***TOWN OF NICHOLS***

***REGULAR MEETING***

***January 25, 2023***

*Town Supervisor, Esther Woods, brought meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nichols Elementary School located at 139 Ro-Ki Blvd Nichols NY 13812*

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

***ROLL CALL;***

*Supervisor Esther Woods (present), Councilperson Bill Middleton (present), Councilperson Ladd Yost (present), Councilperson Rose Cole (present), Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).*

***ALSO PRESENT;***

*Rick Kie (DCO), Jayne H. Stoltzfus, Howard H. Stoltzfus, Steve Hill and Marcy Hill (Town Clerk).*

***MINUTES***

*Motion to approve the revised minutes from January 10, 2023 made by E. Woods 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (abstain), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (abstain), and E. Woods (aye). Carried aye- 3- 0 No- 2 abstain*

***NEW BUSINESS –***

* *Town Clerk – Resignation: Karen Hall’s resignation from town clerk position effective 1/27/2023.*

*Motion to accept Karen Hall’s resignation made by B. Middleton 2nd by Rose Cole.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods(aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

* *Town Clerk Appointment- Appointment of Marcy Hill*

*Motion to appoint Marcy Hill, Town Clerk, Effective 1/27/2023 made by Rose Cole 2nd by Ladd Yost.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (abstain), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods(aye).*

 *Carried 4 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 1 abstain*

* *Waste Disposal Program (Tires/Electronics. – This was well received by the community.*

*We need to look at dates for 2023.*

*October 13 & 14 9am-12pm were chosen as the 2023 dates. Rose Cole will work with the county on advertising.*

* *Mailbox Policy. Will Heveland and Rose Cole have been working on this policy.*

*The board agrees that the Highway Superintendent will assess the damage to the mailbox and determine if reimbursement is warranted. The policy will be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting.*

* *Fence Quote – Rose Cole discussed the quote submitted by Whittemore Fence Co.*

*There was discussion on where the fence actually needed to be placed around the facility. At this time there was no determination made.*

* *Winter Maintenance Policy- In review.*
* *Volunteer Fireman Tax Exemption Law – Rose Cole has reviewed this with the Fire Commissioners. The proposed is a 10% exemption for firefighters, EMT’s in the residing in the Village of Town of Nichols. The board agreed that they would look into this further. The proposed exemption would go into effect in 2024. Fire Commissioners would provide resolution. The Town Assessor would provide information on how many homeowners this involves.*
* *Citizen Preparedness Event – Rose Cole attended an event at the Spencer Van-Etten High School hosted by the National Guard. She stated that this was a very informational event and would like to look to town and fire department co-hosting such an event.*

*This event would be no cost to the town or residents. Rose has upcoming meetings with Tom McCartney regarding our emergency plans.*

***ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS –***

* *REAP – Annual Request -$500 was budgeted.*
* *AED Training – There will be AED training after the move to 139 Roki Blvd. A purchase for a new AED for town hall was discussed. All other AED’s will be checked to verify they are within date.*
* *Dog Catcher Certification There is a complete course from April 4-6, 2023 that Rick would like to attend. The cost is $595.*
* *Dog Catcher Certification There is a complete course from April 4-6, 2023 that Rick would like to attend. The cost is $595.*

*Motion to approve $595 for cost of Dog Catcher certification made by Rose Cole 2nd by Ladd Yost.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods(aye).*

 *Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

* *It was determined after Ag & Markets inspection that Rick doesn’t have a viable space to house dogs. There has to be a fences run. A separate portion of the old town highway barn will be looked at for this use.*
* *Plastic Crates need to be purchased for dog catchers use:*

*Motion to approve the purchase of three (small, medium, large) plastic crates for dog catcher made by R. Cole 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods(aye).*

 *Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***UPDATE FROM TOWN PERSONNEL – None***

***COMMITTEE REPORTS –***

*Reap – None*

*Council of Governments – Rose attending meeting the last meeting. Next meeting topic is health insurance. Rose reminded everyone that these meetings are open and all can attend.*

***OLD BUSINESS –***

*Confidential Secretary –*

*Melanie Sinsabaugh will be the new confidential secretary.*

*Resolution attached.*

*Residency of Town Clerk Resolution*

*Nepotism Resolution*

*Motion to schedule public hearing for next meeting for Residency and Nepotism Resolutions pm made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by Rose Cole.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost, and E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***OTHER OLD BUSINESS –***

*Newsletter update – Goal is March to get this out to the public. Rose is working on options for mailings.*

*Depot Road – Hunt and FEMA are working together on the grants website.*

*Shared Services Update- Fiberspark is moving right along. East side of Nichols is almost complete and they are moving to the west side in March. Phase 1 should be done by May. At this time anything past Tioga Downs will not be done until the second phase.*

*February 7th the town hall, highway department and water/sewer will be scheduled for hookup.*

 *Tioga County will be hooking things up at 139 Roki on 2/7. After that there will be service at both the old and new town offices. Building and Grounds along with the Highway Department will be moving that week as well – weather dependent.*

*Website Update – We have decided to keep the website company that we currently have. Brenda and Brad Zehr are working on updating all pages. The cost is $1000 for the repair and $350 annually for maintenance.*

*Mailboxes – New Town Hall – No update*

*Tioga Chamber of Commerce Event- Rose will be attending again this year. There is a lot of useful information given out. Ladd stated he may attend also.*

***OTHER OLD BUSINESS –***

*Planning Board & Martin Jerzak, CEO*

*Martin would like to have changes made to the Abandon Buildings Code- Chapter 92.*

*There is a lot of legality in this process. Town Board agrees that something needs to be done. However, this needs to be more thoroughly looked at with legal counsel.*

*The board would like to see the signs bought to be placed on condemned properties.*

*Certifications and trainings- Request update from all applicable town employees.*

***ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & CRITICISM FROM THE PUBLIC –***

*Mr. Stoltzfus inquired about the requirement regarding the fencing at the town highway department.*

***EXECUTIVE SESSION –***

*Motion to go into executive session to discuss legal considerations pursuant to public officers’ law*

*section 105 at 8:25 pm made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by Rose Cole.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost, and E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

*Motion to go out of executive session at 9:13 pm made by B. Middleton and 2nd by R. Cole*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye) E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***MOTION TO RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION***

*Motion to reconvene to regular session at 9:13 pm made by E. Woods 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***MOTION FOR SALARY INCREASE***

*Motion to increase hourly salary to $30.00 for Marcy Hill made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by E. Woods.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***MOTION TO ADJOURN –***

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm made by E. Woods 2nd by R. Cole.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye). Carried 5 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Marcy Hill*

*02/14/2023*