

Regular Town Board Meeting
October 13th, 2020 6:00pm

The Town of Gouverneur Regular Town Board Meeting was held on October 13th, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Town of Gouverneur Office Building, 1227 USH 11 Gouverneur, NY 13642. Meeting was held in person.

Attendees:

Dave Spilman
Eldon Conklin
Jaimee McQuade
Curran Wade
Jay Bowhall
Marion Bowhall
Diane Kelley
Michael McQuade
Ed Cardinal
Mark Deavers
Harry Smithers
Ronald McDougall
Rachel Hunter

1. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Spilman at 6:00pm
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Approval of minutes-
Motion to approve the September 8th and September 25th board meeting minutes
Motion by: Eldon Conklin 2nd motion: Jay Bowhall
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. A. County Legislature: Harry Smithers
Smithers comments on COVID 19 updates everyday to the county.
 - i. Gouverneur is still doing well. The county is considering an opioid treatment programs and the providers have narrowed to 3 considerations.
 - ii. A new social services head of department. The number of fostered children is significantly increased and the cause is currently unknown.
 - iii. Ash borer is a bug that kills ash trees and is currently a threat to SLC. Potential liability of the homeowners if the trees fall, etc.
 - iv. 2021 Budget is holding the county tax line.
 - v. Sales tax discussion is still a work in progress, no report to state yet. Smither's opinion is that the 1% that has been kept by county has kept taxes scaled back, however more could be done using the 1%.
Conklin asks if the internet sales tax go to NYS or separated line item to the counties. Wonders if there are discrepancies of where the funds go and how they are distributed or if they are distributed honestly.
Conklin also asks if there is a way to received the formula break down for the PILOT agreements for solar developments. County currently gets 30%. What do they do with

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that? That's a significant amount.

To respond, Smither's wonders if we are taking valuable farm land to do these solar farms? Is that actually going to hurt us in the long run.

McQuade responds to Smither's that no farm land that wants to be used, is going to be used. These farmers are looking to retire from farming while still making land useful in another way.

Spilman states we currently have 4 pilot developments going on. Farmers are ending their farm careers and want to do this. County wide there are 23 solar farms in the works. If the county gets 32.5% of that, that's a big chunk of change.

- vi. Smithers states that there are also 2 assemblyman that want to change the representation in NYS Government to have more equal representation of all counties. Not to be determined by population but by area.

- b. Shared services- None
- c. Village Recreation- short report. Mainly doing temperature checks for visitors to the municipal building.
- d. Fire department- none
- e. Rescue Squad- Deavers present and reports that to date they have had 1,170 responses. 221 in the Town, 422 in the Village, 188 hospital to hospital transfers.
Out of service area calls are up to Harrisville and Antwerp.
But comparatively the numbers are down about 150 calls. From March-May they had seen a 42% reduction. In March & April- 80% reduction.

EMT Class starting Thursday, the only one in the county- will be a hybrid model due to COVID. There are currently 40+ students enrolled, half of them from the Gouverneur area.

Spilman asks about Medicaid- do you even break even with Medicaid calls? And how many of your calls are Medicaid.

Deavers responds with Medicaid reimburses about 30 cents on the dollar. And about 30-35% calls are Medicaid, ends up about \$50,000.00 worth of yearly calls.

- f. Public participation- None.

4. Old Business

- a. Community center- There will be a blood drive monthly.
- b. Shared services- none
- c. Complete streets- none
- d. Any old business- none

5. None

6. Highway Superintendent

- a. Report supplied
- b. Advertise for highway superintendent- with residency law in affect.
November 9th deadline for applications.

Motion by Eldon Conklin 2nd motion- Jay Bowhall

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

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Ed will be retiring on April 28th, but he has accrued significant time that can make him freed on January 28th.

- c. Stop signs- complaints for 3 weeks about the intersections in question.
Bowhall discusses the Peabody intersection with Beamon Road, thinks it will be difficult to make a stop on the top of the hill, for school buses then a car, you would be over the crest of the hill.
Motion to advertise and change the other 3 intersections stop patterns: Curran Wade
2nd motion- Jay Bowhall
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- d. Seasonal Roads
Campbell Road, Dodds Road, Lamb Road, Lead Mine Road, will no longer be maintained from November 1, 2020 until April 1, 2021.

7. DCO Report

- a. Report supplied
5 dogs in the pound, 5 dogs redeemed to owner.

8. Code Enforcement

- a. Report supplied
19 building reports issued during September.

9. New Business

- a. Justice Reports-
Town of Gouverneur justices collected \$9,758.50 for the month and received 100 new cases.
- b. Supervisor Communication - none
- c. DANC Contract- 5 year contract.
Motion to approve- Jaimee McQuade 2nd motion Curran Wade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- d. Advertise for new Deputy Town Clerk- application to be returned November 9th.
Motion to advertise: Eldon Conklin 2nd motion: Jaimee McQuade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- e. Audit Agreement-
USDA makes us have an outside audit of the water project. Our normal audit company quoted us \$4,000 East Side/ \$4,000 West Side to do the final audit.
We will be closing the water project loan this year.
Motion to authorize audit at \$4,000 each side- Jay Bowhall 2nd motion: Eldon Conklin
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- f. BAR Appointment
Motion to reappoint Diane Cotter to BAR- Jaimee McQuade 2nd motion: Curran Wade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- g. Budget review-
Budget is up 1.56%, our tax rate stays the same. We are under the NYS mandate of a Local Law to override the tax rate.

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- h. Budget public hearing-
Motion to set public hearing date of November 5th at 5:00pm at the Town of Gouverneur office building, 1227 USH 11 Gouverneur NY 13642- Eldon Conklin 2nd motion Jaimee McQuade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- i. Pay Applications- Water line contractor as applied for payment.
East side application: \$51,073.90
West Side application: \$252,795.91
Motion to pay applications and authorize Spilman to sign- Curran Wade
2nd motion: Jay Bowhall
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- j. Any other new business from Town Board member:
 - i. Ed Cardinal suggests in addition to the above stop sign changes, we should change the Yield sign on the Lockie Road to a stop sign.
Motion to amend prior resolution and add a Lockie road alteration- Eldon Conklin
2nd motion: Curran Wade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
 - ii. Spilman states the sale for Ablan's on West Main street may fall through. We have not had recent communication with the proposed buyer.

10. Public Participation

- a. Amber Ormasen represents herself as a proposed candidate for County Legislature- district 5. Discusses topics dear to her campaign to include sales tax, her being in favor of the town. Introduces herself and is eager to learn.
- b. McDougall- 341 SLC Confirmed covid cases- 5 new cases from Friday- Monday this week. 11 active cases and 5 deaths. 71,000 tests have been conducted. 29/50 US states are seeing uptick in cases. We added 3 or 4 new states to the Quarantine states making total now 38. Halloween- there will be no trunk or treating this year with the Seaway Valley Provention Center.

11. Motion to pay the bills

Motion made to authorize bookkeeper to pay the bills: Curran Wade
2nd motion- Jaimee McQuade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion to close meeting: Eldon Conklin 2nd motion: Curran Wade
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Meeting closed. 7:09pm