The Regular Town Board Meeting was held March 10th, 2021 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan NY 14527.

Board Present: Deputy Supervisor Richard Harper

Councilmen Brian Murphy

Alan Tomion

Glenn Quackenbush

Also Present: Bobbi Wolfe- Town Clerk, Jayson Hoover – Highway Supt.- Tom Fulkrod- Zoning, Eleanor Parker – Historian. Edward Tomion.

Deputy Supervisor Harper opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the minutes with one correction. (Town Audit 2019-2020). Motion was carried.

Old Business:

Town Audit: Is complete with no board comment at this time. They will review for discussion at the April meeting.

Sexual Harassment Training: Once each employee completes the training please give your certificate to Clerk Wolfe to file. Also, Clerk Wolfe will contact Kerry Brennen for a list of who has not completed the training.

Phone/Internet Service: Mr Harper contacted Time Warner Cable inquiring on lowering the monthly cost. They stated they are reviewing it and would get back to Mr. Harper.

Board of Assessment Review: We need one more member to fill the five positions. Alan Tomion stated that his wife, Crystal would be interested. There is a resolution below to appoint Crystal Tomion and Elizabeth Chase to those positions.

Logging: No update, Jayson Hoover stated that he (Bill Brown) is all done in the pit.

Bookkeeper-Retirement: Notice of employment has been in the Chronicle Express for three weeks and generating several applicants. The board received a quote from EFPR Solutions (Outsourcing) which will be reviewed for the April meeting. The committee for the hiring process will be: John, Bobbi, Linda and Glenn. When Supervisor Prendergast returns from vacation, he will set up interviews.

Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan: Deputy Harper asked that the board review this plan for the next meeting. He did notice one issue that needs to be changed, that Zoning should be listed as an essential worker.

New Business:

Greenidge Generation: The town has received numerous communications regarding the expansion of the Bitcoin mining, some for and against. After discussion it was recommended sending a letter of support to Greenridge.

Spencer Tulis: Ongoing issued with his shed being on the state right of way. Tom Fulkrod has been in contact with state officials at NYSDOT and Jim Williamson of the local NYSDOT. The state has sent a letter stating that the NYSDOT has the right to move the shed at any time. Town of Benton zoning states, you can't have a privately owned structure on someone else's property, which it is the railroad property. This shed isn't on Spencer's property, continuing that there isn't enough room for proper set backs. If we issue a permit the state DOT is required to sign it. After board discussion, they stated to send him a ticket and let the Justice take care of it. The fines can start from the day the first letter of violation was sent.

Water District #1 (North):

Jeremy Delyser, (CPL) is working on the Map, Plan and Reports for this construction.

Water District # 5:

Letter of Conditions have been sent to attorney Jeff Graff, he will in turn send it to the State Comptrollers office.

Water District # 6:

Town of Seneca has given their approval for an additional 15,000/GPD for this district.. The agreement has been sent to Jeremy Delyser (CPL) to prepare the Map, Plan and Report. Once we receive the report a public meeting can be set up with the residents of that district. This will bring them up to date on the capital cost.

Personnel Policy:

Glenn Quackenbush and Richard Harper will head up this committee to update the policy.

Highway: Jayson Hoover presented proposals from Covert Security. One is an addition to the burglary and fire detection system, the second is an alarm lock trilogy, lockset on the highway entry door. This will require a new door, the existing door doesn't have enough room to install one of these locks. Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush approving both quotes for burglary & fire, and alarm lock trilogy totaling \$3205.00. Motion was carried. A third proposal was for a complete system, cameras and monitor for \$3280.00. Deputy Harper thought he remembered a conduit between the town hall and barn which would support both town hall and barn in one system.

Jayson reported the new highway addition is coming along, highway guys are working on the completing the inside of the building, including insulation.

Zoning:

Tom Fulkrod reported that the permits are very slow right now. Last year we had 40 at this time, now we have 13. Fire and safety inspections will start pick up now, C of O's are being issued. A new home will be built on Emerson Cove. Solar: The permit for Delaware Solar will be \$4988.00, and they are planning on starting construction March 22nd. We haven't heard from Jason Shoff on the new solar project. The Planning board requires a letter from NYSEG approving this project before they can move forward.

Tom also informed the board that there is a lot of interest in the new craze "Tiny Homes" and Air B&B. We need to review our zoning on this. Also address septic systems.

Health Officer:

Eleanor Parker reminded everyone to get their COVID shots!!! Clock spring ahead this weekend !!! Benton Fire Dept has their fish fry March 19th and Bellona Fire Dept has their chicken BBQ March 27th.

Resolutions:

#5--2021: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbuch, seconded by Brian Murphy to appoint Elizabeth Chase to the Board of Assessment Review Board term ending 9/30/2025. Motion was carried

#6-2021: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the WD # 5 Water and Waste System Grant Agreement, USDA, Rural Utilities Service. Motion was carried. (Deputy Richard Harper has authority to sign in the absence of Supervisor John Prendergast).

#7-2021: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Alan Tomion to appoint Crystal Tomion to the Board of Assessment Review Board term ending 09/30/2023. Motion was carried.

Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Monthly Reports:

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the following: General (A) Claims 42-66 Totaling \$62,198.12, General (B) Claims 4-6 Totaling \$260.63, Highway (DA) Claims 12-24 Totaling \$20,089.70, Highway (DB) Claim 200 Totaling \$200.00, SW1 Claims 6-9 Totaling \$546.14, SW2 Claims 11-20 Totaling \$8735.63, SW3 Claims 7-10 Totaling \$533.99, SW4 Claim 2 Totaling \$100.70. Town Clerk, Zoning, Water, Bookkeeper reports. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Brian Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: March 12, 2021

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC