

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. 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  
   Glenn Quackenbush  
   Alan Tomion

Also Present: Jayson Hoover- Highway Superintendent, Bobbi Wolfe, Benton Town Clerk, Eleanor Parker – Historian.

Public Present: Grant Downs (Torrey Town Board), Edward Tomion

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

**Old Business:**

**Empire Access:** Councilmen Harper contacted Empire regarding the possible wiring upgrades. They stated we would need some new wiring to accommodate the new phone system. Mr. Harper stated that if we leased the system it would cost \$181.00 a month and we could upgrade every three years. If we bought the system it would come with a one year warranty. After board discussion, it was decided to wait on purchasing the new system as we aren't having any issues with the Trilata system. Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to wait on the Empire Phone system until budget time in August. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Prendergast, Murphy, Tomion, Quackenbush. NOES: Harper..

**Stork Insurance:** Supervisor Prendergast met with Steve Stork regarding a quote for Cyber Liability Insurance. Steve stated that this is becoming a serious problem and other municipalities are checking on this insurance. One quote totaled approximately \$10K. Steve suggested working with SCT Computer to provide what security we do have.

**Generator:**

Councilman Harper contacted difference Generator companies for quotes. He stated that Finger Lakes Power Systems had a good price. CPS was the most expansive. The board suggested getting more quotes from Sloth Electric, Penn Power.

**Zoning:** Local Law has been tabled until the April meeting at which time we hopefully will have more info on what this LL covers.

**New Business:**

Town Clerk: I have hired a Deputy Town Clerk (Susan Mastronardi) and would like to offer her the \$17.00/Hour same as the Court Clerk. Only question asked by Councilman Harper was her experience in

the Town Clerk Office, Bobbi stated that she was an executive with the Pitney Bowes for several years. There is a resolution below to appoint Ms. Mastronardi.

**Re-Districting:**

Due to an increased in population (Benton/Torrey/Potter) the Yates County Legislature is looking for recommendations from town boards on which way to reapportion/redistricting.

After discussion: Options: Weighted Voting was agreed by Brian Murphy, Glenn Quackenbush, Alan Tomion and Richard Harper. To add a legislature member: John Prendergast. Supervisor Prendergast will prepare a letter to be sent to the Yates County Legislature with the boards opinion on this.

**Assessor:** There was a meeting held with Supervisor Prendergast, Pat Brede and Supervisor Peter Martini of the Town of Torrey. The discussion was held to decide on advertising for the Assessor position. They hope to start training someone by this June. Supervisor Prendergast, Glenn Quackenbush and Supervisor Martini will be on the hiring committee.

**Highway:**

Discussion was held on sick time and PTO:. The personnel committee recommended following the existing policy of 96 and 64 hours based on hire date. After discussion with Jayson Hoover they approved the 100 Sick PTO and 240 accumulated hours regardless of an employees start date. This change needs to be put in the town "Code" which includes a Local Law/ Public Hearing. There are several changes that need to be made to the 'Personnel Policy" which will include this above update. Jayson requested to know the board's feeling so he could let the highway employees what the code will reflect. Jayson also stated that the Sick/PTO time can be shown on the paystubs, in that case Jayson and Holly will be able to keep track of time used and accumulated.

**Water District # 5:**

We are continuing to complete paperwork so this project can go out to bid.

**Water District # 6:**

A list of residents prepared by Pat Brede of the proposed district is in the boards packet. Ed Tomion asked if the board had received approval from Geneva/Seneca to purchase more water, Supervisor Prendergast responded that we have received their approval.

**Town of Torrey Water District:** Torrey Town Board member, Grant Downs explained that their WD # 1 project came way above the proposed cost of the district, this forced a public hearing and more funding from USDA and use of APRA funds to bring down the capital cost. No petition was filed with in the 30 days so this wasn't forced to a permissive referendum. This now goes to the State Comptrollers office for their approval. They are hoping to start construction this fall.

**ARPA Funds:** Brian Murphy and Glenn Quackenbush headed up the committee for the ARPA funds. They discovered several areas that this money could be used for.

1. Water District Building
2. Pay Employee Bonus's (3) Highway Employees \$1000.00 Each
3. Zoning \$1000.00
4. Water Pipe and Equipment
5. Possible Water Building South of the Town Hall
6. Culvert Replacement

7. Non-Profit Looses such as Fire Departments \$2000.00 Each

**Historian/Health Officer:** Eleanor Parker reported that a previous dog bite had been taken care of and the dog was euthanized. The Annual Town of Benton History book has been completed.

**Highway:**

Jayson reported on the new highway/water addition, the ceiling will be installed this week.. New epoxy floor will be installed next week. The highway employees have done the majority of the work and saved the town a lot of money.

Pay Loader is due to be delivered in April and will be paid out of the Highway Capital Reserve Fund.

The New 10-wheeler is being built this July. He still hasn't decided if he will sell the oldest 10-wheeler or keep with due to hiring another highway employee.

**Resolutions:**

#3-2022: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the 2022 Inter-Municipal Agreement with Yates County Highway. Motion was carried

#4-2022: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper WD # 5 – Loan Resolution (Authorizing & Providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving and/or extending its water. Motion was carried.

#5-2022: Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush approving the Water/Highway Position. (Public Works Maintainer). Motion was carried (CDL, Water C&D License required within a specific period of time).

#6-2022: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to appoint Susan Mastronardi to the Deputy Town Clerk Position at a rate of pay \$17.00/Hour. Motion was carried.

#7-2022: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush approving WD #5 Lateral Restrictions. Motion was carried.

**Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Reports:**

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the following: General (A) Claims 32-59 Totaling \$21,874.02, General (B) Claims 304-305 Totaling \$282.96, Highway (DA) Claims 13-25 Totaling \$59,731.66, SW1 Claims 53-58 Totaling \$724.26, SW2- Claims 111-121 Totaling \$2413.15, SW3 Claims 58-62 Totaling \$702.81, SW4 Claims 14-15 Totaling \$3339.30. Town Clerk, Highway, Water, Zoning and Supervisor's reports. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: March 10, 2022

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk,RMC

**ADOPTED: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**