***TOWN OF NICHOLS***

***REGULAR MEETING***

***MARCH 14, 2023***

*Deputy Town Supervisor, Brenda Fay-Pelotte, 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 (Absent), Councilperson Bill Middleton (present), Councilperson Ladd Yost (present), Councilperson Rose Cole (present), and Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).*

***ALSO PRESENT;***

*Ray Thetga, Bob Nugent Steve, Hill, Howard Stoltzfus, and Marcy Hill (Town Clerk).*

***MINUTES***

*Motion to approve the revised minutes from February 14, 2023 made R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye). Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***Public Comments:***

*Howard Stoltzfus*

*Mr. Stoltzfus spoke regarding the proposed plan for Depot Road (IDA) property.*

*How many houses on Depot Rd. – Maybe 5-6? Haven’t those people suffered enough? Their property values have been crushed. Now, the IDA is thinking of putting something in there. It is very similar to the chicken farm that was protested and voted against a few years ago.*

*Also, there are four-times more vehicles on Moore Hill since Best Buy and Crown Cork. Does the county ever help us with this? Why isn’t industry and county not helping us out in this area? We have fewer people pay more taxes.*

*He also thanked the board for the ethics vote, “for two damn long – we haven’t had good ethics”. Depot Road is a prime example – people are sick of it. It’s got to stop – why does industry have to come down to benefitting two or three people.*

*He stated he’d like to know how Crown Cork effected people’s property on Depot Road*

*If there was a change in the zoning in 2019 the Town Board would have had to approve this. Mr. Stoltzfus thinks that it should be changed back. What is the process?*

*Q. He asked “what is the process was to change zoning”?*

*A. We need to look how and why it changed. Then it needs to go back out to the public.*

*So happy to see me sitting there.*

*We spend time and money*

*Buck Road (Town Barn)-*

*Q. Who paid for the driveway to go past the town barn to the Lounsberry property line?*

*A. The solar company paid for the road as a way to get to the meter. It should be in the contract with the solar contract. It was under the scope of work.*

***NEW BUSINESS –***

* *Resignation of Animal Control Officer*

*Brenda Read the DCO’s resignation.*

*Motion to accept Ricky Kie’s resignation as Dog Control officer made R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye). Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 0 abstain*

*Kyle Fleming, Town of Owego DCO, will assume the role as our Dog control officer. The Town of*

*Owego is an authorized kennel. This should have a significant amount of money. They will bill us for their service. Thank Bill Middleton for coordinating with Wayne Searle’s, Town of Barton DCO, to cover while we are without coverage. Bill will also show Kyle the roads around Nichols.*

*We will try to see if we can return the items that were previously purchased for the DCO.*

* *Stamps.com- Rose Cole*

*We’ve previously talked about this. Pay monthly costs and Save three cents per envelope. We can do certified mail with the premier plan for $24.99 per month plus cost of postage. Three users will have access with the “app”. This uses our printers and it will print out the postage. There is a 7 day trial period. NO contract to sign so you can stop at any time. It would be billed monthly via credit card. Itemized invoice on who and what kind of postage was used. We would need to check with accountant that we can have a cc card on file.*

*Motion to use Stamps.com for our postage needs-pending accountant approval*

 *made R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye). Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***UPDATE FROM TOWN PERSONNEL –***

***Ray Thetga – Building & Grounds:***

*Ray met with Denise Spaulding, Town Assessor, to have here choose a new desk. Denise*

*went with a basic “L” shaped desk. He stated he will go look at new trailer before the next meeting and have quotes. We are still waiting for estimates for the repair or replace of the front exterior doors. Also, estimates are being sought for boiler and roof repairs. The boiler was recently serviced. Their estimate was a 3-5 year period. Ray clarified that the service agreement with CAT will only be invoiced as they service equipment.*

*Ray also stated he passed his driver’s test.*

*Motion to use purchase new desk for town assessor not to exceed $550(+shipping) made L. Yost 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye). Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***Bob Nugent – Sewer & Water Dept.***

*Bob stated that nothing “critical” has happened. The IT department has installed the new computer. He would like to purchase the lap top that was just replaced. He has been paining the well house pipes as they needed to be redone.*

***Will Heveland – Highway Dept.***

*Rose shared for Will that the engine for Truck 105 is being installed. We are low on salt and may need to order more. The 300 tons have been depleted. There continue to be issues with truck 103 and may need more repairs.*

***COMMITTEE REPORTS –***

*Reap – Rose Cole reported two new things. There will be new leadership. Abbey Ortu will be a board member; but not president. Then new President will be Emily Van Scoy. We need to decide if we do want to go thru with getting the fencing for the front of highway garage. There are many pros and cons – we need to decide the value of doing it and maintaining it. Is the intention to protect our fuel? IT is working on putting up the security cameras. They wanted to see the coverage especially the fuel island. For the hassle of the fence and inconvenience we should table this idea. We should be able to have fuel cards and be able to use the grant for this.*

*Rose will move forward with looking into card readers for the fuel island.*

*Hazard Mitigation – Wendy Walsh has sent notices to all municipalities that there is grant funding and they will start to revisit and review each plan.*

*Council of Governments – This month’s meeting is CASA Trinity and smoke-free workplace. The meeting is Thursday at Village of Owego*

***OLD BUSINESS –***

***Fiber Project*** *–*

*The 100th customer has been installed. There are 42 waiting to be installed. The project is 60% done and expect to be done with Phase 1 in April. “There are a lot of people signing up.”*

***Insurance Farmer’s Market*** *– Who holds our liability insurance for this? Rose will look into this.*

***Emergency Plan Annexes*** *– The next meeting is at 6PM on March 29th.  It will take the remainder of*

*this year to complete.*

***New Town Hall Project:***

*Punch List*

*Historian’s phone – Bill shared an idea- Can we have Art Mayer get rid of the extensions. We should be able to keep the 699-3110. We wouldn’t be able to keep this line if we leave Ring Squared. The 699-3110 is billed thru Ring Squared. IT is frustrated that we get the run around.*

*Do we get a new Verizon line or do we pay the Historian a phone allowance. Since she has been giving her cell number out to the public. Rose and Ray will look at bills and see what phones lines can be cancelled.*

*Mailbox – completed*

*Highway Department mailbox – Completed. It is up and installed. On the front of the bldg.*

*Office signs - Ray*

*Dividers – Not complete. Dividers in the community room will be moved.*

*Countertop – Not complete. It is in at Home Central and needs to be picked up or delivered.*

*Toilets – Martin Plumbing has the water issue resolved. Toilets still need to be installed.*

*Town Hall Sign – move from Carriage House and install at 139 Roki
Carpet protector – Clerk’s office*

*AED – The new AED has been purchased and will be here in June. AED is on wall at 139 Roki. Training sessions will be set up.*

*Directory – not needed*

*Panic button – Maximum Security. Ray*

*Keys- Rekeying will wait until after door is done*

*Cleaning supplies – at each location - Brenda*

*A motion to purchase cleaning supplies for all building not to exceed $700 was made by R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost.*

 *Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye). Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 0 abstain*

***OTHER OLD BUSINESS –***

*Depot Road – Nothing new to report. Hunt and FEMA are continuing to working together on the grants.*

*Shared Services Update-Cameras installed. Sewer and Water computers are up and running. Highway department install is next.*

*Website Update – Complete. The normal postings are all that is required at this point.*

*FEMA properties – No update*

***MOTION TO ACCEPT VOUCHERS***

*Motion to accept vouchers and pay bills made by L. Yost 2nd by R. Cole.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye). Carried 4 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

**PUBLIC COMMENT***:*

*Mr. Stoltzfus*

*If Depot Road was change to industrial – were the taxed changed also? If so, they need to go back.*

*A lot of this has happened with AG properties – When it’s sold does the town benefit?*

***MOTION TO ADJOURN –***

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm made by R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost.*

*Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye). Carried 4 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Marcy Hill*

*03/29/2023*

*Approved*