

York Town Board Meeting  
April 14, 2020  
Via Zoom Conferencing  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming  
Councilwoman Lynn Parnell  
Councilman Amos Smith  
Councilman Frank Rose Jr.  
Councilman Norman Gates  
Town Clerk Christine M. Harris

Others: Highway Superintendent, George Worden Jr.  
Water/Sewer Billing Clerk, Connie Burger  
Town Attorney, James Campbell  
Thomas Trathen  
Kirk Richenberg

Start time of the meeting:

0.04 Supervisor Deming

I'd like to call the meeting to order, I'm Supervisor Deming. We are going to take roll call on the Board.

0.14 Norm Gates

Yes

0.17 Frank Rose

Yes

0.22 Amos Smith

Here

0.26 Lynn Parnell

Yes

0.31 Town Clerk, Christine Harris

Present

0.35 Highway Supt., George Worden

Present

0.39 Attorney Jim Campbell

I'm here

0.44 Gerald Deming

Is there anyone else on the line that we need to take their name down as being in attendance?

0.54 Town Clerk Harris

We have Tom Trathen and Kirk Richenberg who signed in.

1.00 Gerald Deming

So, I have to read the Executive Order before we get into business:

Whereas, on March 7, 2020, Executive Order #202 was issued, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York;

Whereas, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented in New York State and are expected to continue; Article 7 of the Public Officer's Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

I am going to open the Town Board Meeting at this time and state that we will conduct basic town business this evening, hearing from board members and department heads. We will not have privileges of the floor, our main focus is to review all claims brought before the board for approval purposes and questions/concerns from the board.

So, at this time I'd like the approval of the town board meeting on March 10, 2020.

2.31 So moved

2.35 Gerald Deming

State your name after you make the motion please.

2.42 Amos Smith

So moved

2.45 Lynn Parnell

Second

2.48 Gerald Deming

Roll Call vote

2.57 Norm Gates Yes

3.02 Frank Rose Aye

3.07 Amos Smith Aye

3.10 Lynn Parnell Aye

3.14 Gerald Deming Aye

3.19 Gerald Deming

George, do you have any report for Highway or Water/Sewer?

3.24 George Worden

We did receive some supplies from the State, cleaning supplies and sterilization supplies. We are utilizing them and we did hand them out to the Town Hall and to the water and sewer, and to the fire department, who was on the list. We've been utilizing them, they've held up well. Before this all came down, all these orders, I did order some other stuff to help protect our workers and that prior to the shutdown and not being able to get some of this stuff. So we are in good shape on that. We've been doing some ditching and practicing the social distancing at work as well as at home. All of us are under that understanding and stuff. One of the things we can do that way is the ditching and grading and all that stuff because it puts someone in separate vehicles and we've been trying to close the roads as we're doing it too. So you don't have to have someone out there flagging and actually communicating with the public sometimes. The guys are to wear masks and all that when they're out there in the public working.

4:46 George Worden

Everything seems to be going smooth.

4:58 Gerald Deming

You do know starting tomorrow the Executive Order is all personnel have to wear a mask when dealing with the public.

5:02 George Worden

Yes. We have a large meeting, we'll start out that way tomorrow. I have issued masks to all the employees. I have a meeting with the water personnel tomorrow morning to go over that and hand out more supplies to them as well.

5:25 Gerald Deming

Okay, All right, does any board member have any questions for George?

5:35 Gerald Deming

Go on to New Business...we need to have a motion for brush pickup on May 13<sup>th</sup> and Chrissy can advertise.

Lynn Parnell

So moved

Amos Smith

Second

Gerald Deming

All in favor, say Aye...let's do a roll call to be sure we have everyone.

Norm Gates

Aye

Frank Rose

Aye

Amos Smith

Aye

Lynn Parnell      Aye  
Gerald Deming    Aye

6:20 Gerald Deming

We need a motion for water restoration for Jazkam down in Retsof.

6:29 Amos Smith

So moved

6:32 Frank Rose

Second

6:34 Gerald Deming...roll call

6:39 Normie      Aye

6:42 Frank      Aye

6:45 Amos      Aye

6:48 Lynn      Aye

6:51 Gerald      Aye

7:01 Gerald Deming

For Anderson Road we heard from Rural Development that we can go to bid, so we need a motion to put that notice in the paper.

7:09 Amos Smith

Jerry, I'm not sure if it's me or you but there's an echo of your phone in the background. It's really hard to understand.

7:19 Frank Rose

I'm getting the same thing.

7:23 Amos Smith

Do you have a speaker on or something?

7:29 Gerald Deming

Is that any better?

Amos Smith

Yeah, there we go

Norm Gates

Yes it is

7:35 Gerald Deming

All right, Rural Development has approved Anderson Road to go to bid, so I need a motion so Chrissy can put the notice in the paper that we are going to bid.

Amos Smith  
So moved

Norm Gates  
Second

Gerald Deming...okay, I'm going to take roll call.

Norm Aye  
Frank Aye  
Amos Aye  
Lynn Aye  
Gerald Aye

8:19 Gerald Deming  
The actual bid opening we're anticipating for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for Anderson Road.

8:23 Gerald Deming  
The only other business before the Board before the bills, we did receive some questions from Kirk Richenberg.

8:36 Gerald Deming  
Some of them I can address.

8:39 Gerald Deming  
That we are continuing to take calls and letters from the residents with any questions or concerns. We encourage that they're welcome to call the town hall at any time. They can fax, they can email or they can contact myself or any other board member. People have called with questions on what's going on and what we're doing and so on, and so, they will be answered if we get those.

9:17 Gerald Deming  
As for any consideration using any reserve funds to reduce the burden on taxpayers, there is not at this time. I don't look at that in the near future. We are working, looking at our budget now to see what we can cut, what we don't have to do this year.

9:42 Gerald Deming  
We know we're going to get hit with costs that we weren't anticipating. We're going to lose a lot of tax revenue on our share that we get from the State. So, we're going through the budget, working with George Worden on what we can do and can't do. We are looking at CHIPS at this point, CHIPS is still in the budget but the Governor still has the option to take that money if he needs to. So we are not sure where we are with that at this time. We have cut a lot of employees. Hourly employees have been pretty much nonexistent or their hours have been cut.

10:37 Gerald Deming



To: Town of York Board Members

With the Covid 19 pandemic spreading across the world forcing many changes in the way we think of normal everyday practices, I am concerned with how our rights as citizens are going to be protected. There are many ways for the government to inform and engage the people. Now is the time for government officials to use the resources they have available to allow the people to be heard. It is great to see notices being posted on doors and the kiosk in front of the town hall being utilized for this purpose. Keeping the public informed and hearing the voice of the people is of the utmost importance during these different times. What is this government body going to do to allow the people to be heard?

I would also like to know how the town board and town employees are conserving resources. Is the town board considering using reserve funds to reduce the burden on taxpayers at this time or in the future? I have these question for the 4/14/20 town board meeting. Thank you for your response to these questions and concerns in advance.

Kirk Richenberg

We are getting by as a Board...Chrissy, Patti and Connie have really picked up a lot of the slack and have doing a great job keeping things running at the town hall.

10:57 Gerald Deming

So at this time is there any questions or anything from the Board?

11:04 Frank Rose

I guess, this is Frank Rose, like to know what's the status on all the solar projects and all that, they all on hold for temporary, for the time being?

Gerald Deming

No, we are going forward with Planning Board meeting, I believe it's the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month, to review Solar Park's proposal. If it's approved at the Planning Board on the 29<sup>th</sup>, it will go forward to the County Planning.

11:48 Gerald Deming

We are looking, the Governor came out with another Executive Order that as far as Public Hearings, he said we do not have to hold a public hearing for May and June, I believe that's correct, right Jim?

James Campbell

Yes, the Executive Order said that any current prescheduled public hearings for the months of April or May or any public hearings that need to be scheduled for the months of April or May are delayed until June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gerald Deming

Right. But with that said we are looking at other ways we can hold a public hearing, so all the town residents will get their say on what's going on with the project. So we are working on that at this time.

Frank Rose

Then, I have one other question concerning Anderson Road project. Are we still considering Jack Ellis as a Clerk of the Works?

Gerald Deming

No, we're looking at what we have budgeted in the project and that's where we are going to keep it at this point.

Frank Rose

Okay

13:00 Gerald Deming

Anything else?

13:04 Gerald Deming

All right, everybody received the abstract

13:08 Lynn Parnell & Norm Gates  
Yeah

13:09 Gerald Deming  
I have the actual totals, it wasn't totaled on your abstract. The General Fund is \$19,549.24, Highway Fund is \$21,655.15, Consolidated Water is \$14,765.79 and the Light District is \$1,655.66. I need a motion to approve.

13:42 Lynn Parnell  
So moved

13:45 Amos Smith  
Second

13:50 Gerald Deming  
Take a roll call...

13:53 Norm Gates  
Yes

13:54 Frank Rose  
Aye

13:58 Amos Smith  
Aye

14:01 Lynn Parnell  
Aye

Gerald Deming...I am also Aye

14:07 Gerald Deming  
Well, I think this worked okay. Hopefully everybody is doing well and staying safe, hopefully this is over soon.

14:20 Gerald Deming  
Is there anything else before the Board?

14:24 Frank Rose  
Nope, I'm good

Lynn Parnell  
No

Gerald Deming...Now a motion to adjourn



Amos Smith  
So moved

Lynn Parnell  
Second

14:34 Gerald Deming...roll call

Normie Aye  
Frank Aye  
Amos Aye  
Lynn Aye  
Gerald Deming ...I'm also, Aye

14:49 Gerald Deming  
Thank you everybody, stay safe and we'll talk to you soon.

Frank Rose  
Okay

Amos Smith  
Thanks Jerry

Lynn Parnell  
Bye, goodnight

14:57 Norm Gates  
See you later, bye

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Christine Harris*  
Christine M. Harris,  
Town Clerk