

# Town of Niagara Board honors Barney

**STORY AND PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO**

Tribune Editor

On Wednesday, the Town of Niagara board held its first session at Town Hall (7105 Lockport Road) since St. Patrick's Day 2020. The facility had been closed during that time due to the pandemic.

It was an overall light agenda, featuring mostly procedural items. However, the board's first order of business was to honor someone with a long history of dutiful service to the town.

The board issued a proclamation honoring Patrick Barney, a member of the Town's Zoning Board for almost 35 years, and a volunteer firefighter for Niagara Active Hose for even longer.

Barney, who was appointed ZBA chairman four years ago, announced his resignation earlier this month, effective July 1.

"As with all of us, it gets to a point in life where you think it's time to look for your family, and towards some other things, and Pat has some family he wants to visit in other parts of the country. He has a son in Arizona. And so, he has decided to step down," Supervisor Lee Wallace said of Barney, whom he called "a fixture for the town."

"And so, tonight, we would like to present Pat with a proclamation and a plaque. It says: 'In recognition of the valuable con-



Pictured, from left: Councilman Richard Sirianni, Councilman Charles Teixeira, Councilman Patrick Barney, Supervisor Lee Wallace, Councilman Samuel Gatto, Town Clerk Sylvia Virtuoso and Councilman Marc Carpenter.

The board voted to appoint Guido S. Virtuoso as a member of the ZBA to fill the remainder of Barney's term.

Elsewhere, the board voted to approve a 20-year solar credit agreement with Nexamp Inc., which leaders said will provide the town with approximately \$265,097 on electric utility accounts over the life of the agreement.

A public hearing was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. July 20 regarding a special use permit request for Cheryl Belling to operate an in-home business at 3509 Crestview Drive. Belling said she and her husband are looking to operate a "fencepost cleanup and restoration" business related to concrete driveway repairs. She said the permit would essentially let her answer the business phone in their house.

tributions to the Town of Niagara community for over 40 years. Thank you for your dedication to the positions you have held and your service to our community.'

Wallace said afterward, "Pat's the kind of guy that doesn't come around too often - you know, always willing to help. He runs (Niagara Active Hose's) retirement fund; takes care of all the firemen

and reports who is eligible on a year-to-year basis for the service award, which is a retirement benefit. I don't know what we're gonna do when he decides to pull off of that (laughs). ... But when I needed a new (ZBA) chairman, he really stepped up to the plate, and it's getting tougher and tougher to find people who dedicate their time and work for noth-

ing or aren't getting paid much. We hate to see him go, but we understand he has a family; and we thank him for his service."

# NT rededicates historic Col. Payne residence with new plaque



Pictured, from left: Legislator Rich Andres, North Tonawanda Historian Joe Midura, the Hon. Shaun Nickerson, Clerk-Treasurer Donna Braun, Mayor Art Pappas, 1st Ward Alderman Bob Schmigel and Common Council President Robert Pecoraro.

Submitted by Mayor Arthur Pappas' office

Completing a project that saw the Historic District of North Tonawanda receive new street signs, elected representatives from city government along with County Legislator Rich Andres gathered to rededicate the Col. Payne Historic plaque in front of his historic residence located on Payne Avenue and Wheatfield Street on Wednesday.

"Col. Payne is a forefather of our city. He helped North Tonawanda become the Lumber City by founding the first steam-powered

sawmill in 1847, and then later went on to become a war hero," Legislature Rich Andres said.

Clerk-Treasurer Donna Braun noted, "This project is yet another example of city government rolling up its sleeves; being smart with the resources we have to deliver improved and beautiful infrastructure to the city. Our outstanding DPW repurposed the poles from the weather-worn placemaking signs around downtown that became redundant due to the new signs we received last year, and for only a few hundred

dollars we were able to beautify the Historic District."

Council President Robert Pecoraro was particularly focused on the positive feedback the city has been receiving from residents about the new street signs.

"Everywhere I go lately, I have been getting positive feedback about the signs, how great they look, and how easy they are to read," he said. "I'll be working with the superintendent, Mark Zellner, at the DPW, to explore how we can roll these signs out around the city."

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