

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on March 2, 2022 at the Blenheim Town Hall.

Meeting commenced at 6:30 pm with the salute to the flag.

**Present:** Supervisor Don Airey  
Councilman Chester Keyser  
Councilman Joseph Ward  
Councilwoman Renee Grabowski  
Councilwoman Anne Mattice-Strauch  
Highway Superintendent Dave Mattice

**Motion made to approve February 2nd 2022 board meeting minutes by Councilman Ward; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

**Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Airey**

- FEMA Update – Letter was sent but did not pay back yet
- Flood Committee/NYDEP/NYPA –
  - Received FERC notice, as a protected file, but able to get the information. Incident report was written for one taintor gate remained open a few feet allowing 700 CFS to come thru; problem corrected. Town might actually get a “bonus” payment this year.
  - DEP has been very communicative
  - NYPA continues to fund sirens and County tests
  - Resolution to be written clearly defining that the following are in place:
    - Debris boom
    - Crest gates are open
    - Notch is open
    - Syphons are open
  - County signed Electricity contract with NYPA negotiated by Don Airey / Bill Federice at 7.1 cents per kW. Three (3) Year Contract at fixed rate. Open market prices have already risen significantly higher and will continue to do so at least partially due to NYS Climate Leadership initiatives
- NYS RPTL Renewables - Energy prices are “through the roof” and has been increasing monthly (.08/kw in Dec to .14/kw Jan/Feb). County to negotiate contract with NYPA at .06/kw (Government is concentrating on climate change – it’s out of control!) Energy Committee has retained tax experts, and have petitioned state, challenging methods of calculations of taxing green energy projects. They have 60 days to respond.
- Building Lettering – is complete... Thank you Renee!!!
- Tire Day – Casella handles County transfer station, will inquire about a tire day in Blenheim; approximate cost of \$1,000
- Parking Lot Sealing – Superintendent Mattice suggested to put out to bid for both parking lots

**Motion made to put out to bid, paving of both parking lots (with breakout for each locations) by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved.**

- Broadband Survey – Supervisor Airey is encouraging all residents to complete as it benefits the whole community. Survey is also available on the County website.
- Governor’s mask mandate has been lifted!
- Climate Council Scoping – still reviewing
- Blenheim Hill Farms – Still need permit; based on the building permit application formula, cost of permit will be about \$6,000 for the \$3M project. They will be invited to speak at the next town board meeting. Also gave them a copy of the Blenheim Noise Control Law.
- Town Website – Councilwoman Grabowski stated that she has talked with other website developers and for what we need, it was determined that they weren’t a good fit. Angela Kogler has agreed to help us; information has been given to her and she will “compose” then town will take back over to update
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter sales tax check has been received (Town of Gilboa received \$27k)- other towns feel its unfair so the County has established a committee to look at sales tax revenue distribution; recommendations to be given at the May or June BOS meeting
- BAR – assessment has been grieved and a tax attorney was hired to challenge it. Mike West has been contacted and the issue will probably be brought before the Schoharie County Court. Supervisor Airey has authorized Mike West to hire Dave Jones to do appraisal and compare with current assessment.

**Highway Report – Superintendent Mattice:**

- 2009 plow and wing will be delivered at the end of next week
- Requesting a roll-off dumpster to be used for clean-up at 121 Eastside Road; will get pricing
- Mowing season will be here soon. Discussion regarding purchase of a tractor with ditching bucket and mower attachment; maybe trade in the dozer that is not used. Board agreed for Superintendent Mattice to get pricing.
- Broom rental has been scheduled with Carver for week of April 4th. Paperwork to be signed with Certificate of Insurance.
- Supervisor Airey inquired about a decision on CHIPS projects this year; need to get specifications done and put into Times Journal for bidding
- Supervisor Airey has received many phone calls reporting the good job our town employees are doing with snow plowing and removal. Thank you!!!

**Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron**

February report has been received and can be viewed during Town Clerk's business hours

**Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale**

- Received protocols as to having open court and jury trials

**Assessor's Report – Bob Mann Sr**

- Almost 100% of assessments have been returned

**Correspondence (not read at meeting but available during Town Clerk's business hours):**

- The Gathering Place Monthly Newsletter
- Schoharie County Conservation Association Monthly Newsletter
- Letter from Helios Care regarding Request American Rescue Plan Funding for Vital Community Bereavement Program
- Solicitation letter from Peckham Industries
- Email received with tentative CHIPS funding amounts
- GOSR letter for Subrecipient Single Audit Certification Form- Town Clerk completed and returned to Shane Nickle
- Update for 2022 Report of Municipal Officials w/ address information for State

**Other:**

- Joe Durma (Dog Control Officer) reported that he had been contacted by County Social Services that an agent had been bit by a dog living at a location on Cole Hollow Road. Joe stated that he will continue to monitor the situation and keep the town informed.

Motion made to pay bills \$8,867.03 General; \$10,287.87 Highway by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved

7:35 pm Motion made to adjourn by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved

Minutes respectively submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk

*Renee Grabowski - Town Councilwoman*  
*Chet Keyser - Town Councilman*  
*Joseph Ward - Town Councilman*  
*[Signature]* Town Supervisor