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 7:04 pm. Present were: Councilmen Michael Bennison, James Farr, Chris Crumb, Deputy Clerk, Donna Mills. Absent was Eric Taylor. Also attending, Jason Stiehl, Kate Festine, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Lisa Bellinger, Theresa Inserra, Kathleen Kellog, James Mills, Laura Fruscella, James Fruscella.

I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Godfrey at 7:04 pm

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor:

Jim and Laura Fruscella – asked about Property Maintenance Law where if lawns exceed a certain height and the village mows it, it gets added to your taxes. She believes there is another one where the sidewalks have now become the responsibility of the hamlet owners. There are now more families with children and strollers and there is a house where the shrub has now encroached all the way across the sidewalk, so you have to go around the cars which is dangerous. Are the sidewalks on State Right of Way? Cutler advised there is something in the Town of Trenton Laws 2016 pertaining to lawns and shrubs, Law 3-2016; every owner shall keep sidewalks well maintained. Kate believes Cutler could send a letter to owners.

There was much discussion and disagreement about the sidewalk responsibility. Godfrey said we will review this and discuss it at a later time. Kate looked up the law and stated the town can regulate who takes care of the sidewalks on State Right of Way.

Fruscella also asked about the Miner and Pachura properties and what was being done. Godfrey advised that it will be discussed shortly when they get to the attorney part of the meeting.

Fruscella also said she saw that there will be a Public Hearing on the water system. Godfrey said that the water system improvement is fully funded but we are trying to go after additional funds and that's part of it. We need a Public Hearing to move forward with the funding. Very long discussion regarding the water system and the plans to move forward with Mohawk Valley Water. Godfrey advised multiple times that there were several options on the improvements and that the Board voted on moving forward with MVWA.

IV. Officer Reports:

A. Highway Superintendent :

New Highway Storage Building: Jason was informed by Rich today that he has a contract with people to put up new building. If we give them the go ahead tomorrow, we are looking at early November start date. Jason is concerned that it will not be going up this year and we need a Plan B. Rich will go and get new proposal for electric/excavating, etc. for new building. Kate advised that if the Highway Superintendent says it's an emergency, she may be able to defend getting an emergency building. She also advised that they need to get 3 bids for the insurance company. Kate said the town should consider working with an adjustor because they help get bids and maximize the amount the insurance company gives.

Culvert Policy: Jason's recommendation is new residential construction only. Kate's said if it's new construction, why are we doing it. Jason said a lot of times they put in the wrong size pipes. Cutler advised we have to approve their plans. Town does not provide the culvert pipes, but Jason gives everyone one load of driveway mix. Jason advised that a lot of times people want to pipe town ditches shut. It has happened before and it's a problem.

Kate will review the state right of way and consider permitting process for driveway culverts. Jason said it needs to cover water hookup also because there is no policy on that. Kate will work with Jason on that and come up with a permitting process and a policy.

Additional Equipment Operator: Jason advised that two operators have new babies coming in November and asked what the policy is for paid family leave. Will have to review Teamster's policy to see if town opted in or not. Jason is looking for his 8th guy again because he can't be down 2 guys in November. Godfrey asked if he could put a couple of guys on part time like he did last year. Jason advised he would rather put the crew back to 8. There is so much work to do and he has two part time guys working now. Godfrey said we will take a serious look at it; it will have to be built into next year's budget.

Utica Mack contacted Jason and we can expect the bill for the new Mack in the next week or two.

Abstracts # 169 to 196 in the amount of $42,180.48. Crumb made motion to pay vouchers #169 through 196 in the amount of $42,180.48, seconded by Jim Farr, 5 ayes.

B. Assessor: Nothing

C. **Zoning & Codes:**

Zoning Report: Boulerice discussed cease and desist regarding saw mills and giving them 90 days to comply. He sent out letters to them.
Godfrey said we are getting mixed indicators on the paving outfit on Hinman. He asked Boulerice if he sent anything to him yet. He did not response to Leo's first letter, so he will send a follow up. He sent in his initial application and was denied and needs a zoning variance which we have not received yet.

Codes Report: Lawn not being mowed by Benny's house discussed. Cutler advised that he has a lot of people like that. Waiting for the sun to dry things out.

Adirondack Ridge Lot #178 – trailer not livable. Dave talked to Social Services and is working at getting them into emergency housing to be relocated. Ken and Dave are working with both Adirondack Ridge and Social Services on this.

D. **NOCCOG**:

Lisa Bellinger - there is a survey for municipalities to complete. If there are any education opportunities that they have offered in the past and we would like repeated we can advise. Survey is on the website through June.

Tughill next meeting in Carthage June 16, 2025.

Upcoming Webinars available on their site.

NOCCOG Executive Committee to meet June 26th at 2:00 in Town of Remsen.

2025 Consolidated Funding Application open to apply for funding. Funding available listed on the website.

Wadas Grant Foundation opportunity for summer recreation programs available.

E. **Attorney:**

Miner Property Emergency Resolution: 112-114 Mappa Ave. partially collapsed. Kate asked questions of Ken Cutler as Code's Enforcer for the record.
Kate: Is it your opinion as to whether the partially collapsed cinderblock building has created an emergency dangerous circumstance for the surrounding neighborhood.

Ken: That's right for safety and health of the neighborhood.
Kate: And is it because there is a risk of further collapse and the lack of fencing or other barriers between that partially collapsed structure and the neighborhood?
Ken: Yes.
Kate: Do you recommend the immediate demolition and removal of that cinderblock structure?
Ken: Yes.
Kate would like the Board to know that the Town of Trenton is authorized pursuant to Section 118-981 of the Code of the Town of Trenton to authorize the Code's Officer to immediately cause the demolition of the structure in an emergency situation. So Ken, is it your recommendation that we proceed to demolish that collapsed structure and remove it?
Ken: Yes.
Kate then asked the Board to Resolve first to accept the report and opinion of Codes Enforcement Officer Ken Cutler and find that the partially collapsed cinderblock structure at 112-114 Mappa, parcel 194.011-1-1 is unsafe and dangerous and that the Town Board is deeming this an emergency situation requiring immediate action. And further Resolve to order the cinderblock structure to be immediately demolished and cleared and finally Resolve the end cost associated with the demolition and removal as ordered shall be a charge against the land on which the premises is located and shall be collected as provided also in Town Code 118-9(G).

Michael Bennison made motion to Resolve as written above, seconded by Crumb, 4 ayes.

Roll Call:
Bennison: Aye
Crumb: Aye
Farr: Aye
Godfrey: Aye

Kate will email Rachel after revisions are made. Because we have an emergency situation, we also have a Resolution to retain a contractor for emergency demolition understanding that our Code's Officer already deemed the safety issue an emergency. It is the opinion of the Town Board that the emergency arriving out of this partially collapsed structure requires immediate action and cannot await the time it will take to do competitive bidding.

Farr made a Motion to resolve the partial collapse at 112-114 Mappa Ave. to be a public emergency necessitating immediate action that cannot await competitive bidding and to further resolve that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to retain the services of Bronze Contracting, LLC for $19,785.00 to demolish and remove the structure which is in the best interest of the town to

preserve the health and safety of the community, seconded by Michael Bennison, 4 ayes. Revised version will be sent to Rachel as well.

Roll call:
Farr: Aye
Bennison: Aye
Crumb: Aye
Godfrey: Aye

Pachura Properties: Kate advised that we are going to be filing in Supreme Court to enjoin him from taking down the placards and hopefully forcing him to make repairs to the property. Ken and Kate will finish up tomorrow morning. Kate has a call into the District Attorney to get some of the paper related to criminal charges and have that filed within a day or so after she finishes with Ken. She will do an Order to Show Cause so we can send someone down there to remove the garbage. Ken advised to make sure there is a State Trooper or Sheriff to accompany.

Godfrey said on the other Miner property, he talked with Ken about hiring an engineer to go over and take a look at it as far as eminent danger.

F. **Supervisor's Report:** Godfrey asked if everyone was able to take a look at it. He advised that a lot of the amounts in parentheses are ballpark numbers that the town will be reimbursed for. Farr made motion to accept the Supervisor's report for March, 2025, seconded by Crumb, 3 ayes.

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

V. Resolutions:

A. **Schedule Public Hearing CDBG July 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm:** Godfrey advised that we have to put out to public hearing that we are attempting to get grant money in the amount of $2 million in Community Development Grants. It would be to help fund the water improvement for Barneveld. The hearing will be at 6:30 at the July meeting. Bennison made motion to accept the Resolution 6-2025 and change the time for the Public Hearing to 6:30 in the newspaper, seconded by Crumb, 4 ayes.

Roll Call**:**
Bennison: Aye
Crumb: Aye
Farr: Aye
Godfrey: Aye

B. **Approve May 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Farr made motion to accept Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2025, seconded by Crumb, 4.

C. **Abstracts:**

Hinckley- Abstracts # 11 to 13 in the amount of $287.08. Bennison made motion to pay abstracts numbered 11 to 13 in the amount of $287.08, seconded by Crumb, 4 ayes.

General: Abstracts # 429 to 512 in the amount of $106,484.51 Bennison made motion to pay vouchers # 429 through 512 in the amount of $106,484.51, seconded by Farr, 4 ayes.

VI. Priority Issues:

A. Star Ambulance: Bob Whitehead came in and said it's a done deal transferring ownership to Marcellus Ambulance Service. Once it turns over to MAVES, Inc the contract with Star will be done. Steve Knapp, the leader of this MAVES sent an email to Godfrey saying he would like to meet with Godfrey to discuss a contract. Godfrey will also give them an extremely sweet deal on renting a building to store the 2 ambulances and their sleeping quarters for $500/month. Kate advised Godfrey to talk to them and then let her know. As long as there is an ambulance service in this town right now, there will be no problem. Discussion ensued regarding Star Ambulance and MAVES.
Crumb asked that the district chief be included in any future meetings with the ambulance service.
Kate advised Godfrey that as far as negotiating with MAVES, it should be him along with one or two board members.

B. Recycling and Highway Storage Buildings: Godfrey advised they alraqdy discussed. He is leaning on Rich to come up with full cost of projects. Don Ehre is working on plans for the garage and Recycling Center.

C. Premo Property Update: Godfrey talked with Eric Dousharm. He checked out two properties in Prospect and doesn't feel there is asbestos in there. He would be willing to test it at a cost of under $1,000.00. Godfrey asked the board if they would like to go forward with it. Farr made motion to hire Eric Dousharm to check for asbestos, seconded by Crumb, 4 ayes.

D. Collins/Church Fire District Benefit- Godfrey advised Rosette Collins came in again. They have 3 or 4 churches they want to unite together and still do a benefit for the Barneveld Fire Department. This time she would like to use one of the pavilions in September and do just a barbeque and sell donation tickets to it. I said I would put it in front of the board. Farr made motion for pavilion use for the barbeque, with waiving the fee, seconded by Bennison, 4 ayes.

E. Central Paving for Swim Beach & High School Tennis Courts: Godfrey advised the concession stand and all around it is stone dust. We never paved it and it turns into a big mess because everyone walks through that to get into the concession stand and it gets tracked in. Godfrey talked to Rich and asked if he could get a price on continuing the pavement around the concession stand and into the swim pool area. Estimate is $11,900 and they can have it done next week. Farr made motion to have swim beach walkway paved around concession stand, seconded by Crumb, 4 ayes. Godfrey is waiting on other bids for the High School Tennis Courts.

VII. Committees:

A. Planning Board: Boulerice advised they have approved the sign for the Chinese Restaurant.

B. ZBA: Meeting was cancelled.

C. Greenbelt: Nothing

D. Infrastructure: Godfrey has been working with them and trying to get a grant to put in for NY Forward Grant. Crumb said he and John came up with a whole list of items for the grant. Dave Hoke sent Steve and Kate something about lighting. His question was about a lighting district and town wide lighting. Kate will look into the lighting district. Kate will also send information to Steve regarding an excellent grant writer that she knows.

F. Communications: Next Meeting June 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

G. **Adjournment** - Bennison made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm, seconded by Farr, 4 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna R. Mills
Deputy Town Clerk