

The Town of Bethel Town Board meeting of June 8, 2016 was called to order by Supervisor, Daniel Sturm at the Dr. Duggan Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Council members present: Vicky Simpson
Lillian Hendrickson
Bernie Cohen
Dawn Ryder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audit of Bills

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve monthly audit bills, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0 as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check No.</u>
General Fund	\$184,409.63	6071-6148
Highway Fund	\$171,723.79	1019-1058
Kauneonga Lake Sewer	\$ 22,516.76	1018-1030
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$ 1,203.50	1108-1109
Kauneonga Lake Light District	\$ 2,007.25	1105

Supervisor's Monthly Report

Mr. Sturm reviewed the supervisor's monthly report for May. Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence SC Public Works – Willi Hill Rd Weight Limit

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file letter dated June 6, 2016 lowering the weight limit on Bridge CB93BIN3356350 from 10 tons to 3 tons location TH 137/Willi Hill Road. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Clerk's Monthly Report

Total fees	\$6,912.45
State share	\$1,081.51
Town share	\$5,830.94

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file town clerk's monthly report for May, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Unsafe Structure Remedy - Boatwise

Mr. Sturm reported that the property located on 17B knows as SBL #33.-5-17.1 has been remedied by the property owner. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to send thank you letter for removing unsafe structure(s). Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Unsafe Structure Remedy - Hunter/Hodges

Mr. Sturm reported that the property located on 17B knows as SBL #38.-1-27. has been remedied by the property owner. Motion by Mrs. Ryder to send thank you letter for removing unsafe structure(s). Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Unsafe Structure Update - Olowe

B.J. Gettel reported that the owner of the property located at SBL #26.-1-27 has contracted with Gary Meyers for the removal of unsafe structure. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to hold for two weeks. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Unsafe Structure/Property Update White Lake Resorts LLC

Mr. Sturm suggested to pend for two weeks, the property owner was in on May 24th and was seeking quotes for improvements. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to hold for two weeks. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Property Up Date - Behr

Mr. Sturm suggested to review options and have Building Dept. issue tickets, pend for two weeks. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to review on June 22, 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Set Public Hearing Copeland SBL #43.-6-28

Mr. Sturm reported that the property had until June 8th to obtain a demolition permit and no action has been taken and suggested to move forward with public hearing. Motion to schedule public hearing June 22, 2016 at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Jeffrey Kaplan – White Lake Estates, LLC #37-1-70

Correspondence from Jeffrey Kaplan, regarding the removal of unsafe structures for his client located at SBL #37.-1-70 (White Lake Estates, LLC). Mr. Kaplan is advising objecting arbitrary and unequal enforcement of the town code, when there are numerous structures throughout the town that could be deemed unsafe. The letter also services as formal notice that White lake Estates, LLC expressly demands the town, its employees, agents and contractors refrain from entering upon its property without their express consent. Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file letter dated June 3, 2016 from Jeffery Kaplan, Attorney at Law. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0. Motion by Mr. Cohen to forward Jeffery Kaplan's letter of June 3, 2016 to Robert McEwan, Attorney for the Town of Bethel. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Noise Permit Application (Curtis) John Bishop Road

Noise Permit Application has been received. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve noise permit from Selene Curtis, John Bishop Road, for a house party on June 10th (noon – 3 p.m.), 11th (12 a.m. – 2 a.m.), and the 12th (noon – 1 a.m.). Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Assessor Position Discussion

Mr. Sturm gave an update on Marguerite Brown's retirement from the Assessor's office. On January 3, 2016 the town received notice that our long time assessor Marge Brown would be retiring after 37 years on July 15, 2016. The Town posted in the *Sullivan County Democrat*, NY state assessor's association website and in the *Times Herald Record* for a full-time assessor, fully qualified, or at least two years' experience that could be then fully certified. It was in the paper with a deadline to apply by February 29, 2016. The town received five interested applicants, and ended up interviewing with Mrs. Brown four out of the five. None of the applicants were Bethel residents and one was a Sullivan County resident. We were close to an agreement with one applicant from Orange County but the salary requirements were too big for our Town budget. Currently the assessor makes \$52,000. after 36 years of employment. Another issue, after careful review of New York State Town Law, we believe the assessor is an officer of the Town which must be filled by an "elector" of the Town. Meaning they must live here. After more discussions with our assessor, Marge Brown, she agreed to stay on for one year until July 16, 2017, as a part-time assessor, which will allow her to train someone else for the position. I think this move will benefit the Town because in the assessor position we need stability and continuity, we need someone consistent, reliable and steady, which Marge is.

Mr. Sturm suggested: 1. Change Mrs. Brown to part-time once here retirement paperwork is submitted, which would mean she will be working 2.5 days a week, instead of 5 days per week, and here salary would be cut in half (\$26,000. a year), and 2. Post

for an full-time assessor trainee, must be a Bethel resident, and must be eligible to be certified by July 16, 2017 as an assessor. So they could learn the position from Mrs. Brown and take the required classes. Budget impact will not be major because Mrs. Brown will only be making half her salary for the rest of the year.

Depending on who applies and who we appoint I believe this a better long-term answer for the Town. A good solution going forward. Mrs. Hendrickson asked how much we would be paying a trainee. Mr. Sturm, post in the paper for one (1) week. Full-time/salary to commiserate with experience. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to appoint Marguerite Brown part-time at half salary and to post for Assessor Trainee. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence Wes Illing - Yasgur Road Campground Sewer Extension

Correspondence from Wes Illing seeking support from the Town Board for a municipal sewer line for the Yasgur Road Campground application before the Planning Board. Mr. Illing is proposing to connect to the existing sewer line along 17B. It would be approximately 8,000 feet long and have 2 or 3 pump stations. One the project is complete they will turn ownership over to the town. Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file letter dated June 7, 2016 from Wes Illing, PE. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0. Mr. Sturm read the following statement:

The concept of extending or expanding the town sewer capacity and infrastructure is certainly something that I have always been in favor of, including that area on 17B. It is a complex process which will require coordination and cooperation between the applicant and the town. The procedure involves a map, plan and report to the town board to extend the sewer district boundaries, public hearings, etc. King of a lengthy legal and open process, the applicant pays all costs and fees associated with the project and it my e done to town standards. The Bethel Woods extension was formed over a 2 to 3 years of planning, discussions, negotiations, hearing, etc. It does not have to take that long but its more than just a pipe in the ground. We argued over the shape of the pump stations for over 4 month. So I would be happy to preside and participate in this effort, and would suggest that federal or state grants may be available for this. It will bring new business, new opportunities, new jobs, new people; it is all good.

Wes Illing was present and mentioned he would like to hire Glenn Smith, P.E. as their Engineer. Discussion was held on pump stations, length of roadway, etc. Mr. Sturm noted the next step is for the applicant to petition the town and submit a Map, Plan and Report for the sewer extension request.

Form Steering Group for Healthy Community Initiative

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to create the Bethel Healthy Community Steering Group which would consist of representatives of volunteer and community groups, public officials and citizens who are committed to this effort. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence Vintage Run at Bethel Woods

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file correspondence dated June 3, 2016 inviting everyone to take part in the Vintage Run 5K and Half Marathon in Bethel Woods and Wine Festival on October 1, 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Simpson moved to adjourn the Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk