

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2024

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

Public in attendance: Brett Reynolds.

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

Public Heard: None.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 74-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

Motion by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn, to amend the Resolution to include approval of the 2025 Public Hearing Minutes.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 75-2024

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 76-2024

RESOLVE that the October 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: Supervisor Lewis read the report provided by Tony Nevone. Tony reported he conducted 57 inspections, issued 13 permits, received and acted on 1 complaint, and identified and acted on 16 violations. One violation case was heard in the Town's court.

RESOLUTION 77-2024

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

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: Marty reported there were trees leaning on Cayutaville and Lockheed Roads. They took care of the leaning trees and have been doing shop work. The batteries on the new Pete went bad, and he has been working with Peterbilt on the situation. The batteries did not come with a warranty; most batteries have at least a 30-day warranty. The new batteries were almost \$1,000. The wipers quit on the 5500; they've repaired the mechanism. The '14 Pete and the '04 International are set up for winter. They have also been cleaning ditches. A driveway pipe was replaced on Oak Hill Road. The generator pad installation will start tomorrow. The propane company

wants a separate line for the generator, so the guys trenched and ran conduit. The generator will be installed and tested next month.

Cayutaville Road Bids – None of the bids included dollar amounts for the project proposals, so Marty talked to Jerry regarding that issue. Jerry told Marty to pick out the best 3 and then they will call to get prices for the grant. The Town can possibly use the bridge fund for this project. This project will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

RESOLUTION 78-2024

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 225 – G 249 in the total sum of \$10,320.06 and H 119 – H 131 in the total sum of \$17,205.60.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business: 2025 Budget – A Public Hearing on the Town of Catharine Preliminary Budget for 2025 was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

RESOLUTION 79-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approve the 2025 Budget as presented to the Town Board.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

ARPA Funds – The Town Board members discussed how to use the remaining ARPA funds. Different options were discussed, and the Town Clerk will investigate having an energy audit performed on the Town Hall building. The Town Clerk will also work on getting estimates for a heat pump for the board room.

New Business: Dog Contract – Supervisor Lewis and the town board members discussed the costs of sheltering dogs picked up by the Schuyler County Animal Control Officer at the Schuyler County Humane Society versus the costs proposed by Southern Tier Animal Control Inc (STAC). The Humane Society was asking for a very large increase in the amount of their contract, and the proposal put forth by (STAC) was more affordable. Per Supervisor Lewis, the Humane Society was asking for approximately \$10 to \$12 thousand dollars per year for the next three years. At most, STAC would only cost the town \$2450 per year.

RESOLUTION 80-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine will enter a contract with Southern Tier Animal Control Inc. (STAC) to shelter stray dogs picked up in the Town of Catharine by the Schuyler County Animal Control Officer.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Schuyler County Planning Commission – A reappointment request for Roxanne Leyes to be reappointed as the Town of Catharine's representative for the Schuyler County Planning Department.

RESOLUTION 81-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approves the reappointment request from the Schuyler County Planning Department for Roxanne Leyes.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Contract Renewal 2025 – 2028: Schuyler County (WaterShed) and Town of Catharine for Septic Inspections – The Town Board members discussed renewing the contract.

RESOLUTION 82-2024

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approves the renewal of the Intermunicipal agreement between the County of Schuyler and the Town of Catharine for the inspection of septic systems within the Cayuta Lake Watershed District by the Schuyler County Watershed Department for the period of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2028.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Updated Code Enforcement Local Law Implementing Part 1203 – Supervisor Lewis and the Town Board members discussed the necessity of holding a public hearing to adopt a local law regarding this matter. A public hearing will be advertised and held directly prior to the December board meeting, at 7 PM.

Cemetery Mowing – The town board members and Supervisor Lewis discussed the abandoned cemeteries law for New York, specifically in regards to family cemeteries. Family-owned cemeteries are not included in the abandoned cemeteries law. For the town to be responsible for the care of an “abandoned” cemetery, that parcel of land must be owned by the Town, and not a private citizen. A family would have to sign over the parcel of land containing the cemetery to the town for the town to take control of the cemetery and pay someone to mow the property at least twice per calendar year.

Communications Received: The Town Supervisor read a letter sent to area residents regarding open enrollment for the Schuyler County Ag District # 3. Supervisor Lewis also read a letter from the Town of Veteran regarding a townwide moratorium on tier three solar installations.

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Jamee Mack.
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting December 17, 2024 at 7:00pm