

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held October 11, 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, Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Susan Mastronardi-Deputy Clerk, Eleanor Parker – Historian.

Public Present: (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 was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the September 13th, 2023 town board minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the September 20th, 2023 Budget Meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Public Hearing: Supervisor Prendergast opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. for LL # 4 – Amending the Senior Citizens Exemption.

Water District # 5: (Earls Hill Road): Supervisor Prendergast stated we have received some information from the Association of Towns – stating that the residents in the created district are responsible to pay the town back for any expenses incurred. Supervisor Prendergast contacted the Town of Milo which had a district fail and the residents are still paying back all expenses. Also, Supervisor Prendergast talked to Town of Geneva Supervisor- Mark Venuti, he stated there was a district that failed but not created. The town had to absorb the cost of this proposed district and is paying off a bond. Supervisor Prendergast responded to Mr. Colizzi’s statement about disclosure, that all people are informed that if the district fails after creation, they are responsible to pay back any expense. Mr. Monahan stated he didn’t believe the residents were responsible for any expense prior to the district being created. All questions will be answered at the next meeting. Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Alan Tomion to table this WD # 5 meeting until the tentative date of 11/26/23. Motion was carried.

Old Business:

Solar Update: Representative from the solar are expected to contact the IDA.

Sales Tax Sharing: (Attached to the Minutes) Potential approaches to sales tax sharing. There are four different methods that are being discussed. This will potentially not happen until 2024 or 2025.

New Business:

NYSEG: Nothing new on the potential of natural gas coming up route 14A from Baldwin Road. This is still in the works.

Empire Pipeline: The community benefit fund payment was received \$42,489.92, this is the last year the town will receive this benefit.

Health Insurance: Supervisor Prendergast asked if there have been any issues with payments. Councilman Tomion was having issues, but now resolved.

Benton Fire Department Auction: Benton received \$841.25 for items sold, the check was deposited in the Highway Reserve.

Water District 1-2-3: Municipal Solutions sent a letter stating the town can pay principal and interest early. In 2024 if the town makes a payment January 1st, instead of November 1 the town would save \$1500.00. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the early payment. Motion was carried.

Workers Compensation: Yates County Resolution #442-23: Benton's share for 2024 will be \$12,888.76.

Finger Lakes Economic Development Center: (IDA) will be holding a public hearing on the Hamilton Street Complex (Canandaigua Shores LLC) at 7:00 P.M. October 12th, 2023 at the Benton Town Hall.

Water District # 2:

The Town of Milo and the Village of Dresden have hired an attorney to look into the miss handling of partners contracts and the increase cost of water. The Municipal Board meeting will be held November 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Water District # 3:

Supervisor Prendergast and Jayson Hoover met with the Town of Seneca's Supervisor, Drew Wickham and Randy of the water department. Discussion was held on the water rate increase they are proposing. They are proposing an 80% increase in the water rate: \$4.80/1000 from \$2.75/1000. Benton is requesting a progressive increase.

Water District # 7:

Nine petitions have been received, the town requested they remaining petitions be returned by October 20th.

Highway/Water:

Jayson Hoover will order the new 10-wheeler for fall of 2024 delivery. The highway has surfaced 8 miles in Benton, 20% of the roads. Next Wednesday 10/18/23 the highway employees will be attending a truck show in Syracuse.

Yates County water will be a tap of 6" into the building - split 2" domestic water. 6" won't be metered only for fire suppression. The town board (water board) has added 12 units, the legislature has requested

4 units. Discussion was also held on the possibility of fire training building in the future which Jayson is against. “We can’t have the whole county training and using WD # 2 water supply”

Zoning:

Tom Fulkrod’s report was submitted to the town board.

Historian:

Eleanor Parker reported the Benton Fire Department had their auction - First Fish Fry will be 10/20/23.

NYCLASS:

\$100,000 has been transferred to NYCLASS which at this time does not show on the supervisor monthly report. Holly will add an additional line item on the supervisor’s report to show interest we are earning.

Public Hearing was closed at 8:30 P.M.

Resolutions:

#23-2023: Motion as made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the Adoption of LL No 4 of 2023 “Amending the Provisions of Chapter 100 of the Code of the Town of Benton relative to the Senior Citizens Exemptions. Motion was carried.

#24-2023: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve setting a public hearing on the LL Overriding the Tax Levy for the 2024 Budget. November 8th, 2023 town board meeting at 7:00 P.M. Motion was carried

Monthly Reports and Abstract of Vouchers:

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the following: General (A) Claims 193-213 Totaling \$14,804.11, General (B) Claims 335-337 Totaling \$343.63, Highway (DA) Claims 80-84 Totaling \$612.76, Highway (DB) Claims 219-223 Totaling \$166,518.30, SW1- Claims 48-52 Totaling \$4005.62, SW2- Claims 80-88 Totaling \$18,241.00, SW3- Claims 54-58 Totaling \$5213.90. Town Clerk, Highway/Water, Supervisor, Zoning – assessor. Motion was carried.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to go out of the regular meeting into executive session under Public Officers Law Article 7, Section 105, Paragraph f. Town Board only. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to enter back into the regular town board meeting at 9:05 P.M. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

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

Dated: October 17, 2023
Bobbi Wolfe
Benton Town Clerk, RMC

ADOPTED: November 8th, 2023