The Regular Town Board Meeting was held September 8th, 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

Brian Murphy

Alan Tomion

Glenn Quackenbush

Also present: Tom Fulkrod-Zoning, Jayson Hoover – Highway Supt., Bobbi Wolfe-Town Clerk, Eleanor

Parker – Historian.

Also present: Tom Lush, Edward Tomion, Holly Brown

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the August 11th, 2021 minutes with one change. (Budget Meetings were to be held at 4:00 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M.) Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the September 7th, 2021, 2022 Budget Meeting. Motion was carried.

Guest: Tom Lush: Resident of WD # 4 @ 449 Newlanders Cove thanked the highway employees for repairing the driveway to Newlanders Cove. Mr Lush believe that during construction of this water district that his survey pine was removed on the corner lot by Bill Youngs property and one between himself and Tom Swartele’s property. He stated that all his survey pins were surrounded with cement and dated. Jeremy DeLyser of CPL stated they would have been marked prior to construction and entered on the as builts but were not called out prior to construction. The decision was to have Jayson Hoover go down with his metal detector and see if he can locate the pin. They set up at time of 9:00 AM 9/9/21. Also to contact Rick Willson for possible cost of locating the pins.

***Old Business:***

**ARPA** – Amercican Recovery additional allocation for summer 2021 was $473.55 and has been received. This money is now in a separate bank account. We have not received any new information on legal uses for this money.

**Empire Access:**

Richard Harper informed the board that two contracts have been signed and waiting for a date to hook up their services. Trilata (Phone System) will be here for the transition.

***Water District # 6:***

Discussion was held on which options to accept. Jeremy DeLyser presented 12 different options.

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve Option # 12 but to possibly eliminate Buckle and Rasmussen Roads. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Prendergast will contact Jeremy at CPL to discuss the changes.

Jayson Hoover stated that hydrants can be spaced further apart in agricultural land. This could reduce the cost along with eliminating the two above roads.

***Highway:***

Discussion was held on several pieces of equipment to upgrade. (1) Existing Loader was new on 2018 purchase price was $158.635.49 with a trade in of $125,000.00, three year warranty which will end October 2021. Jayson stated that he wasn’t impressed by the CAT. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Brian Murphy to purchase the new JD 624P High Lift with a four year warranty $191,810.05. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: John Prendergast, Brian Murphy, Richard Harper, Glenn Quackenbush. NOES: Alan Tomion. Jayson will also try to sell the 2018 loader on auctions international. Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to purchase the extended warranty on the 2018 loader in the amount of $2389.11. Motion was carried.

***10-Wheeler Truck***: Replacement of the 2010 Mack Truck w/Plow and all season body. Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to purchase the 2023 Mack $236,777.70 which includes the plow equipment and sander. Motion was carried.

***Town Barn Addition***: This addition would replace the trailer/office/break room. The size is 16’ x 45’, Jayson would like to get the foundation in this fall. Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to move ahead on this addition. Motion was carried.

New Employee: Jayson reported that down the road we will need to hire another employee possibly split between water/highway. The board suggested we start looking.

***Zoning:***

Tom Fulkrod stated updates are in his report. He asked the board about possibly increasing payment per mile for use of our own vehicles. We will look to see what the IRS rate per mile is. At this time is $.58/Mile.

Highway Hourly Wage: Committee meeting including Glenn Quackenbush, Brian Murphy and Jayson Hoover. Discussion held on bringing wages up to match what typical employers are paying to prevent losing quality employees. They looked at a few options and decided to go with the standard three percent annual increase along with an additional one time one dollar raise and also implement a longevity schedule based upon the town of Gorham’s schedule. Resolution below.

***Resolution:***

#24-2021: Town of Benton Highway Employee Longevity Pay Schedule to begin January 1, 2022. Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the following pay schedule:

Current base rate is: $22.36 x .03% = 0.67, $22.36 + .67 = $23.03, $23.03 + 1.00 = $24.03

Add in Longevity:

Jason Conover 17 Years $24.03 + .75 = $24.78

Keith Thomas 8 Years $24.03 + .25 = $24.28

Dale Christensen 1 Year $24.03 x .95% = $22.82

Note: Base rate of $24.03 with a three percent raise each of the next 5 years would put pay at $26.78 in 2027. Motion was carried.

***Monthly Reports & Abstract of Vouchers:***

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the following:

General (A) Claims 159-172 Totaling $6997.75, General (B) Claims 24-26 Totaling $355.44, Highway (DA) Claims 57-61 Totaling $898.54, Highway (DB) Claims 215-218 Totaling $105,929.51, SW1 Claims 31-32 Totaling $240.00, SW2- 59-68 Totaling $24,618.66, SW3- Claims 26-28 Totaling $574.05, SW4- Claim 4 Totaling $40.00. Town Clerk, Zoning, Highway reports.

Supervisor Prendergast informed the board that we need to review and update the personnel policy, Glenn Quackenbush and Richard Harper will head up that committee.

Discussion was held regarding joining SWIO. Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by John Prendergast to join the SWIO group at approximately $2700.00 per year. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Richard Harper and John Prendergast. NOES: Brian Murphy, Alan Tomion and Glenn Quackenbush. Motion did not pass.

***Adjournment:***

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Brian Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: September 14, 2021

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC

**ADOPTED: October 13th, 2021**