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 7:02 pm. Present were: Councilmen Michael Bennison, James Farr and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker. Chris Crumb and Eric Taylor were absent. Also attending, Jason Stiehl, Leo Boulerice, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Kathy Kellogg, Joe Rowlands.

I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Godfrey at 7:00 pm

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor - None

IV. Officer Reports:

Highway Superintendent Jason Stiehl said there were a couple of issues he wanted to discuss. Equipment related; the one pick up truck they have, they went to change the oil on it and found that the motor was contaminated with sand. It turns out the dipstick was rotted right off the side of the block. It did get fixed and the first couple of days it did not sound too healthy, so they changed the oil again and it sounds pretty good now. He wanted to know if the Board would be interested in getting rid of that truck or keep using it. Stiehl advised it's a 2020 with a plow, 70,000+ miles, not under warranty. Godfrey said they got prices on some that were already on the lot and are probably talking about $55,000. Stiehl said if they want to sell the truck he would get probably $20,000 or $25,000 for it. Decision made to hold off for 2 weeks and wait for the other Board members to be present. Godfrey will make some calls to dealers and they will take a look at it at the next meeting.

Stiehl said he got a quote on a snow box for the loader; 14 footer just because it takes forever to clean around the town barn and the Recycling Center with a pick up truck. Clinton Tractor said $7500.00 brand new, or he can look for a used one.

Bennison made motion to approve the purchase of a snow box, seconded by Farr, 3 ayes.

Stiehl also wanted to talk about having an 8th guy on his crew. He had one guy that was ready to park the truck up in Prospect last Friday and call his wife to come and pick him up. The guys are getting tired. It's been a terrible winter but Stiehl said what if this is the new normal? He's pretty sure that at least one of the three new younger employees will quit in the summertime. Godfrey said they will take a look at it, but what was discussed was putting a couple of the old timers back on part time and that will take a little bit of the heat off. Farr asked if we are able to float people from Rich Latus' crew to the Highway. There is one person that has a CDL and Stiehl said he would have to talk to him to see what he is able and willing to do. Godfrey said they will bring in the employee and he and Stiehl can talk to him.

Highway Abstracts: Farr made motion to approve the Highway vouchers from 20-65 in the amount of $53,385.32, seconded by Bennison, 3 ayes.

Assessor: Nothing new going on. She's been busy.

Zoning: Boulerice said the report is pretty minimal. The big hot spot is the sawmill fires at 365. Kate will elaborate more on that. There were 4 burn incidents and they were given tickets by DEC for burning solid waste and open burning.

Codes: Cutler said this year has been breaking records for fires from previous years and we're only into February. He had to placard the new DG Market not to use because of water damage on the roof and electrical damage. The heat loss made the ice build up on the last 20 feet because of the minimal pitch allowed by codes that was done on the building. All the water dammed up and under and saturated the whole ceiling and down the electrical. Because of the electrical, I had to do a cease and desist. They brought in a guy from Minnesota to take care of the roof and they are still working on it. Mold and remediation had to come in to make sure there is no mold because the insulation is so saturated.

We have had fires now in Barneveld. The woman from the fire on Coombs Rd is not there anymore. She has relocated but still has the structure that needs to be demolished. Then there was a fire on Church Rd. in South Trenton and I had to cease and desist occupancy on that because it was caused by an electrical fire. There have been more fires this year than the last three together.

Godfrey said that Cutler had asked that a new fee schedule be put in everyone's packet for the meeting, but it got missed. He made a copy and passed them out for the board to review and Kate to look at and will vote on it at the next meeting. Questions were asked of Cutler regarding some of the fees and were answered. If there were any other questions, Godfrey asked that they call Cutler before the vote.

NOCCOG: Joe Rowlands advised that NOCCOG has a new Director – Pam Dibble from Annesville. She brings a lot of experience to the job. Town Clerk's Association is having a regional training March 17th in Hyde Park. Cost is $40 per person.

The Wadas Foundation a few years ago offered grants called the Game Changer Grant and they are doing it again for 2025. This is a competitive grant created to address obstacles preventing youth ages 5-18, from accessing recreational and competitive youth sports. Two years ago a local school got $10,000 for bleachers. Applications must be submitted by May 1st, 2025.

Gerry Ritter has been appointed the new Executive Director for NOCCOG.

Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference March 31st and April 1, 2025 at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center in Vernon. Registration is open now. Line up is on the NOCCOG website.

Attorney: Short term rentals – Floyd wants to put together a short term rental law and Kate actually sent to Joe Rowlands a few examples of laws from other municipalities. I will also send them to everyone on the Board, Ken, Dave and Leo. She wants to have an operating permit rather than zoning. You can have a lot of requirements in an operating permit. Cutler asked would this be Airbnb and Verbo and was told it will be both of them and any residential that is not a motel or hotel building that is being used as a rental for 31 days or less. Cutler said he was in contact with legal at the state because he has been getting complaints from people that are upset because John Doe can rent their house to people from all over the world in our residential district. The state made it clear that they can do that. Kate said I don't recommend that we implement a program like the City of Utica where there is a rental operating permit and that's for every one to two family house that you are renting out. But for the short term rentals, 31 days or less, the definition will be in the law. Kate has printed out examples from many other municipalities that have short term rental agreements and asked that the Board look at them and take parts of each that they like and she will put something together. Cutler advised that it needs to be restricted as to where they can go too.

Regarding the fires burning on Rt. 365 – Kate said before that fire which was on Tuesday night she was trying to figure out where the District Attorney's Office is with these. Even through the DEC does the ticket, the DA is responsible for prosecuting them. She had talked to the DA several weeks ago and had heard from Ann Zielinski, the defense had made a motion for the tickets to be dismissed. Shortly

thereafter, Kate talked to Bill Barry who is our ADA for court. He said he submitted a response, but Judge Zielinski said that she hadn't gotten anything. Kate finally talked to Bill who called her during or after court Friday evening and he advised that he did submit a response and that the court is considering his response to their Motion to Dismiss. He also said that March 10th at 5:00 he is having a meeting with the Amish and with people from the DEC and maybe a DEC lawyer. Kate is also invited, Leo is also invited, the fire chief is coming, Ken can come and certainly Steve and anyone else that wants to come can come. The ADA made it very clear to me that he wants to have this meeting to basically explain if this continues, he is not afraid to eventually seek jail time against them. We are also hoping that if we get the other components of the DEC involved, they can pursue civil fines which would be higher than what can be pursued with just the tickets. Kate wants this to be resolved as she knows they are burning all the time. Farr advised that there are other sawmills that get burning permits and it's common knowledge that it's their by product that is being burned so there is no concern. It would be a huge step forward if they would comply with that. He is not sure where they get the burning permit from but they will check on that. Cutler said the thing that bothers him is that by code, he is supposed to be regulating these, but yet I am not recognizing or putting in the state code on the action that is being taking place by zone. I don't want it to be lost because if we allow them to have burning permits, then zoning is going to have to authorize them to operate a sawmill. Kate said it's all mind boggling because they have an application before the Zoning Board but it has not been decided on yet. Kate said we first have to see what happens in zoning but the burning has to stop. Ken said that they are ready to take their operation to Floyd or Steuben, etc. They are planning on the court to come back and say cease and desist.

Miner Property – Kate said what we can do right now is everything we told him to do, The Board can authorize that we can start doing it right now. If the one building is not to be demolished right now, it has to be secured. Ken said there are two options with codes, either demo it because there is an eminent threat of kids playing and it falling, or fencing it off. Kate said at this point maybe just fence it off and then in the spring time, demolish it. Ken said maybe get someone to repair the foundation so the building does not collapse.

Supervisor Report: Rachel said they are cleaning up end of year financials, getting everything squared away so that the end of year financial report can be submitted by the end of February.

Clerk's Report - Local shares remitted are $1,449.00.

V. Resolutions:

BCA Water Improvement Grant Expenditures – Godfrey said this is in regard to the Barneveld Water District Improvement. As you know, it's an $11 Million Project as it sits right now, a $5 million grant and a $2 million zero percent loan that we've been offered to cover the cost of that. There are additional grants available in the email from MacKenzie Lehman and one is Rural Development and the other is Community Development Block available at $2 million each. What they are asking for as a proposed budget would be $10, 000 for the first grant for them to prepare the application and then $6,000 for the second grant for a total of $16,000 to apply for about $4 million in grant money. If we were able to get one or both it would reduce the amount of loan money. Infrastructure had a meeting last night and I got an email back from John Sherman that they would be ok with that expenditure, so now I am putting it in front of the Board again.

