

Supervisor Drozd discussed the following with the Board:

1. Town Attorney Attea will not be attendance tonight and Deputy Town Attorney Rautenstrach had a legal matter to attend so there will be no legal counsel at tonight's meeting. Town Attorney Attea had called Supervisor Drozd before the meeting tonight and reviewed the Agenda; nothing on the Agenda this evening should require any legal counsel but Town Attorney Attea will be available by telephone if the Board should require legal counsel.

2. In this morning's mail, the Town was notified by Legislator Lorigo's office that the Town received a \$5,000 grant for park equipment, hardware, garbage bins, benches and another \$5,000 for the Senior Center so the Town can purchase warming trays for the lunches, rugs/runners, chairs and benches and tables for outside. Senior Director Hunt would like the same tables and benches as was purchased for the Hulbert Library; these are on the State bid through Sourcewell. Supervisor Drozd noted that this is a nice gift from Legislator Lorigo. Supervisor Drozd and the Board Members will discuss what other items may need to be purchased.

3. Since the Town did not get the Community Development Block Grant for the Community Park restroom restoration, Senator Gallivan did put this project on his wish list. Senator Gallivan advised that he forwarded the project to his fellow Legislative Leaders and Chairperson respectfully asking that the Senate support funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the Town of Concord to refurbish the Community Park restroom facility so that it is handicap accessible. Supervisor Drozd will keep the Board apprised of any further developments. Supervisor Drozd had spoken with Kim Peck, Gallivan's Community Representative, who noted that there were a lot of requests this year but Senator Gallivan remembers this building from this last visit to Community Park.

4. Supervisor Drozd received a follow up letter from the Erie County Environment Management Council (EMC) and asked if any of the Board Members wanted to join this Council. There was no interest at this time; Supervisor Drozd will notify the EMC that the Town does not have a candidate at this time.

5. The pre-construction meeting last week for the CDBG Senior Center project. The bid opening is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. There does seem to be a lot of interest in this project. Micah Mast from MDA was in attendance at the pre-construction meeting and answered quite a few questions from the contractors. The Town is hopeful there will be more bids than when this project was bid last Fall. Awarding the bid will be on the April Agenda. If there is need to have a Special Town Board Meeting to award this bid earlier than April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Town Board will hold a Special Meeting for that purpose to keep the project moving.

6. Steve Myers submitted a Letter of Interest to become a Planning Board Member. Town Clerk Schweikert and Supervisor Drozd talked to Mr. Myers and he will come to a Planning Board meeting to see how it works with his schedule and decide if he would like to become a Member of the Planning Board. Mr. Myers was also recommended by some of the other Planning Board Members. There are still two openings on the Zoning Board of Appeals. There is one opening on the Board of Assessment Review; the Board will be making that appointment tonight to put Scott Benkelman on the BAR. The BAR is a training day and a one-day Grievance Day and will fit into Mr. Benkelman's schedule.

7. The Town received a thank you note from James Brucker from the memorial of his brother Jerone at the closing of the February meeting.

8. Supervisor Drozd received a letter and email from the Erie County Charter Revision Commission is going to meet March 20<sup>th</sup> after a scheduled Public Hearing at 6 p.m. at the Cheektowaga Senior Center; the Commission is asking for input from all elected Supervisors and Mayors from the local jurisdictions regarding any revisions, recommendations, and/or suggestions to the Charter. If any Board Member is interested in attending, they were asked to let Supervisor Drozd know so he can get their name on the list of attendees. Supervisor Drozd is not available to attend. Comments can also be forwarded to Shawn Connolly, Chair of the Erie County Charter Revision Committee.

9. Supervisor Drozd met with Mayor Michaels, Deputy Mayor Belscher and a couple Village Trustees and agreed to get back to having a joint meeting with the Village to improve communications between the Town and Village on matters that affect both. It was decided that one person from each Board to attend a meeting, monthly, and then it could be decided if both full Boards need to get together. Supervisor Drozd believes that this is a good start and will do the first meeting on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Village is more than willing to rotate; Deputy Mayor Belscher said that he could attend Town Board Meetings as would Trustee Schuster. The Village meets twice a month, but the Town would only go to one of their meetings a month. It could be addressed first on the Agenda monthly to see if there were any joint Village/Town concerns; if there are no concerns, the representative could leave the meeting if they so choose. This would be an attempt to get more communication between the two Boards. Supervisor Drozd noted that items such as the Control Center, Bands/Music in the Park, could be addressed.

10. Last meeting the Town Board agreed to increase the pay of the Dispatchers for the Control Center. The Village came to the conclusion that they are 50/50 with the Town on the Control Center; the original license was in the Town of Concord's name and was later transferred over to the Village. This will be about \$4,250 more dollars if all positions are filled. This was offered and accepted by the Control Center; it is approximately a \$4/hour raise with the Lead Dispatcher getting a \$5/hour raise. There has been one new recruit. This is an 8-hour shift at \$25/hour; it is hopeful that that will keep Dispatchers and recruit new ones. There was no one wanting to do this for \$100/shift. Dennis Dains and Marc Gentner have been putting in shifts; the roster is not full but it is better now. Supervisor Drozd believes that there is another one coming on who is doing the 6-month training right now.

11. The Town received the Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed modification to the Agricultural District. Last Summer, the Town of Concord submitted the request to remove the Town Highway Garage parcel and the Community Park parcel from the Southeast Agricultural District. This Public Hearing is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. No one from the Town has to attend; this is just a formality.

12. Sales Tax is 10.81% lower than last year. Year-to-Date to February it is 8.69% lower than last year.

13. Tim Domes, Water Operator, and Supervisor Drozd were involved with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspection for the water facility (pump-house). The EPA did the Village of Springville a week prior to our inspection; Operator Domes noted that the inspector was there for seven hours. The inspection at the Town building took three hours. The Town had purchased parts last year for the one of the two leaks inside the building; Operator Domes has the parts for the other leak now. When the weather breaks a little bit, this work will be done as some of this work is outside work. This work will be accomplished on a Saturday. The inspection took place on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Town will receive a written report which will state that the backup power needs to get going as soon as possible up there. There has been snow knee deep out there in the back but the EPA inspector looked at everything inside and the breaker box, and pictures of the pad and the conduit. Supervisor Drozd advised that this will be a propane generator. Caleb Henning at MDA will write up a quick specs on it for the Town. Supervisor Drozd and Operator Domes will get together and go to Holland Propane to see what is available and if the Town will need to bid this out. This is something that needs to be done because there must be a backup power on the system. Village DPW Supt. Duane Boberg has also volunteered to assist the Town if needed on this project.

14. Ben Slotman, Sewer Operator, will be scheduling the State inspection of the sewer pumping station in Craneridge. Operator Slotman and his assistant, Josh Latham, had a problem last Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Waste Water Treatment Plant with the air to the sludge tank in the plant. All work was done in-house. All the gauges are up; and working now.

15. The Town received the Flow Test results from Ehmke Well Drillers for the Town Wells 1 and 2 at the Water District. This information has been forwarded to Caleb Henning at MDA, and will be helpful information for the Town in case that proposed development is continues. Town Clerk Schweikert also has a copy of these Flow Test results in her office.

16. The Town received the second phase of the paperwork from Assemblyman DiPietro's \$50,000 grant for the Community Park playground equipment. Supervisor Drozd reviewed these documents with Jeff Smith at Municipal Solutions. The Town has never had a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is needed for this second phase. This Policy is on tonight's Agenda. The Board had been provided with copies of this Policy. Once the Town Board adopts this Policy, Supervisor Drozd can go online and complete the docu-sign of the second phase of documents. Both Supervisor Drozd and Deputy Supervisor Drake will be signing these documents. This is the final phase and the Town should be able to start drawing off these grant funds.

17. There has been a lot of New York State stuff:

- Town Websites-It is expected to pass quickly to amend the General Municipal Law to remove the requirement for certain small municipalities of 1500 or less to maintain a .gov website. Concord does not qualify so the Town will be required to do this by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Town Clerk Schweikert has made initial contact with our current website company regarding this requirement. The first step is for the Town to register for the new domain address. Town Clerk Schweikert also questioned how this would affect the townofconcord.com email addresses. Town Clerk Schweikert will continue to work on this project. Supervisor Drozd reviewed the information that is required to be on the Town's website which includes privacy policy, Town Codes, links to Laws and Resolutions, Public Hearings and Meetings/agendas/minutes, annual financial reports, current Budget, independent Audit, and most recent fiscal performance plan or multi-year financial plan required by NYS Finance Law. The Town's website has most of this information already on the current website.

- Safe Water and Infrastructure Act: Some local Town Supervisors went to the New York State Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training in New York City in February. Town of Boston Supervisor Keating shared that the Safe Water and Infrastructure Act is to fund the replacement and rehabilitation of local drinking water, stormwater and sanitary sewer systems not under private jurisdiction. This means that there should be more money statewide to get these aging infrastructures in line.

- CHIPS: Hwy Supt Edwards noted that there should be a little bit of increase in CHIPS money.

- Solar and Wind: There was a decision released on March 3<sup>rd</sup> that a Supreme Court in Albany found that the New York State delegated its taxing authority to the Department of Taxation and Finance adopting a law authorizing the department to develop a standardized assessment model to be used to value solar and wind energy projects over 1 megawatt. This is a significant win for towns as there was concerns that the model grossly under valued solar and wind projects.

- Assessors: There was another bill proposed to eliminate Assessor's statewide which does not affect the Town now, but apparently this bill will be passing in the next session. There is no information at this time how this will affect the Town in years ahead; if assessing would go county-wide.

18. Supervisor Drozd was advised by the Mortons Corners Fire Department that the Department will be recognizing David Brooks for his 37 years at this Saturday's Installation dinner. The Town will be presenting Mr. Brooks with a Proclamation at the dinner.

19. Council Member Zittel advised that he and Hwy Supt Edwards went to a NYS DOT meeting last Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in Warsaw.

20. On tonight's Agenda, the Board will be discussing the Erie County Department of Health Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) request for support in converting their current operating authority (Certificate of Need) from a Municipal certificate to a permanent full operating Certificate. This request was sent to all Towns/Villages in Erie County and it appears all are in favor of it. Tonawanda will be starting their own ambulance service; the ambulances are ordered. There is some form of it now as the Town has EMTs on duty and pays them 24/7 and even Tonawanda wants this request to go through. They would still remain a non-primary responder and only respond when other resources are unavailable. There is a fly-car in Colden and when the Town is at zero here (when both Mercy ambulances are out), that fly-car has been coming to Concord. Supervisor Drozd noted that Erie County representatives will be coming out to a Supervisor's meeting sometime in the near future to give another presentation to the Towns. Supervisor Drozd will request the Board's support later in tonight's meeting.

21. There are two Senior Director reports for tonight's meeting. Senior Director Hunt gave one report to Town Clerk Schweikert a week or ten days ago and then another one just this week. Supervisor Drozd gave Senior Director Hunt a calendar noting when to provide the reports for the Town Board meetings; payroll, purchases.

22. The Craneridge Lighting Committee's Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed and edited by Town Attorney Attea. Copies were provided to the Board Members as this will be on the Agenda tonight. Once the Board approves the Memorandum, Supervisor Drozd will get the copy to the Committee so that they can get this going. Town Attorney Attea's comment to the Board was that this Memorandum does not limit the Town's power at all; let the Committee do their work first and see if something else has to happen in the Craneridge development. The Craneridge Lighting Committee has seen the Memorandum of Understanding as revised by Town Attorney Attea and it appears they approve of the changed Memorandum. This lighting district has been discussed by the Town and Craneridge for over 16 years. The Lighting District line was removed from the tax bills for this 2025 tax collection cycle because all the old light fixtures were removed during 2024. Town Clerk Schweikert will need a fully signed copy of this Memorandum for her file.

23. Supervisor Drozd and Senior Director Hunt interviewed a candidate earlier today for the replacement of Samantha Hunt. This appointment will be made at tonight's meeting.

24. Supervisor Drozd discussed with the Board the Town's process of auditing the bills. Currently one Member reviews the bills and signs the Audit form. The recommendation was made to have more than one signature on the Audit. At least two more Members should sign so that there would be a majority. The other members signed the Audit since they all have reviewed the Abstract.

25. Supervisor Drozd spoke with Joseph Laurito who was here tonight with Boy Scout Troop #643. Mr. Laurito was a prior employee of the Town of Concord as a Court Constable and was a Corrections Officer. Supervisor Drozd informed Mr. Laurito that the Town Board passed a resolution to repeal the HALT Act; Mr. Laurito thanked the Board on behalf of the Corrections Officers. The Boy Scouts are working on their Citizenship in the Community Badge and attending a Town Meeting is one of the requirements.