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 attending, Kate Festine, Joe Rowlands, Dave Constable, Theresa Inserra, Kathleen Kellog, James Mills.

**I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Godfrey at 6:58 pm**

**II. Pledge to the Flag**

**III. Privilege of the Floor - None**

**IV. Officer Reports:**

A. **Highway Superintendent :**

**Agreement to Spend Highway Funds:** Stiehl advised that now that the Agreement to Spend Highway Funds has been approved, the major one this year is going to be Hinman Rd. for $167,000. They were originally going to only do a mile of it, but they are starting to get a few roads that are half done and he's trying to get away from that. They are going to hot pave that so it will last 8 to 10 years. Page 3 of the Agreement shows there will be $42,208.69 left for Crack Fill, Cold Patch, Culvert Pipe, Dust Control Agents, Aggregates, etc.

Stiehl advised again this year that it will extremely tight - $20,000 of that will be for diesel fuel. Godfrey asked Stiehl if he thought $300,000 was a good number and Stiehl said he thinks it is shy and they will probably have to keep increasing it because of the cost of materials. It's almost $100,000 just to pave a mile of road now.

Bennison made motion to approve the Agreement to Spend Highway Funds, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes. Kate advised that three original copies need to be signed, one for Jason, one for the town and one for the county.

**Storage Container Purchase:** Godfrey advised that Stiehl requested a storage unit. There are 2 proposals, one from Averdi for $13K to $15K and one from ERL for $7500. Stiehl said they talked about renting one and thinks it's a waste. He has watched them sell at auction for about $11,000. He said when they are done with it, they can make the money back with no problem. This is for all the signs, cones, etc. that were stored at the "ice house."

Taylor made motion to approve the purchase of a Storage Container from ERL, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

**Ditch Culvert Policy:** Godfrey advised that it's that time of year where they are getting requests for culvert installations. There was never a culvert policy in

place. What we told people is we will install your culvert the width of your driveway. The reason we've done that is because we want to make sure it's actually going to work right vs. having another contractor do it. Stiehl said what he is seeing more and more of is people wanting piping in the ditches across the whole length of their property. Stiehl said he believes the homeowner should do that and it should be done according to town's specs and they should be responsible for maintaining it. Stiehl said a decision should be made on what the town will do and put it in writing. He also said he believes the town should only install pipes for new residential housing – 40 ft. max. and anything above and beyond that is up to the homeowner, but the town has to ok it. Homeowner pays for the pipe, the town will install it and give everyone one load of driveway mix.

Kate advised that she does think that procedure is ok because it is the right of way and you do want to make sure that if there is a culvert, it is installed correctly. She believes the policy needs to make clear it is not applicable on state and county roads. Farr asked Stiehl if someone does have piping all across the length of their property and it needs to be dug up, how is the billing for that done. Stiehl advised they haven't run into that yet and that's what he's trying to avoid. Kate believes that whatever policy they come up with needs to be a local law. She is going to research what other towns have done.

Stiehl also filled the Board in on the resignation of Travis Wickham. Last Thursday was his last day. There is an open position and Stiehl had a few guys come forward earlier this spring about jobs. He told them to fill out an application and they did. Godfrey and Stiehl interviewed one the other night and they are going to advertise it for a week or two.

With regard to the abstracts, Stiehl wanted to point out the C&S Sweeping, voucher #146. It was for about 2 weeks of sweeping work. It was a little more expensive than it was last year. They are unable to rent the machines to do the work. There is one company Stiehl's knows of that doesn't rent the style of sweeper that they normally use. They rent a vacuum sweeper and he understands that they have trouble picking up sand. And you have to book a year out. Godfrey said they will look into possibly buying a new or used one.

**Abstracts # 136 to 168 in the amount of $52,508.27.** Farr made motion to pay vouchers #136 through 168 in the amount of $52,508.27, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

**B. Assessor:** Godfrey spoke with Tonya and everything is going well in her office.

C. **Zoning & Codes:**

Godfrey advised that both Leo and Ken had other issues tonight but they did submit their reports. If there are any questions, you can contact either of them.

Constable advised that he put up 2 placards this week. One on Premo's and one on 205 Church Street, Prospect– an abandoned building. 205 Church St. was a mistake. The guy never put his permit in the window so they thought the building was abandoned, but it wasn't. Ken spoke with the owner after he returned the placard sign.

D. **NOCCOG**: Joe Rowlands gave overview of upcoming events in the newsletter.
There is a Federal Aid 101 Webinar on May 22.
There is a Municipal Bootcamp Program: Environmentally Speaking – the Nuts & Bolts of SEQR also on May 22nd.
Highway Superintendents Annual School – June 2 – 4
NYS Tug Hill MetroCount Program is offering it's MetroCount System to municipalies Deployment and analysis of the MetroCount roadside unit is available at no cost to any municipality.

E. **Attorney:** Godfrey advised that 5 people stopped him while he was having lunch with the seniors asking about the collapsed building and what we are doing. Festine said she is going to get together with Ken and they are going to do whatever we need to do, even if I just go to court because it might be faster than our procedure here. She will go to court and get an Order to Show Cause. Godfrey advised he already has a price to clean it up.

Festine said that she believes the Board approved the settlement on the Erie Boulevard. She has not heard back from the school board and is waiting to hear on that. She also believes the board authorized her to do two other court cases – Pachura. Godfrey said it's getting worse. There are probably 25 to 30 black bags which he believes are probably garbage in front of both buildings and it just keeps piling up. Whoever is living there has no garbage service. Festine said she will go to court on them too.

Godfrey also told Festine the Prospect Library sale didn't work out. They had Pavia that listed it for 6 months and they decided not to relist it. He asked can the town put it up for bid themselves? Festine said you could get an auctioneer if you wanted to. You would have to advertise it first. The Board would have to resolve to sell it to that person subject to a permissive referendum. It wouldn't be final until 30 days after that resolution. A notice would have to go in the paper, etc. Same process if you went through Auctions International. Farr said there would have to be a minimum bid based on the amount of debt.

**F. Supervisor's Report:** Rachel asked that they approve January's report because they have gotten the final copy of it. At the work session they

can do February and March and get those finalized and then approve them at the June meeting.
Taylor made motion to approve January's Supervisor's Report, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

**G. Clerk's Report:** Bunker advised $1,695.00 local shares remitted.

## V. Resolutions:

A. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Farr had corrections for the April 23rd minutes. Farr made motion to approve Meeting Minutes from 04/23/25 with the changes, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

B. **Tyler Rychener Property-Old Poland Rd. Bridge Project:** Godfrey advised this is the property on the corner of Old Poland Rd and VanderKemp. With the bridge project, they are going to be taking out his driveway and at the end of the new bridge there is going to be a guardrail near their property which they are not happy about. What the state is going to do when they build it is they are going to put grass seed in there. Right now it appears that around their property there are flowers and the homeowners would prefer that. The bridge construction people are saying they will not pay for that but if the town wants to do that they can. Godfrey said he would put it in front of the Board to approve now a certain amount of money to finish the project to the liking of the Rychener's.
Bennison made motion to approve up to $1,000 to turf up and replant at Rychener's after the bridge project and guardrails are put in, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

C. **Purchase Offer – Route 12 Property:** Godfrey received a call from Mohawk Valley Assn. of Realtors, Heidi Westcott. The same person who bought Cindy's is buying this property to put up storage buildings. Kate said if the Board wants to approve it tonight she will email Rachel a written Resolution and the Permissive Referendum that needs to go in the paper. Board needs to note this is a unique property that is not marketable because of it's size, shape and location and that it's being sold by the person who owns the adjoining property. Godfrey said they originally asked for $10,000 and they came back with an offer of $7,000. Kate asked the Board to allow her to fine tune the contract to sell it "where is as is." Buyer pays for all title costs and recording fees including transfer tax. Buyer is paying 3% commission and she wants us to pay 3% as well.
Farr made motion for a resolution authorizing the sale of the property, tax map 159.0-1-16 to Braden Keith Polcaro for $7,000 and authorizing the Town Supervisor to expedite the documents necessary and acknowledging that this Resolution is subject to Permissive Referendum pursuant to Town Law 64.2, and including a 3% commission to the real estate agent Heidi Westcott, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes. The Town Clerk is instructed to publish notice of

this Resolution in accordance with Town Law Section 91. Kate will talk to the realtor and make sure that recording costs are borne by the buyer and title costs including abstract of desire are borne by the buyer.

D. **Records Retention and Destruction:** Bunker advised that we need to have one of these Resolutions on file that says that we follow the schedule; that we don't destroy things until they are dated to be destroyed. We have about 16 boxes ready to go for shred day, so she wants to have it official and filed. Bunker said at conference they couldn't explain to her the difference between a Motion and a Resolution. Kate said that everything that the Board does is kind of a Resolution but some Resolutions are more important. Taylor made motion to adopt the model Resolution, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

**E. Amend Athletic Facilities Key Agreement:** Bunker said the last time we discussed this, we said we would have them put down a $50 deposit per key so that they get the keys back to us. What we found was a lot of different volunteer coaches are trying to pick up keys and they are not wanting to ask the volunteers to put the money up so we amended it and in the spirit of compromise we let them put a card on file and fill out this form which says if we don't have the key back by the return date, we can go ahead and run the card on file for as many keys as their organization has. We also have a sign out form they fill out and we have their license on file. Taylor made motion to amend the Key Agreement to the new form, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

**F. Barneveld Library Use of Old Town Hall:** Diane Schlosky and Greta Madore came in and they are doing some sort of event for the kids. Godfrey said he didn't want to charge them the fee to use it during the weekday. Festine said that under the Education Law, the Board can waive the fee for the use of the Old Town Hall by the Barneveld Library. Bennison made motion to waive the fee for Barneveld Library use of the Old Town Hall, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

**G. Resignation of Travis Wickham:** Farr made motion to accept the resignation of Travis Wickham, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

**H. Adirondack Bank CD Renewal:** Godfrey advised the CD for $5,000 reached maturity on May 8th. NYClass is pretty much the same. Crumb made motion to renew the CD with Adirondack Bank for 90 days, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

**I. Picnic Table Purchase:** Godfrey advised there was some money left over from ARPA and previously approved if there was money left over to buy picnic tables. Godfrey got the proposals and handed them out. Farr made motion to approve the purchase of 13 picnic tables, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

**J. G&G Agreement for NYS CFA/CDBG:** Godfrey said this was already approved too but what happened was BCA is farming it over to Jay Grosso. This is for one of the $3 million grants for the water that we are trying to get. They gave us an estimate of $12,000 to apply for these grants. It's in the minutes. This is the second one. Jay Grosso is the one who did the income study. Bennison made motion to approve Jay Grosso from G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing to apply for grants for the water district, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

**K. Abstracts:**

**Hinckley-** Abstracts # 8 to 10 in the amount of $419.71. Farr made motion to pay abstracts numbered 8 to 10 in the amount of $419.71, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

**General**: Abstracts # 325 to 428 in the amount of $244,228.86 Farr made motion to pay vouchers # 325 through 428 in the amount of $244,228.86, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

## VI. Priority Issues:

**A. Recycling & Highway Building Updates:** Godfrey said if anyone wants to they may attend Monday morning meeting at 9:30 at the Recycling Center with Don Ehre, Boulder Engineers to look at the Recycling Center, any design changes wanted, etc. We are right on the line of 70 pounds vs. 80 pounds per sf of snow load. We are looking at upgrading it to 80 pounds per sf. As far as the cleanup operations, we are being fully taken care of by insurance. We will submit our bills and be paid back by insurance. We are also being covered on the 3 garage doors on the old building that were damaged. We did lose some equipment which we have already replaced.

As for Jason's building, we are patterning them on the AllTemp building on Rte. 12. Those buildings are set up for the snow load that pretty much would be the size Jason is looking at – 8000 sf. If we go the 60 x 140 it is a more stable building and will fit in the space that we have. We are covered on the new part of the highway garage. They have already had an engineer look at the old part. There are some issues and they don't know if it's because of the snow or just because it's 75 years old. They aren't ready to pay off on the whole space. They will pay off on replacement of what fell in, but they also sent over a construction engineer about 2 weeks ago. They will pay on what it will cost to repair that roof.

**B. Premo Property:** Still up in the air. We got a call from Rich about disconnecting the power for that building. Debbie Premo is having a tough time getting that done and he's trying to help her out with that. Godfrey said he is going to call and see what it will cost to have the building tested for

asbestos. Kate advised there is a process where we can go through so that even if we did have to pay for everything, we could get reimbursed for it from the county.

**C. Prospect Cemetery:** Godfrey is working with a guy from NYS. He just sent information that he still needs to look at.

**D. Theresa Inserra new position:** Ken Cutler came to Steve about 3 weeks ago saying that they are overwhelmed with what's going on. Theresa is secretary to the Planning Board and for Zoning. Leo takes up quite a bit of Theresa's time and Ken and Dave see that relationship and would like to join in on it. They are dinasour typers and it takes forever for them to get stuff done. I first went to Audrey and said would it be ok if I take your assistant away from you if Theresa agrees. Theresa is interested. We are looking at streamlining the whole zoning – codes department. Theresa said she talked to Tonya as assessor because it would involve her as she interacts with all phases of that. Tonya said Whitestown has a great program so next Thursday Theresa is going to go to Whitestown and see what their set up is. Godfrey said so now Audrey is stranded. Zoning and Codes is going to take up all of Theresa's time. Godfrey is asking the Board to possibly hire an assistant for Audrey to help make sure that we pay our bills. We thought we would put an ad in the paper for someone for 3 five hour days.

Farr made motion to post a job opening for an assistant for Audrey, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

## VII. Committees:

**A.** Planning Board: Joseph Zumpano is interested in taking over Dr. Dubiel's old office for his tax busines. He is coming to the Planning Board work session.

**B. ZBA:** Theresa advised that Monday the Zoning Board met and there was a public hearing. The Amish came in and were given every opportunity to fill out paperwork. When they left and the public hearing closed, the board voted to deny the sawmill operation. Theresa sent them a letter and Festine said if they don't stop operating she needs to be notified and we will probably have to go to court.

**C. Greenbelt:** Nothing

**D. Infrastructure:** Crumb advised that Infrastructure is working on the NY Forward.

**VIII. Communications:** Next Meeting May 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

**IX. Adjournment** - Farr made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk