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 at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Michael Bennison, Councilmen Chris Crumb, James Farr, James Mills and Town Clerk, Rachel I. Bunker. Councilman Eric Taylor was absent. Also present, Kate Festine, Esquire, Lisa Bellinger, Ken Cutler, Dave Constable, Leo Boulerice, Theresa Inserra.

I. Call to Order

Supervisor Bennison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Pledge to the Flag

III. Privilege of the Floor:

Chris and Jennifer Synakowski were at the meeting regarding the Millers' sawmill. Kate advised them that on August 11th there will be a hearing. When she filed the paperwork she asked for temporary conjunctive relief ordering them to stop operating the sawmill. The Supreme Court of Oneida County said they need to cease operating while pending. If they are still operating, Kate asked Chris and Jennifer to let her know. They both advised they know for a fact they are still operating and will get her proof from the road.

Jerry Almas was at the meeting to talk about his advertising business. He recently had the opportunity to speak with 2 property owners in the Town of Trenton and spoke with Leo and put in an application. He was advised the Town does not allow billboards. He received an automatic denial under the fact that there was a law no billboards allowed in the Town of Trenton. But there is a Rocky's sign that was approved 2 years ago with just the application itself. The property owner walked in, did the application and it was approved. He is not sure what has changed in 2 years and is looking for opinions because he plans on putting in more applications but doesn't want to waste his money or time. If that one was approved, then why can't his be approved? Boulerice advised that the Rocky's sign got by them, plain and simple. We can have Sal Longo remove the sign or he can apply for a use variance. Kate said she would prefer to give the Board legal advice in Executive Session. Supervisor advised they would get back to Mr. Almas.

IV. Officer's Reports

A. **Highway Superintendent**: Stiehl couldn't make the meeting. He will be meeting tomorrow at Noon with Don Ehre and Richard Alexander Company regarding the cold storage building.

i. **Abstract:** Abstracts 238 to 260 in the amount of $19,743.29. Jim Farr made motion to pay abstracts 238 to 260 in the amount of $19,743.29, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

B. NOCCOG: Lisa Bellinger advised of upcoming programs and webinars.

- Celebrate America 250 by enjoying the role Oneida County played in our independence.
- Cornell Local Roads Program is offering webinars on Tuesdays mornings on various topics.
- Role of Local Leadership in Attracting Investment and Economic Development webinar July 23rd.
- DEC Urban & Community Forestry Grants due August 12th.
- Oneida County Housing Tax Incentives –Information on the Uniform Tax Exemption Agency Benefits Policy to help expand housing development in the county.
- NOCCOG 2026 Scholarship Awards were given to local students.
- All information is available on the NOCCOG website.

C. Assessor: Nothing

D. **Codes:** Cutler provided reports to Board. He was asked if there was any information on the Pachura properties. Cutler said he was working on compliance the other day. He received a call from the owners the other day and was advised they sold the property. He is trying to determine who the buyer is and whether it has been closed on yet. Cutler advised it is important to address the items that Leo, Theresa and Kate spoke of because we are bringing people in under Ken's code when we should have the new local law that we were going to get for zoning. Kate advised it is not a zoning law. Cutler asked Kate about the local law for Codes that the town was going to do. He said the process is the Planning Board and the Code official review the new applicant, their intent, a site visit to verify their intent and then they are approved or not approved, etc. Theresa advised the Planning Board has an issue. They want to know if they could put something in that if you're changing businesses or need to add or delete or change, they need to come to the town. Kate advised when they pass the local law, they will advertise that there is a new law in the Town of Trenton regulating this aspect of businesses. It can also be sent to realtors.

Mills asked Ken about the placard on the church in Hinckley, but doesn't see it on his list. There are also 3 properties on the report listed as referred for legal. Ken advised that's up to Kate.

Zoning: Boulerice advised they need to discuss billboards and updates to the Zoning Regulations. He was looking at making some other changes as well. Good news – two new things coming into the Planning Board – Rob Foote and Vogel - the hotel behind Stewarts. It is not a hotel, he has been renting month to month which could be an issue. Theresa advised she sent certified letters to both of them based on the recommendations of the Planning Board. There was a list for each of them of what the Planning Board wanted to see on the site plans that were submitted for review.

E. Supervisor Report: Hold off to do at work session.

i. 7:30 pm McKenzie Lehman, BCA Conference Call – Explanation of Waste Water Grant Process.

McKenzie Lehman and Cory Reid were at the meeting via phone. McKenzie gave a synopsis of an email from EFC when they opened up the application that they had done away with their long standing rule of removing any third party funding from full project costs prior to using their grant amount. Last year the town received approval for about $16 million in WIIA grant money. We are still trying to get a WQIP grant which would be $10 million. They would take that off the total project cost first so the $32 million project would be a $22 million project and they would reconfigure their grant based on a $22 million project rather than the original $32 million project. Ultimately it would decrease the grants by 50%. They are advising the town to return the $16 million grant and reapply this year. The project 48 points would increase to 83 points. By increasing to 83 points, you would bypass 61 projects. EFC hinted that the town would reap the benefits in this change in rules. Cory advised that even though you have the $16 million, you cannot move forward and use that money because it does not complete the project. If the points do go up you would be definitely favorable for the funding.

Jim Farr asked how small of a pool are we gambling in with the score we have.

Cory also advised that we are a long way out from construction in 2029 and we would exceed the Comptroller's threshold. Right now we are right at that limit. Kate said for the wastewater this is a game changer because we do not have Comptroller approval because they are not going to approve us until we show that we have the funding. If we can come in

under that threshold because we reduce the end user cost, the project can take off. McKenzie said to Jim in answer of his question, based on last year's plan and point score, between the entry points that the town project is at now there are 35 projects where last year it would have been 98 projects. McKenzie said it will have to be resubmitted by the 27th, so she needs to know as soon as possible. Supervisor Bennison said he will let her know by Friday. Will discuss more in Executive Session.

F. **Town Clerk Report**: Local shares remitted $6,768.50.

G. **Attorney Report:** Kate said they talked about the Amish. She is going to ask the Board to take Supreme Court action against O'Donnell for codes violations in the Town. Jim Farr made motion for Town Attorney to take legal action against O'Donnell for codes violations, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

Kate has a local law that she talked to Bennison and Eric Taylor about. With regard to the battery energy solar system in the Town of Webb that they wanted to build to Bald Mountain, the Town of Webb has implemented a moratorium. Kate has prepared for this Board to introduce a local law to put a moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems for 12 months. There is a lot that needs to be looked into regarding these. Our zoning laws right now are not prepared if an application were to come through. Plus, we need to see where the state is going to land on this too.

Jim Mills moved to introduce Local Law # 1, 2026 for a 12 month moratorium on Energy Storage System, seconded by Chris Crumb, 4 ayes.

Chris Crumb moved to call for a Public Hearing on the Local Law #1 to be held at the next meeting at the end of the month, seconded by James Mills, 4 ayes.

Lateral Lines Restriction Resolution. Kate advised this is required by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Because this is for the wastewater district, we have this exact same resolution for the water district. Ag and Markets wants it for the sewer district too. What this does is restrict lateral lines or new connections to the sewer system for property that is not existing at the time the district was formed or non-agricultural uses.
Chris Crumb made motion for a Lateral Lines for Sewer Resolution, seconded by Jim Farr.

Roll Call:
Michael Bennison - Aye
James Mills - Aye
Christopher Crumb – Aye
James Farr – Aye

H. Buildings & Grounds: Keith advised they got certified to move forward with the roof on the Highway Garage. Basketball hoops are being installed in Prospect. Will be done before the grand opening on the 20th. Union Park – turf on backside will be completed. Keith has been talking with a possible Water Operator/Utility Worker.
Bennison asked if he got a quote on removing the trees at Hinge Park. Keith advised he has not gotten back to him yet. He will reach out one last time and then look elsewhere. Bennison asked him to talk to Kevin Kalk from NYSDOT about maybe getting the state to take them down depending on how wide the easement is.

V. Resolutions:

A. Approve June 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Jim Farr made motion to approve June 24, 2026 minutes, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

B. Abstracts:

i. Hinckley: Chris Crumb made motion to approve Hinckley abstracts number 14 and 15 in the amount of $92.92, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

ii. General: Chris Crumb made motion to approve General vouchers numbered 531 to 652 in the amount of $146,755.18, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

VI. Priority Issues:

Bennison advised they are going to meet tomorrow with Don Ehre and Alexander at noon. Jim Farr made Resolution for the Supervisor to sign any appropriate paperwork to get the construction started, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes

A. Asset Inventory: Keith is working on – will get it done this week.

B. Trenton Community Hall Roof: Most of the roof taken off.

C. Waste Water Funding: Discussed earlier.

D. Trenton Falls Trails: Still waiting for confirmation from Tramp and Trails.

E. Prospect Playground Ribbon Cutting – July 20th. Rachel would like to do evening when the family can come. Possibly 6 or 7 pm.

F. Buildings & Grounds: Discussed earlier.

G. Amish Sawmill Update: Hearing at Oneida County Courthouse on August 11, 2026 at 10:00 am.

H. Basketball Fence: Bennison advised price is $25,000. Will look to get a grant on that along with multiple bids.

I. Bridge Contract: They opened the bids. One came in at $4 million but that was rescinded because the others were $5 million. It is going to be $5.1 million to redo the bridge. In 2017 it was $2.5 million. Town has to pay 5% of $5 million. Project scheduled for Spring 2027. Stiehl will be closing the bridge this winter.

J. Vets Memorial: August 23, 2026 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Will have a dedication of the Veteran's Memorial at the park.

K. Grant Writer: Bennison advised that we need a grant writer. Crumb advised we have 3 names right now with phone numbers. We need to interview each. Kate advised she knows a wonderful grant writer – Don Hall. Kate said he has gotten so much money for the Village of New York Mills. She provided Crumb his number.

L. Speed Reduction Request: Bennison handed out an email from a resident regarding an incident on Route 28 and is requesting a speed reduction. Bennison talked with Kevin Kalk and the Wednesday after the event happened he called his boss and they are going to be doing a traffic study there. Kate advised they should reach out to the County Highway Superintendent and advise about the near misses the neighbors have complained about to make sure the county will be on board with this request. Then we can pass a

resolution if we can get a letter from the County Highway Superintendent saying that he supports it. Kate will put together a TE9 and have it at the next meeting.

VII. Committees:

A. Planning Board: Theresa advised she sent letters out to the Budget Inn saying she needs more information than provided. River Hills never responded to any of the information several times. DG Market wanted to put propane tank cage out months ago. We wrote them and said give us a clearer site plan. Every time she asks he says we are waiting for a new site plan.

B. ZBA: Public Hearing on Monday for Danny Schwartzentruber, corner of Mapledale and 365 about his shed building business.

C. Greenbelt: Tug Hill Tomorrow is looking to set up a tent and have some food over at the Greenbelt along with a porta potty. This request was approved. Expenses are being taken care of by Tug Hill Tomorrow.

D. Infrastructure: Nothing

VIII. Communications:

A. Next Meeting July 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm

B. Executive Session: Crumb made motion to go into Executive Session at 8:10 pm to discuss legal matters, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

Jim Farr made motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:38, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes. Motion was made by Jim Farr to go forward with the new grant, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

IX. Adjournment:

Chris Crumb made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm, seconded by Jim Mills, 4 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk