

DRAFT

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held September 13th, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan, New York 14527.

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

Also Present: Town Clerk – Bobbi Wolfe, Highway/Water – Jayson Hoover, Historian – Eleanor Parker, Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk.

Public Present: (Attached Attendance Sign-In Sheet)

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the minutes from the August 8th, 2023 (Budget Meeting) as presented. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the minutes from the August 9th, 2023 regular town board meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Water District # 5:

Letters were sent to residents of this district to discuss whether to continue or dissolve the district. 2018 the project came in at \$950K, by 2022 after COVID the project jumped to \$2.2M due price increase on products. Funding for this project ends February 2024 thru USDA Rural Development. Engineer. Jeremy Delyser stated that prices have come down somewhat but not a considerable amount to make a difference. Supervisor Prendergast asked by a show of hands who wants the district dissolved, and all that attended raised their hands. At this time approximately \$107K has been spend on this district. The price will continue to rise once the attorney is involved preparing the paperwork to dissolve the district and all additional expenses have been tallied up. Supervisor Prendergast explained that this money spent will need to be paid back by the residents of this district. It is too late for the 2024 tax bill and will be on the 2025 town/county tax bill. Residents attending all stated they were not informed they would be responsible for this payback if the district fails. Tim Merwarth requested that the board check if the information is correct (repayment). Requested by the residents:

- 1) Check with other municipalities.
- 2) Other failed districts
- 3) Who is expected to pay.
- 4) Interest.
- 5) Pay expenses from day one or after the district is created.

The town board will have answers to these questions at the October 11th town board meeting.

Old Business:

Solar: Saturn Solar Power - No updates, still working on the projects.

School House Painting: Tom Fulkrod, Zoning officer power washed the building and has started painting.

NYSDOT: Response for Route 14A and Havens Corners Road – DOT will not make any changes at this intersection.

New Business:

Sales Tax Sharing Proposal: No decisions at this time, ongoing meeting are being held at the county. The Town of Benton would be entitled to \$149,250.00.

SCT: New phone system was installed 8/28/23, all phone calls are now going to the 315-536-7236 all other phone numbers have been cancelled. Also, the new server has been installed. Jayson Hoover requested that we give the old phone system to the Benton Fire Dept Auction.

Lifetime Healthcare: Issues, hopefully have been resolved.

NewYorkClass: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Tom Davie to join the NY Class. Motion was carried. Open with 5% interest rate.

Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization: Requesting the town to join this organization. The cost to the Town of Benton would be \$2626.85 for 2024. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Tom Davie. Motion was duly put to a vote:

NOES: Quackenbush & Davie

YAYS: Prendergast.

NYSEG: Supervisor Prendergast continues to work with representative Josh Sheldon from the Geneva office to bring natural gas along 14A north and south. Mr. Sheldon presented a packet that each homeowner must fill out and return to NYSEG. (which will be done online) Prendergast will be preparing a letter to all residents that this affects.

Water Districts # 1-2-3-4:

\$22,351.89 was over charged for the 2023 Capital on all four districts. (Break down in the boards packet). After discussion with Mary Chappell our financial advisor, the over charged capital needs to be a reduction in the 2024 capital charge.

Water District # 3:

Rate Increase: The new rate for the next water billing will be \$4.75/1000 Gallons. Previously it was billed at \$2.80/1000.

Water District # 2:

A letter was sent out to all residents of this district explaining the increase in water cost. Previous minutes 8/9/23 the town board decided to raise the water bill by \$15.00 for two quarters for the residents to adjust. The March 2024 billing will reflect the total increase of about \$29.00. (Letter attached).

Water District # 7:

We have received 7 signed petitions so far. Once we received all petitions we can proceed with this district.

Highway/Water:

Casey has been marking valve boxes at residents that have been covered up. (Lead Service Lines Inventory) EPS.

Historian:

Eleanor Parker searched a request from Emily Stuart, asking who built the Stuart home in 1832 at 897 Route 14A. the deed did not say who built the house but was thankful for a copy of the deed.

Resolutions

#20-2023: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie approve setting up the Public Hearing October 11th at 7:00 PM Amending Senior Citizens Exemptions. Motion was carried.

#21-2023: Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the Standard Work Day for the Zoning officer New Section 315.4 of the NY Codes, Rules and Regulations (Retirement) at 7 Hour/Per Day, Monday – Friday with a term expiring 12/31/2027. Receipt of ROA was received. 19.57/29.36 (2/3 Pays/Month) to be reported to the NYS Retirement Center. Motion was carried.

#22-2023: Motion was made by Thomas Davie seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the SEQR Notice of Intent to Serve as Lead Agency for the Benton Water District #7. Motion was carried.

Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Monthly Reports:

Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the following: General (A) Claims 169-192 Totaling \$13,089.01, General (B) Claims 333-334 Totaling \$211.62, Highway (DA) Claims 70-79 Totaling \$33,740.12, Highway (DB) Claims 214-218 Totaling \$142,650.29, SW1- Claims 44-47 Totaling \$626.00. SW2 Claims 72-79 Totaling \$15,149.28, SW3 Claims 46-53 Totaling \$1083.75. Monthly reports: Town Clerk, Zoning, Highway/Water, assessor and Supervisor. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: September 18, 2023

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC

