

DRAFT

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held May 10<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 Officer, Eleanor Parker – Historian, Bobbi Wolfe – Benton Town Clerk, Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk, Stephanie Holtz – Assessor.

Public Present: Meredith Moore – Saturn Solar, Sheriff Ronald Spike

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 Glenn Quackenbush to approve the minutes from the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Assessor: Discussion on the revaluation for 2024. Stephanie Holtz explained that the town of Torrey gave their approval for 2024. She explained that the average increase will be approximately 25% and possibly increase even more in 2025. After board discussion it was decided to wait to do a revaluation for Benton in 2025. Resolution below.

**Benton Truss:** Samuel & Frances Brubaker, owners of Benton Truss have received a “PILOT” for this whole property which includes a rental house. The house portion needs to be taken out of the “PILOT” agreement and taxed. Stephanie – Assessor and Zoning Officer Tom Fulkrod will be working on this. Note: the IDA was contacted a year ago on this matter, but was never resolved.

**Saturn Solar:**

Committee Members: Tom Fulkrod, Tom Davie and Glenn Quackenbush met and presented a proposal to Saturn Solar. ***Decommission:*** 1. \$185,000 Down + 2.5% per year payment due at the turn on point. 2. Every 5 year review paid for by the solar company, an engineer of the Town of Benton’s choice. ***Host Community Agreement:*** \$25,000 per year for the life of the project, 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Payment due at start of construction and each following payment due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Meredith Moore of Saturn Solar stated that the \$25K is on the high end but we can work with it, she stated that eliminating the IDA means more money for the Town of Benton. Supervisor Prendergast stated he will continue to contact the IDA on this project.

There is a public hearing set for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M. at the Benton Planning Board meeting regarding the solar projects.

**Sheriff – Ronald Spike:** Presented an annual summary of events for the town of Benton. 1481 calls including police, fire or EMS related. At this time only Benton and the Village of Dresden has requested him to their meetings. He explained a grant application he applied for had requested the most dangerous

roads in the county. These roads were Pre-Emption, Route 14A and Ferguson Corners Roads, this grant will include additional funds for speed enforcement. He also stated that there have been several meetings regarding the safety of slow moving vehicles and bicycle traffic. Mr. Spike also commented on the speed limit (LED) solar speed limit signs. Pricing has been drastically reduced and might be a good idea to slow traffic. The board will look into this during budget time.

**NYSEG:** Meeting was held at the Benton Fire Dept 5/3/23 @ 7:00 P.M. Regarding placement of a natural gas line. At this point we have received (22) Yes for Route 14A, (2) Yes for Havens Corners Road and (2) no votes. The town will compile a total until May 19<sup>th</sup> and turn it over to the county.

**Tax Collector:** Final payment made to the Yates County Treasurer. (attached to minutes).

**Federal Aid:** Will be withheld from counties across New York for Medicaid over the next three years. The policy will take effect immediately will begin with withholding 25% this fiscal year and will eventually phase out the federal contribution to localities by 4/2026. If this passes it could increase taxes by 7%-14%.

**Route 14A & Havens Corners Roads:** Received a request from Benton Resident, Kurt Gilbert requesting a blinking or stop light be placed at this intersection. Resolutions below.

**Highway/Water:** Jayson Hoover received a call from Jeremy Delyser (Clark-Patterson-Lee) engineer for our water districts. Made the suggestion to possibly having the highway department install water district # 5. It would be considerably cheaper. Discussion on whether we could still get government funding or not. That question needs to be answered by our financial advisor. Jayson felt it would take away from the highway completing their road work.

Speed limit sign has been placed at Widow Hill Road and Culhane school area.

Yates County New Building: discussion on how many units to charge as a 6" water line will be installed.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Tom Davie to charge 12 units due to the 6" main.

Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Quackenbush, Davie, Tomion and Prendergast. Abstained:

Harper.

"CHIPS" , Jayson received notification that money to be received is \$273K up \$21K.

WD # 1 (North). Two more meter to be installed.

### **Zoning:**

Wastewater Law-Septic- We have not received it back from Jeff Graff.

**Historian:** Eleanor Parker has been searching for a GG Grandfather for a lady that wants to join the DAR. So far she hasn't found any information on him.

She also received a request on the oldest tavern in the town of Benton.

### **Zoning:**

Tom Fulkrod explained that at this time Solar Farms are only required to attend planning board meetings.

They would like to change the zoning law to require them to also attend the zoning board of appeals.

The town received a check from Saturn solar for reimbursement of copies/time spent. He didn't want the town board to think he over spent out of his contractual account as that is where it was expensed from.

**FEMA:** New flood plain maps have been received – need board approval once they are reviewed.

Tom explained that he didn't feel the town should be charging \$30.00 for Fire & Safety Inspections. Motion was made by Tom Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to eliminate the \$30.00 fee. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Prendergast, Davie, Quackenbush and Harper. Abstained: Alan Tomion.

**Resolutions:**

**#10-2023:** Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve setting the Stand Work day for the Assessor. Section 315.4 of the NY Cdes, Rules and Regulations (Retirement) at 7 Hours/Per Day: Monday-Tuesday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 AM – Noon. With a term expiring 9/30/2025. Receipt of record of activities was received. 18.09 days per month to be reported to the NYS Retirement Center. Motion was carried.

**#11-2023:** Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the Assessor to do a revaluation in the year 2025 for Benton. Motion was carried.

**#12-2023:** Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve a letter being sent to the Yates County Highway requesting a blinking or stop light at Route 14A & Havens Corners. Motion was carried.

**#13-2023:** Motion as made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to appoint Matthew Perry as the alternate to the Benton Planning Board. Motion was carried.  
(Glenn Quackenbush stated that Jeffery Eckert is interested in serving on the planning board)

**Monthly Reports and Abstract of Vouchers:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the following:  
General (A) Claims 90-106 \$8335.90, General (B) Claims 318-321 \$834.37, Highway (DA) Claims 37-46 \$8006.79 , Highway (DB) Claims 202-204 \$2069.38, SW1 Claims 19-25 \$9950.61 SW2 Claims 35-42 \$3543.40 SW3 Claims 20-25 \$2341.44 SW4 Claims 3-5 \$789.54.  
Town Clerk, Highway Supt/Water, Supervisor & Zoning. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M. Motion was carried

Dated: May 11, 2023  
Bobbi Wolfe  
Benton Town Clerk, RMC

