

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ALBANY**

February 12, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Berne was held on the above date with the following officers present: Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey. Also present were Town Clerk Clayton, Attorney Conboy, and several interested citizens. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Lyons who then called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Lyons addressed the audience :

It is important to note the process for hiring or appointing volunteers into our Youth Council, and the cost of free speech.

Contrary to what has been said on social media, in this meeting room and reprinted in the Altamont Enterprise in regards to this board hiring pedophiles and or rapists to our Youth Council this would never happen in our Town with this board or any other, and this is hateful ridiculous speech. We have policies in place and vetting processes that would not allow such dangers to be close to or involved in any way with our youth. Background checks against sexual offender registry and specific questions regarding past offenses, and our town employee handbook regarding safe work environment, Residency Preference Requirements, Sexual harassment training and policies are in place to ensure the safety of our participating youth, volunteers and staff.

While we all believe in free speech, the spoken word always comes with a price. The free will to say we will hire rapists and or pedophiles has COST the youth in our town, having them denied the YC experience because their parents would not want them near such people, and it has COST our Youth Council Director and volunteer members damaging effects to their reputations and standings in local communities organizations and church groups. These horrible words and accusations come from the same people who preach “No Room For Hate” and “Hate has no place” all while spreading hate among social media for decisions not to their liking.

We are attacked for being political. A politician being political? Attacked for keeping campaign promises? Are we that diluted that that is a bad thing? We keep being called a Republican Majority no Republicans took office this past election, we keep being attacked for only appointing republicans to positions, not true as Mr. Spargo is conservative and the majority of all the boards are still democrat, if what they say is true we would be reappointing everyone on every board. Think of all the republicans hired or appointed in the previous years of the Democrat Majority.

This board and I will continue to do what we were elected for and that is work for the people of Berne to continuously improve the quality of life for all that live and visit here. Mistakes will be made; we will correct them and move on in this quest.

I hope and pray this will be an energizing new format that will open the lines of communications for respectful constructive dialogue and a better tomorrow.

When tomorrow comes know that we are available to discuss anything and the best place to learn our intentions, the intentions of your Town Board is from us directly.

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTING KATHY MOORE AS CHAIR TO CONSERVATION BOARD

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Palow to appoint Kathy Moore as Chair of the Conservation Board for a two-year term. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey.

SCHEDULING INTERVIEW DATES

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Harris to schedule interviews every 15 minutes on Saturday, February 22, 2020 beginning at 9:00AM. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin & Harris. Councilmember Willsey abstained.

APPROVING PURCHASE OF 2021 WESTERN STAR 4800SB PLOW TRUCK

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Conklin Approving the purchase of 2021 Western Star 4800SB 6x6 plow truck with 5 year/110K extended warranty EW4 with equipment; plow, frame, sander, hardware, based off Onondaga County Bid #8996, in an amount not to exceed \$256,800. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin & Harris. Councilmember Willsey abstained.

APPROVING JAMES BUSHNELL PERMANENT PART-TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Palow approving James Bushnell as permanent part time FSLA nonexempt Building Inspector after completing state required training and 6-month probation period. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey.

SCHEDULING WORKSHOP MEETING

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Palow to schedule a workshop meeting on February 26, 2020 at 6:30PM to discuss the Schedule of Uses and Definitions. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey.

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

MOTION TO RESUBMIT HIGHWAY ZONE PRACTICES IN CHIPS OVELAY PROJECTS

After discussion, Councilmember Willsey made a motion to resubmit the Highway Zone Practices In Chips Overlay Projects. There was no second and the motion failed.

DEPARMENT UPDATES

TRANSFER STATION - Solid Waste Coordinator, Randy Bashwinger, presented an audit regarding number of cars to come into the Transfer Station.

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER STATION HOURS TO CHANGE BACK TO ORIGINAL DAYS & TIMES

After discussion, Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Willsey to change the Transfer Station hours back to original days and times. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey.

LIBRARY – Kathy Stempel gave a report on the new programs at the Berne Public Library, encouraging residents to visit the website.

YOUTH COUNCIL – Jean Guarino discussed mini camp programs and reconstructing the summer camp program.

COMMITTEE UPDATES – volunteers are needed to work on the following committees:

Water District

Heritage Days (originally scheduled for 8/8/ & 8/9) now scheduled for 8/1/& 8/2

Parades & Celebrations

Beautification Programs

Adopt a Highway

Please contact anyone of your Councilmembers.

NEWSLETTER - Requests for content/submissions will be sent out with articles due 3/15/20.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Many concerned citizens spoke regarding matters in the Town.

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

AUTHORIZING TOWN CLERK TO ATTACH LETTER TO MINUTES

After discussion, Councilmember Willsey made a motion seconded by Councilmember Conklin to attach letter read by Haythem Bajouwa to these minutes. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Councilmembers Conklin, Harris & Willsey. Supervisor Lyons and Councilmember Palow voted nay. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

AUTHORIZING INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ON MARCH 11, 2020

Councilmember Conklin made a motion seconded by Councilmember Palow to introduce a Local Law repealing Chapter 59 of the Berne Town Code, at the 3/11/20 Town Board meeting. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, & Harris. Supervisor Lyons voted nay; Councilmember Willsey abstained.

RESCINDING MOTION #18 of JANUARY 1, 2020

Supervisor Lyons made a motion seconded by Councilmember Harris to rescind Motion #18 of 1/1/20 and authorize the Conservation Board and Switzkill Farm Board to meet as usual. Motion carried with the following members voting aye; Supervisor Lyons, Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, Supervisor Lyons made the motion seconded by Councilmember Harris to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following members voting aye: Supervisor Lyons, and Councilmembers Palow, Conklin, Harris & Willsey. Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita C. Clayton, Town Clerk