

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on February 1, 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 January 4, 2023 board meeting minutes by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Grabowski; 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

- Schoharie County Animal Shelter Agreement – Supervisor Airey stated that the yearly contract has been negotiated with the animal shelter to reduce the cost to \$100/dog. As a good gesture, the town board discussed making a donation of \$150.

Motion to accept and sign updated agreement of \$100/dog by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved.

Motion made for the town to donate \$150 to the Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved.

- Flood Committee/Gilboa Dam Update- communication progress is being made between all organizations
- Miller Road- correspondence has been received by attorney who represents Ilene Sparrow and Daniel Yank requesting again to abandon a section of the road. There will be no decision made since letter has just been received and would like the town board to review. Tabled until March 2023 board meeting.
- NYS Div of Finance and Taxation Lawsuit (Commercial wind/solar projects) – Judge ruled to allow for a 30-day extension for a response to NY Supreme Court
- Hitchcock Building – continues to have well trouble. Supervisor Airey requesting that the town consider to re-drill in the spring (may be able to use ARPA funds for this project).

Motion made to re-drill the well at the Hitchcock Building by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

- EWP Streambank Settlement – Supervisor Airey has been authorized by the County to negotiate and agree to a settlement of \$1.4M

Highway Report - Superintendent Mattice

- In receipt of a Gorman quote for sealing of Burnt Hill and Quarry as well as stone and oil quote for Line, Eminence, Rossman, and Dugas roads
- Requesting approval for one month rental equipment for spring cleanup and road work; to be further discussed once quotes/estimates have been received.
 - Escavator
 - Brush tractor
- Requested approval for Carver Sweeper rental at \$1200 in April 2023

Motion made to approve rental of sweeper by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

- Superintendent Mattice has met with representative from International to discuss new 10-wheeler truck. He has also researched information from:
 - Kenwood-they cannot provide what we want
 - Western Star- still waiting on a price, won't be until June or July, then a 20 month waiting time for truck to be built
 - Peterbuilt – 24 month waiting time for truck to be built
- Requested to install ceiling fans in the big bay so that the hot air will be circulated instead of up in the ceiling

Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron

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

Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale

Nothing to report.

Assessor's Report – Robert Mann

Book has been received from the County and senior star exemptions are being worked on. Discussion to increase base to \$20,000. Further discussion next month.

BLTCRC Report – Gail Shaffer

Nothing to report other than they plan to open building 5/1/23

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS:

- Owner of air BNB – believes it has good roots, especially CEO codes!
- Changes needed to Section 4 of the law:
 - Part B – non-permanent structures should have to get a permit as well
 - Part C – possible re-wording for regular dwelling
 - Part F – inspection timing needs more review
 - #5 – remove statement
 - #7 – reword for clarification
 - #8 – liked proof of insurance clause
 - #10 – reword
 - #11 – remove
 - #13 – reword
 - Any permits “revoked” should be fined but not re-permitted
- Section 7 reword the written warnings that lead up to the fines

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

- Letter from Tooher & Barone, LLP regarding Miller Road
- Letter from Mirabito Holdings Inc requesting Federal Exemption Certificate
- Uniform and Energy Codes Annual Report complete
- Solicitation letter for Schoharie County Maple Festival
- Schoharie County Conservation Association newsletter
- Solicitation letter from Laberge Group- 2023 Grants Survey

Motion made to pay bills \$8,794.42 General; \$34,648.98 Highway by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

7:50 pm Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk

Rene Gradowski, Councilwoman
Chet Keyser
Carollee Russell