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, Jason Stiehl, Kate Festine, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Debbie Premo, Theresa Inserra, Matt Putnam, David Putnam, James Mills, Lorraine Fava, Susan Piersall, Kennth Piersall, William Many Jr., Patricia Many, Paul and Laura Longeretta, Lisa Bellinger, Leo Boulerice, Kathleen Kellogg.

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

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor:

Debbie Premo advised she has property in Prospect on Church St. – 205 and 207. 205 is caving in from the winter. She was willing to donate that property to the town with the hope of absorbing the taxes that were owed them. She knows that Godfrey mentioned it was going to be tested for asbestos. Godfrey has a proposal from the agency that tests for asbestos and at the last meeting the Board agreed to go forward with that testing. Debbie Premo gave her permission.

Also, Debbie said regarding the 207 property that the cottage is on, she put personal belongings in that building for storage. So with that being said, the town showed interest in purchasing that piece and Debbie's only stipulation would be getting her things out of there. She would like to have it used for the basketball court. She advised there is also a right of way along the left side of the Post Office that goes back to 207. Godfrey asked if she has enlisted any help from a real estate agent and she advised that she wanted to talk to the Board first and see where she stood and then she would look into it. Godfrey said there is definitely interest in the first property and he will talk with the Board about the second property and get back to her. Debbie will also work on a figure. She would like to dedicate that spot as a part of Wayne Premo's legacy.

Dave Putnam – lives in Holland Patent and is now a teacher in Utica, NY. He wanted to discuss a request to hook up to the former Village of Prospect water system. He built a house during the pandemic with his son and 2 nephews. The property is on the corner of Corey Rd. and Trenton Falls Prospect Road. The northeast corner of the lot is in Prospect. There are some things that have to happen with the state before he can do a formal request for the water permit. His request today is to ask if this goes through, will there be resistance from the Board for the permit? If there is a reason that he could not hook up to it, then he will drill a well, but prefers to hook up into the water system if he could.

Godfrey said as far as your property, was it within the village or was it within the Prospect Water District? He advised he has the line for the village that runs across the northeast corner. The water stop is right there. Godfrey said when the village was dissolved into the town in 2015, what didn't happen was DEC was not notified from what I understand. As the Town Board we have to get through that. I think they are going to send out an application and at that point we can work with you on whether or not we can get that line across the road. Putnam said he will work with the town with whatever their rules are. Putnam just said if the answer will be no, he would like to know that up front.

Farr told Mr. Putnam with Barneveld in the past we have done work where we have split a line on a property to supply water for a new property. If the neighbors on the same side of your street have water, you might want to talk to them to see if either one of them are willing to let you consider sharing that line.

Godfrey also advised that when we took over the water system we also took over the Bylaws that the Prospect District Water had set up and we will have to take a look at those. Putnam said the only requirement is that it has to be ¾ inch copper pipe. He said the ¾ inch copper pipe is required to go underneath the road in the rules and regulations of the former village. If the town has adopted that and it's a strict rule, I don't want to spend $2,000 on copper.

Cutler said there are always exceptions to the rules. The building codes and health codes will work with you. The one issue Cutler has with Farr's suggestion is it might cost you more in the long run with easements, etc. Pex piping is allowed by NYS Code. Kate advised that the Town has the authority to amend the by-laws as it sees fit. If the Board wanted to they could state that the price can conform to NYS Building Codes.

Stiehl advised that boring under the road is the way to go. The only problem he has with digging the road up is it takes 3 or 4 years for that road to settle and get back to normal.

Godfrey said he will get things straightened out with the DEC and then try to speed things up to work together on getting it done.

Paul and Laura Longeretta – Recently they had the privilege of purchasing 120 Mappa Ave. from John and Lisa Mack and intend to make it a business office. He is a lawyer by trade and plans to establish their future here. It came to his attention that the property 114 Mappa Ave. has been a concern of the town. He has contacted the owner of that corner to see if he would be willing to sell that area to us not knowing all the structural problems. He extended an offer to purchase the building with money down, but they want him to pay the back taxes. Ms. Amber Perillo – a representative from the seller was at the meeting also. Part of that offer was to pay the back taxes and of course that was an area of concern because it would factor into the ability to buy it. He wanted to

approach the town to see if we could get some assistance from the town with the back taxes. I have engaged Ms. Festine, to see how this could be effectuated and was advised that the town has engaged a local contractor to demolish the building which is in need of emergency demolition.

Godfrey said there has been a long history with the owner and how there has never been any response from him. The next move was to take the old post office down and re-levy the cost to his taxes. There are a lot of requirements that need to take place with demolishing the building regarding air quality control, asbestos, how the debris is removed, all at the expense of the town. The process we have taken with 114 is that Ken and a certified engineer went over and inspected that building. We have letters from both sources that it is indeed in very bad shape.

Kate advised that in the report the building is at risk of collapse and the engineer pointed out the building has to come down before it falls. Godfrey did put in a request for a cost on taking down that building. If there is asbestos in there, it will have to be abated which is very costly. Mr. Longeretta said the town attorney has guided them in that process. His ultimate goal is to beautify that corner, and make it a grassy territory, maybe for public parking. Godfrey said the town thought about a parking lot with lighting because of events that go on at Unity Hall.

Kate said it's always been taxed as one parcel and what will happen is this October the cost of the cinder block demolition will be re-levied onto the county and town tax bill and when that is not paid by the owner, the county will pay us and it will eventually, depending on how many years of unpaid taxes there are, go on the county auction list. If we end up taking down the wooden building, that cost will also be re-levied onto the 2026 town and county tax bill.

Mrs. Longeretta said she offered to buy Pachura's 3 buildings and he told her he is going to stay and maintain the end parcel. The Longeretta's were given Anthony Carvelli's name to talk to about those back taxes.

Bill and Patricia Many – who reside on North Gage Rd. across from Walgreen's. They submitted an offer with Pavia for the Old Library. Mr. Many has need for the garage and would like to convert the building into a 2 bedroom apartment. He understands that there is asbestos and is willing to deal with that. Godfrey said it will be brought up as a resolution tonight whether to accept the offer.

Kate also advised if the board does approve it, within 30 days if citizens of the town want a permissive referendum on it, then it would be subject to a referendum. The chances of that happening are rare but she just wanted them to know.

Kate also explained the time frame to Mr. & Mrs. Many as to when they can proceed if the offer is accepted.

Boulerice explained to them about going to the Planning Board with their intent to make it a 2 bedroom apartment.

IV. Officer Reports:

A. **Highway Superintendent :** Jason advised they completed the paving projects for the most part. Hinman Rd. did go over budget by a fair amount but after arguing with the company, they did come down a little.
Jason was informed by Viking Cloud Equipment they are looking at about 2 years before they can order the truck.
Regarding the building situation, he got a price on putting storage up in Remsen which is probably the best option.
The American Rock Salt voucher was a rather large amount. He hears rumors of a salt shortage again this winter but he is prepared.

Abstracts # 197 to 215 in the amount of $47,217.89. Bennison made motion to pay vouchers #197 through 215 in the amount of $47,217.89, seconded by Jim Farr, 5 ayes.

B. Assessor: On Vacation this week.

C. **Zoning & Codes:**

Zoning Report: Boulerice advised many things happening as you can see by his report. One thing he didn't put on there is that he sent out a bunch of nasty grams. No responses from anyone yet.

Codes Report: Cutler said it's been a very busy month. With regard to the Miner property he said he can't stress enough the building is an eminent threat in coming down. Kate advised that the Board has the option under the Unsafe Building Law to declare it an emergency and request immediate demolition. Godfrey is not sure about the dollar amount yet and the asbestos issue. Cutler said no one can go into the building to do any asbestos check because it's that unsafe. You just have to do air sampling during the demolition.
Kate said the only thing missing is a price. Godfrey is waiting on that and as soon as it comes through the Board will get together again and Kate will do a written Resolution.

D. **NOCCOG**:

Lisa Bellinger - Lisa gave an overview of upcoming seminars. All can be seen on their website.

E. **Attorney:** Kate working on things.

Pavilion Rental Alcohol Policy: Godfrey advised there was an incident at the pavilion on Saturday. On our application they have to advise if they are having alcohol or not. If they are, they need to provide an insurance certificate listing indemnifying the town. This particular party checked no alcohol on their application but there was alcohol. There was an altercation and our head lifeguard went up there and had a discussion with one of them about their language and the children at the swimming beach. Should we look at no more alcohol or leave it where we are? Kate asked what kind of party was it. Kate said we have to insist up on the insurance certificate. Rachel said what we typically do is when the inspection happens if there is alcohol paraphernalia left there, they get a letter and don't get their deposit back. We also blacklist them from future rentals which is what we did with the renter on Saturday. We drafted a letter and told them they are no longer eligible to rent from us. Rachel will redo our application which needs updating and send it to Kate to review.

F. Clerk's Report:
Local shares remitted are $3,267.00.

V. Resolutions:

A. **Approve June 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Taylor made motion to approve meeting minutes from 06/25/2025, seconded by Crumb – 5 ayes.

B. **CBDG Grant - Appoint Fair Housing Officer:** Godfrey said he recently sent in a letter to Gov. Hochel that we would like to be a pro housing community. We have to submit other information and appoint a Fair Housing Officer. It has to be an elected official – usually Supervisor or Clerk but can be a Councilman. Bennison asked what they have to do and Godfrey advised there is some work – they need to take classes and we have to give them information and work with Codes and Zoning. The reason we are doing the Pro Housing is it helps with grant money for infrastructure.

Godfrey said we will put Councilman down and list Chris Crumb, who volunteered.
Taylor made motion to appoint the Fair Housing Officer as a Councilman position, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

C. **Approve Resurfacing of Trenton Tennis Courts:** Godfrey received a letter almost a year and a half ago that the courts were in really bad shape. We have taken care of them in the past as they are Town of Trenton courts. Rich received multiple quotes and the one from E-Z Companies in the amount of about $25,000.00 was the most reasonable.

Crumb made motion to go with E-Z Companies to resurface 3 tennis courts, seconded by Farr – 5 ayes.

D. Approve Roadside Stands:

Patti Casey, Jimmy Morawiec and Robin Loranger

Farr made motion to approve 3 Roadside stands for Patti Casey, Jimmy Morawiec and Robin Loranger, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

E. Pavia Real Estate Offer: Old Library/Ambulance Garage: Godfrey advised that we are looking at an offer of about $60,000.00. Kate is very familiar with the contract. Kate will send over a written Resolution to Rachel. Farr made motion to accept the real estate offer of $60,000, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

F. Approve Buildings & Grounds Summer Staff:

Chris Kelly	**$16.50**
Mark Wilcox	**$16.50**
Andrew Stanley	**$16.50**
Matt Murphy	**$17.00**

Taylor made motion to approve the new building and grounds staff Chris Kelly, Mark Wilcox, Andrew Stanley and Matt Murphy, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

G. **Abstracts:**

Hinckley- Abstracts # 14 and 15 in the amount of $120.71. Bennison made motion to pay abstracts numbered 14 and 15 in the amount of $120.71, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

General: Abstracts # 513 to 594 in the amount of $138,240.83. Taylor made motion to pay vouchers # 513 through 594 in the amount of $138,240.83, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

VI. Priority Issues:

A. Prospect Cemetery: Godfrey needs to talk with Dave McCoulliough. They are looking at possibly putting up a storage building. Looks like we will end up with that by the end of the year. All state guidelines go away if the town takes it over. Farr asked if it gets vandalized, are we still backed up by the state or is it on us to settle that? Godfrey believes it's on us. Rachel spoke with Whitestown and got the names and numbers of some guys who run the cemeteries in case we need help managing it.

B. Highway Garage and Recycling Building: Godfrey is waiting for a couple more quotes. He talked with Keith from Hanover Insurance. We are going to get a couple of quotes on what it would cost to replace the Highway Garage; the part that fell down which is 90' x 40'. He said get it priced out based on a steel structure which is far more expensive and then they will come up with a figure. At the same time we have stick built prices along with electrical and we will probably end up working with someone on the excavating. Based on the replacement value of a steel structure which is what fell down, we might be able to cover quite a bit of the new building.

Recycling Center – Godfrey has to contact Don Ehre because he hasn't heard back from him yet. He was going to come up with some ideas.

C. Prospect Water – David Putnam Godfrey put this in the agenda before he got all the DEC Information. Tabled for now.

VII. Committees:

A. Planning Board: Nothing.

B. ZBA: Nothing

C. Greenbelt: Nothing

D. Infrastructure: Godfrey is going to put in a letter of intent to try to do one of the NY Forward Grant.

VIII. Communications: Next Meeting July 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment - Farr made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker

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Town Clerk