

June 12,2024

**ALBANY COUNTY NEW YORK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Supervisor Palow led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:01PM with the following roll call attendance: Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane were present, also in attendance Town Attorney Afzali and Town Clerk De Oliveira.

ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to accept the May 8, 2024 meeting minutes, Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Palow reminded everyone about the Fireworks celebration at Town Park on Saturday June 29, 2024 from 3PM- Dark at the Berne Memorial Town Park. There would be cotton candy, snow cones, free hot dog chips and a drink for kids as well as free pony rides and a DJ.

Another reminder for everyone that Town Hall, the Library and Transfer Station would be closed on Wednesday June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Councilmember Thiem shared a map that was gifted to him by Allan Stempel at the Flea Market in Livingstonville over the weekend of the Town of Berne from 1969. The Town Board agreed that it should be displayed maybe at Town Hall or the Community Center and requested Town Clerk De Oliveira to send a thank you letter.

Jason Preisner of Lamont Engineers wanted to brief the Town Board on the status of the SEQR Resolutions as the Town of Board was acting as the Lead Agency on both the NYS DEC Mandated Sewer Disinfection Project as well as the proposed new Highway Garage and the second step that needed to be completed included the Environmental Assessment Forms short & long. Mr. Preisner shared that in order to keep this moving forward with hopes to secure Grant Funding for the Sewer Project the Application is due by July 31 and that the SEQR needs to continue moving forward. The determination for both projects was a low or no impact on Environment.

Supervisor Palow thanked Town Clerk De Oliveira & Jason Preisner for helping to complete a grant for up \$19,000 for Town Park funding from Albany County that the Town would use to continue the LED Lighting install project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Lounsbury handed out a photo of sign for Route 443 that she had personally made for the Town of Berne that was previously displayed on the building next door to Fox Pizza Market. The sign has directional arrows showing the way and mileage to certain destinations and requested the Town could make sure this was somehow again displayed.

Michael Vincent discussed the meeting held with Councilmembers Vane, Martin and Thiem and the anticipation of seeing some updates and changes at the Community Center. He also thanked Councilmember Vane for fixing the PA system for the Hilltown Senior Meetings to utilize. He also had concerns about the TJA Solar Project he shared with the Town Board.

Councilmember Martin discussed the importance of rezoning in the Town of Berne and that a committee needed to be formed of people from different backgrounds to help and tackle the list of goals for the Town. The process will take 18-24 months to complete.

Anita Clayton wanted to discuss the need for zoning changes which she was aware of during her time as Town Clerk and is happy to see the Board taking action to address it, she suggested a survey and stated that she would loved to be involved in the process. She was happy to see the Grant that was applied for and hopeful in offsetting the cost of the LED lights and suggested the Little League be charged a fee to use the Town Park.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway- Deputy Highway Superintendent Deitz said the new Roll Off Turck is expected very soon. Both High Point and Irish Hill Road were recently finished and there had been lots of roadwork and repairing completed.

PARKS & RECREATION- Chair Claire Ansbro stated that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board would be holding a BBQ with Corn Hole on July 19th to fundraise and help fund some ideas for the Town Park. The Pavilion was recently seal coated by M4M Sealcoating and looks great. Kenneth's Army made a \$250 donation to the Town Park, Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the donation of \$250 for The Memorial Town Park seconded by Councilmember Thiem, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

LIBRARY- Library Director Kathy Stempel was not present but sent flyers for the Library Summer reading program for residents to pick up/

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PLANNING BOARD- Chairman Bremmer sent an update to Supervisor Palow and wanted to remind residents that the Balloons were up to represent the visual impact of the proposed Solar Farm on Canaday and Switzkill Road by TJA. He also wanted to remind residents that they should not enter the facility. The Planning Board is curious on feedback from residents pertaining to the proposed Solar Farm.

ZONING BOARD- Chairman Spargo said that the Zoning Board of Appeals stated the ongoing proposed Solar Farm project on Canaday & Switzkill Road was still on the docket with the Planning Board and waiting to get to the Variance stage. There are also some other variances including a setback issue as well as an appeal regarding a Septic Repair.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER-

ACO Paul Gribbin gave an update on his progress in getting his Kennel ready and hopes that by next month it will be inspected and available for use.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS RETROACTIVE APPOINTMENT FOR B.A.R

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember to approve the retroactive appointment of Debra Flagler to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5 year term 9/30/2024- 9/30/2028, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

APPROVE PAYMENT TO M4M SEALCOATING FOR TOWN PARK PAVILLION

Supervisor Palow made a motion to approve payment to M4M Sealcoating in an amount of \$425 from line A1620e 44070 as previously discussed last year, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

Councilmember Vane wanted to add an agenda item and asked for an update on the status of Switzkill Farm with Albany County- Supervisor Palow stated that there had been no updates and everything was still in motion.

SEQR SEWER DISINFECTION PROJECT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SEQR GARAGE PROJECT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NEW BUISNESS

APPROVE PAYMENT FOR ACO TO ATTEND ACO TRAINING IN NOVEMBER

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to approve the payment to the Town of Guilderland for the 2024 ACO Conference in November in an amount not to exceed \$125, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

AUTHROIZE TOWN CLERK TO RETURN FUNDS FOR CANCELLED EVENT

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to authorize Town Clerk De Oliveira to return \$75 to Mary Bastian for a cancelled event at the Town Park, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

DISCUSS/AUTHORIZE SMALL MACHINE RENTAL FOR SEWER PLANT

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the rental of a small bobcat from Finke Equipment with delivery in an amount not to exceed \$1400 from line SS8110 44101 for necessary work at the Sewer Plant as well as preventative maintenance at the Community Center digging a trench behind the community center to help negate rain water, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Reports from May 2024 seconded by Councilmember Thiem including: • Packet A – Abstracts • Packet B- Budget to Actual Reports Supervisors' reports for revenue per fund, Supervisor's reports for expenditures per fund and budget transfers report if required. • Packet C – Bank Reconciliations and bank statements for May • Packet D - Cash balance report and Balance sheet Report. Motion carried with the following roll call vote Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Vane and Thiem all voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's Financial Report from May 2024 seconded by Councilmember Vane, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Vane and Thiem all voting aye

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Building and Zoning's Financial Report from May 2024 seconded by Councilmember Doolin, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Vane and Thiem all voting aye

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APPROVING ABSTRACTS AND PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

After discussion, Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to approve the following abstracts:

Abstract #16 2024 \$10,000.00 (Voucher 571) Regular Contract

Abstract #17 2024 \$10,568.80 (Voucher 572 & 573) Regular Abstracts

Abstract #18 2024 \$12,949.69 (Voucher 575-596) Prepaid Utilities

Abstract #19 2024 \$26,129.51 (Voucher 597-642) Regular Abstract

Total Abstracts: \$59,648.00

Motions carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Martin, Vane and Thiem all voting aye.

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR MAY

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the Budget transfers in packet B for the month of May, motion carried with the following vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Vane and Thiem all voting aye.

GENERAL FUND, HIGHWAY FUND, SEWER, UTILITIES & WITHHOLDINGS FOR 2024

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Supervisor Palow made the motion seconded by Councilmember Thiem to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Martin, Thiem and Vane all voting aye. The meeting adjourned at **8:04PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk

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