

Central County News

GRAFTON

Resolving A Problem With Resolutions

by Doug La Rocque

There were nine resolutions on the agenda for the Monday, April 12 Grafton Town Board meeting and in the public comment section just prior to any board action, town resident David Buckley asked what these resolutions were about. While the number and title are listed on the agenda and posted prior to the meeting, there are no explanations. Mr. Buckley, who is also an announced candidate for one of the two town board seats up for election in November, questioned how residents were supposed to have knowledge of these to speak about them before any vote.

Good question apparently, as Town Clerk Vicki Burdick said she is working on a method of putting either a synopsis or copies of the entire resolution on line prior to a meeting. She indicated this may happen as early as the May board gathering. This prompted Mr. Buckley to ask that the night's resolutions be tabled until that meeting, with the hope the information would be available. After some discussion, the board did agree to put off five of the resolutions, but approved four others, authorizing access to the Supervisor's 2020 deposit slips, allowing Town Attorney Phil Danaher to research the legality of paying town employees while they are involved in an ambulance or fire call, an upgrade to the phone system and the appointment of new Court Clerk, that being Jolene Crandall.

To Sell or Not To Sell, That Is The Question

When Governor Andrew Cuomo signed The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) into law, legalizing the adult use, sale, possession and home cultivation of cannabis, it generated discussion over another provision of the new law which deals with the tax revenue that it is expected to generate. Any municipality that would allow a dispensary within its borders (planned or not) could share in three percent of that tax revenue. If a municipality were to say no or opt out concerning a dispensary, it would forfeit its share of the revenue. Municipalities have until December 31 to make that decision.

Whether Grafton should allow such a possible dispensary was the first thing under new business that evening. No vote was planned or taken, simply a discussion of the facts. Speaking with *The Eastwick Press*, Supervisor Ingrid Gundrum said she is encouraging

the Board members to interact with residents as to their feelings on the subject, and said she will consider proposing a public hearing or even a possible referendum on the subject prior to having to make that decision.

Diverting Senior Money

Senior Citizen Representative Linda Laveway reported the Grafton Merry Makers (an independent club, not part of the Grafton Senior Center except to hold meetings there) have not met this year because of COVID-19 and probably will not until late summer at best. The board discussed the lack of events for seniors, and suggestions were made that perhaps the town could sponsor some. Supervisor Gundrum tells *The Eastwick Press* that is a possibility, and some of the \$4,900 budgeted for the Merry Makers could be diverted to pay for it.

Spending ARP Money

Like all communities, Grafton is hoping to see more than \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan recently approved by the Congress and President Biden and is beginning to plan what to do with it. Some items that need repair are the town hall fire alarm system (it rings inside but does not send a signal to the county's 911 center), needed repairs to the Gazebo in the park, the Post Office roof and refurbishing the basketball court. General consensus is these specifications should be identified and perhaps prepared to go out for bid.

Other News

Supervisor Gundrum says first quarter sales tax revenues are up \$16,000 over last year. The Grafton Rescue Squad reported it had 32 calls in March and missed just one. The Youth Summer Program is in place and will again be held at the former Grafton Elementary School.

The Library is planning to conduct its annual Run For The Roses Race at Grafton Lakes State Park, canceled last year because of COVID-19. Discussions are taking place to prepare a credit card use policy for Highway Superintendent Jarod Bouchard and there is still no sign of the \$150,000 ambulance grant from New York State. Attorney Danaher says he plans discussions with the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) as to what exactly is the holdup. DASNY is the state agency charged with administering state grants.

GRAFTON

Voters Say Yes To New Fire Truck

By the overwhelming margin of 81 to 5, residents of the Town of Grafton gave the Grafton Fire District permission to purchase a firefighting apparatus. Specifically, voters were asked to approve the issuance of serial bonds not to exceed \$353,000 and to allow the withdrawal of an amount not to exceed \$97,000 from the district's Apparatus Reserve Fund or the receipt of a grant to pay a portion of these costs.

