

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2024

Members Present: Supervisor, Richard Lewis; Councilmen: Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman, Jamee Mack.

Absent: Councilman: C. Michael Learn; Highway Superintendent, Marty Vondracek; Code Enforcement / Building Inspector Anthony Nevone.

Public in attendance: Adam Mahnke, Andy Lederman, Amber Cilley, Larry Reynolds, Chris Conolly, Michele Hill, Kevin P. Rumsey, Rosa Rice, Bill Fearn, Roxanne Leyes, Gerry Messmer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard:

Odessa Fire Chief Adam Mahnke came in to discuss the fire protection budget for 2025. He explained the many issues the department faces with new OSHA requirements being proposed, and the anticipated increases in various departmental costs and the need to replace the current fire department building. Chief Mahnke explained that there would be an increase of 15% for 2025, 7% for 2026, and 5% for 2027. He expected that the budget increases for after that time would revert to the normal yearly 2 to 3 percent increases.

Fire Chief Mahnke also requested permission from the Catharine Town Board to explore the possibility of converting the Village of Odessa Fire Department into a Fire District. Members of the town board asked many questions regarding the process, and questioned the amount of funding that would be required to cover the legal fees. Concerns were raised regarding keeping these fees below a certain amount, and Mayor Messmer stated that the Village of Odessa would be covering the costs of legal fees for this process.

Supervisor Lewis made a motion to give permission to investigate converting the fire department into a fire district.

RESOLUTION 34-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine gives the Odessa Hose and Chemical Company, in conjunction with the Village of Odessa, permission to engage legal counsel to explore logistics for converting to a Fire District, with a minimum of quarterly updates to the Town of Catharine on costs and progress.

RESOLUTION by Richard Lewis, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes (Richard Lewis, Ronald Hoffman, Glenn Bleiler, Jamee Mack), 0 noes.

Motion carried.

Andy Lederman came to the board meeting to express his thoughts on the proposed noise control law, and he was informed by the board members that the proposed law was "dead." Andy then provided the town board members and members of the public present with his side of the story in regards to the ongoing neighbor dispute in the hamlet of Alpine.

Sheriff Kevin Rumsey addressed the town board regarding the neighbor dispute in the hamlet of Alpine. He wanted everyone to be aware that neither party met the requirements for an arrest to be made or a harassment complaint to be filed. Sheriff Rumsey then stated that he would be attending more board meetings in the future to give updates on various things. He added that the Sheriff's department had received a \$10,000 navigation grant for personnel and equipment, which will allow them to be more present on Little Lake.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 35-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 36-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 37-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Tony was unable to attend the meeting. Supervisor Lewis read Tony's report: Tony conducted 18 inspections and issued 6 permits. He received and acted upon 4 complaints. Two violations were identified and acted upon. Tony conducted research for court cases involving multiple violations. He engaged with five homeowners to discuss their projects. Tony attended one formal meeting and attended two hours of Energy Code training.

RESOLUTION 38-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report:

Marty was unable to attend the meeting. Supervisor Lewis read Marty's report: They have been grading roads. They put 34 loads of gravel on Steam Mill Road, just off the blacktop, the road was down to the clay.

They also put 54 loads of gravel on Carley Road, which was also down to the clay.

Marty said they had to put gravel on those roads to get them read for Dust/oil, which is now done on all the roads that were scheduled for it.

Soil and water did the ditches on Steam Mill Road; a couple sections with stone. They also did a section of ditch with cross pipe on Carley Road.

They have started mowing the roadsides.

Yesterday and today, they did shared services with Montour – they have been hauling gravel to Upper Foothill Road.

The blacktop for Cayutaville Road is scheduled for June or July.

Chemung Supply will be out tomorrow morning to look at the guardrails on Steam Mill Road to give us a quote.

Marty would like to get quotes for a standby generator for the Highway Garage. He knows it will be over \$20,000, and wants to know if we can advertise it for bids.

The members of the town board agreed to have Marty advertise for bids for a standby generator for the Highway Garage.

RESOLUTION 39-2024

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 95 – G 115 in the total sum of \$12,134.80 and H 44 – H 51 in the sum of \$9,282.56.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business: The Town Clerk reminded the board members that the remaining Covid funds need to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. She will email Glenn the documents regarding this matter.

New Business: Jamee Mack would like the town board to consider allowing UTVs/ATVs on town roads. She stated that Sheriff Rumsey is in favor of this, if there are regulations put in place for safety concerns. Sheriff Rumsey agreed that he would not oppose the idea, with the stipulation that there should be rules and regulations.

The Town clerk asked the board to consider increasing the fee for the Zoning Board of Appeals application. The fee is currently \$20, and the cost per meeting is approximately \$120 to \$150. Kellie will investigate what other municipalities in the area are charging, and will bring the information to the next board meeting.

Correspondence – First quarter sales tax received from the county totaled \$26,167.97.

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.
Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting June 18, 2024 at 7:00pm

DRAFT