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, Chris Crumb, Eric Taylor and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker. Also attending, Jim Mills, John Healt, Kate Festine, Jason Stiehl, Leo Boulerice, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Rich Latus.

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:

A. Highway Superintendent – Stiehl advised that in regard to the pickup issue he previously spoke about **s**ome days it sounds good, other days it sounds terrible. He believes if he keeps the truck it is going to need manifolds and there is an issue with four wheel drive right now. Godfrey said he has gotten a couple of quotes.

i. Equipment Trailer - Stiehl advises replacing the small trailer that was damaged in the ice house when it collapsed. It was needed yesterday. Stiehl checked it out and can see all the damage. It has already been rebuilt twice. The larger trailer seems ok. Board was given the quotes and Stiehl's recommendation. Farr made motion for Highway Superintendent to purchase new trailer from Northland Trailers spending up to $12,000, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

ii. Stiehl advised that insurance/engineers do not recommend using "ice house" for equipment storage. They previously talked about getting prefab steel buildings and now with the fire trucks in the highway garage, the Highway Department is going to need extra storage for their equipment. Rich Latus is working on getting quotes for 160' x 80'.

Godfrey and Stiehl had a meeting with an engineer from Hanover Insurance to look at all 4 buildings and he has the report from the engineer. The one recycling part that is still up is viable and the town is doing a couple of things recommended by the engineer. The collapsed part of the Highway Garage is done. Because it's all considered one building even though the one part is an addition, he had some major issues with that building also and did not recommend storing anything of value in it at this point. Stiehl is going to need storage for the plow wings, etc. in the summer. Looking at positioning it across from the Recycling Center/Sand storage area.

Farr asked that they revisit the pick up truck that Stiehl wants to replace. The last meeting Crumb and Taylor were absent and Farr wanted them to be in on the discussion. The truck is the one Stiehl drives, it has 73,000 or 74,000 miles on it, with plow and no warranty. There are issues with the motor and manifolds are getting rusty. Stiehl advised they might get $20,000 or $25,000 for it at auction. Godfrey provided 2 proposals that he had from Stiehl last month.

Farr made motion to allow Stiehl to spend $50,000 with trading in current truck on a F250 4x4 super cab with plow, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

iii. **Skid Steer Broom -** Stiehl advised that $10,000 for a skid steer broom is ridiculous so they are going to pull theirs out and see if they can fix it.

Stiehl also wanted to revisit hiring an 8th guy. He asked that the Board think about it now so it's not scrambling next year. He has not advertised anything, but has had two applications given to him.

Stiehl advised Board that Verizon wants to do a line up Trenton Falls Road. The last time someone did this in town, they drove their cable drag plow through and destroyed the culverts and the town had to replace 2 pipes. Festine said if they want to dig, they need to reach out to her and the Town Supervisor. We will require a contract with proof of insurance, and a bond so we know that the ground will be restored and if they break anything, it's their responsibility. Stiehl will forward the emails he has been receiving to Festine.

iv. **Abstracts:** Highway – Highway Abstracts numbered 66 through 96 in the amount of $38,746.66. Stiehl wanted to talk about the one voucher for Get A Grip Tire for $2600.00. That is one new loader tire that was damaged at some point at the Recycling Center. Farr made motion to pay vouchers # 66 through 96 in the amount of $38,746.66, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

Assessor: Godfrey advised that she's been busy.

Zoning:

Boulerice provided copies of the report. He advised that it's relatively quiet on the Planning Board and ZBA as well. Crumb asked if there was anything more on the cell tower. Boulerice said there is a foil request which was taken care of recently. Now it's in Codes hands.

Festine requested they go into Executive Session when it's convenient to discuss potential litigation.

Codes:

Cutler provided report. Festine asked to talk about the Miner property. She has done some research and she believes there are 3 options. We can wait and see if the county is going to take the property. Godfrey advised that he made a call to Carvelli's office and that building will not be available for auction until 2027. Festine said if we want to remediate the properties, the best way to do it is going to be for Cutler to write a letter and say he looked at the properties and they have collapsed and need to be demolished immediately. Cutler is sending a certified letter to Miner telling him he needs to fence off and secure the building within 15 days. Festine said he also needs to let him know his prior demolition permit has expired and he needs to get a new demo permit within 15 days or the town is going to take further action. If he doesn't do it, we are going to go through the Unsafe Structure Law where we pay up front and it gets put on the taxes. If the Codes Officer determines that it is unsafe and imminent danger, which he already has, then he will be served again and if he doesn't do anything, the town will do it. Godfrey has a quote of about $17,500 to take down the building.

NOCCOG:

John Healt advised the Local Government Conference coming up in a couple of weeks.

The Environmental Finance Center Network has a Webinar Strengthening Small Wastewater Systems: Technical Assistance in Obtaining Funding on March 18th.Congressionally Directed Spending Request Applications available which allows Federal Representatives to direct federal funding to local projects, programs that advance community priorities across NYS. Need to write directly to Schumer or Gillibrand. Festine advised Don Hall as a grant writer to help with getting funds.
Tug Hill Commission will meet March 17th in Copenhagen.
NOCCOG Executive Committee to meet March 20th at the Town of Trenton Municipal Offices.
NYS Town Clerk's Association Annual Conference April 27-30th.
EFC is accepting listing from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Supervisor Report:

Rachel advised she met with Joe to wrap up the financials and get everything sent to the state. She would like the Board to meet with her and Joe at 6:30 pm before the meeting, go over reports and then approve the reports after they are reviewed.

Clerk's Report - Local Shares remitted $1515.00.

V. Resolutions:

A. **Meeting Minutes** - Godfrey asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes from February 12, 2025. Farr made to approve meeting minutes from February 12, 2025, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes. Godfrey sent February 26th meeting minutes to board. Board read through and Taylor made motion to approve meeting minutes from February 26, 2025, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

B. **Abdoo Security Recycling Building** - Godfrey said they are changing buildings from General Security. The first estimate is for fire security and the description in the amount of $3,450.00. Second estimate is for cameras outside to keep people from dumping illegally at $2,350.00. Crumb made motion to hire Adoo Security for the Recycling Center at $5,800.00, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

C. **Holland Patent School Fireworks** - Godfrey is concerned because they don't have anything from the school signed off. Cutler advised that he has no authority to do anything on any state agency grounds. In order for the Town Supervisor and Board to authorize the Codes Official to help the school out with fireworks, everyone has to sign off and we have to be invited in by the Holland Patent School Superintendent. Festine said as long as Cutler is satisfied with their application, the licensed fireworks operator, and we have the proper insurance, tonight this Board can approve it conditional. Cutler said it has to be ok with the Board for him to oversee it. He is only authorized to do codes work with the Town of Trenton and the school is not a part of that. Godfey called Majestic Fireworks and he does have all their insurance information and Federal License, etc. They do list Holland Patent School first in line, with the Town of Trenton second on the certificate. Festine wants to know is this a fireworks display for a school sponsored activity. Festine said she would want confirmation from the school superintendent that this is a school sponsored event, that they are responsible for insurance and they are requesting the Town of Trenton Codes Official to oversee the operation. Then the Board could approve it tonight conditional with a satisfactory response from the school superintendent.

Taylor made the motion to accept the Fireworks Display Application from Majestic Fireworks, Inc. under the condition that the school superintendent confirm that it is a school sponsored event, that we have insurance information naming the school and the Town of Trenton on the certificate and that they are requesting that the Town of Trenton Codes official oversee the operation, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

D. **Public Room Rental – Collins:**

Godfrey advised Board that Rosette Collins requested to use the PMR room for a benefit for the Barneveld Fire Department. We normally do not allow fundraising, although there was a fundraiser that slipped through recently. Latus said we do not let any town facility, parks, pavilions, etc. to be used for fundraising because people will come in and want to raise money for their own benefit. He believes it's not just a town rule, but a government rule that you are not allowed to use public property for fundraising. Latus said he went to the ballfield and there were all types of banners that were bought and put up. Festine said she would make a distinction between advertising and fundraising. Cutler said years ago with Tom Hughes and Scheidelman it was a definite no because once you open the door for one, you open the door for everyone. Festine said in the case of the Fire Department, it's not a normal fundraiser, it's a government to government thing. Latus is 100% behind letting the Barneveld Fire Dept use this building to raise money for the Fire Department. Crumb said the whole thing started the day after the collapse with some people just setting up a GoFundMe page to support the Barneveld Fire Department. Of course the fire department said no and put a blanket statement on social media saying they will take care of any fundraisers. Farr made comment that the twin churches are set up very well to host something like this. May need a new policy. Tabled for now.

