

*Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting
September 12, 2023
7:00 pm*

Town Supervisor, Esther Woods, brought the 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), and Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).

ALSO PRESENT: Kem Hart-Baker, Pam Roberts, Kaylee Rollison, Virginia Okrasinsk, Bob Nugent, Will Heveland

MINUTES:

Motion to approve the revised minutes from June 11th and August 8th made by B.Fay-Pelotte 2nd by Bill Middleton 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

Public Comments: *If you would like to speak there will be a 2-minute time length per person, the board will consider your comments, if warranted we will respond at a later time.*

Pam Roberts – Bicentennial Committee started working very hard to get the committee going. There are about \$450 of donations so far. Would like to ask for a donation from the town for \$1000 for the Old Home Day celebration next year. Then ask the town to also match One (1) percent of the donations. Is the portal open to give donations? Pam is in charge of the donations coming in. They are looking at doing a program, cook book and a logo contest for t-shirts. The book will have add, information and informational tidbits.

Donations to:

*Pam Roberts
468 W. River Road
Nichols, NY 13812*

Kem Hart-Baker – would like to know what the town is doing about the cleaning contract? Kem and Pam spent two hours cleaning today. It is not right the employees to doing their own cleaning.

Rose shared with Kem that the with the rules of public comment section the board will not directly address a solution to any issue brought up to the board at the meeting. The board takes all comments into consideration.

New Business:

Resignation of Code Officer – Martin Jerzak

Marty submitted his resignation on 8/16. His last day was 8/24.

A motion to accept the resignation of Martin Jerzek as the Town of Nichols Code Enforcement officer by Rose Cole 2nd Bill Middleton

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

Appointment of new code officer – Doug Chazanowski –

Doug from the Town of Tioga has been suggested as our temporary code officer. We will use him from August 25, 2023 until December 31, 2023.

A motion to approve Doug Chazanowkis as the Town of Nichols Code Enforcement officer by Rose Cole 2nd Bill Middleton

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

Health Insurance – Retiree Change – After a brief discussion – the item was tabled.

Village of Nichols Drainage – Roki Boulevard

There was discussion regarding the drainage from the town hall parking lot causing road flooding on Roki Boulevard. The village had previously had a survey done. All board members agreed that they would like to have the engineer come back and look at this issue. Woldt Engineering will be contacted.

NY Class – Investment for Town Funds - There is no downside into doing this. The only question was being able to move the money fluently back and forth to and from account. This is not budgeted money this is savings accounts. We will invest all but three months cash flow.

A motion to move (invest) all but three (3) months of our reserves into NY Class funds by Rose Cole 2nd 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

EFPRS – Contract Change -

Esther shared that EFPRS will be branching off into another company, Local Government Support Services LLC, we will continue to have the same support team.

A motion to approve signing of the release of information request for EFPRS contract change by Rose Cole 2nd 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

Hotel & Meal Policy – Employee Handbook

Esther stated that we had the court clerks asking to go to conference per the employee handbook they have to go by IRS rate and not stay at the hotel hosting the conference. After discussion regarding this – The town supervisor and two other council members (B. Fay-Pelotte and L. Yost) approved the full cost to be paid by the town. There was a great deal of discussion on how this was handled. Going forward the cost of conferences will be budgeted by each department.

NY Alert – This is the standard contract with NY Alerts. Per legal counsel it is ok to sign the NY Alert contract.

A motion to approve signing of the NY Alert contract by L. Yost 2nd B. Middleton

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

Fall Clean Up Press Release - The press release was approved and will be sent out.

Lions Club- Spot light on services on Tuesdays in October @ 10AM.

They will hold these community based programs in Nichols at the fire department. The Town will make up the 50 flyers for the programs. Julie Wendela will contact the Town when flyers need to be printed.

Building & Grounds Job Description – This is being moved to the Executive Session.

Gone through our personnel folders and there are no signed contracts or job descriptions. All job descriptions have to come from Civil Service. If we want to create a new job description and they will have to take a civil service test. There are many options.

Department Reports:

Kem Baker, Historian –No Report

Will Heveland – Just finished Smith Creek paving. Oil and chipping for the following are upcoming; State Line, Waits, Red Brush. Briggs Hollow and State Line had some current storm damage. The culvert was plugged up and caused overflow on the road.

Are we interested in speaking to Tioga County Soil & Water about cleaning the creek? Will the DEC do it? Or will the Town have to do it?

Ray Thetga, B/G –

Ray stated the he has received a message from Mancini Brothers and as soon as the door man is available he will be here to do our doors.

Bob Nugent, S/W –

Bob informed the board that at a recent meeting with Crown Cork and Seal all their EPA testing is all within their parameters. Their permit looks good.

Bob will sign the permit and submit to Crown Cork and Seal.

A motion to approve the changes to Crown Cork and Seal industrial waste water permit effective immediately by R. Cole 2nd 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

Brenda asked Bob to look to see if our sewer and water rates should increase.

Committee Reports: Reap– Rose reported that Abbey Ortu is moving to another job.

They are looking for a replacement. Emily VanScoy will lead the transition.

There is no meeting this month.

Hazard Mitigation – Flood issues were our concerns. Shelters were designated.

There is a packet tonight that shared mitigation plans.

LEPC – A lot going on with this. River gauges are being revamped

They will be able to tell you which areas will be flooded. There was discussion about

putting sirens further out on East and West River Road. NYSEG is replacing meters. Sheriff's department is maintaining and overdose map so that they investigate more thoroughly. Terrorism prevention unit spoke and are doing active shooter drills. Rose is concerned about a recent event at town hall today and she is concerned. She feels we need to look into having a Lockdown Policy with the aid of the Tioga County Sherriff's department.

Rose would like to have a Preparedness Event next spring,

Council of Government – There was no meeting in August.

Old Business:

- Emergency Plan Annexes – These meetings will start up again in January.
- Depot Rd Project – The engineers design was to use the rip-rap with grout - we cannot do without new EAP approval. We will go with the standard process. We cannot extend past the December deadline. This will go to bid soon.
- FEMA Properties update – We still have no commitment on the two properties. These houses have gone to "step 2" in the FEMA process so we are hopeful they will go through.

Newsletter will be out by the end of this week.

Esther read a letter NYMIR regarding battery disconnects.

We talked about this previously – the letter states that the vehicles have to have them installed. The switches are on the trucks. Will Heveland will take a picture of the switches on the trucks.

Esther met with the Library board. They are aware they are a municipal library, however they need to be responsible for their own accounting and not rely on the town. The Town Board will add a Cady Library board point of contact to our organizational meetings."?

As of today the Cady Library is a Municipal Library. This will be added to the reorganizational meeting in January.

Accept vouchers and pay bills:

Motion to accept vouchers and pay bills made by B. Fay-Pelotte 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

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Bill 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcy Hill

10/3/2023