

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on May 4, 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 April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 board meeting minutes by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Ward; so moved**

**Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Airey**

- Flood Committee/NYDEP/NYPA – DEP will attend May flood committee meeting. Flood mitigation will be discussed and upon recommendation of the committee, further actions may be taken including a potential County Resolution.
- NYPA – settlement requires that the host communities, and the county, provide a report as to how the money is spent. NYPA Trustees will be releasing another payment in June.
- Local Tax Challenge- Mike West to speak with taxpayer's attorney / judge regarding this matter. Data Collectors may change how tax collection is done
- RPTL Renewables – County has filed an A-78 action against NYS Dept of Taxation and Finance and has requested a Temporary Restraining Order. A temporary restraining order has been approved. Action will be challenging!
- Road Work – bid specifications are being written; when complete, the specifications will need to be printed in the local paper

**Motion made to put Request to Bid notice in the Times Journal by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

- Parking Lot Sealing – bid notices to go out; also specifications will need to be printed in the local paper

**Motion made to put Request to Bid for parking lot sealing at Blenheim Municipal Complex and the Hitchcock Building by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

- Richardson Property – Mike West is looking into the process of how to clean up the property
- Blenheim Bridge- town and the county are being contacted about holding events at this location (i.e. wedding, car show, craft fair)
- Sales Tax Distribution- other towns within the County have requested that sales tax be "re-distributed" differently. It has been suggested that villages get an additional 3%. The second level of distribution to the Towns will be based on population not assessment; remaining sales tax percentage will go into the County General Budget, as always.
- Gilboa-Conesville Central School will be holding a car wash on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, contract and insurance certificate has been received
- Tire Day – no update
- NYPA EV Charging – it has been requested that charging stations be available in our rural community.
- Sub-Division Law – a sample of law has been received by Shane Nickle of County Planning. Supervisor Airey to present at next month's town board meeting
- County Resolution #54- comments are due to climate leadership by June 4<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Airey would like the Town of Blenheim to adopt a similar resolution.
- Robert Hitchcock painting to be located at the Blenheim Post Office; Gail Shaffer and Rebecca Littlejohn to coordinate with Town Clerk
- Councilwoman Grabowski will be attending the Association of Towns Finance School, scheduled for this month
- Town of Blenheim 2022 Budget transfers re: CHIPS allocation & insurance recovery to be submitted to EveningStar Bookkeeping

**Motion made to approve amendment by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved**

**Highway Report – Superintendent Mattice:**

- Received notice of 2022 CHIPS funding - \$127,000 total for Blenheim
- Began hauling in stone for road work. Has decided to not seal when work is complete. Roads scheduled this year for work are:
  - Westkill/Burnt Hill corner
  - Quarry to Kim's Way
- Fire extinguishers have been serviced and (5) new ones are needed for the EMS building. Board approves purchase.
- Parts are coming for the broken Hitchcock building toilet and septic tank has also been pumped
- Discussion regarding another 10-wheeler truck as the 09 will need replacement; it takes two years to receive another vehicle
- Flags will be put up this month- before Memorial Day
- Councilwoman Grabowski thanked Highway Superintendent for repairing the Schoolhouse stairs and waterlines and for all the work he has scheduled for the EMS building.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron**

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

**Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale**

- Possibility of Schoharie County CAP court again; does not know specifics

**Assessor's Report – Bob Mann Sr**

- Assessment roll has been filed with the Town Clerk. Grievance Day is now scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 4 pm – 8 pm
- Income limit for Senior STAR exemption has been raised to yearly salary of \$90,000, set by the State. Mr. Mann has suggested that the town consider setting a sliding scale

**BLTCRC – Gail Shaffer**

- BCC is open!
- Committee would like to discuss purchase of the parsonage again.

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

- The Gathering Place Monthly Newsletter and Invitation to 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraising Gala at the Tater Barn on 5/12/22
- Schoharie County Conservation Association Monthly Newsletter
- Municipal Shelter Inspection Report – Satisfactory now that all contracts are received and signed, 628
- MEVAC 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation Dinner invitation – 6/12/22
- Letter from Glen Farmland regarding a Solar Symposium on 4/30
- Steel Sales thank you letter
- CHIPS funding letter from NYS DOT. Blenheim has been allotted \$127,628.65

**Motion made to pay bills \$5,398.79 General; \$17,915.11 Highway by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Ward; so moved**

**7:55 pm Motion made to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

**8:05 pm Motion made to end Executive Session and meeting brought back to order by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved.**

Executive session discussed the \$38,000 ARPA funds that have been received by the town. Decision was made to disburse up to \$10,000 of the funds to all town employees that worked thru COVID. Each employee will be notified of amount.

**8:10 pm Motion made to adjourn by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

**Minutes respectively submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk**

*Rene Gabowski, Town Councilwoman*  
*Anne Mattice Strauch Councilwoman*  
*Chet Key*