

# DRAFT

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held February 14, 2024 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 route 14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527.

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

Also Present: Jayson Hoover – Highway Supt., Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk.

Public Present: None present.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

### **Bid Opening:**

Highway Cold Storage Building:

Kevin Zimmerman	Roof	\$34,000
	Bldg	\$78,000
Sugar Creek	Roof	\$19,604
	Bldg	\$76,208
Seneca Pole Barn	Roof	\$34,000
	Bldg	\$115,000

After discussion the motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve Sugar Creek for the purchase of a roof \$19,604 and Cold Storage Building \$76,208. With 10% down. Motion was carried. Discussion was also held regarding solar panels on the town barn roof.

### **Old Business:**

**Assessor-** Glenn Quackenbush reported that ads were placed with Yates County and Finger Lakes Times with no response. Richie Lent from T/Jerusalem commented on their Assessor aid may be interested. Glenn also spoke to with Meghan Kincaid/Yates County Real Property Director and Gary ? at the main RPS office in Batavia on what training is required. Gary stated that anyone can be an acting assessor, Terry Kwiecinski, Assessor with the T/Jerusalem will do all the training. (Proposal is Attached to the Minutes) \$28,000 salary to start, with \$5,000 increase when she becomes certified. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to hire Amber Bryan as “Acting Assessor”. Motion was carried.

Thomas Davie will make a few small changes to the proposal and have Amber sign it Thursday 2/15/24.

Previous assessor – Stephanie Holtz: Councilman, Alan Tomion asked supervisor Prendergast if we have received the signed exit letter from Holtz ? Prendergast stated that we have not received the signed letter. Mr. Tomion was very upset stating the only reason the rest of the town board agreed on the conditions is that Holtz sign prior to receiving the last payment. Supervisor Prendergast will contact Holtz for the signature.

**Delaware Solar** – Has been billed for their annual contribution of \$4037.91

**New Business:**

**NYSEG – LED** Lighting Program. Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the NYSEG – LED “Street Light Conversion Agreement”. Motion was carried.

**Laserfiche** – Grant is subject to town’s involved actually receiving a grant in the amount of \$150K. Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve Shared Services/Laser Fiche grant proposal. At an annual cost per entity of \$1205.00. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Prendergast, Tomion, Quackenbush, Davie. Abstained: Richard Harper. (Resolution Below)

**NYSDOT:** Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the shared services with NYSDOT. Motion was carried.

**Generator:** After our most recent power outage which lasted 14 hours, SCT Computers suggest we install a generator. He stated that our server is only capable of back up data for 6-8 hours. We could have lost a considerable amount of data. Councilman Harper also commented on the Board of Elections requests towns to have a back up generator for any possible loss of power during an election. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the purchase of a town hall generator for a maximum cost of \$10K. Motion was carried. Mr. Harper had preciously received quotes for several generators.

**Water District # 5:** Previous minutes, Jayson Hoover asked if the town couldn’t absorb part of the Special District WD # 5 expenses. Supervisor Prendergast put this request to our attorney, Jeff Graff. As Mr. Graff explained before, this is a special district and only residents in that district are responsible for any cost incurred. This is the legal explanation, if the board decided to absorb some of the cost, it would be up to them how they want to handle this. Question from an auditor would have some explaining to do. Does the board help soften the blow or stick to the law. After board discussion it is believed that they would have a hard time having the rest of the town residents paying for expenses of a special district. All board members agreed. Mr. Harper recommended that they following the opinion of town attorney Jeff Graff. Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to charge WD # 5, 18 EDU’s for a five year period starting in 2025 on the Town/County tax bill. Motion was carried. (final cost has yet to be determined).

**Water District # 7:**

Received 8 petitions so far – Clerk Wolfe is preparing the assessor certification.

**Highway/Water:**

Increase the rate for districts 2 & 3: From \$5.50/1000 to \$6.50/1000

284 Road Agreement – Resolution Below

Town of Torrey – Water Operation & Maintenance Proposal

Jayson also presented a report for a five year road work, next year all roads will be complete.

The highway employees have been constructing the new vault and should be complete by the next meeting.

**Zoning:** Tom presented his January report.

**Resolutions:**

**#1-2024:** LaserFiche: Motion was made by Allen Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the Shared Services/LaserFiche grant proposal with an annual cost per entity of \$1205.00. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Prendergast, Quackenbush, Tomion and Davie. Abstained: Harper.

**#2-2024:** Approve 284 Road Expenditure Agreement (Need Board Signatures)

**Employee Hand Book** needs to be updated: Tom Davie, Richard Harper, Jayson Hoover, Bobbi Wolfe and Tom Fulkrod will be on the committee to review and update.

**Solar:** More changes are being made and will be updated for the March meeting.

**Monthly Reports & Abstract of Vouchers:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the following: General (A) Claims 19-41 Totaling \$14,895.89 (Voucher # 31 Was Deleted-a Domain that we don't use) General (B) Claims 1-5 Totaling \$1795.62, Highway (DA) Claims 1-14 Totaling \$21,848.33, Highway (DB) Claim 200 Totaling \$1200.00, SW1 Claims 1-7 Totaling \$1356.49, SW2 Claims 1-10 Totaling 2442.41, SW3 Claims 1-4 Totaling \$631.54, SW4 Claims 1-2 Totaling \$3756.89. Town Clerk, Water, Zoning Reports. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Allen Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Motion was carried.

Dated: February 21, 2024

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC