

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2023

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

Public in attendance: Logan Valentine, RN, CLC – Schuyler County Public Health, Tom Ruocco, Chris Conolly, Schuyler County Sheriff Kevin Rumsey.

Public Heard: Logan Valentine presented information to the members of the board and the public present regarding the programs available to the public through their office. Flyers were left with the town clerk and will be available to the public in the town hall office.

Tom Ruocco expressed his concerns regarding the construction time limits in the proposed Noise Control Law, and stated this was the first he has heard of the proposed law. He asked where it was advertised, and he was informed that the public hearing was advertised in the Hi-Lites, the Observer Review & Express, the Odessa File, and also on the home page of the town's website.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 75-2023

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

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 76-2023

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

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 77-2023

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Tony stated that there hasn't been too much new going on; he will be going to court soon with at least 15 violation cases. He has issued a few permits and there have already been multiple demolitions of buildings in the Town of Catharine. He has also received several neighbor complaints and has been dealing with those issues.

RESOLUTION 78-2023

RESOLVE that the August Supervisor's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 79-2023

RESOLVE that the September Supervisor's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: Marty stated that they've done half a dozen plow and sand runs and have been ditching and repairing holes caused by all the rain. There were no reports of flooding. Ronald Hoffman asked Marty to check the Rhodes Road sluice pipe for an obstruction.

RESOLUTION 80-2023

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 250 – G 277 in the total sum of \$8,849.04 and H 122 – H 129 in the sum of \$4,061.19.

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business:

Noise Control Law – Supervisor Lewis stated that two sections were added to the draft of the proposed Noise Control Law after concerns raised by the public during the November public hearing. A construction section and enforcement section were added to the draft by the Town's attorney.

Ronald Hoffman made a motion to kill the proposed Noise Control Law and the motion was seconded by C. Michael Learn. A vote was called, with Ronald Hoffman and C. Michael Learn voting in favor of the motion. No other votes for or against were received.

There was much discussion between the board members and the members of the public present regarding whether there was enough support for this proposed law. Jamee Mack felt that another public hearing should be held because of the changes made to the draft, and to give another opportunity for additional public input. The board members agreed to hold another public hearing, and it will be advertised and scheduled for 7 pm on January 16th.

Glenn Bleiler reminded the board members that there was an open motion on the table, and Supervisor Lewis stated that the Motion was not carried due to only two votes in favor of the motion.

New Business: Year-End Meeting – The board members discussed dates and availabilities, and decided on Thursday, December 28th at 1 pm.

Correspondence – A letter was presented to the town board from Ronald Goosen informing them that his records are available to the board for an audit. The Town Clerk will ask the Town Bookkeeper about conducting the audit for the town board.

The Town Board members asked Sheriff Kevin Rumsey to offer his opinion on the proposed Noise Control Law. Sheriff Rumsey stated that it was a very comprehensive draft. He also stated that New York State Penal Code 240.20 would work also for these types of complaints. He advised, however, that both the Noise Law and the Penal Code would require the victim to be willing to testify against the accused in court.

When questioned about why deputies and dispatchers were telling town residents that “nothing could be done” regarding current noise complaint issues because the town has no current local law regarding noise complaints, the Sheriff stated that they might need some reeducation regarding the law. He stated that the state law currently in effect can be enforced, and anyone who has any issues with harassment can contact him directly to seek a resolution.

Motion to Adjourn by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.
Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting December 28, 2023 at 1:00pm