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 7:00 pm. Present were: Councilmen Michael Bennison, James Farr, Chris Crumb, Eric Taylor and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker. Also present - MAEVES - Steve Knapp, Anthony Milatello, Bob Whitehead.

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

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor

A. STaR Ambulance: Bob Whitehead gave the Board a little history about STaR Ambulance and the contract negotiated with Joe Smith. They have been facing a deficit since 2023. In 2024 he went after the towns of Russia and Ohio to contribute money. He never got any money from Ohio but did get a small amount from Russia. In 2023 they netted about $27,000. They did a fund drive in 2024 and netted about $20,000. Typically on a good week payroll is about $8,000. He offered to show spreadsheets to the Board done by CPAs that were on the Board showing the deficits every quarter along with their call sheets. With insurance money and extra money from Forestport and Trenton, they barely made it last year. They have reached out to everyone, even Oneida County and nobody will help them. He spoke with Assemblyman Smullen and there is no help on a state level.

This year they project to be out of business by September or October because they cannot count on reimbursement. Eighty percent of the patients are Medicaid and Medicare and they get reimbursed at the Medicaid and Medicare rates which are extremely low. Many times the checks do not go to the ambulance service directly; they go to the patient who doesn't turn it over. Their insurance went up this year from $9,000 to $18,000 for the ambulance and the property.

The Towns that STaR ambulance services are Ohio, Trenton, Remsen, Steuben, Forestport and Russia. He talked about forming an ambulance district and the benefits.

The Governor had the Bill to make the change to Essential Service, but it's been sitting there since 2021 with no signature.

Steve Knapp from Marcellus Ambulance Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc. (MAVES) talked about starting out the same size as STaR ambulance, then became independent in 2004 and created an ambulance taxing district for the Town of Marcellus. Then they expanded a transfer of operating authority and took over other districts and got bigger and bigger and went from one ambulance to two. During COVID they changed their business model into doing transfer work going between hospitals. As a result they put their money into it and started getting reimbursements and it's a significant part of the business. Last year they collected one million dollars in transfers alone. They are now up to 6 ambulances and 50 employees. He explained, it is not a merger, it is a transfer of operating authority to continue to operate. They are both 501(c)3 so anyone who donates money, the money stays here. The employees will benefit because their rate is higher than the rate they are currently paid.

Anthony Milatello explained how every paramedic is an ICU level paramedic, all ambulances will have their own ventilator on it, they will have their own IV pumps, and do medications outside of the normal paramedic within NYS. They will bring the same skills that the helicopters bring.

There is no time line – it will take a few years because forming a district has to be approved by the state, then go to the public for hearings, etc. The new name would be Norstar.

Bennison made motion to not make any decision on the Ambulance situation until the next meeting in May, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

IV. Resolutions:

A. Youth Baseball Concession Stand: Godfrey advised that he, Audrey, and Rich went over and checked everything out at the concession stand. There is a side window that they can use and not the office window by the swim pool area to use this concession stand. All the playground equipment is squared away. Rich is ok with it as far as handing over a key for game nights. They will be serving mostly packaged items and drinks. We have a Health Department permit but Rachel wants to talk to Kate and see if Youth Baseball needs to sign something saying that we are not liable if someone gets sick. Bennison made motion for Youth Baseball to use the concession stand on the condition that the permit has a rider, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

B. Youth Baseball and AYSO Keys: AYSO consistently gets keys for the bathrooms, but never turn them back in even though they sign them out. Rich has to go every year and get new keys. Rachel wants to charge $50 deposit per key. Crumb said it might be worth it to put keypads on the locks. Rich will look into that. In the meantime, Board agrees to $50 per key. Farr made motion to charge $50 deposit per key for Youth Baseball and AYSO, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

C. Approve April 9 Minutes: Taylor made motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2025, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

D. Approve Games of Chance: Rachel had copy of email that was sent over by Stevens Swan Humane Society looking for the Town of Trenton to sign off approving or denying having games of chance allowed in our town. She looked up the Local Law 180-3, 4, 5 and 6. Our law says we allow games of chance if they get a license ahead of time and get approval. Bennison made motion to approve games of chance in the Town of Trenton, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

E. Approve Office Employee Swag: Rachel said she is interested in letting all the employees have a promo code for the town store for apparel. With the season change people might want summer items like t-shirts. She is asking for approval for all department heads, the Board and office staff. Highway and Recycling Center employees are already taken care of. Taylor made motion to approve the office employees, department heads and the Board to get a promo code to purchase items from the online store, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

F. Flag Banners Hamlet of Barneveld: Godfrey passed out 2 designs of banners that the Beautification Committee wants to put around the Hamlet of Barneveld. Farr said he talked to Mr. Piersall and he is going to back it down from 20 to 14 banners. Godfrey will have to get permission from National Grid to put the brackets on the poles. Taylor said there is also money for Prospect if they wanted to do the same and wondered if there be a discount if they were all done together. Farr made motion to approve the 14 banners, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

G. Pachura: Godfrey said he has had multiple discussions with Ken. Ken is concerned about people living in placarded buildings which is what's happening there. This resolution is for Kate to move forward against Pachura in Supreme Court with a codes violation and no tenants to be allowed to live in placarded buildings. Taylor made the motion to allow Kate to move forward against Pachura in Supreme Court, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

V. Priority Issues:

A. Recycling & Highway Buildings: Recycling building is getting taken apart and getting cleaned up by Bronze. Godfrey talked to Keith and Rich and once the cleanup is done, they will be able to go full operation with allowing the dump trailers to come in. They will be able to take appliances and electronics. It will be posted online and on Facebook.

Highway building will start next week. The main part of the structure has issues with the roof. Insurance will not pay off on a replacement of a 70 or 80 year old building but he will have the guys look at a price for repairing that building and putting it into the replacement value of the part of the building that fell down.

B. Premo Property: Godfrey talked with Deb Premo yesterday. She is still interested in donating that property. He also talked to her because she owns the property in back. If we acquire that property the property in back of it will be landlocked. The building looks like it's ready to fall down. She wants to get in there and take stuff out and Godfrey is concerned because ceilings are starting to coming down. If we take the property over, it will cost the town some money because the building has to come down. Audrey is working on a grant for new playground equipment for Prospect. Rich is putting one in with the Wadas Foundation for over at the ball park. If we get the land and rip the building down off the Premo land Rich said there room for a basketball court. There might be room for the playground too. We will take a vote on it at next meeting.

C. Minor Property: Kate is writing that up for emergency cleanup.

Farr said regarding the Old Prospect Property – the Board at one time approved a bid on the old ambulance building for $75,000. Farr talked to Steve and Steve is going to talk to Kate to see if that would be legal to present to the board. Godfrey wants to talk to Kate to see if it has to go out to the public.

Rachel advised the AFR is submitted and Steve certified it today. The financial report is done for 2024 financials. She also gave the board the February Supervisor's Report. She would like to get them approved at the next meeting. Any questions you can call Rachel or stop in.

Farr had one other thing. He and Chris volunteered to find a building and grounds job description and he found many. The best was on the Oneida County website. He is going to put it in his mailbox for anyone to look at.

VI. Communications:

A. Next Meeting May 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm

VII. Adjournment: Taylor made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker

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Town Clerk