

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held October 9, 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: Bobbi Wolfe – Benton Town Clerk, Susan Mastronardi – Deputy Clerk.

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion was carried.

**Old Business:**

Previous minutes, it was rates were requested for money market and loans. Tom Davie presented from Lyons bank the following rates. 4.70% with main checking account with LNB, 4.45% without main checking with LNV. Loan rate: 3 year fixed rate of 4.95% (NO Bond) 5 Year fixed rate of 5.40%, 7-10 year fixed available if interested. We still need the rate for the new truck Beam Mack bank. The decision was made to secure a three loan for the new truck.

***Assessor:*** Previous minutes, the board requested an explanation on the Ethics course that Amber had taken, she presented the status report. Amber also recently passed her “Fundamentals of Assessment Admin”.

***Sales Tax:*** Councilmen Harper explained that the sales tax distribution will probably be down approximately 50% for 2025. Benton may receive around \$40K.

***NYSEG:*** Gas line start date at the Yates County Highway building, letters will be sent out to residents on Havens Corners. Once this project is completed, supervisor Prendergast would like to get a meeting set up with NYSEG for the possibility of natural gas, north/south on route 14A and East/ West on Havens Corners. Also a meeting with residents along this route to see if there is enough interest to pursue a natural gas line. Glenn Quackenbush and Tom Davie will head up this committee.

***Water Financial Issues:*** Water Operator, Jayson Hoover is working on this information for the November meeting.

***Solar:*** The town has received all final agreements for the Martin and Horning solar projects.

***JCAP:*** Justice grant application has been sent in. We have requested an additional security camera, keypad entry, new chairs and a Justice robe.

**New Business:**

Village of Penn Yan, Wholesale Water Partners Meeting Wednesday 10/30/24 @ 10:00 AM.  
Village of Penn Yan meeting regarding the fire protection agreement was held 9/25/24 @ 4:00 P.M.  
Glenn Quackenbush, Thomas Davie and John Prendergast attended. The village is requesting \$.03/1000 additional to our contracts. All municipal budgets are already complete, which it was stated the village did realize ? Towns and village fiscal years are totally different. The town of Benton will be requested to add \$2300.00 to their budget for 2026. This request is for their capital project, to purchase of a new truck. The village residents were not included in this increase.

Yates County 2025 budget meeting will be held 10/29/24 @ 9:00 AM, also 10/30/24 if needed.

**Benton History:** Oliver House Display of Agriculture in Yates County created by George Barden.  
Open Tuesday-Friday 9 AM – 4 PM. A new building constructed behind the Oliver House for this display and others.

**Health Insurance Update:**

The town board would like to know what percentage of an increase, Holley stated a 15% increase. Health insurance is already in the 2025 budget with and increase in the deductible.

**Water District # 5:**

Town board determined WD # 5 units to remain at 17. This will be billed annually for five years to these residents of WD # 5, (1) Unit \$1051.29, (1/2) Unit \$525.65.

**Resolutions**

**#18-2024:** Motion was made by Richard Harper seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to approve a Public Hearing for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. Local Law to override the tax levy limit. Motion was carried.

**#19-2024:** Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Richard Harper to approve a public Hearing for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for the 2025 Budget. Motion was carried

**#20-2024:** Motion was made by Thomas Davie seconded by Richard Harper to approve a public hearing for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for the following fire contracts: Bellona, Benton, Penn Yan and West Lake Road. Motion was carried.

**#21-2024:** Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the Animal Control Officer Contract for 2025. Motion duly put to a vote: AYES; Prendergast, Quackenbush, Tomion and Davie. Abstained: Harper.

**#22-2024:** Motion was made by Alan Tomion seconded by Tom Davie to Re-Appoint Ashley Doyle to the Board of Assessment Review Board for a five year term 10/1/24-09/30/29. Motion was carried

**#23-2024:** Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush seconded by Alan Tomion to approve sending the “Short Term Rental” to Attorney Jeff Graff for his review and Local Law preparation. Motion was duly put to a vote: AYES: Harper, Tomion, Davie and Quackenbush. NOE; Prendergast. Motion was carried.

**#24-2024:** Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Alan Tomion authorizing Lyons Bank (LNB) as one of the town of Benton’s official banks. Motion was carried.

**#25-2024:** Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve a Public Hearing for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for Special Districts and/or Fire Protection Districts. Motion was carried.

**Monthly Reports and Abstract of Vouchers:**

Motion was made by Alan Tomion seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the following:  
General (A) Claims 178-194 Totaling \$16,632.55, General (B) Claims 28-30 Totaling \$1756.23, Highway (DA) Claims 59-66 Totaling \$4210.82, Highway (DB) Claims 229-231 Totaling \$30,386.74, SW1 Claims 43-46 Totaling \$4873.96, SW2 Claims 84-94 Totaling \$16,516.73, SW3 Claims 44-49 Totaling \$ 8985.20, SW4 Claims 12-14 Totaling \$224.28. Reports: Bookkeeper, Town Clerk, Zoning and Water. Motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Alan Tomion to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Motion was carried.

Dated: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Bobbi Wolfe  
Benton Town Clerk, RMC

DRAFT