

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES
December 11, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Terry McKeever	Code & Zoning Officer
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Robert Ball	Assessor
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent

Absent: Frank Skvorak, Councilman

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 9, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG Meeting will be on January 24, 2024 at Town of Denmark. RACOG is looking to join with BOCES for a Water/Wastewater Operator Licensing Class. NYS DOS is interested in having student involvement in the local government. There were Participation In Government classes in the past, but have not been involved this year. The Town of Watson has requested membership with RACOG, which will be discussed at the next RACOG meeting. The Comprehensive Plan Committee for Wilna, Deferiet and Carthage had their first meeting on November 30, and a schedule has been set for monthly meetings throughout the year.

Communications: None

Community Development Director – Sarah Bullock, CDD, gave a report that all paperwork for the BOA has been submitted to the state for reimbursement of costs. Steering Committee meeting will be in mid-December. She has been reviewing the Downtown Economic Resiliency Strategy for the town to identify key projects and now is a good time to prepare for the upcoming grant season. Carthage Savings has purchased the old Key Bank building and she has spoken with Dale Klock, President of CS&L for either a buyer or someone with a business idea to use the building. She has been coordinating efforts with West Carthage for a potential joint Downtown Revitalization Initiative application for next year. The Town has been awarded \$285K grant from NYS Parks for the Herrings Recreation Area. The contract will be executed within the coming weeks and work will begin in the spring of 2024.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the Christmas Lights for the Village of Carthage and the lights in the Village Green have been put up. A pad for snow has been built at the Transfer Site. Cutting and removing trees has been done on the Rogers Crossing Road. Plowing and sanding has been done. He is working on the specs for a new plow truck and will need a letter of intent to purchase in order to proceed.

Dog Control Officer: Nothing new to report – still many calls and working on dogs running at large, etc.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for November were \$0 because the relevy was sent to the County on October 30. The Town Clerk fees for November were \$294.22. The Transfer Site Funds collected for November were \$3118.00. DECALS commissions for November were \$60.87, and that the total DECALS sales for November were \$1105.00.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever noted that a house in Natural Bridge owned by Pistolese has been condemned and that Child Protective Services has been brought in. He has condemned two properties on Boyd Road at Lake's Trailer Park and CPS has been notified of them also. Regarding the Baxter fire site on the Boyd Road, it is being cleaned up, however, it is being taken across the road to a relative's place. James Potter debris removal is still awaiting Bronze Contracting this week.

Assessor Report: 72 of 150 property transfers for this year have been arm's length transfers. NYS has changed the definition of a Veteran for the Alternative Veterans Exemption. NYS has also changed the definition of Income in regard to the Senior Citizens Exemption. Mr. Ball strongly encourages the board to review the law and adopt some of the local options available, such as to add social security, retirement and other non-taxable income back into the total income, and allow a person who will be turning 64 to apply for the exemption. It is currently that way for the Enhanced Star Exemption. He has continued to work on the Town Wide Reassessment Project, and has photographed about 90% of the properties in the Town and completed the valuation of 1400 parcels with 1600 remaining to be valued.

Attorney Report: Nothing to report until later under Old Business.

Town Board Committees: No report

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #12 in the amount of \$112,940.31. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business:

It was decided after discussion that the Town would move ahead with the base bid plus alternate #2 for the cost of the Herrings Disinfection Project to be \$328,683.00.

RESOLUTION #31-2023 – A motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to accept the bid from Henderson Brothers of the base bid plus Alternative #2 for an amount of \$328,683.00, contingent upon financing. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Based upon BCA's figures provided at the last moment today, there is an apparent shortage of funding in a still undetermined amount. Based on this, Attorney Burrows suggested that the Bond Resolution be amended to the amount of \$450,000 instead of the previously approved \$325,000. After much discussion, it was decided as follows:

RESOLUTION #32-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to amend the Bond Resolution to \$450,000. Motion passed unanimously, carried. Clerk Borland will publish the resolution in the paper within 10 days.

The topic of conversion of the phone and internet from Westelcom to Spectrum was brought up again after some answers to questions were received. The Town would see a savings of about \$5200 over a period of 3 years.

RESOLUTION #33-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to convert the phone and internet from Westelcom to Spectrum. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

New Business:

Upgrade of the Natural Bridge Water Treatment facility was discussed, in an amount not to exceed \$39,500 as quoted by DANC. This would be utilizing ARPA funds and tapping into the Reserves for that Water District.

RESOLUTION #34-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to proceed with the upgrade of the Natural Bridge Water Treatment Facility at a cost of not to exceed \$39,500, utilizing ARPA funds and Reserve Funds from that District. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Clerk Borland noted that the Town credit card bill comes due always after the monthly checks have been written and is due before the next round of checks to be done for the next month. She asked the Board's permission to do a prepay on the credit card each month in order to avoid an interest charge of 27.95%. Permission was granted. It was suggested that perhaps a phone call to the credit card company would be in order to see if the due date could be changed.

Supervisor Smith noted that the final meeting of the year will be on Friday, December 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and that the final bills for the year need to be in by the morning of the 26th so he can take them to the CPA's and have them ready for the 29th meeting.

Robert Sligar was present at the end of the meeting, and gave a synopsis of what he wants to do with the gas station in Natural Bridge by tapping into the current water system. He has hired Attorney Tim Farley for his legal matters. Because there is one land owner between the end of the existing water district and the gas station that does not want to be included in the water district, there would need to have an "Outside User Agreement" prepared and that easements would be needed across the next door property and from the last user on the current line. This would all be at Mr. Sligar's expense, which was explained to him, and he will follow up on what he needs to do.

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 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk