

The Town of Bethel Town Board meeting of March 9, 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
Council member absent: 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 4-0 as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check No.</u>
General Fund	\$2,828,646.38	5867-5954
Highway Fund	\$117,960.44	3650-3678
Kauneonga Lake Sewer	\$30,404.98	2475-2485
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$174.50	1105
John Driscoll Scholarship Fund	\$133.80	1012

Supervisor’s Monthly Report

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file the supervisor’s monthly report for February, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Mr. Sturm stated that the Town is up 20% over last year in the General Fund. The Highway Fund also is better than last year, by approximately \$158,000., and down approximately \$48,000. on machinery. We are thankful for a mild winter, approximately a \$42,000. savings on sand, \$21,000. on fuel, and \$26,000. on salt.

Building Department Monthly Report

Building Department report for the month of February 2016.

2016 Fees	\$ 3,969.00
2015 Fees	\$ 2,260.00
2016 Monthly Construction Total	\$494,500.00
2015 Monthly Construction Total	\$185,000.00

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the Building Department’s monthly report for February 2016, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Approve MSHA Mine Training for Highway workers

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve the request for all full-time highway department personnel to attend the MSHA mining training scheduled on March 16, 2016 in Middletown, NY at a cost of \$75 per person plus mileage/and includes meals, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Mr. Sturm noted that this training is mandatory for all men operating the mine and is primarily geared to municipal workers and not often given in our region. Also, the men will be carpooling to same on mileage reimbursement.

Seek Quotes for Used Boom Man Aerial Scissor Vehicle

Mr. Sturm noted, per legal counsel, we only need to obtain “comparative bids” not sealed bids. The Highway Department is seeking a 4x4 rough terrain articulate boom man aerial scissor vehicle. They have located one at \$18,950. to replace the bucket truck. Do they need this vehicle? Yes. Can we afford this vehicle? Yes. The money can come from the operating budget.

Prior approval to purchase must include:

1. Procurement policy must have minimum of two (2) or more quotes.
2. Inspection on site prior to procurement.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to seek additional quotes for this boom man aerial scissor vehicle in accordance with state procurement policy of a minimum of 2 quotes and inspection on site prior to procurement, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Town Clerk’s Monthly Report

Total fees	\$4,051.02
State share	\$ 101.58
Town share	\$4,016.32

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file Town Clerk’s monthly report for February 2016, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Approve 2 credit hours of training for Code Book Training

The following Town of Bethel Planning and Zoning Board members completed a (2) two hour seminar on February 22, 2016 regarding the Bethel Code Book. Those attending were:

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|-----------------|--|
| Planning Board: | Dan Gettel, Mike Cassaro, and Robert Yakin. |
| Zoning Board: | Cirino Bruno, Steve Morey, Jesse Komatz, Rich Conroy, and Jim Crowley. |

Motion to approve (2) credit hours of training for the Code Book by Mrs. Hendrickson, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Notice of Order Speed Limit Butrick Road and Fairweather Road

NYS Dept. of Transportations study identified 35 MPH as the appropriate speed limit on both Butrick (TR7) and Fairweather Roads (TR37).

Butrick Road: 35 MPH on Butrick Road, TR7, between Old White Lake Turnpike, TR101, and Bushville Swan Lake Road, TR3, a distance of 1.2 miles +/-.

Fairweather Road: 35 MPH on Fairweather Road, TR37, between Hurd Road, TR 48, and Briscoe Road, CR144, a distance of 0.9 miles +/-.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and Notice of Order dated 2/23/2016 from NYS Dept. of Transportation regarding the 35 MPH speed limit on Butrick and Fairweather Roads. In addition send the Highway Superintendent and Constables a copy of the order, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried. 4-0.

Half Marathon at Bethel Woods 2016 – October 1st

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve the 13 mile half marathon as a commitment to healthy living in Sullivan County on October 1, 2016, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Proposed Kauneonga Lake Block Party – June 18th

Mr. Sturm stated that the Town still needs to talk to the County about closing Horseshoe Lake Road (CR14). Mrs. Simpson stated that they are trying to promote businesses. Constable Chris McCarthy said they need to check with the NYS Liquor Authority regarding off-premise consumption. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to proceed with the idea and seek County approval to close off the area and define any NYS Liquor Authority issues, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Correspondence from Smallwood-Mongaup Valley F.D. Re: ATV run

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and approve request for constable assistance on June 4, 2016 for the Smallwood Mongaup Valley Volunteer Fire Company to hold their 9th annual ATV Run, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Sullivan Renaissance Grant Award Announcement

Mr. Sturm read an announcement from Sullivan Renaissance. Town of Bethel has been selected to receive a Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Partnership Grant. Based on the information contained in grant proposal, they have approved a grant of \$15,000. to assist our efforts to maintain public spaces, beautify gateways, enhance code enforcement and build a healthier community. The town received a check for \$10,000., and a merchant discount card. The remaining \$5,000. will be issued upon receipt of documentation verifying expenditures of at least \$15,000., and proof of matching funds of at least \$10,000. The project must be completed and a final report submitted no later than October 1, 2016. Motion to receive and file correspondence from Sullivan Renaissance by Mrs. Hendrickson, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Property Maintenance on Bethel Tax Map # 38-1-27

Building Department report received for Bethel Tax Map #38-1-27 for property violations. Mr. Sturm stated that the property has a single family dwelling with a collapsed roof since December 2012. Property owner has been notified of this violation; but to date there has been no compliance. The Code Enforcement is asking the Town Board for Town Engineer to look at this property pursuant to Chapter 113-4 & 5 of the Code of the Town of Bethel.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive, file and direct the Town Engineer to review and report back the Town Board by our next meeting on property tax map #38-1-27, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Moody's Investor Services Annual Comment

Mr. Sturm read a letter from Moody's Investors Service stating the town has a strong financial position. The Town has a high quality credit position, and its Aa3 rating matches the city median of Aa3. This rating reflects a robust financial position and an exceptionally light debt burden with a moderate pension liability; and takes into account a healthy socioeconomic profile with a medium-size tax base. Motion to receive and file letter from Moody's Investors Service by Mrs. Hendrickson, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Response from Senator Bonacic re: Lumberland Compressor Station

Mr. Sturm read letter of 2/29/2016 from Senator Bonacic thanking the Town of their views. Also, that this is a federal matter and urges the Town to follow-up with our federal representatives. Senator Bonacic also noted that U.S. Congressman Gibson has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for an independent study to review the health impacts of compressor stations. Motion to receive and file letter from Senator Bonacic by Mrs. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Transfer Station Employee Salary Increase

Mr. Sturm read a letter from Terri Lynch, Town employee asking for a raise. Mrs. Hendrickson stated that Terri works very hard and deserves a raise and recommends and increase to \$14.00 per hour. Mrs. Simpson stated that Terri has been with the Town since 1997 and I feel she deserves an increase and recommend \$14.00 per hour. Motion by Mr. Cohen to increase Terri Lynch's salary from \$12.34 per hour to \$14.00 per hour, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Public Comment

Leo Glass was present to discuss the milfoil in White Lake. The lake is the jewel of the Town of Bethel and Sullivan County. The growth in the bottom of the lake prevents someone to drop anchor to adhere or grab. There are chemicals (Aquacide Pellets) to put in the lake. He is asking the Town Board to take action before it is too late. Possibly get Bonacic, Gunther, and the DEC involved. Remember there was a court case clarifying that White Lake is a navigable water way.

Mrs. Simpson stated the town has been working with the DEC over the past years. It has been mentioned about putting in carp, weevils, other invasive species, and chemicals in the lake. The DEC has stated that the milfoil is not that bad and will not take over the lake. We have no boat wash and that is also a problem.

Marcia Salton – With regards to the block party, could people park behind the justice court building and senior center? Also, if the Dr. Duggan School parking lot is used a shuttle bus could be arranged. Also the Lions Club could anticipate in the Sullivan Renaissance project.

Bob Barrett- What about the old bagel bakery of 17B, Mongaup Valley? Mr. Sturm – owner said they would remove the existing building and leave it as vacant land.

Bob Barrett - What about Mysteryland? In the papers it says they are Bankrupt. If Mysteryland is really bankrupt, how does the Town obtain liability insurance coverage for the event? Mr. Sturm - The Town must have insurance coverage from Mysteryland. I believe they have already spoken to the Planning Board and anticipate they will talking to the Town Board within the next month. Bob Barrett - what about the age reduction allowing 19 – 20 year olds? Dan Gettlel - For overnight camping they must be 21 years of age.

Patrick Cunningham, Highway Superintendent, reported that the Highway Department went to take down a dead tree and found a hive of honeybees in the hollow tree. They contacted a local beekeeper who came and saved and hived the bees. The local beekeeper estimated there were approximately 50,000 bees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk