The Town Board of the Town of Trenton held a Town Board Meeting at the Trenton Municipal Center, 8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld, New York. Supervisor Godfrey called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Present were: Councilmen Michael Bennison, Eric Taylor, Chris Crumb, James Farr and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker. Also present Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Leo Boulerice and Joe Rowlands.

I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Godfrey at 7:15 pm

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor

Joe Rowlands advised that long time Director of the Executive Committee, John Doiron would be stepping down from his position and a search for a new Director has begun. He is asking if there are any interested parties among the members of the NOCCOG Communities.

-Webinar Series has Planning Board and ZBA webinars being done this month. The first was on January 6th and another on January 13th.
-EFCN NYS Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistant Program open office hours twice a month through November, 2025.
-Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board Webinar January 22nd.
-Tug Hill Commission will be January 27th at the Parish Municipal Offices.
-Workshop on January 28th – Best Practices for Land Use, Code Enforcement, and Property Tax Assessment in Amish Communities Workshop.
-Winter Legislative Meeting February 2-4th.
-Tug Hill Commission Government Conference March 31 and April 1, 2025 – Registration is open.

IV. Officers Reports:

Highway Superintendent – Everyone agreed and complimented Stiehl and his crew on the job they did with the recent snow. Stiehl said he will pass the compliments on to his crew.

Abstracts: Vouchers 1 through 19 in the amount of $24,772.79. Crumb made motion to pay vouchers numbered 1 through 19 in the amount of $24,772.79, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Assessor: No report.

Zoning and Codes:
Boulerice said not a lot going on in December and not a lot happening in January so far. Farr asked if there were any updates on Miller, Rte. 365. Boulerice advised he received an updated appeal application and there will be a ZBA Meeting on Monday and will schedule a Public Hearing Meeting for February. Farr said if he is allowed to continue in business he would like to see him be required to notify the fire department before he does a burn. He feels as though he picks the most inclement weather to burn things. Boulerice requested that if any board member knows he is doing a burn in inclement weather, he would like to be notified so he can notify DEC. Boulerice said he encourages the fire departments to contact EnCon enforcement and said he will give them the phone number for Officer Starzik. Cutler said he advises them to contact EnCon too because for us to ignore it is like we are condoning them to burn when they shouldn't even be in operation.

Godfrey said the one on Fox Rd. continues to burn in the outdoor woodstove. Boulerice said they are using it under the guise of making pot ashes to put on their field. EnCon will not touch it because they are claiming it's an AG operation. Boulerice said we need to talk to the District Attorney. It is just an excuse to burn solid waste.

Cutler said it's a code thing. They need to be permanent for an outdoor wood boiler. Boulerice said it's not technically a boiler. DEC is aware of it – there have been numerous complaints about the smoke, debris and air pollution. Boulerice said if Nimey's are willing to file a complaint, Troyer's will be ticketed. Cutler said if the town thinks he should issue a Cease and Desist they need to let him know. Festine advised Ken if he believes there is a Codes violation, he can issue a Cease and Desist.

Codes: Everyone was given a copy of Ken's report. Farr asked if anyone was still living at 10164 Coombs Rd. Ken advised not to his knowledge. Festine asked if the house needed to be demolished. Ken said it needs to be secured by Codes. Ken did a check on it today and has since

found out that she may possibly not own it anymore. I think there has been work on it at the county level that took that one parcel and it's now divided into three. Come springtime I would like to have it enclosed and fenced off.

Godfrey asked about the guys on Trenton Rd that bought the property across from Jaks. It looks like it's come to a halt. Cutler said it has. He had a discussion with them about mold and mildew. One guy is trying to continue. They put a new roof on the residence. Godfrey asked how long do we let them go on that and Cutler advised forever. They have the right to renew every six months.

Cutler advised that Broadway has been certified, the doors are open and everyone is happy at the DG Market.

Constable advised that inspections were completed in December and he's chasing one or two tough ones. He had a meeting with one of them.

Supervisor Report: Bunker advised just got December's bank statements today. She will close out 2024 financials and get the financial report ready to submit next month to the state.

Town Clerk Report: Local shares submitted is $1,207.00. The only thing we changed for this year was we raised our pavilion and public meeting room rentals up a little bit for residents and more for non-residents to give priority to our taxpayers.

Ken Cutler advised when talking about the kitchen, back when Mark Scheidelman was here, people complained about the kitchen. Cutler had to deal with the Department of State and tell them that it's not a commercial kitchen. It is important when we rent it that we let people know they can use the kitchen to warm up food but they cannot actually cook in the kitchen, because then it is treated as a commercial kitchen. Rachel said she will make sure that's in the description.

