

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on October 5, 2022 at the Blenheim Town Hall.

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

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

Motion made to approve September 7, 2022 board meeting minutes by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved

Motion made to set 2023 Town Budget hearing for next Town Board meeting on 11/2/22 and place notice in Times Journal by Councilwoman Grabowski; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Airey

- Streambank Project – State and Federal agencies are all involved in this huge project, as well as engineering firms. Supervisor Airey to update monthly
- Flood Committee/Gilboa Dam Update- Meeting was held. Town Supervisors to attend tour next month
- NYPA County Funding (\$200,000 total) Report – Approximately 27 applications have been received to date for grants. All will be reviewed to determine grant amounts – up to \$50,000. At next flood committee meeting – some applicants will be presenting
- NYS Div of Finance and Taxation Lawsuit – still pending
- Hitchcock Building –
 - Special thanks to Paul Kelly for installing the US Postal Service and Office of Emergency Management Sign
- FEMA Appeal – Town will be paying back to FEMA \$79,000 of funds received for the Cole Hollow project. Still waiting for a formal clarification from State request
- ARPA Funds- still trying to determine the best use of these funds, town has until 2024 to spend
- Short Term Rental Law – really need Town Board input; please be ready to discuss further at next meeting
- Richardson Property – no update
- County Homeless Shelter – discussions will continue for use of old jail space as a homeless shelter. Exploratory research and the liability of the rehabilitation of the space still needs to be done; State representatives have toured the facility and are considering the possibility; have yet to hear from them.
- NYPA EV Charging- stations have been installed at Mirabitos and the Visitors Center; no other update
- Sub-Division Law – tabled until further notice
- Building Permits – Supervisor Airey stated that there have been building projects going on and some not acquiring permits. This places an unfair burden on the people that do. He is suggesting that there be a fine schedule implemented for those that do not. The schedule will be presented next month.
- Jefferson Wind Project – this project is on the town line bordering Blenheim. Supervisor Airey was invited to speak at the Jefferson Planning Board. A lengthy discussion regarding this project as it will ultimately affect our town. Supervisor Airey is considering a ban to keep it from coming here, to regulate and protect our residents
- Other – Schoharie County Administrator has recently resigned and County is searching for a replacement. In the meantime, Bill Federice, Chair of BOS has been covering for this position

Highway Report - Superintendent Mattice

- Shoulders to be done within 3 weeks – Town of Gilboa will assist
- Burnt Hill Road to be sealed in the spring. Damage done to the newly paved road will need to be repaired first. Special thank you to Supervisors John Wyckoff and Bill Jaycox and their crews for helping to get this work done
- Rental machine to be returned next week to Eklund's
- Superintendent Mattice has requested that posted signs of "8 ton limit" be installed on our roads which may help prevent damage done by overweighted trucks. He will check with County to determine if a local law needs to be put into place. Superintendent Mattice did say that no input is needed from DOT.

Motion made to place weight limit signs, if it is determined that local law is not needed, by Councilwoman Grabowski; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron

- Report has been received and can be viewed during normal Town Clerk business hours

Assessor's Report - Robert Mann, Sr.

- Nothing to report

Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale

- Nothing to report but comments made:
 - Motorcycles have been driving on the bridge. Supervisor Airey has contacted Dan Crandle has to how to handle this situation (i.e. signs, planters, bollards, etc.); to be discussed further.

Other:

- Letter of Interest has been received by Carolee Russell for the vacant position left by Joseph Ward
- Hitchcock Building:
 - EMT's are almost back to 24/7 operation
 - Water filters are being changed on a regular basis
 - It has been suggested to sell current kitchen stove and replace with an electric stove so that EMT's can use
- Councilwoman Grabowski stated that the BCC lease needs to be renewed

Motion made to renew lease with RARE for the BCC building by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved

- SAM (System for Awards Management) registration needs to be renewed every year; new system has been put in place where the town needs an "Entity Administrator" to do this task. Town Clerk, Robin Alley, has requested that this duty be assigned to her.

Motion made for Robin Alley, Town Clerk, be Entity Administrator for SAM system by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

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

- Grantier's Purchase Order for fuel oil has been signed
- NYMIR insurance information is being reviewed; renewal is in November
- Letter from Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship (CADE) stating they are accepting applications for participation in the Farm and Food Business Accelerator (FFBA)
- Community Load Fund of the Capital Region – 37th Anniversary Celebration
- The Gathering Place Newsletter
- Letter from Assoc of US Postal Lessors announcing they will hold a single-day education meeting on Friday, 10/21/22
- Schoharie County Conservation Association Newsletter

Motion made to pay bills \$ 7,257.05 General; \$66,620.09 Highway by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved

7:45 pm Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk

Chet Keyser
Renee Grabowski, Councilwoman
Anne Mattice Strauch