

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES  
April 10, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman Via ZOOM
Mike O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
James Yuhas	Consultant
Robert Ball	Assessor
Sarah Bullock	Community Development Director
Clarise & Amanda Braithwaite	Public

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Britton to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 13, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Clarise & Amanda Braithwaite spoke about the need for something more formal for the fencing zoning laws for the Town, other than what was handwritten by Mr. McKeever. Town Clerk will see that they get a copy of that section of the zoning law and obtain their email address.

Sarah Bullock, Community Development Director, gave an update on the Deferiet BOA grant. This grant is for planning only and not for construction. It is for \$180,000 from NYS and is for a consultant to study revitalization of the Village of Deferiet, the Brownfield Area, the Old Post Office, old gas station and the mill site. Elan Consulting is the lead consultant with a Steering Committee that meets monthly. There will be public input, environmental concerns and forward planning with an economic agency. The solar project with NYSERDA is a completely separate project.

Regarding the old railroad depot on Mechanic Street in Carthage, there has not been an announcement yet for a grant from Restore NY.

Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG meeting will be May 24. The economic visioning summit will be April 27, 2023 at the BOCES center in Glenfield, NY. He noted that there needs to be a Traffic Safety Coordinator position filled in regard to the digital radar sign grant.

Communications: None

Highway Report: Michael O’Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the pressure washer has been fixed and returned. He further noted that he got notice from Jefferson County Highway Dept. that the County will not be doing any paving for any towns in 2023. Regarding the 2010 Ford F350 truck with plow, he asked permission for the Board to declare this as surplus to be sold.

**RESOLUTION #9-2023** – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to declare the 2010 Ford F350 truck with plow as surplus to be sold. Motion passed unanimously.

The bids for the cold storage building were opened, with the results as follows:

M&M Contracting - \$90,000; Platinum Property Services - \$123,361; Decorative Concrete - \$147,500; Eagle Associates - \$152,826.95; Powis Contracting - \$131,500; Whitton Construction, LLC - \$102,500.

**RESOLUTION #10-2023** - Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to accept the low bid from M&M Contracting for \$90,000. Motion passed unanimously, carried. A copy of the bid will be emailed to Attorney Burrows to draw up a contract. A question was raised about if the contractor will want progress payments, which will be addressed with him.

Because the bid came in higher than the budgeted amount of \$80,000 and that \$1900 has already been spent for the engineer’s drawings, it was posed to the Board to have an additional \$15,000 be allotted to this project from the ARPA Funds.

**RESOLUTION #11-2023-** Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to have the excess cost come from the ARPA Funds. Roll Call vote was had with all unanimously voting YES. Carried.

Dog Control Officer: April Hall has presented a written report on her activities for March. There were numerous calls on dogs running at large, and dogs defecating on neighbors’ lawns, etc. The shelter at the Lewis County Humane Society was inspected and had a favorable report.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for March were \$18,220.91. The Town Clerk fees for March were \$1640.08. The Transfer Site Funds collected for March were \$3190. DECALS commissions for March were \$14.02.

Ms. Borland asked the Board to approve one day’s pay for the Deputy Clerk at the rate of \$16.00 per hour for her attendance at last year’s Local Government Conference. All had no problem and approved it.

Code Enforcement: No report

Assessor Report: Mr. Ball noted that 10 of the 15 new property sales or transfers for 2023 were Arm’s Length sales. He has 92 open site visits/permits for the 2023 Assessment Roll. He has closed out 114 site visits and added two more this month. He has added \$1.7M of assessed value and removed \$170,300 of assessed value. He has finished processing and approving exemptions.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows is going to get in touch with DANC regarding the O&M contract for Water District #2 and the insurance language. DANC noted that this language is used in all of their contracts, however, Mr. Burrows is not comfortable with it. The contract, therefore, is still pending.

Town Supervisor’s Financial Statements: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to approve the March Financial Statements provided by the CPA’s. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #4 in the amount of \$98,180.87. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: The audit of the Justice Court's records was held and all is favorable and satisfactory, and the report has been submitted to NYS.

New Business: The question of the digital radar signs was brought up, as to whether or not the Town can place them on State Roads or just Town Roads or even County Roads. The matter was tabled for now, and no decision was made as to act now or wait until next year.

Joseph Cook, from Deferiet, contacted Supervisor Smith regarding the mowing of the Herrings properties. We paid him \$485.00 per month last year, and he was asking for an increase to \$525.00 per month for this year, as he did not realize the amount of mowing that is needed. This would be one monthly payment, and not broken down for each mowing.

**RESOLUTION #12-2023** – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the increase for Joseph Cook mowing for Herrings properties to \$525.00 per month. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Supervisor Smith noted that there are two positions available on the Town of Wilna Housing Authority Board, with Jeremy Thesier having to step down because his two terms are done, and the death of Daniel Trembley. Mr. Smith has approached Richard Buckingham and Michael Liberatos to fill these positions, and they have both agreed to do so. These will be five year terms, limited to two terms.

**RESOLUTION #13-2023-** Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to appoint Richard Buckingham and Michael Liberatos to the Town of Wilna Housing Authority Board for a term of five years each, limited to two five-year terms. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Britton, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori Borland, Town Clerk