

These are the Town Board Meeting Minutes held on September 6, 2023 at the Blenheim Town Hall.

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

Present: Supervisor Don Airey Councilwoman Renee Grabowski
Councilman Chester Keyser Councilwoman Carolee Russell
Councilwoman Anne Mattice-Strauch Andrew Graves, Highway Dept
Excused: Highway Superintendent, David Mattice

Motion made to approve August 2nd and August 22nd, 2023 board meeting minutes by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

Supervisor Airey stated that the special meeting was held for the 2nd round of road work to be done; purchase order to be sent to Suit-Kote for \$111,000.

Supervisor's Report - Supervisor Airey

- NYCDEP- no update
- Intra-Fi- accounts have been established with 5% interest rate
- ARPA Funds – no update
- Short-Term Rental Law- will remain open
- Hitchcock Building- no update
- Western Star Truck – Supervisor Airey read Resolution #23, which is needed to reserve Western Star truck (2 year waiting list)- non-binding or obligation.

Motion made to adopt Resolution #23 by Supervisor Airey; 2nd by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; roll-call vote; so moved

- Town Refuse Collection Issues- when contract was awarded to Kyle's Refuse Collection, it included a tipping fee for upto 2 tons/week. In the past 6 months, the town residents have generated approximately 3 tons/week. During Saturday collection times, some residents are NOT recognized. Supervisor Airey is suggesting that new permits are given and possibility of limiting the amount of bags
- Homeless Shelter Committee- no update other than this project continues to be negotiated
- Blenheim Fossil Rocks- waiting on signs to be completed
- Flood Mitigation Grant- no determination has been received as of date
- NYPA Generation Payment – check for \$98,000 has been received; Supervisor Airey also announced that NYPA will be holding the 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday (this weekend) with food trucks and 300 drone/light show.
- Budget Workshop – town board members reviewed and discussed the 2024 budget. Thank you, Renee, for all the “leg-work” on this.

Motion made to adopt 2024 Tentative Budget by Councilwoman Russell; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved. (Town Clerk to place notice in newspaper when appropriate)

- County Animal Control Law- Continue to address at County level, as well as Town level. Supervisor Airey stated that the initial conversation with Susquehanna Animal Shelter (Stacey Haynes) they would accommodate aggressive dogs if needed, as our shelter will not. Subsequent conversation is that they will not agree to take aggressive dogs. Supervisor Airey, along with others, will continue seeking solutions to this problem.
- Town Highway Garage Fans- Aaron's Electric was awarded; nothing scheduled as of date
- Highway Crew Luncheon – Thank you Renee and Dottie Picket for coordinating the luncheon at the Horseshoe Café! It was well attended by Gilboa, all had a nice time.

Privilege of the Floor – Steve Whitesell and Morgan Kraemer

Steve began with the introduction of Morgan Kraemer who is the Dog Control Officer for Schoharie and Carlisle. He further stated that DCO's should be enforcing state laws and have found that it is not the case. Morgan Kraemer stated that she perceives her role as DCO:

1. Always answer the phone
2. Use professionalism when covering for other towns (per Ag & Markets)
3. Her towns have contract with shelter
4. Licenses and vaccinations are mandatory before owners can retrieve their dogs from the shelter
5. When responding to dangerous dog call protocol is to contact police right away, ask owner (if applicable) if the dog is licensed and vaccinated, make sure all is ok in case medical attention is needed. She has confirmed with Ag & Markets that it is the correct protocol.

She further stated that there is no place to put a labeled “dangerous dog” but she has volunteered to personally take care of the dog at the shelter where there is an “isolation” room. If there has been someone that has been bit, there are different “bite levels” to determine the outcome of the situation – only a Judge can determine. She also stated that she is on the County Ag & Markets committee agenda to discuss possible solutions.

Lengthy discussion continued regarding dog control officers and their role in our communities. Steve Whitesell thanked Morgan for coming and presenting and he requested that Morgan be appointed the town's DCO. Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch asked if she was interested. Morgan replied that she is. Supervisor Airey stated that reappointments are discussed at the Town's organizational meeting in January.

Highway Report – Andrew Graves

- Andy reported that Dave is doing ok after his shoulder surgery, he just can't drive yet!
- Paving- roads are almost ready; approximated 30 trucks are needed to complete the paving. Nearby towns have been contacted (including Delaware County) and most are willing to assist; waiting for scheduling confirmation with Suit-Kote
- New one-ton truck will be needed- Supervisor Airey stated that it will be included in the 2024 budget

Code Enforcement Officer Report – Brian Caron

- August 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/Deborah Thurber

- Mr. Mann had nothing to report other than he has files at his house to be moved to the Town Hall. Town Clerk asked if highway crew can help move the files. All agreed, but after the paving job has been complete.
- Ms. Thurber's report was read by Supervisor Airey and can be viewed during Town Clerk's business hours.

BLTCRC Report – Gail Shaffer

- No painting has been complete yet
- There will be a September Committee meeting
- Still waiting for a quote for the BCC belfry
- BCC is open on Saturdays and Sundays

Other:

- Councilwoman Grabowski announced that the Blenheim Hose Company has received the defibrillator and will be conducting training; Town board members would like the training as well. Councilwoman Grabowski to coordinate.
- A request has been made to possibly acquire electronic speed signs at the end of the Town. Supervisor Airey to contact State DPW, Scott Nowalk, to get more information

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):

- Notice from IRS that refund check of \$1,613.30 for fuel tax paid has been issued
- Wright National Flood Insurance renewal notice
- Schoharie County Resolution #84 regarding apportionment of sales tax revenue
- Letter from Adirondack-Appalachian Regional Emergency Medical Services Council requesting written comments regarding the importance of Schoharie County EMS to support Schoharie County EMS application for permanent "Certificate of Need"
- The Gathering Place monthly newsletter
- Assoc of Towns announcement of 2024 Annual Meeting and Training School in NYC
- Solicitation letter from Laberge Group
- Schoharie County Conservation Association
- Republican Committee announcement for the 76th Annual Clambake/Chicken BBQ

Motion made to pay bills \$4,947.27 General; \$6,412.03 Highway by Councilwoman Mattice-Strauch; 2nd by Councilman Keyser; so moved

7:35 pm Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Keyser; 2nd by Councilwoman Russell; so moved

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Alley, Town Clerk

Renee Grabowski, Town Councilwoman

Ed Keyser
Carlee Russell

Anne Mattice Councilwoman