

04/06/05 Town Board Minutes

A regular meeting of the Elma Town Board was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 8:00 PM, Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, New York, with the following members present:

Supervisor Michael Nolan
Councilman Bill Cirocco
Councilwoman Susan Glownia
Councilman Dennis Powers
Councilman Dean Puleo

Also: Town Attorney Robert Pierce-Absent
Building Inspector Joseph Colern
Highway Superintendent Wayne Clark
Water Superintendent Eugene Stevenson
Town Engineer James Wzykiewicz

Approximately 31 people attended the meeting.

The meeting was opened with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Glownia made the motion and Councilman Powers seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2005 meeting.

Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Department Reports:

Building Inspector Joseph Colern presented the monthly report for March 2005 with 13 permits issued, fees collected of \$1,527.40 with an estimated value of construction \$239,952.

Water Superintendent Eugene Stevenson presented the Annual 2004 Water Department Report. The Water Department is in the process of clearing trees and brush from the right of ways in the water line paths on South Jerge Drive and Woodside Drive if a break occurs in the future.

Highway Superintendent Wayne Clark informed the Town Board that the new loader is in service, the Town Parks are getting ready to be opened, work on the South Blossom

Road drainage project is being worked on and old Town Hall and Highway equipment will be taken to the auction.

Councilman Powers made the motion and Councilman Cirocco seconded the motion to approve a Business Use Permit for Peter Mays, PeteG|+s Moving LLC at 7397 Seneca Street on a negative declaration with a short form SEQR. Building Inspector notes with restrictions in G|úUseG|Ñ all moving vehicles to be stored in rear of property (behind Pole barn). Also fire inspection required within 30 days of occupancy and a permit required for any advertising sign. Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Councilman Puleo made the motion and Councilman Powers seconded the motion to approve Iroquois Central School District to use four (4) voting machines for the Iroquois Scholl referendum vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2005. Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Councilman Powers made the motion and Councilman Puleo seconded the motion to approve Edward Sauer establishing the Elma Emergency Planning Committee which would be a volunteer group to maintain the Town of Elma Disaster Plan on an ongoing basis. Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Councilwoman Glownia made the motion and Councilman Puleo seconded the motion to establish the G|úOffice of Emergency ManagementG|Ñ and to purchase a high ban portable radio from the State Bid list at a cost of \$290.54 by Edward Sauer Disaster Coordinator. Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Councilwoman Glownia made the motion and Councilman Cirocco seconded the motion to approve Jennifer Ginter and Tara Grambo to attend classes at the NYS Town ClerkG|+s Conference in Buffalo, NY at a cost of \$150.00 for both, this has been budgeted for. Ayes-5. Noes-0. Carried.

Councilman Cirocco made the motion and Councilman Powers seconded the motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2004, the Erie County Executive, the Mayor of the City of Buffalo, the Chairman of the Erie County Legislature and the President of the Buffalo Common Council called for a Commission to review the advantage and challenges of merging the two largest local governments; and

WHEREAS, an eleven member Commission comprised of county and city elected

officials and citizens was created under the chairmanship of William Greiner, former president of the State University of New York at Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2005, the so-called Greiner Commission issued its recommendation to merge the County of Erie and City of Buffalo into the Regional City of Buffalo and transfer functions of the former City of Buffalo to the new Regional City and the formation of a municipal services district in which residents of the former City of Buffalo would be taxed for services that are provided within the municipal services district; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Executive would be the Chief Executive of this municipal services district and would add additional responsibility to an already over burdened executive; and

WHEREAS, under the plan, five regional city legislators would exclusively represent the residents of the municipal services district creating potential conflicts in representing the interests of the regional city and interests of the municipal services district and create the potential for more divisions between the former City of Buffalo and its suburban counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the chief executive officer of the municipal services district, as well as department heads and employees would not necessarily be residents of the municipal services district, leaving residents of the municipal services district with a significantly reduced influence and voice in determining the quality and quantity of services they desire; and

WHEREAS, this plan would increase the power of the regional city in the area of planning that could interfere with the powers currently enjoyed by towns and would also allow the regional city the power to expend money for any public purpose and assess costs to residents of a town without the consent of town elected officials and is a backdoor approach to eliminating town government without the consent of the voters within a town; and

WHEREAS, this plan does nothing to improve the structural disparity between revenues and expenditures facing both Erie County and the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, larger, more bureaucratic and centralized governments are not necessarily more efficient than smaller, streamlined local governments; and

WHEREAS, as a county, our attention and focus must be on our unified demand that the State of New York reform the Medicaid System and that the costs of Medicaid be paid for by New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Elma

does hereby go on record as opposing the current recommendations of the Greiner Commission and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the Greiner Commission continues to explore regional forms of governance that the composition of the Commission be expanded to include representatives of towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to County Executive Joel Giambra, Mayor Anthony Masiello, the Erie County Legislature, the Buffalo Common Council and to Supervisors of the towns in Erie County.

Ayes-5 . Noes-0 . Carried.

Supervisor Nolan stated the next Work Session is Wednesday April 13, 2005 at 6:00PM.

All have received the Zoning and Planning Board agendas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. King
Elma Town Clerk