOR/CLERK

Department heads budget estimates due to supervisor by September 13, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW NO. 1, 2024

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to open Public Hearing at 6:01 on Local Law No. 1, 2024. Carried,

1 person spoke against local Law No. 1, 2024

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins at 6:05 to close Public Hearing. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to adopt Local Law No. 1, 2024. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Virginia Jaquish reported the car show date for next year has been changed to June 21, 2025.

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to close Public Comment. Carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

MANION HEIGHTS WATER METER REPLACEMENT – Rovazzi will order new standardized water meters before end of 2024 for Manion Heights Water District.

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 3, 2024 – Regulating camping and sleeping in public places within the Town of German Flatts.

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Stone to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law No. 3, 2024 on September 25, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Town Community Center. Carried.

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 4, 2024 – Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law No. 4, 2024 on September 25, 2024 at 6:15pm at the Town Community Center. Carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7, 2024 – to record 2024 freightliner plow/dump truck purchase with CHIPS reimbursement and fund balance.

INCREASE expenditures to \$430,910.00 from 2024 budgeted amount of \$154,952.00 in fund DA-5130.2, account Machinery, Equipment & Cap Outlay.

INCREASE revenues to \$209,246.00 from 2024 budgeted amount of \$0.00 in fund DA-3501.0, account St. Aid, Consolidated Highway.

DECREASE fund balance to \$90,712.00 from 2024 budgeted amount of \$24,000.00 in fund DA-911.0, account Unreserved Fund Balance.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to approve budget amendment No. 7, 2024. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW NO. 2, 2024 – Providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts in the Town of German Flatts.

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix at 6:15 to open Public Hearing on Local Law No. 2, 2024. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi at 6:16 to close Public Hearing on Local Law No.2, 2024 Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Rovazzi to adopt Local Law No. 2,2024. Carried.

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WARREN ROAD SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING AGREEMENT –

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to enter into executive session at 6:20 along with Sweeney to discuss Warren Road Decommissioning Agreement. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to exit executive session at 6:52. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve resolution of proposed decommissioning agreement and bond with Solitude Solar German Flatts Warren Road Microgrid, LLC. Carried.

TOWN BOOKKEEPER REQUEST AND TOWN CPA –

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Watkins at 6:57pm to enter into executive session to discuss Bookkeeper's request and Town CPA. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to exit executive session at 7:34. Carried.

BOOKKEEPER REQUEST – Rovazzi will talk to bookkeeper and budget for trainee.

TOWN CPA – Kim Sanderson will no longer be Town's CPA and will be deeply missed. 2 new CPA firms are interested and have been provided a scope of required services.

Rovazzi and Sanderson also interviewed both firms.

Hilton & Powers \$14,400.00 plus \$3,500.00 one time set up fee

BSP Company \$24,000.00

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Dibble to hire Hilton & Powers as Town's CPA. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to rescind the motion adopting Local Law No. 1, 2024 due to lack of correspondence not yet received from the Herkimer County Planning Board. Carried.

Christine King has donated a picnic table to be used in the Gazebo. Town will send a thank you card. Card will also be sent to Kim Sanderson for all her hard work as the Town's CPA.

Rovazzi report during Living History Weekend a wicker chair was broken, grill and drip drains were not cleaned, cardboard was left on loading dock, steam table dirty and bales of hay are still under Community Center's deck. Cleaner were very upset with the condition of the Community Center. Hendrix reported he was also contacted by a member of the Friends apologizing for the groups failing to respect and meet the Town's

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expectations. Town will retain the security deposit pending any future discussion with the group regarding this matter.

Next meeting will be September 25, 2024 at 5:30pm.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Stone to adjourn at 8:01. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela A. Jones".

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts