

**DRAFT**

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held April 12<sup>th</sup>, 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: Jayson Hoover – Highway/Water, Thomas Fulkrod – Zoning/Watershed, Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Sue Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk, Eleanor Parker – Historian.

Public Attendance Sheet attached to the minutes:

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the minutes from the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Prendergast stated that the town will receive approximately \$15K back from agricultural exemptions on the solar/Ingram property, this money will be placed in the highway capital reserve account.

**Guest:** Robert Brechko and Sheila Burt representing the Board of Elections informed the board that the Town of Benton is the only town having a primary this year. (a) They also stated that town towns of Torrey and Potter had purchased generators, Benton and Barrington have not. This is a concern if the power went out during an election. (b) Down the road there may be multi district poling sites, meaning residents would not have to vote in their own town. (c) BOE Election law S3505 was discussed, possibility of holding elections on the even years only, has not passed yet. Mr Brechko suggested contacting state representative Phil Palmesano. Mr Brechko introduced Sheila Burt, which will be taking Rob Swarting position next year as he will be retiring.

**Guest:**

Meredith Moore and Jared Perron of Saturn Power, Martin & Horning Projects. Discussion was held on Decommissioning and Host Community Agreement. (a) Jared explained that generally they bond the decommissioning and revisit every five years, he did state that it would be ok for the town to hold the money in an account. (b) Host Community Agreement previously was an up front payment, Saturn prefers payment thru out the project. These projects have already been presented to the Benton Planning Board and the Yates County Planning Board. A meeting will be set up April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 P.M. to determine agreements. Supervisor Prendergast also suggested, when there is a transfer of ownership, to the new owners they are aware of all stipulations set for these projects.

**Angus Point Water District:**

Michael Dalton presented the town board with a petition from residents of Angus Point Road. These residents are requesting to have public water installed. There are 13 parcels and Mr. Dalton presented 11

signatures. The next step will be our engineer (Clark-Patterson-Lee) preparing the Map, Plan & Report. Once we received the report, a public meeting will be held including our engineer, financial advisor to answer any questions the residents may have. Also at that time, residents may sign the formal petition. Easements will also be required from all homeowners due to a private road.

**Old Business:**

***NYSDOT*** – The town received back from the NYSDOT that: Widow Hill Road – Benton may now post speed limit signs for 40 MPH on this road.

***ARPA Funds:*** Update- Supervisor Prendergast stated that there is \$21,754.61 left in the ARPA funds. These remaining funds will finish the culvert on Thistle Street.

Supervisor Prendergast met with Rich Stewart, he was checking with other municipalities on what they were using the ARPA funds for.

**New Business:**

Benton Truss (Samuel & Frances Brubaker are receiving a “PILOT” for the whole property which includes a rental house left on the same parcel as the truss company. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Steve Griffin about separating the house from the business. This portion of that property should be taxable.

**SCT Computer:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the new SCT contract on a quarterly basis. Motion was carried.

**Banking Security:** Due to issues with banks collapsing recently, Supervisor Prendergast checked with Community Bank to make sure the town’s money is secure. They assured him that our money is FDIC protected up to \$250K, a third party agreement with M&T bank will cover the remaining over the \$250K.

**Clean Up Day:** There is an increase in tire prices as follows: \$3.00 passenger tires (no increase), \$8.00 truck tires 19.5” Medium Duty, \$18.00 per truck tire over 20”. Clean up day is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 – 1:00 PM.

Yates County: Councilman Harper reported there will be a Hazardous Waste Day at the Penn Yan Fairgrounds. No date has been set yet.

**Highway/Water:**

Jayson Hoover reported that we received the check from Auctions International for the 10-wheeler \$47,075.00. The truck was purchased in Middlesex and delivered. Jayson stated general maintenance on the water districts. There are two more meter pits to be installed in WD # 1 (North).

**Zoning:**

Wastewater Law – We haven’t received it back from attorney Graff.

Flat Street project, possibility of 34 units, Senior, low income and drug rehab units. The town board would like to be kept informed on the progress of this project. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Village of Penn Yan mayor, Condella to request monthly minutes.

Tom Fulkrod received two complaints on septic issues, Twin Oaks and Havens Corners Roads Discussion on a committee to update the Comprehensive Plan. Town Board members: Tom Davie, Dick Harper and Code – Tom Fulkrod, Members from the ZBA and PB have not been determined. Also a members of public, Karen Pinneo sat on this committee previously, she will be contacted asking if she would like to serve again.

Yates County Community Center: They are looking at adding another building, which would be in the Town of Benton, not Village property. There has been talk about possibly receiving water from Benton as the village doesn't have enough pressure. Benton has not been contacted about this project.

**Historian:**

Eleanor Parker reported that she is working on the Benton history book for 2022...

**NYSEG:** Supervisor Prendergast reported that NYSEG has the approval to upgrade the grid and a cost of 8-10% increase in billing.

Houchul- More low income housing & pushing for local laws out of municipalities hands.

**Monthly Reports and Abstract of Vouchers:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the following: General (A) Claims 66-89 Totaling \$9734.57, General (B) Claims 314-317 Totaling \$395.61, Highway (DA) Claims 22-36 Totaling \$21,396.76, SW1 Claims 14-18 Totaling \$2307.53, SW2 Claims 25-34 Totaling \$11,519.18, SW3 Claims 13-19 Totaling \$4261.39. Town Clerk, Zoning, Supervisor, Highway/Water, assessor reports. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M. Motion was carried,

Dated: April 14, 2023

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC