

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on January 3, 2024 at the Blenheim Town Hall.

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

**Present:** Supervisor Don Airey Council Member Renee Grabowski  
Council Member Chester Keyser Council Member Carolee Russell  
Council Member Anne Mattice-Strauch Highway Superintendent Dave Mattice

**Motion made to approve December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 board meeting minutes by Council Member Chester Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Carolee Russell; so moved**

**Motion made to approve December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 end of year board meeting minutes by Council Member Carolee Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Anne Mattice-Strauch; so moved**

**Oath of offices were sworn in by Town Justice Ralph Arrandale; Supervisor Don Airey, Town Clerk Diane Ericson, Council Member Chester Keyser, Council Member Carolee Russell, Assessor Deb Thurber**

Supervisor Airey announced that the public hearing for the Dog Control Law will be open for a few months. Town is working with counsel on the changes in the law.

Motion was made by Council Member Carolee Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved. Dog Control Law Public Hearing will remain open for next month.

Presentation was given by Jessica Kirby / Tara Rehburg -NYPA for issues regarding Lansing Manor.

Jessica spoke of changes in personnel, research, collection, graduate student researching Anti Rent War, digital collection etc.

Jessica also spoke there is no structural concerns in the buildings. She will be sending the town a full report of her presentation.

#### **Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Airey**

- General County Update – At the BOS organizational meeting, on 1/2/24. Supervisor Don Airey has been appointed to Safety and Security Project for County Buildings. Also, he was not reappointed to the Ag and Conservation Committee.
- It is hoped that the Ag & Conservation Committee will continue with developing a person/position for County wide Animal Control/Livestock.
- Thank you for phone calls during high water event.
- Supervisor Airey discussed the Schoharie/NYPA Settlement Funding. Applications exceeded amount available. Old Stone Fort applied to the Schoharie County NYPA funds to restore an old painting of first responders.
- Homeless Shelter concerns are now with a Standing Committee. Negotiations are ongoing with State of New York and developers.
- Land Bank no communication.
- Motion was made by Council Member Chester Keyser for digital speed signs; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Carolee Russell; so moved
- Short Term Rental Law Public Hearing remains open
- BLTCRC reports they expect painting of the BCC will be done in 2024.
- Request ad page in Maple Festival program of \$60 by Historian Liz Arrandale. Motion was made by Council Member Chester Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Carolee Russell; vote no by Council Member Renee Grabowski; voted by remaining Council Members; so moved

#### **Resolutions: (complete Resolutions are included in the permanent record book)**

- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #1**, Appointment of Highway Superintendent Dave Mattice by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #2**, Designating the Town Assessor Deborah Thurber by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #3**, Designating the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer for 6 months Brian Caron by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #4**, Designating the Town Deputy Supervisor Anne Mattice-Strauch by

Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Keyser; Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch recused from vote; so moved

- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #5**, Designating the Town Historian Elizabeth Arrandale by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #6**, Designating the Tax Collector Diane Ericson by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #7**, Designating the Registrar of Vital Statistics Diane Ericson by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #8**, Designating the Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics and Deputy Tax Collector Robin Alley by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #9**, Designating the Town Dog Control Officer Joseph Durma by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #10**, Code of Ethics by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #11**, Designating the Town Attorney Michael West by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #12**, Designating the Town Insurance Agent as Rose & Kiernan, Inc. by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #13**, Paid Holiday Policy by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #14**, Procurement Policy by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #15**, Building Permit Fee Schedule by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #16**, Designating the Town Banks as NBT and Bank of Richmondville by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #17**, Investment Policy by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #18**, Refund of Taxes by Town Clerk/Tax Collector by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #19**, Designating the Mileage Reimbursement Rate by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #20**, Designating the Officials Newspapers as Times Journal and Mountain Eagle by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Motion made to adopt **Resolution #21**, Employee Health Insurance Cost Allocation by Supervisor Airey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved

#### **Highway Report - Superintendent Mattice**

- Continue doing repairs and dealing with icy roads.
- Looking to rent a brush tractor for 1 week in March. Motion was made to rent a brush tractor for a month at the price of \$7800. Motion made by Council Member Renee Grabowski; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Chester Keyser; so moved
- Still need broom and excavator for road maintenance.

#### **Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron**

Nothing at this time

#### **Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale**

Team meeting on handling traffic tickets

#### **Assessor's Report – Deborah Thurber**

Is working on updating the Blenheim Property records, most of which are blank. The County Data Collectors will be extremely helpful in gathering the information. She and her Husband have started 'riding' our roads to familiarize her with Blenheim. Gave a presentation on the new program she is using the V4 program to assess

properties. Will be checking on exemptions and working on getting them all completed. She also would offer any help to assist property owners with the Star Program.

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

- Association of Towns packet for Annual Meeting and Training Sessions to be held 2/17-2/19/24 at NY Marriott Marquis
- Schoharie County Historical Review
- The Gathering Place newsletter and solicitation letter
- CDPHP Report
- DeNooyer Chevrolet
- Schoharie County Conservation Association newsletter
- Schoharie County Historical Society
- NYS Deferred Compensation Plan
- Times Journal

**Motion made to pay bills General; \$18412.60 Highway; \$3717.25 by Council Member Chester Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Carolee Russell; so moved**

**7:40 pm Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Chester Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Mattice-Strauch; so moved**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Ericson, Town Clerk**