

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on March 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 February 1, 2023 board meeting minutes by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

- Flood Committee/Gilboa Dam Update- communication progress is being made between all organizations. This committee may become a "as needed" committee as it has not been necessary to meet monthly.
- Homeless Shelter Committee – Supervisor Airey announced that he has been appointed to this committee with the first meeting to be held in March; feasibility study continues
- Supervisor Airey received a complaint regarding livestock not penned properly and has roamed onto another resident's property. Protocol is to contact NYS Police or Sheriff's Department for resolution. Ag and Markets is NOT the agency to contact. Also, Joe Derma was contacted by another resident regarding loose pigs in the Town of Blenheim, in the Eminence area. Although Joe is the Dog Control Officer, he felt that he had a responsibility to "check it out". Joe spoke to the owners of the pigs and apparently problem is resolved. Supervisor Airey suggesting that maybe the county needs a County Animal Control Officer?
- GOSR – although BMC project has been completed for approximately 2 years, County Sub-Recipient / Administrative Fees remain unpaid by GOSR to the County
- Streambank Project – settlement negotiations were reached with the 1<sup>st</sup> contractor and is now in negotiations with a 2<sup>nd</sup> contractor
- Road specifications – ready for submittal to vendors and Public Notice to be posted in newspaper in April for bid opening at the May town board meeting
- Miller Road- lengthy discussion regarding abandonment of .34 miles of road (lower part of Miller Road to Betty Brook). Supervisor Airey still needs to communicate with counsel as to the process and before any Public Hearing. Further conversation regarding signage. Highway Superintendent suggested that road will be posted at the end as "dead end"

**Motion to abandon the lower part of Miller Road to Betty Brook made by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Grabowski; so moved**

- Hitchcock Building – no update
- Year end 2022 balance sheet shows Blenheim General Fund net income of \$102,283.91. Supervisor Airey has requested that \$100,000 be moved to General Savings account

**Motion made to move \$100,000 from General checking account to General savings account by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved**

**Highway Report - Superintendent Mattice**

- Set up an account with a Tenco dealer
- Researched prices on a few more tractors but not much of a difference
- Renting a tractor will be from a sole source vendor. Rental possible for the month of April and may charge to CHIPS

**Motion made to rent, for one month, a John Deere or New Holland brush tractor at \$7200 based on sole source vendor by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

- Thank you, Dave for being our "plumber" at the Hitchcock building

**Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron**

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

**Judge's Report – Ralph Arrandale**

- Meeting with Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Caron; Supervisor Airey and Court Clerk, Robin Alley, to discuss better communication and cases that involve appearance tickets. CEO has requested purchase of a camera to provide supporting documentation for not only court cases but also parcel files.

**Motion made to authorize purchase of camera for CEO, not to exceed \$300.00, by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved**

**Assessor's Report – Robert Mann**

Nothing to report

**BLTCRC Report – Gail Shaffer**

Regular meetings of the committee to begin again in March and BCC will be open in May

**Other:**

- Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch has requested use of Town Highway parking lot for GCCS carwash and Hitchcock building parking lot for GCCS bake sale; both are tentatively scheduled for 5/6/23

**Motion made for GCCS- Class of 2024 to use both Town Highway and Hitchcock building parking lots for carwash and bake sale by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved**

- Gail Shaffer inquired as to the status of the High Bridge Project in Schoharie. Supervisor Airey noted that the project is still being negotiated thru the Schoharie County Planning Board. No public meetings/hearings have been scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS:** 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):**

- Comp Alliance Breakdown Entry report for 2023 – approved and sent back to Wright Insurance
- Notice of Unemployment Insurance Rate – Town Clerk emailed to bookkeeper
- Schoharie County Conservation Association Newsletter
- The Gathering Place Newsletter
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Claims Handbook

**Motion made to pay bills \$12,368.46 General; \$6,979.76 Highway by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved**

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

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

*Renee Gabowski, Town Councilwoman*

*Anne Mattice-Strauch, Town Councilwoman*

*Chet Keyser  
Cordell Russell*