The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular meeting (via Zoom) on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 7:00 PM, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	Gary Holcomb, Supervisor (present)
		David Gunster, Councilman (present)
		Michael Husar, Councilman (present)
		Thomas Moss, Deputy Supervisor (present)
		Richard Pray, Councilman (video conference)
	Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox (present)
	Highway Superintendent	Randy Ritter (video conference)
ABSENT:	Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr.
	Deputy Town Clerk	Sheryl Seymour

OTHERS PRESENT: Building Inspector Matt Banks (present), Building Inspector Clerk Cheryl Mammano (present), Code Enforcement Officer John Broughton (present), Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Member Cindy Cook (present), Planning Board Member John Eldred (present), and three Members of the General Public (present)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Holcomb led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESIDENTS' TIME

Pilgrim Holiness Property – Resident Esther Aswad thanked Mr. Holcomb and Building Inspector Matt Banks for taking the time to go above the bridge to visit the Pilgrim Holiness property. Mr. Holcomb said the property looked like it was a nice camp at one time but certainly needs work now.

Demolition on Ballyhack Road – Resident Wendy Hill is the new Owner of 404, 406, and 412 Ballyhack Road. She has demolished one of the trailers and is working toward cleaning up all of the properties. Town Board Members welcomed her to the Town of Fenton and commended her for the work she has been doing thus far.

Signs on Corner of Chenango Street/Hadsell Court – Resident Mike Farrell is concerned about the three signs that have been put up by a Resident on the corner of Chenango Street and Hadsell Court regarding people staying off her property. He said there should be a bus stop fixture at that location, and this may help to solve the problem. Mr. Holcomb does not believe the issue is related to a bus stop but children leaving the Children's Home and staff trying to locate them. Mr. Moss said this situation was discussed at the Work Session after a video of a Children's Home staff worker was seen walking across the property. Since the meeting, Mr. Holcomb has reached out to the Board of Directors at the Children's Home in anticipation of a meeting with one or two members of the Board and President/CEO George Dermody of the Children's Home.

Port Crane Cemetery – Approximately $200,000 has been spent putting up a new building for the Port Crane Cemetery and Resident John Eldred, representative of the Cemetery, complained

about the old barn that is next door to it. People coming to the Cemetery have noticed it and voiced complaints about it as well. (The barn is located at 28 Pine Street.)

Residents' Time closed at 7:19 PM

TOTAL BILLS – ABSTRACT 5, 2021 approved during the May 26th, 2021 meeting:

FUND	VOUCHER #s	AMOUNT
General	238 – 286	$30,253.37
Highway	131 – 163	$48,850.85
Hillcrest Water	82 – 100	$11,688.69
Hillcrest Sewer	14 – 17	$197.43
Porter Hollow Sewer	0	$0
Port Crane Light District	8 – 9	$728.35
Hillcrest Light District	8 – 9	$1,091.64
Trust & Agency	6	$2,613.37
Capital Projects	0	$0.00
CDBG	13 – 22	$60,814.88

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- The last vouchers for the CDBG were approved and we are in the final stages of finishing up the projects associated with that Grant.
- In regard to the upcoming Chenango Street Sidewalks Project, the Town was offered $100 for 54 square feet of property on the corner of Chenango and Utica Streets from the County.
- At the previous Work Session, Bookkeeper Theresa Staats gave an overview of the webinars she attended. One of the topics that Mr. Holcomb said the Town is going to need to follow up on is the Cannabis Law. The Town has to decide if dispensaries and consumption areas, such as cannabis bars, are going to be allowed. If the Town decides against them, a Local Law to opt-out will have to be passed by the end of December 2021. Sales tax is based on where the sales occur so the Town would receive 3% if they were allowed.
- The Town recently raised the sewer rates and today a $22,000 credit was received from the JC Sewage Treatment Plant.
- Town Clerk Melodie Bowersox has arranged for the Town to host a Passport Fair on Tuesday, July 13th, 2021, from 5 - 7 PM at the Town Hall. If you need a Passport or need to renew your Passport, you may do so on that day.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

- Mr. Holcomb said that there is no formal Town Attorney's Report, but he commented that Atty. Millus has been working on the Recreational Vehicle (RV) Local Law. He will be assisting the Town Board with the cannabis issue. Also, if the Town needs to take action on the Assessment for renewable energy projects, he will be helping with that. Mr. Husar noted Atty. Millus is looking into the reimbursement to the Town for demolition of properties as well.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- Monthly Report was read by Melodie Bowersox.
- Total Local Shares for May 2021 were $2,292.50.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds – Mr. Moss thanked the Water Department for assisting the Town with maintenance items at the Town Hall. An agreement has been made with Water Supervisor Greg Starley and Water Operator Devon Ritter to help with small projects that will be charged to the General Fund. He also said there have been ongoing issues with the alarm system going off at the Town Hall. Mr. Moss has a call into Sentry Alarm to hopefully resolve the issue. A technician fixed a problem with the generator that was due to debris on a sensor.

Zoning Enforcement – Report was read by Mr. Moss. Code Enforcement Officer John Broughton added that notices were also sent out to 63 and 65 Nowlan Road.

Water and Sewer – Report was read by Mr. Pray. A Water & Sewer Billing Update Report was received from Assistant Bookkeeper Mike Giovinazzo that showed approximately $12,600 had been uncollected. Mr. Holcomb commented that these water and sewer amounts will probably be re-levied to the Property Owner's tax bills.

Dog Control – Report was read by Mr. Pray.

