

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held February 9, 2022 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A.

Board Present:	Supervisor	John E. Prendergast
	Councilmen	Richard Harper, Deputy
		Brian Murphy
		Alan Tomion
		Glenn Quackenbush

Also Present Jayson Hoover – Highway/Water, Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Eleanor Parker – Historian.

Public Present: Edward Tomion and Holly Brown

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Richard Harper seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the January 12th, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion was carried. Glenn Quackenbush abstained as he was not present.

Old Business:

Empire Access Phone System: Empire representative checked out the town hall and barn to make sure the wiring was adequate for a new system. Jayson Hoover, stated there was an issue at the town barn that needs to be resolved regarding Empire wires already installed. The board needs more information about wiring, leasing or purchasing before a decision is made. Councilmen Harper will be contacting Empire.

Stork Insurance:

The town had requested a quote for Cyber Liability Insurance which would cover: hacking, ransomware and rebuilding data. The quote came back as \$10,200.00. An actual cost would be determined once an application is prepared. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Steve Stork on the specifics of this coverage.

Delaware River Solar:

The town received the final check in the amount of \$62,500.00. \$157,500.00 was received at the beginning of the project for de-commissioning. Each year Delaware will increase that amount by 2.5% at the annual start of production date. Tom Fulkrod will let us know what that date is.

Justice Audit:

Councilmen Harper reported that the Justice audit was completed by himself and Glenn Quackenbush. He stated that Mike Peacock does a great job, has excellent organization. They only found one issue, which was only a paper error of \$100.00 and was corrected. Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the 2021 Justice Audit. Motion was carried.

New Business:

CPS Commercial Power Systems sent some info for a generator. Purchasing a generator has been discussed several times in the past but never purchased. Supervisor Prendergast believes we can use the

ARPA (American Rescue Plan) money to purchase one. The town needs to get three quotes before purchasing one. Brian Murphy and Glenn Quackenbush will be on the committee for the ARPA funds.

Zoning:

Attorney, Jeff Graff sent a notification of a required Local Law. Supervisor Prendergast will discuss this with Tom Fulkrod, at this time we don't know what this LL covers.

Yates County Ad Hoc Reapportionment/Redistricting Committee Report: This report is attached to the minutes. Basically, Benton and Torrey are the only towns in Yates County to have an increase in population at the 2020 census. This means they don't have enough representation in the county legislature as they should. So either increase representation or move district lines. Ultimately this will be up the county legislature.

Highway:

Personnel Policy – Sick and Personal Time Off. Highway Superintendent, Jayson Hoover brought it to the board attention that there is a discrepancy in the personnel policy and what highway employees are given. Jayson is requesting this needs to be fixed and updated and be equal for all employees. Not on a scale as it is now. A Personnel Policy committee will start working on this: Glenn, Dick, Jayson. Tom and Bobbi have been reviewing it for updates.

Assessor:

Councilmen Quackenbush asked where we stand on hiring a new Assessor? Supervisor Prendergast informed the board that there is a meeting planned with the Town of Torrey Supervisor Martini, February 14th to discuss hiring an assessor.

Water District # 5:

Jayson Hoover reviewed the plans, updated a couple of issues with CPL.

Water District # 6:

Assessor, Pat Brede will be working on residents and assessments in this proposed district. We will also need a letter of commitment from the town's of Geneva and Seneca for additional water.

Water District Fees:

These are the hook up fees that Jayson Hoover, Water Operator is requesting:

New Service That Does Not Require a Meter Pit

1" Service \$2400.00

1 ½" Service \$3200.00

2" Service \$4000.00

Installation of a new water service of a distance of 150' or a crawl space requiring a meter it hook up.

1" Service \$2800.00

Water Hook Up Fees if Curb Stop and or Meter Pit are Existing:

0-2 Years After Completion of the Water District – NO CHARGE

2-10 Years After Completion of the Water District - \$500.00

10 Plus Years After Completion of the Water District - \$1000.00

If only curb stop is pre-existing and meter pit needs to be installed, the homeowner is responsible to pay for the meter pit.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Brian Murphy approving the hook up fees for Water Districts 1-2-3-4 and any additional water districts. Motion was carried.

Jayson also wanted to explained why we were charging the \$1400.00 to hook up. Residents that have been in these districts and paying for O&M (Operation & Maintenance) from day one, someone new comes in and should pay a share of that O&M.

Historian/Health Officer: Eleanor Parker reported that she is working on the 2021 Benton history book. She also had a reported dog bit she is working on... Benton Fire Dept fish fry is 2/18/22.

Jayson received information from Kerry Brennen, Yates County Personnel on a job classification for a Public Works Maintenance Worker. He now needs to create that position and return it to Kerry for her approval, which it is returned to Benton for board approval prior to advertising to hire for this position.

Jayson informed the board that starting next pay period vacation and PTO time for the highway employees will be noted on their pay stub.

There was a water main break at Kashong/Rice road the day of the Martin farm on Pre-Emption Road. The town of Seneca was there to help.

Jayson also reported that the new loader should be here in April and payment will be around \$56K, to be paid out of the Highway Equipment Reserve. The new 10-wheeler will be received in 2023.

Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Reports:

Motion was made by Alan Tomion seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the following: General (A) Claims 23-41 Totaling \$42,670.74, General (B) Claims 302-303 Totaling \$198.75, Highway (DA) Claims 1-12 totaling \$26,699.47, SW1 Claims 52 Totaling \$25.00, SW2 Claims 104-110 Totaling \$1424.19, SW3 Claims 54-57 Totaling \$693.57, SW4 Claim 13 Totaling \$110.00. Town Clerk, Highway, Zoning and Supervisor Reports. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Brian Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: February 10, 2022
Bobbi Wolfe
Benton Town Clerk, RMC

ADOPTED: March 9th, 2022