

Board Meeting August 27, 2020

Called to order @4:33PM

Using Zoom: Please announce your name prior to speaking

Roll Call:

Attended:

Richard Lucia, Town Supervisor

Edward Byrnes, Councilman

Jeffrey Collura, Councilman

Joshua Halliday, Councilman

Brenda Peris, Town Clerk

Albert Brooks, Code Enforcer/Building Inspector

Kate Halliday, Bookkeeper

Tom Bodden, Accountant

Absent:

Eric Butler, Councilman

Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent

Ems Coordinator Fogarty

Public Attending:

Cody Emery

Jay Emery

Joe Emery

James Emery

Graham Champagne

Prayer: Given by Richard Lucia

Resolution for Financial Transfers: None needed this week

Resolution#213

A motion to table the approval of the meeting minutes for August 13, 2020:

A motion by Councilman Byrnes and a second by Councilman Collura to table the minutes

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Absent 1

Update with Accountant Tom Bodden:

Strong Fund Balance in Water. As of the end of July a head of budget.

Questions—Do we need to increase water bills----not at this time.

Are we able to use grant money to pay for Bond? Does not believe so but that would be something to check with the Town Attorney.

Resignation of Emergency Management Coordinator:

Supervisor Lucia discussed that the Coordinator had resigned and that Chuck would be covering this until a new person was found. Supervisor Lucia appreciates all that the coordinator has done.

Ralph Petruzzo Water:

Supervisor Lucia received a call from Mr. Peturzzo regarding the subdivision water. Originally he didn't want town water or sewer. During the conversation today he questioned that decision. It will be revisited when Supervisor Lucia talks to him again. There would need to be a revisit from the planning board as well as the Department of Health.

Graham Champagne Cell Tower:

Mr. Champagne spoke about his concern regarding the proposal of cell towers in residential areas. He is concerned particularly about one that will be in his back yard. He attended the meeting in regard to this cell tower and asked the representatives from AT & T questions.

Will the cell tower impact the value of my property? According to Mr. Champagne the representatives from AT&T said it would not.

Mr. Champagne said that he did some research regarding this as well and found from several resources that a cell tower within 1000 feet of a property can cause the value to drop from 1.28% to as much as 20%. It appears there are no regulations on cell towers. 3 proposals in the town within a 1- mile radius. The Town would not receive any money from these cell towers. The company who owns the tower and the property owner where the cell tower is placed would be the only ones to benefit. Mr. Champagne is also concerned because a right of way to the cell tower will be placed between his home and his neighbor's home. He feels there is no control over these things happening and that cell towers have no zoning regulations. He feels the Town Board should place a moratorium until more rules are put in place to protect homeowners. He knows of 8 properties near his that will be affected. He believes this is

happening way to quickly and that there is a possibility that it could be approved at the next Zoning Board Meeting on September 3, 2020.

Councilman Collura & Byrnes agree that it is a concern as to where the cell towers are being placed. Councilman Byrnes said that it needs to be looked in to immediately. Mr. Champagne also questioned why 3 cell tower companies are looking to place them in such a small town and that it doesn't make much business sense.

Saratoga County Trails Grant Info:

Information on the availability of a grant for trail use. Something for the board to think about. 6 week time period to apply.

Fire Contract Negotiations:

Board will discuss in an executive session

Litigation Dates:

Moved out until October---no specific date has been set

Emery Subdivision Easement:

Code Enforcement/building inspector received easement request from the Emery's. It has been sent to the Town Attorney for further review as there are 2 ways to do an easement. Mr. Emery spoke with National Grid and they have no problem with the request. The Emery's will need to get approval from both CP Rail and the Town Board as both own rights to this property where the Emery's need the easement. Supervisor Lucia advised the Emery's that the Attorney would be at the Planning Board Meeting @7:00pm and that it would be discussed. The Attorney will write up the easement and it will need to be approved.

Covid Testing Places:

A list of testing sites and information was given to the board.

EMS Reports:

None-Coordinator absent from meeting

Bill Pay:

Total bills for August 27th \$66,030.69 need to be approved

Resolution#214

A Motion to Pay Bills for August 27, 2020 totaling \$66,030.69

A motion by Councilman Halliday and seconded by Councilman Byrnes

Ayes 4

Nayes 0

Absent 1

Public Comment:

No further public comment was made

Town Board:

Councilman Collura: No additional comments

Councilman Byrnes: Regarding the cell tower issue. Councilman Byrnes suggested a meeting be set up to discuss this situation as soon as possible.

Councilman Halliday: wanted to thank Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Brooks for his involvement in the building being taken down on the Petruzzo's property. Improved safety as well as appearance.

Councilman Butler: Absent

Town Clerk: nothing to report. Supervisor Lucia ----Cynthia Baker Deputy Clerk started this week.

Highway Superintendent: Absent

Building/Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Brooks discussed homeowners who received CDBG grants to improve their homes. The tax assessment on these homes has been increased due to these improvements. Many of the families can no longer afford to live in their homes due to the tax increase. A question as to if it is legal to increase the taxes on these homes as a grant was used to improve was discussed. Supervisor Lucia said he would talk to the assessor.

Executive Session:

Resolution#215

A motion to go into executive session regarding personnel with no decision to be made

A motion by Councilman Byrnes and seconded by Councilman Halliday to go into Executive Session regarding personnel----no decision to be made.

Ayes 4

Nayes 0

Absent 1

Respectfully Submitted

Town Clerk

Brenda Peris