Highway and Solid Waste – Mr. Gunster reported May activity that included:

- Path of Life Culvert Repair – culvert washed out in a May storm and road was closed; culvert may be replaced with a concrete box
- Pleasant Valley and Rogers Road Clean-up – trees came down from last week's windstorm
- Monkey Run Road Culvert Repair – patches on some of the older concrete pipes were dug up and repaired
- Fenner Hill Swale Repair
- Crocker Hill Road/Prentice Hill Road Area Swale Installation – water diverted to run into ditches and away from house where water was running into a basement
- Fenton Avenue Clean-up – two trees cut down
- Gordon Street Culvert Cave-in Repair
- New Leaf Cidery New Driveway Culvert Installed
- Successful Clean-Up Day – electronic invoice was $3,607.60 for 2 ½ tons

- Future Summer Projects (covered under CHIPS) will include repairs of five storm drains on Port Street, completion of the Path of Life culvert, and road paving on Fenton Avenue, Utica, Center, and Port Street; new paving process on Pigeon Hill Road

Because the Path of Life Road is going to be closed for a time, Mr. Holcomb suggested notifying Broome County Emergency Services and the Residents in that area of the status. Highway Superintendent Randy Ritter said he will be placing detour signs at the end of the road to direct those attending the Path of Life Camp up Ballyhack Road to Winn Hill Road to the Camp.

Building Inspector – Report was read by Mr. Gunster.

Town Engineer – Mr. Husar reported that John Mastronardi of Griffiths Engineering is waiting on the topographic and boundary survey to be completed by Paul Koerts for the Path of Life Culvert, then he will begin designing the new Culvert. Also, John received two quotes from survey services for the Nowlan Road water tank replacement, with William & Edsall Land Surveyors coming in at the lower of the two for $5,500. Upon Town Board approval, he will give them notice to proceed. Assistant Town Engineer Rick Armstrong has been reviewing the Cidery's plans, assisted Andrew Kark with necessary paperwork for Site Plan Review for the Agrestic Meadow Wedding Venue, and completed the inspection of nine sewer outfalls in various parts of the Town.

Justice Court – Mr. Husar said the Court is going well and he has received positive feedback on the job Judge Dadamio is doing.

Assessor – There was no Assessor's Report. Mr. Holcomb asked Mr. Husar to speak to Assessor Cindy Mills about the Assessment of solar/renewable energy systems (Section 487 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law) and what the Town needs to do about it.

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Activity Reports – There was no Report of the Planning Board/ZBA.

Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) – Mr. Gunster reported that the CAC Meeting was rescheduled from June 1st to June 8th. The Clean Energy Coordinator that has been assisting the CAC is moving to another County. Dennis Molter, CAC Member, resigned from his position.

Mr. Husar made a motion to approve all Committee Reports as submitted, seconded by Mr. Gunster. **Motion carried.**
ROLL CALL VOTE:
Councilman Mr. Gunster aye
Councilman Mr. Husar aye
Councilman Mr. Moss aye
Councilman Mr. Pray aye
Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

MINUTES

Mr. Moss made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 28th, 2021 Work Session and the May 5th, 2021 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pray. **Motion carried**.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Councilman Mr. Gunster aye
Councilman Mr. Husar aye
Councilman Mr. Moss aye
Councilman Mr. Pray aye
Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

OLD BUSINESS

- **Resolution #2021-11: Resolution for 5987 NYS Route 79 Clean Up – Mr. Husar made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-11:**

  WHEREAS, the Owners of 5987 NYS Route 79 have been notified on numerous occasions to clean up debris around the home, and

  WHEREAS, the Owners failed to appear for a Court Appearance concerning violations of the Property Maintenance Law, and,

  WHEREAS, the situation is becoming a health and safety issue for the neighboring community, and

  WHEREAS, Town Code Section 107-6 allows for the Town to clean up property and charge the associated costs to the property taxes with Town Board approval,

  NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town of Fenton Code Enforcement Officers to contract for the clean up of 5987 NYS Route 79 at their discretion without further delays.
  Seconded by Mr. Gunster. **Motion carried.**
  ROLL CALL VOTE:
  Councilman Mr. Gunster aye
  Councilman Mr. Husar aye
  Councilman Mr. Moss aye
  Councilman Mr. Pray aye
  Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

  Prior to the vote, Mr. Holcomb said that at the Work Session last week there was a discussion as to whether the Town should get a Court Order to take care of the situation at 5987 NYS Route 79 or the Town should go in and clean up the property. The consensus was the Town would clean up the property, but the Board did not vote on it. Matt Banks said that some of the grass has since been cut but it was cut with the garbage still on the grass. There is a new dumpster on site, but the property is still a mess.
- **Demolition Update** – Mr. Gunster reported that 404 Ballyhack Road has been demolished by the Owner; he thanked Wendy Hill again for taking care of this. The house that had a fire at 538 Ballyhack Road is currently being demolished. Also, 177 NYS Route 7B has been demolished.

- **Fenton Avenue Paving/Curbs** – Mr. Gunster said that when the paving is done on Fenton Avenue, the Highway Department is considering adding curbs. This would be a $70,000 expenditure. This is a project that the Town will look into.
- **Library Sidewalk** – The sidewalk in front of the library is dangerous. There was a brief discussion about repairing it before the County does it next year. Randy Ritter said the Town could hire someone to feather the edges back with cement to temporarily fix it.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no New Business.

At 8:15 PM, Mr. Husar made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**
VOTE: Ayes 5 Gunster, Holcomb, Husar, Moss, Pray
Nays 0
Absent 0

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk