

TOWN OF CATHARINE  
Public Hearing Followed by  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
December 17, 2024

Members Present: Supervisor, Richard Lewis; Councilmembers: C. Michael Learn, Jamee Mack, Glenn Bleiler; Highway Superintendent – Martin Vondracek; Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Tony Nevone

Absent: Councilmember – Ronald Hoffman.

Public in attendance: Roxanne Leyes, Jon Underdown, Brett Reynolds, Chris Conolly, Tom Detrick, Jared Detrick, Jeremiah Lederman, Kristi Allen, Stacey Simons, Elizabeth Gold, and Tom Ruocco.

The Public Hearing to discuss proposed Local Law 2025-1 was called to order at 7:10 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: Several questions were asked and answered regarding the proposed Local Law 2025-1. The Town Board members and Code Enforcement Officer Tony Nevone provided insight into the details of the proposed local law.

The public hearing ended at 7:20 pm.

The board meeting was called to order at 7:21 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

The board members discussed wanting more time to study the proposed local law before voting, and wanted the title amended to state it would repeal local law 2014-1. A decision will be made at the year-end board meeting.

Public be heard – Tom Ruocco had a question for Highway Superintendent Vondracek regarding the type of stones used on Oak Hill Road. His family has had three flat tires on a vehicle in two years due to stone punctures, and would like to request the use of "rounder" stones. Marty will look into the possibility of other options for chip sealing.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 83-2024

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

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

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 84-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 85-2024

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

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

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Supervisor Lewis read the report provided by Tony Nevone, stating he had completed 53 inspections, issued 6 permits, acted on 12 violations, and attended 4 meetings.

RESOLUTION 86-2024

RESOLVE that the November 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 stated they did a dozen plow runs last month, with most of those due to the storm on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The snow was wet and heavy, with over 12 inches in some areas of the town. They would go out for a run and then had to deal with fallen or low branches, trees, and wires while they were doing the next run. The new generator is up and running and they have been doing shop work. The chainsaw went down, and Marty bought a new one to get things done.

Cayutaville Road Bids – Marty picked the three best looking proposals and contacted them. Only two companies returned his messages. Hunt offers a flat fee of \$1,500 to prepare the application to BRIDGE NY, and Burton offers a no charge application process. The Town Board members and Marty discussed the logistics of the process. Marty will speak with County Highway Superintendent Thurston to get his thoughts on which company would be best.

RESOLUTION 87-2024

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 250 – G 280 in the total sum of \$56,627.48 and H 132 – H 139 in the total sum of \$6,399.26.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business:

2025 – Budget: Glenn discussed the corrections that were made on the submitted 2025 Budget and stated that none of the spending for 2025 was impacted. Due to the increased fire protection contract, the submitted budget exceeded the allowable tax cap. Adjustments were made to correct this problem using existing fund balances to keep taxes under the tax cap.

RESOLUTION 88-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the amended 2025 Budget after correcting the errors in computations.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Fire Contract: The members of the Town Board discussed the wording of the 2025 fire protection contract.

RESOLUTION 89-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the fire protection contract for 2025 as submitted to the Town of Catharine by the Village of Odessa.

RESOLUTION by, seconded by .

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

ARPA Funds – The board members discussed the need to obligate the remaining funds by 12/31/24, and the Town Clerk presented multiple proposals for heat pumps and painting the town hall interior.

RESOLUTION 90-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the proposal from Halco for a heat pump to be installed in the Town Hall meeting room using the remaining ARPA funds available.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 91-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the proposal from C.J. Morse Painting and Construction for painting the interior of the Town Hall and installing chair rails in the board room using the remaining ARPA funds available.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

New Business: 2025 Municipal Cooperative Agreement for Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

RESOLUTION 92-2024

**RESOLUTION: Approval of the 2025 Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium**

WHEREAS, the Town of Catharine is a Participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (the "Consortium"), a municipal cooperative organized under Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, the municipal participants in the Consortium, including this body, have approved and executed a certain Municipal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement"; effective date of October 1, 2010), and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law (the "Insurance Law") and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Financial Services set forth certain requirements for governance of municipal cooperatives that offer self-insured municipal cooperative health insurance plans, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement sets forth in Section Q2 that continuation of the Consortium under the terms and conditions of the Agreement, or any amendments or restatements thereto, shall be subject to Board review and upon acceptance of any new Participant hereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Cooperative Agreement requires that amendments to the agreement be presented to each participant for review and adopted by a majority vote by its municipal board, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Catharine is in receipt of the proposed amended Agreement and has determined that it is in the best interest of its constituents who are served by the Consortium to amend the Agreement as set forth in the Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon receipt and review of the amended Agreement, the Town of Catharine approves at a meeting of the governing body held on December 17, 2024 and authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign the **2025** Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement (Effective 1.1.25) of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium as recommended by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Year-End Meeting – The year-end meeting has been set for Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

Correspondence – The board members discussed a letter received regarding the town’s decision to not renew the dog sheltering contract with the Human Society of Schuyler County.

Supervisor Lewis discussed emails he had received regarding the recent drone activity in our area.

Motion to Adjourn by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer  
Town Clerk/Collector

**Next meeting December 17, 2024 at 7:00pm**

DRAFT