The Regular Benton Town Board Meeting was held August 11th, 2021 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan NY 14527.

Board Present: Supervisor John E. Prendergast

Councilmen Richard Harper, Deputy

Glenn Quackenbush

Brian Murphy – Absent

Alan Tomion

Also Present: Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Jayson Hoover – Highway Superintendent, Thomas Fulkrod – Zoning Officer, Eleanor Parker – Historian.

Public Present: Edward Tomion, Holly Brown, Regina Tomion, Terry Button.

Open the Public Hearing – Cannabis Local Law # 1 of 2021

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

***Approval of Minutes:***

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the minutes from the July 14th, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

***Assessor:***

Patricia Brede informed the board that she is planning ahead for her retirement. She plans on working until the end of 2022, possibly into 2023. Attached to the minutes are bullets explaining her presentation. (1) Why Train a Replacement, (2) Work towards Certification & Cost, (3) Next Update/Revaluation. She stated that there is a huge loss of assessor and the town could hire by advertising or train someone. Several classes are online and in person. Supervisor Prendergast stated the board would decide at budget time whether to hire an existing assessor or train. Pat asked the board to review her information presented and ask any questions.

***Old Business:***

***Empire Phone/Internet:***

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper approval to switch from Spectrum to Empire, phone/internet. Motion was carried. $29/Phone, $100.00 Town Hall Internet, $60.00 WD #2 Pump House Internet.

***SWIO:***

Supervisor Prendergast attended a SWIO meeting at the Town of Geneva offices, he stated we need to decide if Benton is going to join and add the annual fee ($2K+) to our 2022 budget meetings.

***Ferguson Corners/Hall Road:***

Jayson Hoover stated that solar lights are working at this intersection. There is only so much you can do to prevent accidents. A suggestion was made to place a sign “Cross Traffic Doesn’t Stop”.

***Stork Insurance:***

The town received a rebate check in the amount of $404.52.

***New Business:***

American Recovery check has been received in the amount of $116,000, half this year and the seconded half in 2022. John and Bobbi have attended several webinars, the latest was presented by MRB, still no real options on what this money can be spent on. The $116,000 needs to be isolated in a separate account, at this time it was placed in the General Savings. Supervisor Prendergast asked Richard Harper (Yates Legislature) if it wasn’t possible to have the county include towns in their discussion on the American Rescue Plan.

***2022 Budget Meetings:***

Meetings have been set for Sept 7th and 29th @ 4:00 P.M. The board also discussed possibly having them in the afternoon. Once that decision is made Clerk Wolfe will advertise the meetings.

***Yates County Resolution #277-21***: Placement of new EMS/Sheriff/Police/Public Works communication towers in locations of Benton/ Italy/Barrington. This is to improve emergency communication services.

Benton’s would be placed on Johnson Road to better serve the eastern part of Yates County and across Seneca Lake.

.gov domain has been registered.

***SCT-Computer Security:***

SCT is now monitoring our computer system 24/7 for security reasons. Any issues will automatically

Contact SCT. The cost is $10.00 per computer/per month. Richard Harper also informed the board that GoDaddy has also beefed up their security.

***Water District # 6:***

Jeremy DeLyser of CPL prepared (8) different options for this proposed district. (Attached to the minutes). Several of these options need to be discussed with the Town of Seneca to ensure they could supply enough water. No decision was made at this time. Jayson Hoover commented that down the road we will need to hire another water operator. (This is also due to the fact that the Town of Torrey is requesting Benton to oversee their O&M/Billing for two districts.) His suggestion was to hire this person as part time water, part time highway employee.

***Highway:***

Jayson reported he will have the specs for a new 10-wheeler at the next meeting. The approximate cost right now is $226K + or minus complete, the only addition will be an all season box with a 14-16 lead time for delivery which puts us into 2022-2023. Jayson also priced out a loader upgrade: JD 5 year warranty $52-55K, CAT $47K, Jayson will have more information at the next meeting. Second phase of the town barn addition, Jayson stated the cost to be around $42K without the masonry. Jayson stated that the majority of the work would be done by the highway employees. Several options to be discussed at budget time.

***Zoning:***

Tom Fulkrod reported that the town of Jerusalem has hired a new zoning officer, and he has offered to help train him. Tom stated he was really glad helping them is almost over !!! Benton has been really busy with building permits, he hasn’t heard anything on the second solar project request that was presented to the planning board. There are three contractor yard Special Use Permits coming up at the next PB and ZBA meetings.

Councilman Harper announced that there is a Hazardous Waste event at the Yates County Highway August 28th, residents must sign up by August 20th.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to close the Public Hearing on the Cannabis Local Law # 1 of 2021 @ 8:40 P.M. Motion was carried.

***Resolutions:***

***#21-2021: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Alan tomion to approve the adoption prohibiting established and operated cannabis retail dispensary licenses and on-site consumption licenses contained in Article 4 of the Cannabis Law within the jurisdiction of the Town of Benton. Subject to Permissive Referendum. Motion was carried.***

***#22-2021: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to authorize closing of Capital Project WD # 1 Ext 1 and authorize the bookkeeper to move the leftover balance from Capital Project WD # 1 Ext # 1 (WD # 4) in the amount of $21,062.19 into the debt service v fund to be used toward paying debt to lower special assessments in WD # 4. The town board decided to lower the Capital charge for this district by $50.00/per 1 EDU, ½ EDU $25.00 annually. (Over an 8 year period). Motion was carried***

***#23-2021:***

***Budgetary Amendment: Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush approve the following: A8030.4 WD # 1 Ext 1 (North) $5000.00 to be taken from Fund Balance. Account was not budgeted.***

***Budgetary Amendment: A8030.44 Research for WD # 6 $5000.00 to be taken from the Fund Balance. Account was not budgeted.***

***Budget Modifications:***

***Transfers needed between the following under budgeted accounts:***

***SW1-1990.4 Contingent to: SW1-1910.4 Unallocated Insurance $7.00***

***SW2-1990.4 Contingent to: SW2-1910.4 Unallocated Insurance $147.00***

***Motion was carried.***

***Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Monthly Reports:***

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush approving the following: General (A) Claims 144-157 Totaling $4772.98, General (B) Claims 21-23 Totaling $281.45, Highway (DA) Claims 48-56 Totaling $2440.65, Highway (DB) Claims 212-214 Totaling $34,558.40, SW1- Claims 29-30 Totaling $172.44, SW2- Claims 52-58 Totaling $1056.95, SW3 Claims 24-25 Totaling $62.69. Town Clerk, Highway, Zoning and Supervisors Reports. Motion was carried.

***Adjournment:***

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to adjourn the meeting as of 8:55 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: August 12, 2021

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC

***ADOPTED: September 8th, 2021***