Attorney Report: Festine advised she has 2 updates for the board. Miner was served the first week of November. He had 30 days to start the work and he had 60 days to complete it. If we haven't hit that 60 days already, it's within the next couple of days. So the town may now undertake the security and remediating. We ordered him to remedy the unsafe conditions at the premises by insuring the two story wood frame structure is secured by repairing the foundation and wood framing to prevent collapse and prevent entry, repair the exterior stairs to codes, repair and/or secure the basement access hatch to prevent unauthorized entry, to make sure the water pouring off the roof is diverted away from neighboring property to prevent damage. They were further ordered to remedy the one story white building by securing it so no unauthorized person may access the building and by removing all interior debris. Bottom line is that at this point since Mr. Miner has not done anything he needed to do, we can do whatever we need to do that he should have done and then charge him for it.

Farr asked about eminent domain. Festine said if we wanted to take the property and own the property for public use, then yes but that's a different procedure. Festine advised that demolition would be the better option. Cutler advised there is case law to classify as eminent threat to safety and health and will provide a copy of that to Festine.

Secondly, Erie Boulevard Hydropower and possible court cases. There was a court conference today with the judge, and 2 attorneys. Festine believes what's going to happen is the school district is going to be putting together a proposal for settlement. She does not know the numbers yet but she will see the numbers before the petitioner does and then she will bring them back to the board and in Executive Session they will go over it. There is one complication about this case. The property straddles 2 towns and 2 counties and one thing that we might have to do is negotiate to a certain extent with the Town of Russia about the allegations of value to each municipality. Their equalization rate is higher than ours because we have more properties here. Ours is at 47% right now and theirs is in the 70s. We will have to figure all that out.

V. Resolutions:

Rome Humane Society Contract – Godfrey has the contract from Humane Society with a $25.00 increase per dog. Farr made motion to approve the new contract from Rome Humane Society Contract, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Approve Minutes December 11th and 23rd - Crumb made motion to approve minutes from December 11th and 23rd, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Coates Road Speed Limit Zone - Festine advised that she has the TE9 Form that we fill out to ask the state to reduce the speed limit. It first goes to the county highway department and then they send it to the state. Festine asked what they wanted to do and said she will do the paperwork. Godfrey said they received a considerable amount of calls of speeding on Coates Rd and Stiehl witnessed it. There is a logging operation and they were flying down the road into the village. There is not one speed sign on Coates Rd. The parameters are going to be Coates Rd. from the Floyd Town line to the Holland Patent Village line. Maximum speed limit should be 45. Also need a placard on the bridge advising it's a 6 ton bridge.

Festine said the board would be resolving to request from the Department of Transportation that a lower maximum speed limit is established on Coates Road between the Floyd town line and the Holland Patent Village line of 45 MPH. This request will be submitted to the Oneida County Highway Commissioner and the Department of Transportation.

Motion from Bennison to request from the Department of Transportation to lower maximum speed limit on Coates Rd. between the Floyd town line and the Holland Patent Village line of 45 MPH, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Abstracts: Hinckley Sewer Abstracts 1 and 2 in the amount of $206.35. Bennison made motion to pay vouchers 1 and 2 in the amount of $206.35, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

General: Abstracts 1 through 70 in the amount of $147,281.02. Farr made motion to pay vouchers 1 through 70 in the amount of $147,281.02, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

VI. Appointments:

Joe Sampson to the Planning Board – 7 year term.
Gordon Wydysh to Zoning Board – 5 year term

Crumb made motion to approve Joe Sampson to the Planning Board for a 7 year term and Gordon Wydysh to the Zoning Board for a 5 year term, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

VII. Priority Issues:

WQIP Announcement – Godfrey advised before Christmas that we were unsuccessful for the WQIP Program, funding we were looking for the wastewater project. Crumb asked if it would be in our benefit to hire a consultant. Godfrey said for competitive reasons we have to go out with a new request for proposal, request for quote, etc. and we are working on that with the Infrastructure Committee. The process with BCA started way back in 2022 and possibly even earlier. There were interviews that took place with other companies and that was documented so we might be alright, but at the same time we might put something out. We are ok with the water. Godfrey talked with Mackenzie today and they are still interested in looking for grant money.

34th Annual Local Government Conference - Godfrey advised if anyone wants to go, get the paperwork in to Audrey.

VIII. Committees:

Planning Board – Godfrey did go to the Planning Board Meeting and they did approve the tower.

ZBA – Nothing

Greenbelt – Nothing

Infrastructure - Nothing

IX. Communications:

Next Meeting January 22nd at 7:00 pm

No Need for the Executive Session.

X. Adjournment – Farr made motion to adjourn at 8:37 pm , seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk