

TOWN OF CATHARINE
PUBLIC HEARING Followed By
TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 16, 2024

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

Public in attendance: Sharon Bradford, Cheyenne Bradford, Roxanne Leyes, David Burke, Tom Ruocco, Kristi Allen, Chris Conolly, Randy Lovell, Joe Allen, Brenda Reynolds, Brett Reynolds, Jon Underdown, Anne Wilson, Bird Southern.

The Public Hearing regarding the proposed Noise Control local law was called to order at

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: The members of the public present were for their comments by Supervisor Lewis regarding the proposed Noise Control local law. Multiple members of the public present gave their thoughts either for or against the proposed law. Randy Lovell stated his thoughts on legislation and asked questions regarding measuring noise and about using video as prima facie evidence. Jon Underdown also expressed his questions on how noise would be measured. These questions were answered by Tony Nevone, who described the device that would be used and the calibration requirements for that device.

In response to questions regarding why this legislation was being proposed, Supervisor Lewis responded that the Sheriff's office was not assisting town residents with their noise complaints. Kristi Allen responded with the minutes of the board meeting that Sheriff Rumsey attended and read about his comments regarding his deputies and dispatchers possibly needed education regarding the law. Kristi asked why local legislation was needed when the Sheriff stating there was already a state law that would cover these types of noise complaints. Supervisor Lewis stated that the law in existence does not cover the noise coming from inside a private residence.

Kristi Allen asked the board members if anyone had called the sheriff's office to ask about the number of complaints that have been received from town residents, and the board members responded that they hadn't asked. Sharon Bradford stated that she had called the sheriff's office and she had not received a response. Supervisor Lewis stated he had received phone calls and/or emails in support of the proposed law from Sam Supek, Ira Ray, and Bill and Carol Fagnan.

Jon Underdown asked if special events would require noise permits, and he was answered in the affirmative. Kristi Allen, Brenda Reynolds, and others present expressed their concerns regarding possible lawsuits and enforcement issues. The board was also questioned about how much this new legislation would cost the town.

Members of the public present were asked to show by raised hands if there were any in favor of this proposed legislation, and hands were raised by Sharon Bradford and Anne Wilson. Brett Reynolds stated that this legislation should be put to a public vote. Jamee Mack stated that this legislation would only require three affirmative votes by the town board to pass. Brett responded that the board has to take comments from the public into consideration.

Multiple members of the public present also expressed their concerns about this legislation being for a very small percentage of the residents of the Town of Catharine.

The public hearing for the proposed Noise Control law ended at 7:58 pm.

The board meeting was called to order at 7:59 pm.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 1-2024

RESOLVE that the minutes of the December 2023 Year-End board meeting be accepted.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 2-2024

RESOLVE that the December 2023 Clerk's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 3-2024

RESOLVE that the December 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 presented his year-end report to the board members. He stated that there's been one demolition that is 90% complete, and two more are being scheduled. He has also issued several violation notices.

RESOLUTION 4-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 5-2024

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

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

The board members discussed the December Supervisor's Report, and will wait for the next board meeting to approve this report and budget adjustments. Glenn Bleiler expressed his thanks to everyone responsible for getting everything straightened out with the reports. Supervisor Lewis will work on certificates for all those involved.

Highway Superintendent's Report: Marty said they have done eight plow runs in the last two weeks. On the seventh, they discovered the radiator in the '14 Pete was leaking. There was a hole in it from a rock. They set up the International for plowing. During last week's storm, there were a lot of branches down along with a tree on Brink Road. No one contacted the town or the sheriff's office about the tree. He hasn't had a chance to get prices for a generator yet, and will work on that for the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 6-2024

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid G 1 – G 26 in the total sum of \$29,768.29 and H 1 – H 13 in the sum of \$33,941.20.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business:

NYSERDA Grant – A letter to the grant committee was signed by Supervisor Lewis, and will be attached to the grant application.

Noise Control Law – Supervisor Lewis asked if everyone was ready to vote on the proposed law. Glenn Bleiler was not ready to vote yet, and questioned the sheriff's statement at a previous meeting about retraining his deputies. He would like the District Attorney's office and the sheriff to be in the same room to clarify things for the board members and Jamee Mack agreed. Supervisor Lewis will contact these offices about coming to next month's meeting.

New Business:

Assessment Review Board – The town board members discussed the vacancy on Assessment Review Board.

RESOLUTION 7-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine appoint Barlow Rhodes to the Assessment Review Board for a term running from January 2024 through December 2028.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Personnel Policy Updates regarding Holidays – The board members discussed updating the personnel policy for the town to include all approved federal holidays.

RESOLUTION 8-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine personnel policy change the wording for the holiday section to state “all holidays as designated by the federal government as acknowledged holidays.”

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting February 20, 2024 at 7:00pm

DRAFT