The Regular Town Board Meeting was held January 11th, 2023 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527.

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

Also Present: Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Jayson Hoover - Highway Supt., Thomas Fulkrod-Zoning Officer. Doug Rapalee and Joe Reed – Yates County.

Supervisor Prendergast opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed Thomas Davie as our new board member. He replaced Brian Murphy which resigned as of 12/31/22.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the minutes from the December 14th, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Open the Public Hearings: Motion as made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to open the public hearing @ 7:00 P.M. on "Alternative Veterans Exemption" & "Alternative Tax Exemption for Cold War" Motion was carried.

<u>Guest:</u> Doug Rapalee and Joe Reed were present to update the town board on the Yates County Highway Construction. Doug stated that the design is 95% completed. Construction of the new fuel island is under way and the mixing barn has been taken down. The budget will be given to the legislature at the end of January. Doug also reported that they are working with NYSEG to bring a gas line to Benton, the county paid \$10K for the NYSEG study. Supervisor Prendergast brought up the loss of 3 ½ water units the town will be losing and who will pay for it along with losing approximately \$500K in assessment. Another option they are looking at is to provide a location of one of the county paid ambulances to be placed at this location. Nothing decided at this time. Doug stated that they will keep the town informed as the project develops.

Old Business:

Speed reduction on Flat Street has been requested by Randy Newcomb along with other residents to lower the speed limited from the Village line to Clark Road to 45 MPH. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Sheriff, Ron Spike regarding speed limits in Mennonite School areas. After discussion the Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to forward the request to Yates County Highway requesting the speed limit be reduced to 45 MPH. Motion was carried Clerk Wolfe will present form Te9 to the Yates County Highway for their further processing of this request.

A letter has been sent to the Delaware River Solar Company requesting the decommissioning money due each year. At this time we haven't heard back from them.

Signage – Town Hall and Barn: Previous minutes Jayson Hoover had requested options from Kathy Gernold to update our signs. (Pictures attached to the minutes). After discussion the motion was made

by Richard Harper, seconded by Alan Tomion to replace the signs at a cost of \$1600.00. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Tomion, Prendergast, Davie and Harper. NOES: Quackenbush. Motion was duly passed.

New Business:

BOE: Description of a Town Board Member will be changed to "Town Council Member" on the February petitions. (Attached info from BOE).

Bicentennial Exhibit for 2023 is displayed at the Town of Benton for one month starting 1/3/23. There will be a celebration 2/6/23 at the Yates County Courthouse.

Dept of Taxation & Finance: Property Tax Exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers must be completed by 12/9/2025 if the town approves this exemption. This has been tabled until a later date.

Clean Up Day: Councilman Harper suggested having a shredding company along with E-Waste. Clerk Wolfe contacted Shred-It, they charge \$250.00/Hr, they leave a truck at the clean up but shred at their site. (Correction) Robert Clark made this suggestion!!!! The town board suggested checking with the Chamber of Commerce for who they use for shredding. Tabled until the February meeting.

Close the Public Hearing: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Alan Tomion to close the Public Hearing at 7:55 P.M. Motion was carried.

Resolutions:

#1-2023: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the "Alternative Veterans Exemption" Wartime \$24,000, Combat \$16,000 and Disability \$80,000. Motion was carried.

#2-2023: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve "Alternative Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans". Motion was carried.

#3-2023: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the Budget Modifications for year end 2022. (Attached to the Minutes). Motion was carried.

#4-2023: Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approving a public hearing February 8th, 2023 for "Administration & Enforcement of NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Motion was carried.

Highway/Water:

Jayson Hoover present expenses for the WD # 1 (North) project (Attached) which has come under budget. He stated that five meter pits out of eight have been installed.

2010 - 10 Wheeler truck, he is going to hold onto it for now and advertise it on Auctions International at the end of February.

Zoning: Tom Fulkrod reported a busy January – upcoming are two new solar farms which will be presented to the Benton Planning Board January 24th. He also asked the town board if the salary for Michael Peacock, replacement for Karen Ellis will stay the same. Yes, it will remain the same. Tom started a FB page for the town and will be advertising events of the town ie; zoning, meetings, clean up day etc. He advertised for the position on the ZBA and received one request from Bruce Kerrick.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to appoint Bruce Kerrick to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Prendergast will be contacting NYClass for possible future finances. He would like to have them do a presentation to the town board.

Resident, Bob Clark asked the board if they have looked at the town comprehensive plan and possibly updated it with all the new construction in the town.

Monthly Abstract of Vouchers & Monthly Reports:

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the following: (Abstract # 13) General (A) Claims 301-314 Totaling \$4495.13, General (B) Claims 331-333 Totaling \$761.85, Highway (DA) Claims 100-110 Totaling \$14,175.42, Highway (DB) Claim 236 Totaling \$7500.00, SW1 Claims 120-124 Totaling \$13,311.87, SW2 Claims 213-218 Totaling \$3224.54, SW3 Claims 125-128 Totaling \$4487.05, SW4 Claim 23 Totaling \$3113.00. (Abstract # 1 of 2023). General Claims 1-18 Totaling \$8416.77. General (B) Claim 300 Totaling \$34.07, SW2 Claims 1-2 Totaling \$136.79, SW3 Claim 1 Totaling \$8.99. Town Clerk, Zoning, Highway/Water, Supervisors December Reports,

Town Clerk Annual Report. Motion was carried.

<u>Adjournment:</u>

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: January 18, 2023 Bobbi Wolfe Benton Town Clerk, RMC

ADOPTED: February 8th, 2023