

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2023

Members Present: Supervisor, Richard Lewis; Councilmen: Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman, Jamee Mack; Highway Superintendent, Marty Vondracek; Code Enforcement / Building Inspector Tony Nevone

Public in attendance: Roxanne Leyes, Chris Conolly, Mike Brown, Deb Albro, Felicity Wright, Meg Cabezas, Howard Cabezas, William Fearn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: Michael Brown, the Clean Energy Communities Coordinator with Cornell Cooperative Extension, came in to discuss grant opportunities for the town through NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). Mr. Brown discussed multiple ways the town could earn points to qualify for different levels of grants. One option was to have the town adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit. Mr. Brown answered questions from the board members regarding this matter.

RESOLUTION 45-2023

ADOPTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT

WHEREAS, The Town of Catharine Town Board duly adopted the "NYS Fire Prevention and Building Construction" code to provide minimum requirements to safeguard the public safety; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Catharine Code Enforcement Officer, who administers and enforces all provisions of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, the New York State Energy Code, and the Town of Catharine Code; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Catharine requires the issuance of a building permit for the construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, removal, or demolition of any building or other structure; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code regulates the design, construction, installation, alteration and repair of equipment and systems using solar systems; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has developed a New York State Unified Solar Permit that reduces the cost for solar projects by streamlining municipal permitting processes: and

WHEREAS, The Town of Catharine Town Board desires to promote the streamlining of the application process for small-scale photovoltaic system installations under 25 kW in size by adopting the New York State Unified Solar Permit application form and implementing the new procedures,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Catharine Town Board hereby adopts the New York State Unified Solar Permit application form and procedures for the installation of small-scale photovoltaic systems; and it is further

RESOLVED, The Town of Catharine Code Enforcement Officer is hereby directed to use said New York State Unified Solar Permit application form and procedures in the issuance of building permits for the installation of small-scale photovoltaic systems; and it is further

RESOLVED, Any further actions required of the Town of Catharine to effect the foregoing are hereby authorized and the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute and deliver any instruments, documents or the like as required to effect the same.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 46-2023

RESOLVE that the minutes of the June board meeting be accepted.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 47-2023

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

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 48-2023

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Tony reported that he had four new violations written and did ten inspections. Tony also worked on a property that required him to contact adult services for the resident due to the living conditions. He has been working on the paperwork for at least ten separate people with a total of 73 violations that need to be brought to court. Tony suggested having a grant writer come to a board meeting – they would discuss helping the town with grants for property owners to fix their properties if they are facing financial difficulties. Glenn Bleiler asked about what types of grants are available, and Tony offered examples. Jamee Mack asked Tony why the town needed to hire a grant writer, as the county already has one that will work with the town and she will not vote yes to pay for a grant writer for the town.

RESOLUTION 49-2023

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: Oak Hill Road blacktop was done on the fifth; Marty is letting it cure before he has it chip sealed. They borrowed the broom and pulled shoulders on a few roads. The Cat broke so he had it fixed, and then the nox filter went. The '97 autocar that was put on Auctions International reached a bid of \$8,600. Marty discussed the matter with Supervisor Lewis, and he was told to go ahead and sell it. The new 10-wheeler will be delivered soon.

Marty presented the town board members with a copy of road specifications that he would like the town to adopt. He pulled the information from Hector. This would protect the town against roads not being up to specifications before the town takes over any roads. Jamee Mack asked why this is needed, and Marty gave an example of a property owner building a long driveway and then giving the road to the town – the road must meet the specifications put forth in the road specifications before the town would take over any road.

Chris Conolly asked about the process for taking over roads, and the town board members and Marty discussed the matter. Chris felt that the public should be involved and that there should be a public hearing. Supervisor Lewis felt that we should adopt it now. Chris Conolly would like the planning board and code enforcement officer to look at the suggested road specifications.

RESOLUTION 50-2023

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 140 – G 158 in the total sum of \$9,597.39 and H 72 – H 78 in the sum of \$ 14,513.16.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business: Supervisor Lewis stated that we are still waiting for more comments from the code enforcement officer on the proposed zoning changes. Supervisor Lewis would like to have everything ready by September. Tony said it will be at least a few months before he has everything together and explained why it will take that amount of time.

New Business: Park Pavilion – The Town Clerk discussed the damage caused to the electric pole and wiring for the large pavilion in the park caused by a dead tree. An estimate for repairs was received from JAC contracting, and the town's insurance company will be sending a check for the repairs, minus the \$500 deductible that the town will need to pay. Kellie also discussed the need for repairs to the dugouts, bleachers, and fencing in front of the dugouts. Estimates were discussed for the bleachers and the fencing, and the highway department can handle the repairs to the dugouts.

RESOLUTION 51-2023

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine purchase two sets of 3-tier, 12-foot aluminum bleachers from Belson Outdoors for the total price with shipping of \$2,955.65.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Parking Lot – The Town Clerk discussed the need for a paved parking lot for the Town Hall. Kellie explained about the difficulties with people double parking behind the handicapped parking spots, and issues with safety in the winter due to slippery conditions, and in the summer due to deep puddles and washouts caused by heavy rains. Several estimates were presented. Jamee Mack said that this would need to be put out for bid, so the town board decided to have the Town Clerk advertise the need. Jamee Mack suggested that Marty should check to see if we can piggyback on county bids for the paving.

Motion to Adjourn by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.
Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie A. Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next Meeting August 15, 2023

DRAFT

