

The Regular Town Board Meeting was held November 13th, 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 – Town Clerk, Jayson Hoover – Highway/Water, Matt Perry – Planning Board.

Public Present: Matt Tette – Stork Insurance

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 Alan Tomion to approve the minutes from the October 9th, 2024 meeting as amended. Motion was carried.

Public Hearings:

Supervisor Prendergast opened the public hearings at 7:00 P.M. for the following:
Tax Cap, Tax Cap – Special Districts, 2025 Budget and Fire Contracts: Bellona, Benton, Penn Yan and West Lake Road.

Guest:

Matt Tette – Stork Insurance explained the new policy for 2025. The increase was approximately 6%, where other carriers are averaging 10-15% increases due to major issues across the country, (Floods, hurricanes etc) and several companies leaving NYS. The new policy increased by \$2144.33. Matt explained he will need to know prior to January 1st if the board decides to accept the proposal.

Old Business:

General Code Changes: Jayson Hoover caught several issues that were not correct in the most recent General Code update: Page 68:6 Item “C” Needs to be removed. 68:4 Needs to be changed from an 8 hour day to a 10 hour day. 68:4 Call IN – to be stated as (Per Call In). 68:16 Sick Time “C” hire date to be taken out. (Hours up to 240) needs to be taken out. “D” Death (Discharge cancelled) Sick Time – PTO per town board review. The town board will need to review these changes, also check to see if these changes were the mistake by General Code.

One other issue Jayson brought up, there wasn’t a vacation update for a 20 year employee, our policy ends at 10 years for 3 weeks vacation. We have an employee that will be here 20 years and he feels another week vacation should be added. The town board agreed.

Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Richard Harper to add: Four weeks vacation after 20 Years of Employment. Motion was carried.

NYSDOT: The request for a lowered speed limit on Havens Corners has been submitted. We are still waiting for a response.

Short Term Rental: Jeff Graff made several suggestions that need to be approved by the Planning Board, returned to the town board and then sent back to Jeff Graff for him to prepare the paperwork for a local law. Copies will be given to the Planning Board.

New Business:

NYSEG – The gas line on Havens Corners Road (New County Building) has been turned on as of October 4th, 2024. The line is complete and in service. A meeting has been set up with a NYSEG representative November 21st @ 2:30 PM at the town of Benton. Committee for the project is Glenn Quackenbush and Thomas Davie.

State Comptroller – Two representatives from the State Comptrollers office reviewed the Tax Cap for 2025. All looked good, they did state that the anticipated revenue from the solar projects should be in the 2025 budget. They will respond with a written statement to the town board with their findings.

Town Clerk/Water Clerk:

The Water Relevy has been completed and totaling \$16,969.23 which is about average compared to previous years.

Highway/Water:

Interest rate for the new truck: Lyons 4.95% (3 Year Loan) NO Bond, Beam Mack (Kansas State Bank) 6.16% (3 Year Loan). Town Board decided at the last meeting to go with a three year loan.

1. Electric has been updated to the new building.
2. Water Tank Inspection: Jayson received a quote from USG Water Solutions in the amount of \$450K for overcoat on the outside and full interior rehab. Jayson will be looking for other quotes.
3. Water District # 2, a 4” meter needs to be replaced. He received a few quotes but was asking the boards approval on a new 4” meter in stock for \$1514.00, town board agreed to go ahead and purchase it.
4. Water Increase. After board discussion on continued increasing expenses for the water districts.

Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Thomas Davie to increase the water district Quarterly amounts as follows:

Water District # 1	\$110.00/6000 Gallons	\$8.00/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons
Water District # 2	\$130.00/6000 Gallons	\$8.00/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons
Water District # 3	\$100.00/6000 Gallons	\$8.00/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons
Water District # 4	\$100.00/6000 Gallons	\$8.00/1000 Over the 6000 Gallons

Motion was carried.

Letters will be sent to all residents in the water districts to inform them of the increase, this increase will be in affect as of the December 2024 billing which is the first quarter of our fiscal year.

Supervisor Prendergast informed the board that Tom Fulkrod, on his own time pressure washed the town hall. Thank you Tom...

Public Hearing: Motion was made by Thomas Davis, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to close the public hearing at 9:00 PM Motion was carried.

Resolutions:

#26-2024: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Richard Harper to approve overriding the tax levy limit for the 2025 budget established in General Municipal Law3-c. Motion was carried.

#27-2024: Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve overriding the tax levy limit for the 2025 budget – Special Districts and/or fire protection. Motion was carried.

#28-2024: Motion was made by Glenn Quackenbush, seconded by Alan Tomion approving the 2025 Budget with the following amendment: Additional \$2144.33 added to municipal code A1910.4 (Town Commercial Insurance). Motion was carried.

#29-2024: Motion was made by Thomas Davie, seconded by Richard Harper to approve the 2025 Fire Contracts for Bellona, Benton, Penn Yan and West Lake Road. Motion was carried.

#30-2024: Motion was made by Thomas David, seconded by Alan Tomion to approve the 2025 Stork Town Insurance in the amount of \$34,144.33. Motion was carried.

Monthly Abstract of Vouchers and Reports:

Motion was made by Alan Tomion, seconded by Thomas Davie to approve the following: General (A) Claims 195-214 Totaling \$7421.72, General (B) Claims 31-35 Totaling \$537.82, Highway (DA) Claims 67-75 Totaling \$63,225.13, Highway (DB) Claims 232-233 Totaling \$13,480.43, SW1 Claims 47-49 Totaling \$589.35, SW2 Claims 95-102 Totaling \$808.07, SW3 Claims 50-53 Totaling \$189.96, SW4 Claim 15 Totaling \$1564.92. Town Clerk, Supervisor, Highway/Water and Zoning reports. Motion was carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Richard Harper, seconded by Glenn Quackenbush to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion was carried.

Dated: November 14, 2024

Bobbi Wolfe

Benton Town Clerk, RMC