

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 16, 2024

Members Present: Supervisor, Richard Lewis; Councilmembers: Jamee Mack, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn; Highway Superintendent, Marty Vondracek.

Absent: Councilperson – Glenn Bleiler; Code Enforcement / Building Inspector – Anthony Nevone.

Public in attendance: Brett Reynolds, Chris Conolly, Becki Wheeler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: None.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 47-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 48-2024

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

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

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 49-2024

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

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

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: No report due to internet outage at the Town Hall.

RESOLUTION 50-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: Marty reported that they have been doing shared services with the Towns of Dix, Reading, and Cayuta and the chip sealing on Oak Hill Road is done. It went quickly with 12 trucks; it was done in just three hours. They have put down 52 loads of gravel on Steam Mill because the clay was popping through.

A couple other roads need to be done where the clay is showing on them too. They have been out mowing and cutting back. Marty stated that he received a quote for the guide rails of \$11,000 for chips expenses. The storm from last night took down a lot of little trees here and there and one big one on Swan Hill Road. There was a tree on the power lines on Carly Road so they had to close that road. There was another tree down on Beardsley Hollow Road on the power lines as well. He will be checking the roads after this meeting for more downed trees and limbs.

After Marty's report, he opened the one sealed bid that was received for the generator project at the Highway Garage. The bid was for \$46,525 from John Mill's electric, for the specifications presented in the advertisement by Marty. The board members discussed the quote and the amount of money remaining from the ARPA funds during COVID.

RESOLUTION 51-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine except the generator project bid from John Mill's Electric for \$46,525 as specified in the submitted bid proposal.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 3 ayes – Richard Lewis, Jamee Mack, and Ronald Hoffman
1 no – C. Michael Learn

RESOLUTION 52-2024

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 136 – G 159 in the total sum of \$24,145.88 and H 64 – H 72 in the sum of \$126,724.59.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business:

ATV/UTV Proposal – Jamee Mack presented more information on her proposal to allow ATV's and UTV's to drive on Town roads. The members of the board and public present discussed the proposal.

ZBA Fee Increase Proposal – The Town Clerk presented information on ZBA fees for various locations in New York. The members of the board agreed that the current fee is too low to account for the expenditures required for each Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

RESOLUTION 53-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine increase the fee for a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to \$125 from the current \$20 fee.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Dumpster Day Report – The Town Clerk presented a paper showing the information on this year’s Dumpster Day. The total cost to the town after donations and scrap metal turned in was \$1,873.84.

Speed Reduction Study Request – Deb Albro had requested a speed reduction for Cayutaville Road. A resolution is required by the County before the request can be accepted.

RESOLUTION 54-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine requests a speed reduction study for Cayutaville Road in the Town of Catharine.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

New Business:

OSHA’s Proposed Changes – Jamee Mack presented a resolution to the board members regarding the updated Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards being proposed. The board members discussed Jamee’s proposed resolution.

RESOLUTION 55-2024

RE: ADDRESS PROPOSED UPDATED FEDERAL OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARD, INCLUDING UNFUNDED MANDATE AND LIABILITY EXPOSURE CONCERNS

WHEREAS, the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed significant changes to the OSHA Fire Brigade Standard (1910.156); if approved in its current form, the rule will impact all fire departments (volunteer, combination, and paid) across New York and the nation, as well as emergency medical service (EMS) providers, including those located within Schuyler County, and

WHEREAS, as noted by the New York State Conference of Mayors, the 608-page document released by OSHA outlining the proposed changes would incorporate costly health and safety standard mandates and could expose local fire departments and EMS providers to litigation and costly settlements; this one size fits all approach could cripple already fiscally strapped departments and further negatively impact the recruitment and retention efforts of struggling volunteer agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catharine fully supports measures that will protect first responder and public safety; however, recognizes the need for a balanced approach that takes into consideration the realities of each department, and

WHEREAS, OSHA’s proposed changes have been published in the Federal Register and have a 90-day comment period that closes on July 21, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, and other fire service organizations are engaged in a united effort to get the comment period

extended to allow for additional time for volunteer agencies to fully digest and appropriately respond to the proposed rule changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Catharine supports the united effort to extend the OSHA comment period to allow for additional time to fully digest and appropriately respond to the proposed rule changes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Catharine supports calls for OSHA to hold in-person public comment sessions to provide a platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns, insights, and recommendations in a transparent and inclusive manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Catharine encourages our local fire and EMS personnel, and each town and village in Schuyler County, to review the proposed standard, understand the potential impact on their community, and prepare and transmit their comments to OSHA as soon as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to OSHA, Congressional Representatives Nicholas A. Langworthy and Claudia L. Tenney, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kristen E. Gillibrand, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, the Schuyler County Town Supervisors, Village Mayors, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Humane Society of Schuyler County – Information was presented to the board members regarding the proposed price increases for dog shelter fees. Jamee Mack stated that the County is looking into an appropriations agreement. The board will discuss the proposed fee increase further at the budget workshops.

Motion to Adjourn by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting July16, 2024 at 7:00pm