

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held March 13, 2024 in the Benton Town Hall Conference Room, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527.

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

Also Present: Jayson Hoover – Highway Supt/Water, Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk, Thomas Fulkrod – Zoning/Watershed, Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Town Clerk.

Public Present: Attendance Sheet Attached

Deputy Harper stated that he will be filling in for Supervisor Prendergast as he is in the hospital.

Deputy Supervisor, Harper opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the February 14th, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

Guests: Martin & Horning Solar projects: Several Solar Representatives were in attendance. (List is attached to the minutes, sign in sheet). They asked the town board if there were any questions.

- Driveway at Horning's will on the north side of the property.
- The gas line needs to be moved – not determined at this time.
- They stated that the Martin project will probably come first.
- Transformers will be inside the site, not by the road.
- Maintenance will be the responsibility of the solar company

Contracts were not approved, Attorney Graff wanted the statement “Tax Exempt Status” removed from both contracts. The board decided to wait on approval until the contracts were updated. Any attorney fees need to be billed to the solar company.

Old Business:

Grant Downs-Town of Torrey: Reported that their WD # 1 is progressing. Two more borings are expected on March 25, 2024 if everything goes well. Tests completed, water pressure, flushed and chlorine all were positive. They are hoping to be up and running by May 1st.

SCT Invoice – pertains to transfer of Town of Torrey records for the assessor. Does the board want me to send this bill to them ? Board decision was to send the bill to Torrey.

Justice Audit: Richard Harper and Thomas Davie will do the 2023 audit.

Hazardous Mitigation: Jayson Hoover/Highway and Tom Fulkrod/Zoning are working on this.

New Business:

Assessor – Tom Fulkrod reported on our new Assessor, Amber Bryan, she is doing a great job. Tom also informed the town board that there are several new homes that were not added to the tax roll, some older than a year. Clerk Wolfe also encountered several wrong address's previously given to the assessor that were not corrected in the assessor's system. Amber has also found previously approved ag exemptions that shouldn't have been approved. Town board also discussed Amber's pay. She was approved for \$28K and instead of dividing it by 26 pay periods, 22 was used as she missed the first 4 pay periods. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to leave the pay as is for the remainder of the year. Motion was carried.

General Code: We have several LL's that have not been coded since 2018, does the board want to wait until the "Wastewater" and "Personnel Policy" are complete before we receive a quote from General Code. Town board decided to wait for the two LL's that are being worked on then receive a quote.

Water District # 2:

Retainer Agreement with /Richardson, Pullen & Buck Attorneys – WD # 2. This discussion will be in Executive Session.

Water District # 7:

The prepared paperwork is ready to certify by the assessor – Amber will be discussing this with Terry before she signs.

Water District # 5:

We are still finalizing the final cost and should be ready by the April meeting.

Highway/Water:

Clothing allowance – Jayson Hoover asked the board about adding a line item for highway clothing allowance ie; short and long sleeved t-shirts and hoodies. Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve a clothing allowance up to \$800.00 per year and will be added as a line item to the budget. Motion was carried

Jayson stated that the board had approved PTO and sick time hours in a previous meeting due to a question asked for the personnel policy.

Cory, Beam Mack rep along with Benton and Seneca highway employees are planning on a trip to Allentown, PA . Both to towns will be having a new Mack built and will watch Seneca's come off the line. Benton's is due in April. Jayson stated that they will tour the plant, more details to come. He did contact Fitzgerald on renting one of their vans as around 15 people will be going on the tour. He has not received any pricing

Torrey Water Contract – Ok with changed and to send onto Torrey for their approval.

Zoning:

Business Signs- Tom Fulkrod explained that he had removed several business signs that were on state/town right of ways. He stated that he had called these businesses before removing their signs. Some of these signs were, logging & gutter. NYS is cracking down on these signs and have already contacted E.B. Martin and Martin's Hardware. State signs go Greg Miller for their approval.

Fire & Safety Inspections, Tom sent out 71 letters, 35 have been completed. He has now sent out a second letter as a reminder.

Resolutions:

#3-2024: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to re-appoint Bobbi Wolfe as the “RMO” for term ending 12/31/24. Motion was carried.

#4-2024: Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to set up a Public Hearing for LL # 2 of 2024, April 10th, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M. – Wastewater Law. Motion was carried.

Monthly Reports & Abstract of Vouchers:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the following: General (A) Claims 28-47 Totaling \$25,125.01, General (B) Claims 6-8 Totaling \$479.98, Highway (DA) Claims 15-19 Totaling \$5049.79, Highway (DB) Claims 201-204 Totaling \$8445.17, SW1 Claims 8-15 Totaling \$1715.87, SW2 Claims 11-23 Totaling \$3498.53, SW3 Claims 5-10 Totaling \$887.71, SW4 Claims 3-5 Totaling \$587.20. Town Clerk, Highway/Water, Zoning/Watershed, Supervisor. Motion was carried.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion to enter into Executive Session @ 8:30 P.M. Under Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105, Paragraph (d). Motion was carried. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to enter back into the regular meeting @ 8:40 P.M. Motion was carried.

Resolution:

#5-2024: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the retainer agreement with Richardson, Pullen & Buck PC for WD # 2. Includes all five water partners with a maximum cost of \$10K, \$2K per partner. Deputy Richard Harper was given the authorization to sign the retainer. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, Seconded by Thomas Davie to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: March 18, 2024
Bobbi Wolfe
Benton Town Clerk, RMC

ADOPTED: April 10, 2024