

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES
September 11, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
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
George & Contanita Bevens	Public
Lori Schermerhorn	Public

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A moment of silence was observed for the victims of 9-11, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 14, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Town residents George & Contanita Bevens and Lori Schermerhorn spoke about a parking issue on NYS Rt. 3 just outside the village limits. They have been given a copy of the V&T Law Section 1201 regarding parking, and have also been issued tickets from the law enforcement having been turned in by their neighbor. The suggestion of the Town Attorney was that if another ticket was issued, to fight it in court by showing the law to the Judge and showing photos. It would then be resolved, or not, depending upon what the decision of the court is.

Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG Meeting will be on September 27, 2023 at the Town of Champion. There will be a Roundtable meeting in October. Regarding the Comprehensive Plan Committee, he needed a resolution to appoint the volunteers to this committee. The following were appointed at a previous meeting: Lori Borland, Shari Gerber, Frank Skvorak and Terry McKeever.

RESOLUTION #26-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to issue a formal resolution appointing the aforesaid individuals. Motion passed unanimously, carried, and a certified copy of the resolution is being sent to Mickey Deitrich at the Tug Hill Commission.

Communications: None

Community Development Director – No report

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the county has been billed for shared services. Crew worked on Cty. Rt. 47, various road repairs, tree cutting, mowing painting. The Natural Bridge paving projects were done on 9/7/2023 with help from various municipalities. The shoulders will be complete as soon as he can get the county's shoulder machine.

A letter was received from NYMIR about the battery disconnect switches for the trucks and making sure that all the necessary trucks have this device. Mike and Supervisor Smith both signed the certification and was sent to NYMIR.

Dog Control Officer: Written report was given by April Hall which noted that she has been called out numerous times for various dog complaints and dogs running at large. There are many complainants however, none of them want to file a formal complaint in writing. If this is not done, there is not much that Mrs. Hall can do.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for August were \$2263.50. The Town Clerk fees for August were \$1198.50. The Transfer Site Funds collected for August were \$3639.25. DECALS commissions for August were \$483.21. She further noted that the new water bills were sent out this past Friday. She questioned about being able to bill the customers for new meters, DANC additional services and turn on/turn off fees. The attorney noted that it depends upon what the Water Law for the Town says. Ms. Borland will follow up on it.

Ms. Borland also noted that there is a non-water customer in Natural Bridge that wants to extend the water line through two properties in order to tap into the district. Mr. Burrows said that the matter is discretionary to the Town Board. They can either extend the Water District, or, if not, to have an outside water user agreement done, in which the inquiring customer would be responsible for obtaining all easements, making all the arrangements, etc. He further noted that Article 12 of the Town Law notes that the capital cost of this would be borne only by the parcels in question.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever noted that the James Potter property in Natural Bridge is in process of demolition by the current owners and that it has come to a standstill because of costs associated with a dumpster, etc. and that the property is a mess. He said there is a buyer interested in that the buyer would pay the back taxes, finish the clean up and pay the owners \$1,000. The owners are due in Court on Thursday.

Mr. McKeever further reported that the Loeffler property in Herrings has been condemned and the power and gas have been shut off. Mr. Loeffler requested that the power be turned back on, but Mr. McKeever noted that an inspection would have to be done. The condemned sign has been removed by someone, and the lawn has now been mowed. Mr. Loeffler is also due in Court on Thursday.

There were two trailers on the Boyd Road that Mr. McKeever has condemned, because Child Protective Services called him. The owner of the trailers, Mr. Lake, said that Larry Doyle, the tenant owes him 6-7 months back payment.

Regarding the Eva Wilder property in Munns Corners on County Rt. 37, she is also due in Court on Thursday due to clean up issues.

Regarding the Short property in Natural Bridge (white house formerly owned by Alfred Wood) has no power and there has been no improvement.

Bronze Contracting, who was the low bidder on the demolition of the Foy property in Natural Bridge, is requesting a copy of the condemnation notice that was posted. Ms. Borland will address this tomorrow.

Assessor Report: Mr. Ball noted that 42 of the 89 new property sales or transfers for 2023 were Arm's Length sales. He took a 6 hour course on Friday for his continuing education. He will be taking one more in October to complete his required hours for the year. 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 continued to work on the reval, taken photos of the Village properties, and hopes to start in the Town this week.

Attorney Report: There was nothing to report.

Town Board Committees: No report

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #9 in the amount of \$90,087.52. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business:

Regarding the proposed skating rink at the Carthage Farmer's Market, Mr. Smith said that the hay bales can be purchased for \$4.00 each, which would cost approximately \$800. Since the bathrooms would be winterized, there would be a need for portable toilets. Mr. Smith will further investigate this.

A copy of the current Zoning Law regarding Solar Energy Systems was provided to the Board along with a proposed Battery Storage Law which would piggyback the Solar Energy Law. This was provided in order for the Board to review the same prior to the next meeting in October.

New Business: Supervisor Smith is suggesting that the Town switch from Westelcom to Spectrum for our phones, internet, etc. so that if there is a problem, that there would be only one contact person to call instead of 3-4 different ones. There was a Zoom meeting held for discussion with Spectrum, and they are to get us a quote for the full services. Also Mr. Smith spoke with Steve Wood from Westelcom, and he is to get us a quote as to what can be streamlined and a comparison then made. We are currently paying upwards of \$660 per month to Westelcom. Our fax lines are still not working, which triggered the whole matter. We would continue to keep CompuTech as our IT provider for issues with the computer.

Ms. Borland noted that Staples has discontinued their partnership with Citibank, who held the credit card for the Staples purchases for office supplies. Staples requires a credit card to be charged for any orders being placed. Ms. Borland is requesting permission to apply for a credit card in order to pay for the Staples orders and any other orders such as business cards, etc. that have to be done online with a credit card. It was noted that Lori Borland, Paul Smith and Deputy Supervisor Susan Storms would be the only authorized users, and that the limit would be set at \$2500. Permission was granted, and Ms. Borland will follow up.

Mr. Smith announced that a Budget Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. and needs to have the CPA's present along with Jim and MaryAnn Yuhas. Ms. Borland will put a notice in the paper.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk