# **DRAFT**

The Benton Town Board Meeting was held December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 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: Highway/Water Operator – Jayson Hoover, Town Clerk – Bobbi Wolfe

Public Present: Crystal Tomion, Steve Stork, Arlene Wilson, Thomas Davie

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

Supervisor Prendergast stated that this was Brian Murphy's last board meeting as he has submitted his letter of resignation as of 12/31/22. Please enjoy a piece of cake !!!!

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, second by Richard Harper to approve November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, second by Alan Tomion to approve the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

**Guest:** Steve Stork presented the new 2023 policy for town insurance. There was an increase of \$985.57 from last year. Also included is a cyber security policy. Approval later in the meeting.

<u>Guest:</u> Arlene Wilson, executive director for Yates County Coop, also chairman of farmland protection board. Ms. Wilson presented information on solar farms, also suggesting that towns prepare a local law pertaining to solar farms. Discussion on retaining farm and ag land. There will be upcoming meetings in January & February 1/5/23 "Preserving Agriculture in the face of Growing Solar Development", 1/19/23 "Overview of Agrivoltaics", 2/2/23 "Planning with Agrivoltaics in Mind", and 2/16/23 Series of Q & A.

# **Old Business:**

Delaware River Solar annual decommissioning payment (Generate Capital Inc) A letter has been sent to Generate Capital Inc requesting their annual decommissioning payment.

#### **New Business:**

NYS Ag & Markets Municipal Shelter Inspection Report & Dog Control Officer Inspection Report both came back as "Satisfactory

NYSDOT- reply on Widow Hill Road for speed reduction. Mr Dylan is asking the town board if they want to reduce it to 40 or 45 MPH? ". (Special Meeting 11/21/22 Approved 40 MPH) Clerk Wolfe contacted Mr. Dylan to he could continue the process.

We have received another speed reduction request for Flat Street from Randy Newcomb. He also requested that a lower speed be placed at the Culhane Mennonite school. The board would like to see a petition with signature to be sent to NYSDOT. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Mr. Newcomb requesting that information.

KG Graphics – Signs for the Town Hall and Town Barn. After board discussion it was decided to table this request. Jayson Hoover suggested that each of the board members drive by and check the signs out as they are worn.

Justice – need to set up an audit. Glenn Quackenbush and Richard Harper will be conducting the audit.

Solar: Court Denies NYS effort to dismiss lawsuit that challenges unfair property assessment model.

# Water District # 1 (North):

Received approval of completed work from the Department of Health. Jayson Hoover is preparing to hook up approximately four residents.

# Resolution # 37 2023 Appointments:

Bobbi Wolfe – Water Clerk	1/1/23-12/31/23
Jayson Hoover – Water Operator	1/1/23-12/31/23
Thomas Rood – Chair PB	1/1/23-12/31/23
Crystal Tomion – PB	1/1/23-12/31/27
Thomas Goodall Alternate – PB	1/1/23-12/31/23
Michael Peacock-Secretary	1/1/23-12/31/23
Holly Bedient-Bookkeeper/Budget	1/1/23-12/31/23
Eleanor Parker – Historian	1/1/23-12/31/23
Thomas Morris – Animal Control	1/1/23-12/31/23
Jeffrey Graff, Attorney	1/1/23-12/31/23
Michael Peacock – Court Clerk	1/1/23-12/31/23
Dwight James – ZBA Chair	1/1/23-12/31-23
Steve Vaughan – ZBA	1/1/23-12/31/27

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the above 2023 appointments. Motion was carried.

#### Resolution: #38

Finger Lakes Times as our Official Newspaper

Community Bank N.A & Lyons National Banks as depositories

Clark – Patterson – Lee as the Town Engineer

Municipal Solutions – As our financial advisor

Highway Superintendent: Authorized to purchase equipment, tools, and implements during the year without prior approval from the town board in the amount not to exceed \$1500.00 per purchase.

Water Superintendent: Authorized to purchase equipment, tools, and implements during the year without prior approval from the town board in the amount not to exceed \$500.00 per water district.

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the above resolution. Motion was carried.

Resolution: #39

## Regular Meetings for 2023:

Town Board Seconded Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 P.M.

ZBA First Tuesday of the month (Upon Request) @ 7:00 P.M.

Planning Board Fourth Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 P.M.

Town Clerk and Bookkeeper shall be and hereby authorized to pay the following claims prior to town monthly audit: Retirement, Utilities, Postage, Hospitalization, town approved payroll, payments and any invoices that are due prior to the date of the board meeting.

Mileage Rate for 2023 \$.62/Mile

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the above resolution. Motion was carried.

#### Resolution: #40

# Water Fees 2023:

 WD #1
 \$50.00/6000 Gallons
 \$5.50/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons

 WD #2
 \$60.00/6000 Gallons
 \$5.50/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons

 WD #3
 \$50.00/6000 Gallons
 \$5.50/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons

 WD #4
 \$50.00/6000 Gallons
 \$5.50/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons

(Billed Quarterly)

Relevy Fee \$50.00 Per Meter will be charged as of October 31 for each unpaid account. As an administrative charge.

Motion was made by Alan Tomion seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the above resolution. Motion was carried.

#### **Resolution:**

#41-2022: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve setting a public hearing 1/11/23 on the Limits for the Alternative Veterans Exemption From Real Property Taxation Wartime \$24,000, Combat \$16,000 and Disability \$80,000. This will be forwarded to Jeff Graff for preparation of a LL. Motion was carried.

#42-2022: Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to approve setting a public hearing 1/11/23 "Alternative Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans". Motion was carried.

#43-2022: Approve the request to reduce the speed limit on Flat Street. (Tabled)

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

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Brian Murphy to approve the following: General (A) Claims 273-300 Totaling \$81,198.05 (Abstract 12), (Abstract 13) Claim 301 Totaling \$389.76, General (B) Claims 328-330 Totaling \$695.80, Highway (DA) Claims 87-99 Totaling \$247,661.55, Highway (DB) Claims 234-235 Totaling \$6266.40, SW1 Claims 115-119 Totaling \$453.12, SW2 Claims 203-212 Totaling \$8566.13, SW3 Claims 120-124 Totaling \$468.71. Town Clerk, Highway, Zoning, Water and Supervisors reports. Motion was carried.

## Highway:

Jayson Hoover reported that Case Frankish passed his CDL test which was paid for by workforce development. With the pending storm #6 (new Mack) will have it's maiden voyage plowing. In previous meetings the board had asked Jayson for an updated list of equipment to be purchased in the future. Jayson provided two quotes for a new grader. \$367,000 for a JD, \$374,000 for a CAT. He will possibly look into a used grader, he stated that is a lot of money for one piece of equipment. Supervisor Prendergast suggested that we need to increase the amount added to the highway capital reserve account at budget time.

Stork Insurance: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the new 2023 Town Insurance Policy in the amount of \$30,921.48. Motion was carried.

Executive Session: Under Public Officers Law Section 105 Paragraph F (Replacement of a Board Member)

Motion was made by Richard Harper seconded by Alan Tomion to go out of the Regular Meeting @ 8:40 PM into Executive Session. Motion was carried

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to enter back into the regular meeting as of 8:49 PM. Motion was carried.

# **Appointment:**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to appoint Thomas Davie to the position of Town Board Member for a (1) One Year Term to replace Brian Murphy. Motion was carried.

# **Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Brian Murphy, seconded by Richard Harper to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M. Motion was carried.

Brian Murphy thanked everyone for the chance to serve the town of Benton where he was born and raised. He stated he has seen how other town's are run and is very impressed by how this town is run and the dedication of the employees. (Brian, you will be missed!)

Dated: December 15, 2022 Bobbi Wolfe Benton Town Clerk, RMC