

# DRAFT

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held June 14, 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: Thomas Fulkrod – Zoning/Watershed, Jayson Hoover –Highway/Water, Eleanor Parker – Historian. Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk

Public Present: (Meeting Attendance Sheet)

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

Supervisor Prendergast recognized Eleanor Parker for the award she received from the Catholic Charities for her community service. There was a round of applause from the town board and audience.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

**Old Business:**

Oldest Tavern – Benton: Supervisor Prendergast stated that Lloyd Powers Tavern was the oldest. Noted in the May town board meeting.

**Lake Property:** Right of Way issue: Dispute on property lines on Seneca Lake, Kevin Bostrom, Bruce Tuxill and Coolidge family. Yates County Real Property may be able to assist with this issue. Bostrom and Tuxill to review an agreement created by the town board to address liability.

**Benton Truss Update:** Waiting for the assessor to update.

**Solar Projects:** Discussion was held regarding the “Host Community Agreement”, amount was offered at \$20K/annually for each project \$10K/PILOT to be split between the Town/County/School. A meeting needs to be set up with the county and school for this pilot agreement. Supervisor Prendergast stated that any attorney fees are to be paid by the solar companies. Once the agreements are received by the town, town attorney Graff will review them prior to signing.

**Clean Up Day:** Was a big success 110 vehicles passed thru, approximately 4500# of E-Waste was collected. Clerk Wolfe has already contacted E-Waste for the 2024 event.

**Yates county Complex: Unit Decision:** (Previous Minutes 12 Units to be charged). Yates County will use a 6” pipe (Fire Suppression) not metered. The 2” will be metered for the building. Richard Harper

stated that the Water Regulations may need to be updated. Jayson Hoover will check into this. Board decision was to leave the 12 units to be annually charged.

SCT Computer: Three quotes were received from SCT: (1) Anti Intrusion Prevention (2) New Phone System (3) New Server. Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Tom Davie to table until the July meeting.. Motion was carried. Richard Harper will review the options.

**Bellona Cemetery:** Tom Fulkrod is looking into taking over this cemetery from Bob and Phyllis Johnson. Tom asked Holly Bedient if she would be interested in the bookkeeping @ \$1200.00/Year. Tom Davie stated we need cemetery committee feedback. This was tabled until next month.

**School House:** Supervisor Prendergast contacted Sheriff Spike regarding the “SWEAPS” program. He stated that there aren’t any inmates in that program at this time but would check on it. There is \$848.00 in the school house account to be used for updates. Table till the July meeting. **Councilman Harper will look into possible of community service hours.**

**Excellus:** A proposed premium rate increase for 2024 is 16.50% if approved.

**Yates County Legislature:** Has issued a 4<sup>th</sup> State of Emergency extension.

**Hazardous Waste Day:** Is planned for September 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 AM – Noon at the Yates county fairgrounds. Registration is required, applications will be coming out soon.

**Yates County Emergency Management:** Yates County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Authorization and letter of intent to participate (Resolution #15-2023)

**Yates County - NYSEG Project:** Yates County Ad Hoc committee voted to come from 14A, the legislature passed a resolution stating the natural gas line to the new county building will come from Pre-Emption Road – Havens Corners at a 8-3 vote. Supervisor Prendergast will prepare a letter to the residents that attended the Benton Fire Dept. meeting, and explain the results of the decision.

**Water District # 2:** Village of Penn Yan Water Budget:  
2023-2024 Budget received 59.8% increase in the purchase of water.  
2021-2022 \$35,689.00-\$8922.00/Quarter  
2023-2024 \$57,032.00-\$14,258.00/Quarter, (\$5336.00 Increase per quarter) Supervisor Prendergast met with several other water customers concerning such a huge increase, some have contacted their attorneys. Prendergast will keep the town board informed.

**Water District # 5:** Cost is up \$1800.00 to \$2200.00 for capital/water annually. This district has been postponed for six months and is time to get this resolved. Supervisor Prendergast will check with CPL for updated cost and payment options. This information will be brought to residents in a public meeting.

**Water District # 7:** (Resolution Below for approval of Engineering)

**Highway/Water:** Jayson reported that the ARPA funds will be depleted on the Thistle Street culvert replacement. Should be completed by July. He also state that he attended the regional meeting in Ithaca.. disappointed and may not attend next year. “CHIPS” money will be received at the same rate as last year.

### **Zoning:**

- (1) Will be attending a wastewater class in Cortland 2-8 Hour Classes next week.
- (2) Yates County: Janet Bender's septic lines were disrupted by county construction, Tom Cleaned out the piping and Yates County paid for replacement.
- (3) Fire at Route 364 6/13 did not have smoke detectors.
- (4) Class to write grants in Geneseo Tom or someone to attend ? \$400-\$500 per class
- (5) 112 Permits – 77 Easements ??? – year to date.
- (6) Political Sign complaints-should Tom notify residents to relocate signs ? There are laws to follow.

**Historian:** Eleanor reported that she still hasn't found the great grandfather requested a few weeks ago. Need a picture of the grave stone.

Awards highlights..

Supervisor Prendergast:

- (1) Assessor update: Revaluation to be done in 2024 for Torrey, 2025 for Benton. Grievance day was very quite.
- (2) Bobbi contacted Marsha Devine regarding the \$15,000 owned Benton for Solar Taxes, should received next month.
- (3) Cornell Coop: Arlene Wilson resigned and is being replaced with an interim executive director.
- (4) Town of Gorham updating their Comprehensive Plan, Benton will be completing theirs also.
- (5) Banking: Finger Lakes – Move some of our funds ? Community Bank increased % of interest ? Discussion about moving funds to compare interest rates.

### **Resolutions**

**#14-2023:** –Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to Approve the agreement with CPL: WD # 7- Proposal for Engineering Services-Environmental Report \$ 6250.00. Proposal for Engineering Services- Map, Plan & Report \$3500.00. Motion was carried.

**#15-2023:** - Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to Approve Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (Yates County) – Authorization & Letter of Intent to Participate. Motion was carried

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

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Tom Davie to approve the following :General (A) Claims 108-133 Totaling \$12,054.16, General (B) Claims 322-325 Totaling \$2004.35, Highway (DA) Claims 47-55 Totaling \$1826.23, Highway (DB) Claims 205-208 Totaling \$30,878.74, SW1 Claims 26-33 Totaling \$2726.88, SW2 Claims 43-54 Totaling \$12,787.88, SW3 Claims 26-30 Totaling \$736.77, SW4 Claim 6 Totaling \$162.00.

Town Clerk, Highway/Water, Zoning, Supervisor and assessor reports. Motion was carried.

### **Executive Session: Under Public Officers Law, Section 5, Paragraph f. Personnel.**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 P.M. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to enter back into the regular meeting at 10:00 P.M. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: June 19, 2023

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC

Thank You, Susan Mastronardi for filling in for me, that's not an easy job !!! You did great...