Bennison made motion to budget $16,000 to have BCA prepare grant applications, seconded by Farr, 3 ayes.

Adirondack Bank CD - Our $500,000 CD came to mature on February 6th and I reached out to Heather at ADK Bank. These are new CD rates and I think the 90 day one is a no brainer. The previous two were 6 months at 5% and 4.9%. The new one will be 3.9%. NYCLASS is offering 4.22%. Bennison made motion to go the 90 days with ADK Bank, seconded by Farr, 3 ayes.

Office of Comptroller ADA Compliance - Godfrey advised that the auditors were here for 2 ½ days and came up with a list of about 16 items, 11 of them bathroom related. Festine said she didn't know that there was an audit. Anytime they get audited they can always talk to her. It is good that the Comptroller's Office did this and we complied because people do go around and file ADA lawsuits. Godfrey said new signage, new carpets, right handed flush toilets for the bathrooms all has to do with their findings. They sent us the audit review, we came back to them with what we are doing and what has already been taken care of. We have 80% of it done and the others we are working on. Godfrey needs a Board resolution that we are ok with what we have done and that they will put it on their website that we are compliant. Farr made a motion to accept the proposed action plan and it's submission to the Office of the State Comptroller, seconded by Bennison, 3 ayes.

Cutler advised he needs a copy of all of it for his records.

Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2025 - Farr made motion to approve January 22, 2025 minutes with the approved changes, seconded by Bennison, 3 ayes.

Abstracts: - Hinckley – Bennison made motion to pay Hinckley abstracts numbered 3 and 4 for $205.77, seconded by Farr, 3 ayes.

General: Abstracts number 71 to 161 in the amount of $498,110.33. Godfrey noted the large amount of $344,641.00 to the Fire District for the Service Agreement. Farr made motion to approve abstracts 71 to 161 in the amount of $498,110.33, seconded by Bennison, 3 ayes.

Priority Issues: Prospect Cemetery – Godfrey received a call from David Marcoulier and their board, Secretary Cyndy Richardson and all the people that are helping are all getting older. David wants to spend more time with his kids and grandkids in the Carolinas. They are all looking to get out. Caretaker Chub Litchenberg is willing to stay but the leadership is completely leaving. Godfrey asked Kate if it could end up with the town taking care of it and she said yes. The cemetery has significant funds. Godfrey advised that people from Utica are coming up here because the plots are cheap compared to the Utica rates. Kate said her understanding is that if it is not abandoned there are other circumstances under which the town can become responsible. She will have to look at the town law and the cemetery law. It seems if there isn't a board anymore, the town will have to take over. Another solution would be if they were bought out by another cemetery. Godfrey told them to try to recruit first. Discussion ensued about what it would involve to take it over and whether we should do it now or wait and see what happens to it.

BCA Wastewater Grant Application: Bennison and Godfrey were in on the conversation as to why they didn't score well. The first 2 pages were 100+ points and we weren't even eligible to get those. There were 70+ points that we as a community were not able to get. We asked the state representative if they can give us what the minimum score was for people who got grant money and were told they can't give us that information. The conversation after the

meeting with Cory and MacKenzie was are we going to keep going around and around with this. Godfrey talked to MacKenzie yesterday and they are going through the criteria of how they score these things again. The bottom line is they would like to apply for the WQIP and WILA again and it would be a minimal amount of money because the work has already been done. If we are not successful again do we look at going with a different firm? Kate said possibly if we improve the drinking water that would help us improve the score. They also talked about phasing and dropping the project down to $20 million which Kate said then you would have to redo the district. So they are going to give it one more shot and this time next year we will either have the money or not.

VI. Committees:

Planning Board – Nothing new.

ZBA –

Greenbelt –

VII. Communications: Next Meeting February 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

VIII. Adjournment - Farr made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by Bennison, 3 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk