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. Present were: Supervisor, Stephen Godfrey, Councilmen Michael Bennison, James Farr, Chris Crumb, Eric Taylor and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker. Kate Hartnett, Attorney attended by phone. Also attending, Jason Stiehl, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Leo Boulerice, Joe Rowlands, James H. Mills, Gregory J. Pflieger and Kevin Kalk.

I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Godfrey at 7:03 pm

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Danielle Johnson Presentation: Danielle unable to attend.

IV. Privilege of the Floor: None

V. Officers Reports:

A. Highway Superintendent

i. Report :

Stiehl advised that they sealed 10 feet of the roof where his office is and it worked. New lights make a big difference. Everything is ready for winter. Stiehl advised he wanted to discuss the Culvert Pipe Policy to get it in place for Spring. He provided the Board with Marcy's policy as well as Oneida County's policy and they will make a decision at the next meeting.

ii. Abstract:

Abstracts # 306 to 342 in the amount of $105,064.51. Bennison made motion to pay vouchers #306 through 342 in the amount of $105,064.51 seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

B. Assessor: Nothing exceptional going on.

C. **Zoning & Codes:**

Zoning Report: Boulerice is looking for recommendations as to what to do about Millers. Do we give them an extension or have Kate file an injunction in State Supreme Court. They sent a short letter indicating that they want to raise high dollar horses to offset the difference in their timber operation per Ag and Markets Law. Great idea but still a flawed concept because they have to harvest the timber from their own property and property that they lease. He wants guidance as to how to proceed with Millers and with other sawmills operating in the town. After a discussion,

Godfrey asked that Kate and Leo devise a letter giving them 45 days to stop and desist or be in contempt.
Bennison asked how much court action would be – Kate charges $175.00/hour. She believes that a lawsuit will end up costing less than $2500 assuming there is no appeal.
Bennison made motion to send letter first, giving them until December 9th, 2025 then take them to court, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Cutler asked how the legal path being taken on the Millers is going to impact the other sawmills in the town and do we have to follow the same path legally. Kate advised that the other sawmills were sent letters asking them to apply for a use variance.

Boulerice also advised Kate that all the other charges brought against the Millers for burning solid waste were dismissed in court on a technicality.

Codes Report: Cutler wanted to bring the board up to date on the Pachura property – Longeretta is the lawyer for the new owner and Pachura was personally served last Thursday and they gave him 10 days. The new owner is holding off and hopefully the legal system will get him out.

Constable advised that inspections are 75% done.

Recycling Building Plans - Cutler has taken a good look at the plans and Don Ehre addressed the situation of the snow load which is actually rated for the next step up. We are holding off on the negotiation for the insurance for the coverage of that building. Two weeks ago a few Board members met with Keith with the idea of discussing whether to go with building what we already had to a stronger code or possibly adding on a couple of ideas to make it a smoother operation.

Taylor made motion for the Recycling Building to go out to public bid with all sealed bids due by December 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm for bid opening, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes. Kate will prepare the packets and will put a starting date for construction of April 1, 2026 and would like it to be completed in 90 days or by June 30th, 2026.

D. **NOCCOG**: Joe Rowlands gave overview of upcoming webinars.
The Evolving Scope of the First Amendment in Municipal Law – CLE Webinar – November 19th
Solar and Battery Storage and the Local Review Process Webinar – November 20th
ATV Recreation Considerations for Municipalities – December 11th
Oneida County Establishes Emergency Response and Recovery Fund Info

Godfrey asked if there were any municipalities that were passing resolutions to opt out of the Electrical Residential Law that the State has passed. Cutler advised that the municipality can petition Niagara Mohawk and say we can't provide the lines or transformers, etc. and that exempts the township or the county.

Kate advised that there is legislation pending with Congress right now that would pre-empt these regulations in NYS. There is a good chance that this could be addressed at the federal level.

E. **Attorney:** Kate advised we did receive grant monies for the Barneveld Water District. We also received a low interest loan commitment. ECF is involved to finalize the grant approval. We have to file a notice of intent with NYS Department of Ag and Markets because some of the Barneveld Water District is in the Agriculture District. The State Dept. of Ag and Markets wants to make sure that our water facilities are not going to be diminishing access to water for agricultural operations. The lateral lines restrictions basically mean if you were a property owner benefiting from the designation of being in an Agricultural District which have property tax benefits, we are implementing restrictions on lateral lines being hooked up to our system for structures that are not meant for agriculture or that aren't already existing. We need to pass this Resolution to get Ag and Markets to sign off to satisfy ECF.

Farr made motion to adopt the Lateral Restriction – Conditions on Future Service specified by the NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets, seconded by Bennison.

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

BCA – Board approved 87 page document agreement on work already completed. We are now seeking approval to pay them for work that is done and approval for $5,000 for them to prepare a Map, Plan and Report for the new Barneveld Water District and $5,500 for a Preliminary Engineering Report for the 6 users that will remain on the existing system whereby the benefits of the new system will not extend.

Farr made motion to pay $5,000 for Map, Plan and Report and $5,500 for Preliminary Engineering Report, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

F. Supervisor's Report: Rachel gave the Board August and September's report. Will vote on them next meeting.

G. **Clerk Report**: Local shares remitted $1,786.00

VI. Resolutions:

A. **Approve 2026 Preliminary Budget:** Crumb made motion to adopt the Preliminary 2026 Budget, seconded by Taylor.

Roll Call:

Stephen Godfrey: Aye
Michael Bennison: Aye
Chris Crumb: Aye
Eric Taylor: Aye
James Farr: Aye

B. **Approve October 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Bennison made motion to approve 10/22/25 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

C. **Approve Tramp and Trail Club Maintenance Agreement:** Godfrey handed out letter from Tramp and Trail Club where they are willing to help us clean up the trails. They approached Rich Latus about it and Rich is concerned because they are out using chain saws, etc. Tabled so Godfrey can talk with Rich and check on insurance.

D. Approve Heather Nelson as Accounts Payable Clerk: Bennison made motion to approve Heather Nelson as Accounts Payable Clerk and assistant to the Supervisor, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

E. **Approve Keith Lighthall as ZBA Alternate:** Bennison made motion to approve Keith Lighthall as ZBA Alternate, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

F. **Approve Ambulance Rental at $1,500 per month:** Godfrey said he and Bennison met with North Star Ambulance, Steve Knapp, regarding the rental and yearly payment. They have 2 ambulances and want to put up a third and went to Rich. It was agreed that we would find a spot for them. The new rental will be $1,500 and they have agreed to that amount.

This year's amount for the original contract with Star Ambulance was going to be $86,500. That contract is null and void because there is no Star Ambulance. We talked with Steve and they asked for $85,000 based off a 3 year contract. Last year we paid $82,500.

Taylor made motion to accept $1,500 North Star Ambulance rental per month, seconded by Crumb, 5 ayes.

Farr made motion to pay $85,000, payable quarterly to North Star Ambulance, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

Kate will write up new Agreements for North Star Ambulance.

G. **Approve Clinton Lackton as Morning Swim Program Lead**: Crumb made motion to approve Clinton Lackton as Morning Swim Program Lead, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes.

H. **Approve BCA Agreement Barneveld Water District –** Done under Attorney

I. **Approve Rural Water District Lateral Restriction:** Done under Attorney

J. Abstracts:

Hinckley- Abstracts # 22 through 25 in the amount of $511.17. Bennison made motion to pay abstracts numbered 22 through 25 in the amount of $511.17, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

General: Abstracts # 898 to 988 in the amount of $107,170.56. Crumb made motion to pay vouchers # 898 through 988 in the amount of $107,170.56, seconded by Farr, 5 ayes.

VII. Priority Issues:

A. Ken and Dave Vehicles: Ken advised with gas, mileage and wear and tear on the vehicles, he believes the stipend needs to increase. He is thinking possibly $325 or $335. Godfrey told Ken they can keep track of their mileage and would get paid $.70 per mile instead of the stipend. Bennison read Ken's last voucher which was 23 miles per day at $.70 a mile x 22 days = $354.20. Ken advised he has far exceeded 23 miles and is over 30 already for the month. Steve advised the Board will discuss it and get back to them.

B. Premo Property: Godfrey said Kate is working on that with their attorney.

C. Prospect Cemetery: Godfrey advised that Rachel is now in possession of all the records. We need to find out the next step in the process. Kate asked Steve to find out if we need to do a resolution and she will prepare it. Rachel would like to set up a meeting with everyone involved.

D. Trenton Christmas Celebration Saturday, December 20th.

We are going to be doing a kids event earlier in the day and then our adult party later in the evening. Santa has already been booked!!!

E. Prospect Library Sale: Godfrey got a call from John Jweid of Pavia that they were going to be doing a walk through. Kate said closing is on Monday. She will bring papers to Steve to sign, then overnight them to Syracuse. They will forward her a check and she will deliver it to the town. She will go over the statement of sale with Steve when he signs the papers.

VIII. Committees:

A. Planning Board:

B. ZBA:

C. Greenbelt:

D. Infrastructure: John Sherman came in yesterday and will be starting on a NY Forward Deal to get ready for next year. They have agreed to work on that with us.

Rachel advised it was brought to our attention today by our water operator that at 139 Mappa Ave, we cannot turn off the water because the curb stop is under the concrete of the sidewalk and it's broken. The previous owner was in default with us the past year. She left and the house went into foreclosure in June. Americu now owns it but our water operator thinks squatters are living there. Water is being used and going through the meter. Noone is paying the bill and we cannot turn off the water. Jim Farr said the procedure is to have the property owner excavate and replace the broken parts. Kate said if Rachel would email her the details, she will contact Jeff Lottermoser, who handles some things for Americu and discuss the situation with him.

IX. Communications: Next Meeting December 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

X. Executive Session: Crumb made motion to go into Executive Session at 8:54 pm to discuss employment history of an individual, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes. Taylor made motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:09 pm, seconded by Bennison, 5 ayes. No decisions made.

XI. Adjournment - Crumb made motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10 pm, seconded by Taylor, 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker

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Town Clerk