Fire Chief Jim Goyer expressed a deep gratitude after the results were announced. He said that he and all the members of the district were deeply appreciative of the voters understanding that the time had come to replace some of the aging equipment and the confidence they have placed in the department.

City of Troy Accepting Bids On Foreclosed Properties

City of Troy Press Release

Mayor Patrick Madden has announced the City of Troy is accepting bids for purchase of available city-owned foreclosed properties. A total of 64 properties are available for sale, including 1 and 2 family homes, and vacant land zoned for residential use. A full list of available foreclosed properties is available on the City Assessor's Office webpage.

The City Assessors' Office is accepting proposal applications for any of the available properties. Proposals must be delivered by mail to the Office of the City Assessor, 433 River Street, Ste. 5001, Troy New York 12180 by Friday, April 30 at 4 pm. Proposals can also be delivered in-person by appointment with the Assessor's Office. To schedule an appointment, please call 518-279-7126.

14 city-owned properties will be open for public inspection on Wednesday, April 21, part of the city's annual foreclosed properties open house program. The event will be held in two sessions, from 9 to 10 am and 10:30 to 11:30 am.

POESTENKILL

Flag Essay Contest Winners Announced



The Fort Crailo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a flag essay contest for local 5th and 6th graders. Chapter Regent Liz Goodermote stopped by Algonquin Middle School to present awards to 6th grader Emelia Sala, 6th grader Daniel McAlonie, and 6th grader Rebecca Gallerani. Photo by Denise Wright.

BRUNSWICK

Board Adopts Zoning Law Resolution

by Chris Tergliafera

At the April 8 Brunswick Regular Town Board Meeting three resolutions were adopted. Of particular interest was Resolution 39 which is to accept the proposal from the Laberge Group to prepare proposed amendments to Brunswick's current zoning law for consideration by the Town Board. Two aspects of the resolution were addressed. The first is to resolve issues that have arisen since Brunswick adopted a new zoning law back in 2017. The second has to do with the moratorium which was placed on multi-family housing and studying whether any changes need to be made with respect to the regulations in the zoning ordinance.

Brunswick Attorney Thomas Cioffi stated he has been working with the Supervisor's office on arranging the necessary study. No major revamp is expected from the rezoning, and the Board believes the Laberge group will be able to complete its proposed amendments by the time the moratorium is up. Supervisor Philip Herrington expressed his desire to have a workshop with the public to get some input on what they think of the resolution.

In an effort to identify the reason for a high number of overdue water bills, The Water Department has looked into a possible connection between postal service carrying routes and areas where a high number of the overdue bills come from. Some residents have stated they never received a water bill so the town is considering the possibility of making water bills accessible online much like they do with the tax bills. In other Water Department news, work has begun on the Dusenberry Solar Project.

Open For Browsing

The Brunswick Community Library is open for in-person browsing by appointment only as of March 15. It has been going so well that opening for up to fifty

percent capacity may be possible some time in May. This would mean roughly 10 people at a time would be allowed to browse. In other Library news, Garden Day is set for June 5 from 9-2 and will be coupled with the BBQ chicken dinner fundraiser.

COVID-19 Relief

During the public questions portion of the meeting it was asked if the town has received any Covid relief stimulus money. The Board said it had not, but money is said to be in the pipeline. However, exactly how much Brunswick will receive and what the money can be used for is still unclear.

BRUNSWICK/BERLIN Freedom Scholarship Announced

Applications are being accepted for the scholarship award of \$300 for the best essay on "What Freedom Means To Me" by a graduating senior from Brunswick Central School District or Berlin Central School District who is continuing on with their education. The essay should not be less than 250 words or not more than 500 words. The scholarship is being given by the Carner, Etman, Smith V.F.W. Post 6340 in memory of a former member Elmer A. Grogan.

The deadline for applications is May 10. Applications are available at the guidance counselor offices of both high schools and should be mailed to: Carner, Etman, Smith V.F.W. Post 6340, PO Box 361, Grafton, NY 12082, Attn: Commander Len Claus Jr.