E. **Retainment pay for Recycling Employees -** Godfrey said he wanted to keep the recycling guys whole with regard to pay. It's unfortunate what happened to the Recycling Center but he wanted to pay them for one pay period. Hopefully we will be up and going in a short time. Taylor made motion to pay the Recycling Employees, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Abstracts: -

Hinckley: Abstract # 5 and 6 in the amount of $366.70. Bennison made motion to pay abstracts numbered 5 and 6 in the amount of $366.70, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

General: Abstracts # 162 through 230 in the amount of $64,629.57 Taylor made motion to pay vouchers # 162 through 230 in the amount of $64,629.57, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Priority Issues:

A. STaR Ambulance – Godfrey advised that Brian Healey is going to come in and he will see if the Marcellus guys will come in at the next meeting.

B. Recycling Center & Highway Storage Updates - Godfrey said we do have a report from the insurance people. They sent in an inspector to take a look at the buildings about 10 days ago. Then they sent in an engineer who inspected all 4 buildings and we have that

report. On Monday we are meeting with the adjuster. We have been going back and forth with the state and they admitted we were given some bad information. They feel that in a collapsed building, it is assumed to have asbestos and therefore it needs to be treated as such when you demo it. Godfrey did go out and get an estimate from Bronze Contracting. Bronze is doing the firehouse. There is a possibility that we can approve the demo on an emergency basis without having to go through a sealed bid process as the Fire Department did. Godfrey will get the 3 quotes, then we will approve that. Kate will prepare a resolution for the next meeting stating the provisions.

Godfrey had Audrey call Oneida County to see where we could send Town of Trenton people for recycling. They sent us over to an emergency guy. We pay half price tipping fees to the county, so it goes from $88/ton down to $44/ton. Bronze understands this.

Update regarding the Recycling Center – other than plowing the roads, that is the most important thing people like about the Town of Trenton. Godfrey is working with Rich's team, Keith's team and Jason's team to try and get the old building open. A couple of engineers took a look at it and recommended putting truss bracing. Cutler advised that we need to get a Reconstruction Permit. Cutler needs to look at the certified engineers report.

C. **Premo Property/Prospect** - Godfrey advised that Debbie Premo wants to donate property where the old glove store was on State Street. Leo and Steve looked at the lot and it has a pretty dilapidated building on it. Property goes from the corner of Park to the Post Office. Festine advised we accepted a gift of land before from donor Macner. If the Board does want to accept the donation they might have to look into it a little more. If they do accept it, they generally do a resolution. Festine will look into what was done with the last land donation. Godfrey asked Board members to do a drive by and see if they want the donation.

Rich was asked about the storage area for the Highway equipment. He advised that Jeff Duda is going to survey the property once the snow is gone. We can more than fit an adequate sized building in the space. Latus has talked with Titan Global and Butler. The numbers from Titan are $250,000 to $300,000. Titan has a building right now that they will sell to us for $118,000 because a company in Canada purchased it and went out of business. Butler is working on numbers. Pike Construction out of Utica o does installs for them. Latus advised these are steel framed structures that are engineered, not pole barns. At some point we can talk about a concrete floor, but we can get the building up this year. Rich is thinking about $400,00 with all the site work, labor, etc. for a 8,000 square foot structure. Godfrey asked about the All Temp buildings and Latus advised he will look into those as well and have info for the next meeting.

Latus also advised he has numbers for having the Municipal Building sided and will have all the information and the materials at the work session for the Board to look over.

Recycling Center – National Grid has not restored power yet. We were able to open the building today, empty dumpsters today and get things cleaned out. It is supposed to get restored tomorrow. Saturday is a possibility for opening.

VI. Committees:

Planning Board – No much going on.

ZBA – Waiting for the Amish to complete their application. Festine said if it's not completed soon, it can be denied after a certain number of days.

Greenbelt – Nothing

Infrastructure – Godfrey talked with John Sherman and brought him up to speed on the wastewater project and the Barneveld Water Improvement Project. They are checking on grants from Main Street Grants.

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

VIII. Adjournment - Farr made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk