These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on November 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, David Mattice

Motion made to approve October 4, 2023 board meeting minutes by Councilman Keyser; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

Motion made to open the public hearing on the 2024 Town of Blenheim Budget by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved. Supervisor Airey stated that taxes have been reduced by 5% and we welcome any comments.

#### Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Airey

- NYCDEP- representative were invited and did attend the 10/20 Board of Supervisor's meeting. Supervisor Airey felt that NYCDEP
  actually listened to concerns and requests. It was a good meeting and there is progress being made
- Town Refuse Collection Issues new signs have been posted reminding everyone for "Blenheim Tax Payers Only"
- Blenheim Fossil Rocks- Highway Department to install
- West Kill Road phones have been out at least 27 times in the last 15 months. Verizon engineer has been very helpful (as
  there has not been any issues as of late) and Supervisor Airey was asked to rescind complaint against Verizon. Supervisor
  Airey also contacted MidTel requesting a quote for broadband service on West Kill Road (approximately 5 miles) \$385,000!!!
- Town Highway Garage Fans- installation complete
- Diesel/Fuel Contract- Mirabito has accepted the extension of the agreement for another year
- MEVAC Contract Town of Blenheim's share is \$8,000 yearly coverage. Supervisor Airey is requesting permission to sign contact.

Motion made for Supervisor Airey to sign MEVAC contract by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved

- Flood Mitigation Grant- no update
- Homeless Shelter Committee- County is still looking for uses of the old jail. Engineering study came in at \$18M for shelter
  and other services. Fulton Welcoming Lodge located in Fulton will be visited. This is a 64-unit, multifunction facility which
  was paid for by NYS OTDA funding of \$19M. ODTA may fund the County's 6-acre site as well. Building would be
  demolished and flood plain mitigation/compliance would take place.
- NYS DTF Supervisor Airey advised of a meeting he attended in Lowville, Lewis County, regarding taxation of Renewable Energy Projects. 28 people were in attendance and the issue of under assessment / taxation on such projects was discussed as it negatively impacts project host-communities. This meeting was requested by Supervisors of Lewis County and Supervisor Airey was invited to speak on the issue of taxation, Part N legislation, etc.
- Landbank Projects- Supervisor Airey attended a meeting on 10/31 regarding properties (from each town within the County) that may qualify for rehabilitation. Landbank did receive ARPA funding as well. Supervisor Airey has suggested a few properties with the Presbyterian Parsonage being one of them. He received a call back from Shane Nickle, County Planning, that this could be a feasible project. Meeting for further discussion to be determined.
- Digital speed signs- still working on. Specifications have been submitted to NYS DOT. Councilman Keyser to locate mile
  marker numbers so that DOT permit can be submitted. Once approval has been received, Blenheim Highway Department
  will install. Signs are \$2500/each with "break away" posts.
- Town of Blenheim Insurance Renewal renewal quote as been received. Supervisor Airey is requesting permission to sign Service Agreement.

Motion made for Insurance Service Agreement to be signed and renewed by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

Short-Term Rental Law- will remain open; still need to "trim down" for administration purposes

#### Highway Report - Don Airey

- Road work shoulders to be done 11/2/23 with the assistance of Town of Gilboa
- Superintendent Mattice personally called all of the town supervisors that helped with the road work and thanked them
- Already review roadwork that will need to be completed next year
- Still waiting for a price on a new one-ton truck
- Supervisor Airey thanked Superintendent Mattice for repairing the Schoolhouse furnace

### Code Enforcement Officer Report - Brian Caron

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

### Judge's Report - Ralph Arrandale

Noting to report

#### Assessor's Report - Robert Mann

- Property on Welch Road all is straightened out with BAR
- A few calls regarding school taxes and STAR programs

#### **BLTCRC** Report - Gail Shaffer

- BCC is closed for the season
- Contractors were unable to paint this year due to weather
- · Final committee meeting to be determined

## PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS (Short-Term Rental Law and 2024 Budget):

- No comments made at this meeting regarding the Short-Term Rental Law. Public hearing will remain open.
- No comments made regarding 2024 Budget

Motion made to close the public hearing for the 2024 Town of Blenheim Budget by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved

Motion made to adopt the 2024 Town of Blenheim Budget by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

#### Privilege of the Floor:

- Councilwoman Grabowski announced information for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner coordinated thru Office for the Aging; signs will be put up at various locations.
- Concerns regarding the use/management of Lansing Manor. Supervisor Airey will contact Jessica Kirby and request a meeting/invitation to speak at an upcoming board meeting
- Concerns regarding livestock/animals. Supervisor Airey has been in contact with Ag & Markets and working with County as well. "Livestock must be contained!"
- Supervisor Airey stated that the Town of Blenheim Dog Law is almost complete and public hearing will be scheduled
- Concerns/questions regarding process of posting a speed sign on the corner of North Road and Roger Jones Road. Supervisor
  Airey stated that because intersection is both County and Town, he will contact County DOT
- A lengthy discussing regarding the Presbyterian Parsonage and the possibility of it being purchased by Schoharie County Landbank. IF project is approved, property would be rehabilitated and sold; putting it back on the tax roll.

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

- Schoharie County Conservation Association
- Solicitation letter from Bank of Greene County
- Letter from NYS DOT announcing federal funding available for transportation programs that promote NY State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
- Letter from NYS NYPA providing "Disposition of Electrical Energy and Capacity" for 2022
- The Joshua Project donations request

Motion made to pay bills \$32,390.39 General; \$103,169.38 Highway by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Keyser; so moved

8:00 pm Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

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