

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY COUNTY**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with the following roll call attendance: Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane were present. Also, in attendance Highway Superintendent Bashwinger and Town Clerk Kristin De Oliveira.

**DISCUSS/APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL**

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the meeting minutes from April 12, 2023 Deputy Supervisor Clayton & Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was submitted to the Town Clerk and shared with the Town Board concerning the lack of speed limit signs on Main Street in East Berne. With no signs posted the limit would be 55mph, Mr. Draisey expressed concern with the speeds people drive and pointed out that there is also a school on the road. Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to petition the speed and contact The NYS Department of Transportation for a speed limit study.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Vincent spoke again on Senior Housing in the Town. The Board discussed that this would be up to an investor who would start the process and build. The Town is not financially liable to build housing units.

Lynn Warner Kerr wanted to speak more about the American Rescue Plan and making sure the Town is exploring all avenues of financial support from the Federal Government.

Ron Jordan wanted to follow up on the progress/ lack thereof with Reedsville junkyard.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Library-** Kathy Stempel presented a power point presentation for “The Berne Town Library the Library with Heart” and the year of 2022 in summary. In total for the year 2022 14,651 items were physically checked out of the library. Out of 145 events held there were 1790 people in attendance. A large shout out to the Friends of Library for all their help over the year with the book sale and ice cream social. Kathy wanted to remind residents of many things the library has to offer including cake pans, stem kits, fishing poles and tablets.

**Highway-** Superintendent Bashwinger said there have been two new hires Bill Slingerland and Thomas Epting, both with Class A licenses. The highway staff has been completing training courses recently and are cross-training employees for transfer station as well.

**Transfer Station-** Superintendent Bashwinger told of recyclable bottle money coming at \$1121.28.

**ZBA-** Chairman Spargo told of an upcoming meeting concerning variances on Helderberg Lake.

**Parks & Recreation-** Deputy Supervisor Clayton thanked Highway Superintendent Bashwinger for all the Highways hard work at the Park. A commercial swing set has been donated by a family in Town who recently moved to Florida. BKW art students have been asked to submit sketches for the new sign at the Town Park.

**Senior Meals-** More Volunteers are needed for the program to help Lifepath continue servicing our senior residents.

**Building and Zoning-** The department has been very busy with new permits as well as lot line adjustments, and subdivisions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Introduce Local Law # 2 2023 Tax Exemption**

After discussion, Deputy Supervisor Clayton introduced Local Law #2 of 2023 “A Local Law to the Town of Berne providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel Pursuant to Section 466-A of Real Property Tax Law” and moved to set a public hearing on proposed Local Law #2 of 2023 for June 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM and directing the Town Clerk to give notice of such public hearing in the manner provided in Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and Councilmember Doolin seconded the introduction of the proposed local law and the motion. Motion carried with the following members voting aye: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

### **Switzkill Farm Update**

The Town Supervisor and Board has been back in communication with the county and has been holding meetings to negotiate a partnership which would still allow the Town ownership rights.

**Discuss/ Approve Storage Unit for Town Park**

Deputy Supervisor discussed the need for storage a the Town Park for equipment to alleviate the wear and tear on lawn mowers driving back and forth from the highway garage. The unit would be placed behind the restrooms at the Town Park, Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion to purchase a 20’ by 8.6’ wind and watertight unit with delivery include from PTO Trucking in an amount not to exceed \$2830.00 seconded by Councilmember Vane, Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**Discuss/ Approve Bids for Demolition of Barn at Switzkill Farm**

Three bids were received for the demolition of the collapsed barn at Switzkill Farm from David Frueh Contracting LLC \$25,500, Greenbriar Construction \$34,049 and Jackson Demolition \$47,500. The Board was in agreement and Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to accept and award the lowest bid awarding David Frueh LLC, Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion to modify the 2023 budget, seconded by Councilmember Vane as follows:

		<b>TO:</b>	<b>FROM:</b>
A -17-7111-000044999	SF PARKS MISC CONTRACTUAL	\$ 25500	
	PARKS AND RECREATION		
A878	RESERVE		(\$ 25500)

Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**Discuss/Approve Tire Pricing Increase at Transfer Station**

As discussed last month the fee for tire disposal charged to the Town has increased as well as the additional fuel surcharge. Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to update the fee schedule for tire disposal as follows:

- **Car tires \$5.50 per tire**
- **19 inches tires \$8.00 per tire**
- **Tractor trailer \$21.00 per tire**
- **Small farm tractor \$31.00 per tire**
- **Large farm tractor \$77.00 per tire**
- **Loader tires \$425.00 per tire**

The pricing would become effective immediately. Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**Discuss/Approval Bill for Heavy Duty Automatics for Highway Repair on Truck 24**

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin in an amount not to exceed \$3350.00, Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**Discuss/ Approve Fox Valley Excavating Bill for Shale at Town Park**

The Town Board discussed the bill for shale and Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to approve payment in the amount of \$3250.00 and Deputy Supervisor Clayton made the following modification to the 2023 budget

		<b>TO:</b>	<b>FROM:</b>
A -17-7110-0000- 22700	RECREATION EQUIPMENT	\$ 50,000.00	
A878	PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVE		\$ (50,000.00)

Deputy Town Supervisor added to the motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin that this budget modification would also include the expenses for payroll to highway employees who completed work at Town Park as well as the purchase of the Storage Container. Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion to accept the Supervisor’s Financial Reports From April 2023 including Packet A – Abstracts Packet B- Budget to Actual Reports Supervisors’ reports for revenue per fund, Supervisors reports for expenditures per fund and budget transfers report if required, Packet C – Bank Reconciliations and bank statements for April, Packet D - Cash balance report and Balance sheet Report seconded by Councilmember Doolin, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk’s Financial Report from March 2023 seconded by Councilmember Clayton, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Building and Zoning's Financial Report from April 2023 seconded by Councilmember Doolin, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR APRIL**

After discussion, Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem that the budget transfers for April be authorized. Motion carried with the following vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

**APPROVING ABSTRACTS AND PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

After discussion, Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Clayton to approve the following abstracts and payment bills:

- Abstract #20 2023 \$29,070.22 (Voucher 370) Insurance
- Abstract #21 2023 \$15,082.77 Vouchers 371-395) Prepaid Utilities
- Abstract #22 2023 \$12,426.01 (Vouchers 402-421) Board Approved at 4/12/23 meeting
- Abstract #23 2023 \$11,066.66 (Vouchers 290-367) Prepaid Utilities & Board Approved
- Abstract # 24 2023 \$31,124.88(Vouchers 423-493) Regular Abstract

**Total Abstracts: \$98,770.54**

**GENERAL FUND, HIGHWAY FUND, SEWER, UTILITIES WITHHOLDINGS FOR 2023**

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to authorize payment of bills -motion carried with the following roll call vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton, and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business or discussion, Deputy Supervisor Clayton made the motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Deputy Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem, and Vane voting aye. The meeting adjourned at **8:05 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk