

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES
August 14, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Mike O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Robert Ball	Assessor
Terry McKeever	Code Enforcement Officer
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Town Clerk
Mary Ann Yuhas	Retired Clerk to the Supervisor

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 Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 10, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG Meeting will be on September 27, 2023. There will be a Roundtable meeting in the fall. He needed to have the board determine who is going to serve on the Comprehensive Plan committee. The following were volunteered: Lori Borland, Shari Gerber, Frank Skvorak and Terry McKeever. There will be a training session on Budgeting and accounting with Laird Petrie on September 26 and 27 at the BOCES center. Paul Smith is planning to attend.

Communications: None

Community Development Director – Mrs. Bullock provided a written report noting that the Deferiet BOA project has a website with various information on it which is at: www.deferietboa.com. Regarding the Herrings Disinfection Project, she is finalizing the grant through Grants Gateway. A parks grant application was prepared for the Herrings Crown Cleaners Site for the purpose of developing the former Crown Cleaners site into a community waterfront park. The total project is \$380,000 with a 25% match by the town. Grant awards will not be announced until at least December.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the crew helped West Carthage with their paving project, fixed some sink holes at the Farmer's Market site, finished removing trees and brush in Natural Bridge, fixing wash-outs from the heavy rains, mowing has been completed, hauled sand and gravel, helping Town of Champion work on County Rt. 47. The construction of the cold storage building started on July 11, 2023 and is coming along well. He noted that he will have a worker off for 6-8 weeks for medical issues. He would like to have the board approval to proceed with paving in Natural Bridge at an estimated cost of \$261,446.70 with a tentative start date of August 21, 2023.

RESOLUTION #22-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to complete paving on all streets in Natural Bridge at an estimated cost of \$261,446.70. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Dog Control Officer: No report

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for July were \$15,101.54. The Town Clerk fees for July were \$1647.21. The Transfer Site Funds collected for July were \$4309.00. DECALS commissions for July were \$26.42. She further handed out a report for the Transfer Site for the calendar year of 2022, which shows that we are in the red in the amount of \$6485.20. She is compiling an ongoing report for this year.

Code Enforcement: Bids were received for the demolition and removal of debris for the Foy property on County Rt. 41 in Natural Bridge. The first bid was from Geiter Done of WNY in the amount of \$38,000. The second bid was from Bronze Contracting in the amount of \$32,950. Clerk Borland will check on the taxes for Attorney Burrows. Notice was already given to all interested parties on the demolition quite some time ago, and no one responded. An asbestos survey/monitoring needs to be done.

RESOLUTION #23-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to have Supervisor Smith contact an engineering firm to get an estimate of the asbestos survey and monitoring if needed. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McKeever noted that the Loeffler house in Herrings is in very bad shape, and he will attempt to contact the owner. Mr. Burke from Natural Bridge is complying with the clean up of his property. He has issued permits for two new homes, and the people that purchased the Herrings Inn are working on it.

Assessor Report: Mr. Ball noted that 42 of the 88 new property sales or transfers for 2023 were Arm's Length sales. He has reviewed and redeveloped land tables for the reassessment project, and has printed 4000 pages of cost and sales sheets used to do the field work for the reassessment project. He has 88 open site visit/permits for the 2024 Assessment Roll. He has not worked on these, because he has focused on the Reassessment project/Land Tables. He has further reviewed data, took photos and valued 350 properties.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows noted that in light of the recent solar storage battery fires in the Town of Lyme, that the Board propose an amendment to the Zoning law regarding solar battery storage. There was a suggestion that the Planning Board consider a moratorium on lithium battery storage. Lithium batteries burn at 5000 deg. F and give off dangerous gas. Mr. Burrows noted that the Sugar Maple Solar Project has had nothing new to be discussed.

Town Board Committees: It was noted by a constituent that there are two dead trees that need to be taken down at the Sand Hill Cemetery in Natural Bridge. Supervisor Smith will contact Davis Tree Service to get a quote for removal.

Town Supervisor's Financial Statements: Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to approve the July financial statements as provided by the CPA's. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #8 in the amount of \$64,175.80. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Supervisor Smith noted that he would like to see the Farmer's Market Pavilion used as an ice skating rink in the winter. He suggested that hay bales could be placed around the interior, the Village could flood the floor. He noted that the Town would most likely bear most of the cost. It was favorably received by the board, but Supervisor Smith will look further into it.

The Missing Link Snowmobile Club is requesting permission from each of the municipalities that their trails run through to continue to utilize the trails therein.

RESOLUTION #24-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to give permission to the MLSC for continued use of the trails in the Township. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

It was brought to the Board's attention that various budget transfers need to be approved. A sheet was given to each member.

RESOLUTION #25-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the budget transfers as presented. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk