

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2022

Members Present: Supervisor, Richard Lewis; Councilmen: Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn, Jamee Mack; Highway Superintendent, Marty Vondracek; Code Enforcement / Building Inspector Rick Carroll.

Public in attendance: Roxanne Leyes, Barbara Halpin.

The public hearing for the proposed 2023 budget was called to order at 7:04 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: Barbara Halpin had several questions regarding the proposed budget that were answered by the members of the town board. Public hearing for the 2023 budget ended at 7:16 pm.

RESOLUTION 77-2022

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the 2023 Budget as presented to the Town Board.
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 78-2022

RESOLVE that the minutes of the October board meeting be accepted.
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 79-2022

RESOLVE that the October Clerk's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.
RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 80-2022

RESOLVE that the October Justice Report be accepted as submitted to the State Comptroller and the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: It has been a fairly active month. The number of permits issued dropped a little; two were issued last month. One permit was for a solar array, and another was for an addition. There are two more projects in process, but they will have to go before the planning board and ZBA for approval. The total number of permits year-to-date is 28. There are four new houses that are being built with a 5th coming soon. These will help with the assessed value for the

town. Rick did 10 construction inspections. One project has had a lot of issues with the contractor. An engineer is working with the contractor and homeowner to fix the problems. Rick also did a final inspection on the new home on Oak Hill Road, and issued a certificate of occupancy. Rick also issued a stop work order for a project that did not produce the proper documentation that had been requested.

Rick completed 8 hours of continuing education training and has a total of 29 hours to date. He is still attempting to get in touch with the town's attorney; most of his calls and emails go unanswered. Jamee Mack questioned whether a property in the hamlet of Alpine had been issued a building permit, and Rick will check into that property. Glenn Bleiler had questions about the project going on at Bergen's Farm. Roxanne Leyes said that David Burke is looking into the laws/requirements in regards to what may be required for the project in question.

RESOLUTION 81-2022

RESOLVE that the October Supervisor's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: The Peterbilt is back up and running – so far so good. They have been putting gravel on Steam Mill Road and Hosenfeld Road, with 166 loads between the two roads. They have hauled in 20 more loads of washed sand. The International is at Wilbri getting the new box put on it, and everything is set to go for the storm tonight. When Marty went to pick up the old Peterbilt, he discovered the new one had been delivered. It won't be ready for a while yet.

RESOLUTION 82-2022

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid G 216 – 233 in the total sum of \$7,418.20 and H 106 – 111 in the total sum of \$21,747.33.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business:

Rental Law / Zoning Ordinance Review – These issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mowing – Marty was looking for quotes on mowing services.

RESOLUTION 83-2022

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine advertise a request for bids for mowing and trimming services for the Catharine Town Hall, Park, and Highway Garage areas in the Observer Review & Express and the Hi-Lites.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

New Business:

Dog Control Services Renewal – Jamee Mack requested that Kellie check on the cost of this service before renewing the contract with Schuyler County.

Restore NY Funding – Richard Lewis will forward an email he received from Fonda Chronis to the rest of the board members regarding funding available to municipalities to rejuvenate or tear down old buildings.

Town Lawyer – There have been issues with contacting the current attorney for the Town of Catharine. Our current contact with the law firm had retired, and the new contact is not responding to phone calls or emails. Supervisor Lewis has spoken with an attorney who is interested in working for the Town of Catharine. Guy Krogh is currently the attorney for several towns and municipalities. His rate is less than what we are paying now, and there is no retainer fee.

RESOLUTION 83-2022

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine retain Guy Krogh, of the law firm Thaler & Thaler of Ithaca as the attorney for the Town.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

4th Quarter Sales Tax – Jamee Mack informed the Town Board that there will not be a payment for the 4th Quarter Sales Tax as the limit has been reached.

The year-end meeting will be held on December 28th at 4 pm.

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk / Tax Collector

Next meeting December 20, 2022 at 7:00pm