These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on August 2, 2023 at the Blenheim Town Hall.

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

Present:

Supervisor Don Airey

Councilman Chester Keyser

Councilwoman Anne Mattice-Strauch

Councilwoman Renee Grabowski Councilwoman Carolee Russell

Highway Superintendent Dave Mattice

Motion made to approve July 5, 2023 board meeting minutes by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

Supervisor Airey announced that the public hearing on the Short-Term Rental Law will remain open and future comments can be sent to Town Clerk's email (blenheimclerk@midtel.net)

Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Airey

- NYCDEP- Policy discussions scheduled for October BOS meeting
- Miller Road- Certificate of Abandonment has been signed. Supervisor Airey received a call from DEC- Bob Cross- stating that he has issues regarding the abandonment. Supervisor Airey spoke with town counsel for advice in handling.
- National Grid- Notice of Claim has been received. Town highway department completed work at difficult site which caused damage to a pole. National Grid was contacted and replaced pole (about ½ hour to complete). Supervisor Airey has spoke with counsel and agrees that we are liable for the damage but he is questioning why a citation has been issued.
- Short-Term Rental Law- suggests that this be completed and closed next month
- Hitchcock Building- no update
- Homeless Shelter Committee- GPI report has been received and is still under review
- Blenheim Fossil Rocks- no update for signage
- Flood Mitigation Grant- Pete Nichols of County Soil and Water has continued to research grant opportunities. Supervisor Airey has authorized Pete to submit a new grant request with a different agency.
- NYPA Funds- In addition to the \$250K that the town received in July, the town will also receive a payment of approximately \$98,000 this year due to 2022 power generation numbers
- County Animal Control Law- At July BOS meeting, animal control was discussed at length and the County has requested Supervisor Airey to continue review of Ag & Markets existing laws (Article 7 & 26) so that a county law can be put in place. Supervisor Airey also stated that he has had discussions with another Animal Shelter regarding acceptance/surrender of aggressive dogs and what processes can be put in place
- Road Bids- Highway Superintendent has requested more road work to be completed before winter. Bid specs will be created
 and submitted to newspaper. Special meeting is needed for bid opening, as work needs to be completed as soon as possible.
 Bid opening meeting is now scheduled for 8/22 and award will be made. Board authorized Town Clerk to post notice of
 meeting and bid request in the newspaper for (2) consecutive weeks.
- Town Assessor Supervisor Airey introduced new town assessor, Deb Thurber, who will be working with Mr. Mann. Welcome aboard!!!
- Town Highway Garage Fans- Aaron's Electric supplied a quote of \$5200 to install (3) 60" ceiling fans; no other contractors have submitted.

Motion made to accept Aaron's Electric \$5,200 quote by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved.

Highway Report - Superintendent Mattice

- CHIPS work is ongoing. Four (4) roads have been widened and built up. Paving can be done only every 10 years.
- DEC permit was received for work on Eminence Road and has started
- Superintended Mattice has designated Andrew Graves has foreman while he is out with shoulder surgery
- 2015 is at DeNooyer for repair of broken wires and censors. A lot of work as been completed on truck in the past 2 years (approximately \$24,000). Superintendent Mattice is requesting purchase of a new one-ton to replace. Board has requested that he obtain cost quotes.
- Lights in the Hitchcock Building need to be replaced. Superintendent is asking if Aaron's Electric can replace, since they will be installing the ceiling fans at the new highway garage. Councilwoman Grabowski to contact Aaron's Electric for a quote.
- Superintendent Mattice and Supervisor Airey met with the representative from Western Star to discuss specifications and price for new 10-wheeler. Thank you, Don!

Code Enforcement Officer Report - Brian Caron

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

Judge's Report - Ralph Arrandale

Law requiring that all judges be attorneys or lawyers – did NOT pass

BLTCRC Report - Gail Shaffer

- Committee is requesting that Aaron's Electric look at lighting, etc., at the Community Center RARE should be able to cover
 cost
- Committee is requesting a budget line for a part-time grant writer. Supervisor Airey stated that a person (contractor) could be hired per project

<u> Assessor's Report – Robert Mann</u>

Nothing to report

Other/Privilege of the Floor:

- Welcome assessor- thank you for saying yes!!
- Residents inquiring as to the status of Burnt Hill Road and complaint that culvert continues to be washed out. Superintendent
 Mattice stated that paving and sealing, all the way to the top of road, will be completed next year. Supervisor Airey and
 Superintendent Mattice to inspect culvert issue.
- Councilwoman Grabowski has researched IntraFi investment account at NBT Bank and has requested that the Town's
 General Money Market account and Highway Reserve account be moved to the IntraFi product as it has an interest rate of
 4 85%

Motion made to close both General money market (account ending in #5853 in the amount of \$433,254.99) and Highway Reserve (account ending in #9204 in the amount of \$107,988.19) and move to separate IntraFi accounts with NBT Bank by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved

Budget Meeting Workshop to be held on 8/22/23 at 5:00 pm – Town Clerk to put notice in newspaper

<u>PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS:</u> No comments made at this meeting regarding the Short-Term Rental Law. Public hearing will remain open.

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

- The Gathering Place Newsletter
- Schoharie County Conservation Association Newsletter
- Iroquois Museum solicitation letter for the 40th Annual Arts Festival to be held 9/2 and 9/3
- Letter from the Schoharie Flood Committee regarding Schoharie County Local Community Agreement Fund Report
- 8/26/23 is Family Farm Day!! Information can be found on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Website

Motion made to pay bills \$ 6,330.89 General; \$17,582.94 Highway by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

7:30 pm Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; so moved

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Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk

Town Council Woman

Foron Council Woman

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