

## ***DRAFT***

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 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, Thomas Fulkrod – Zoning Officer, Bobbi Wolfe – Town Clerk.

Public Present: Leslie Church, Dan Banach and Grant Downs.

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the minutes from the April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve the minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Special Meeting with changes. (minutes corrected). Motion was carried.

Public Hearing: Opened at 7:00 P.M. on the “Personnel Policy” Local Law # 2 of 2024

**Guests:** Leslie Church and Dan Banach from the Yates County Legislature. Ms. Church took the floor and reported that Doug Paddock, Patrick Killen, John Prendergast and Glenn Quackenbush met regarding the 12 EDU’s being charged to the county. Prior to construction of the new building they were only charged 1 EDU and should have been 4 EDU’s due to the 2” water line. The issue being that the fire suppression is a 6” line and is charged 12 EDU’s. The Town of Benton lost 3 ½ units due to three residents being torn down for the new complex. Discussion had also been held on the county possibly paying off the debt for the 3 ½ units. No decision has been made. They (Church & Banach) feel it would be more reasonable to charge 8 EDU’s and asking the Benton town board to reconsider lowering it. Also stated that they will pay the 12 EDU’s this year and hopefully negotiate lowering to 8 EDU’s next year. Supervisor Prendergast stated it would be up to the water board to reduce the EDU’s.

Moving forward, there is a potential of building a fire safety training center at the county complex, at which time they have commissioned a grant writer to potentially receive a grant for the training facility. If the grant doesn’t come through there won’t be a facility. Jayson Hoover (Water Operator) has had discussions with emergency management, Brian Winslow. He has stated that our system isn’t built to accommodate a training facility, it was built to serve the

residents of this district. Jayson stated, Pat Killen had an excellent idea for the county to build a reservoir for use of the training center. The water would be metered and billed. Not decisions have been made on reducing the EDU's.

**Guest:** Adam Rowlands from the two new solar projects, stated that they will be ordering the equipment sometime in June-July. The two should be operational by 1/1/2025. Permits should be issued for Nathan Horning's property in the next 30 days. Commercial access to his property completed in two months. The Martin property project will be completed first. Adam stated that the "PILOT" is ready to go once signed. He also stated that there will be a five pole system at the Horning property.

**Guest:** Grant Downs , Town of Torrey Board Member reported on their water district. He stated that on Serenity Road 9 of the 14 meter pits have been installed. The Torrey town board wanted to let Jayson and Casey know how much they appreciate their work and efforts. He reported that there will be a water meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>, and June 3-6 possibly drilling under the railroad for Caton & Davie Roads.

### **Old Business:**

**Highway Building:** Jayson Hoover met with Martin Electric for an electric quote on the new building but never received one. He did receive one from Ray Martin and Brady Hoover. Jayson stated he will have the second quote for the June meeting.

Generator – Tabled until the June meeting.

Regenerate (Ingram Solar) we have not received a check for the decommissioning. A letter has been sent. Supervisor Prendergast is in the process of getting an interest rate for the decommission account from Community Bank. He is also checking with NYCLASS.

### **New Business:**

Assessor – Has signed up for online training course 5/20/24 (WEBEX Exam) 6/14/24 9:00 – Noon. July 2024, Amber has signed up for a five day class at Cornell.

### **Water District # 1:**

As of October 2023 and extra interest payment was made for WD # 1 which has put the district in the red at this time the board discussed raising the water rate for the customers in water districts 1 & 4. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to raise the water rate to \$60.00/6000 Gallons and \$6.50/1000 over the 6000 gallons for water districts 1 & 4 starting with the 2024 June water billing. Motion was carried.

**Water District # 2:**

Wholesale partners meeting, Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00 at the Village Hall, lunch to follow.

Letter to Yates County Legislature – Regarding the Fire Training Facility at the new county complex.

**Water District # 5:**

Final cost for WD # 5 to be paid back is \$95,690.46. A letter needs to be sent to the residents letting them know the amount and when it will be placed on their taxes. Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion approving the amount of \$95,690.46 pay pack for WD # 5 residents to be placed on the 2025 Town Tax Bill. Also with the option to pay the whole amount upfront without interest. Motion was carried.

A letter will also be sent to Rural Development declining the funding for this district.

**Zoning:**

Tom Fulkrod reported he has issued 100 permits to date. Also announced that Ascension Day Is Thursday 5/9/24 to slow down due to the Mennonite horse, buggy and bike traffic.

He reported that he had sent out a few violation – property maintenance letter. Tom also informed the board that the schoolhouse is  $\frac{3}{4}$  painted but needs a second coat along with the outhouse. We need to contact the SWEAPS program or probation department to get help finishing the project. Tom has tentative shoulder surgery May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Highway/Water:**

Jayson asked if there are still trees available thru Soil and Water at the county. Mr. Harper will check into this. He reported that the “CHIPS” for next year has increased by \$250.00. Jayson also reported that the new truck will be built next week for fall delivery. Financing will be thru Beam Mack. The highway employees took a trip to the Beam Mack plant in Allentown PA, they found it to be very clean, impressive and was able to drive an electric truck !!!

Water: There will be a discussion on payroll for the Town of Torrey, a meeting will be set up with Jayson, John and Bobbi.

**Close the Public Hearing:** Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to close the public hearing at 8:45 P.M. Motion was carried.

**Resolutions:**

#9-2024: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Richard Harper to approve the adoption of LL # 2 of 2024 “Personnel Policy Motion was carried.

**Monthly Reports and Abstract of Vouchers:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the following Abstract of Vouchers: General (A) Claims 69-88 Totaling \$10,605.48, General (B) Claims 13-16 Totaling \$3179.43, Highway (DA) Claims 31-36 Totaling \$5602.15, Highway (DB) Claims 208-210 Totaling \$34,294.44, SW1 Claims 21-26 Totaling \$7398.59, SW2 Claims 32-38 Totaling \$734.17, SW3- Claims 16-20 Totaling \$468.55. Town Clerk, Supervisor, Zoning, Highway/Water Reports. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Richard Harper second by Glenn Quackenbush to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: May 15, 2024

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC