

Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting
November 7, 2023
6:00 pm

Town Supervisor, Esther Woods, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Ladd Yost (present), Councilperson Rose Cole (present), and Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).

ALSO PRESENT;

Kem Hart-Baker, Ray Thetga, Barb Cushman, Virginia Okraskinski, Erica Deretz, Renee Burtl, Robert Nugent

Open Public Meeting for Budget Hearing 6PM

Kem Hart Baker questioned why the budget wasn't available prior to meeting.

Close public hearing 6:05

Motion to approve that the preliminary budget presented by approved as the Final 2024 Budget

B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by R. Cole

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

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

Open Public Hearing for Charter Communications Contract at 6:05

No public comments - Close public hearing for Charter Communications at 6:06

MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2023 made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by L. Yost

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

Carried 4 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.*

Virginia Okrasinski – Library

Ginny introduced our new director in training Erica Deretz. The library meetings are the 3rd Tuesday. Ladd will be the town liaison.

Renee Burtl

Renee is here representing the Friends of the Library. "The Friends" are a group of people that help out the library. The library has lost their 503(c) status. We are here to make the board aware of the need to have the porches replaced. Rose will be sending information from REAP to see if they can be of assistance with the porches.

New Business:

Approve new phone system for Justices from Tioga County

A motion to approve the proposal from Tioga County for the new phone system for courts by R. Cole 2nd E. Woods.

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

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

Handbooks changes Appointment of new code officer –

Rose would like to have a meeting with everyone accepting the new handbook. There will be a meeting with all employees the second week of January to review the new updates to the handbooks

The following sections will be updated:

1. 4.3.3 – Travel
2. 5.3 Vacations
3. 5.4 Sick Leave
4. 5.6 Timesheets for Health Insurance participations.

Motion to approve the changes to the Employee Handbook for 2024 by R. Cole 2nd by L. Yost

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

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

Cleaning Services for Town Offices

The final quotes will be done next Monday.

Tioga Downs – Lease Renewal

Tioga Downs has sent a letter of Intent to renew the lease from January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. It was noted that the terms of the lease include a 3% increase rate increase for the upcoming year.

Planning Board – To reduce members from 5 to 3 members.

Our board is not a very active board – the language on the terms will need to be changed.

This would go into effect in January 2024. There will be a public hearing on December 12th.

Board Member Vacancy

We've received a letter of interest from Mr. Scot Taylor. We have run into having the required quorum for meeting; so we should get someone in the position sooner rather than later.

Department Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer – New sign for Tireland and construction of new building on their site to replace their burnt out building.

Kem Hart-Baker, Historian – Kem shared the most recent happenings at the Museum.

Ray Thetga, B/G – Spectrum phones for justices. There is an issue with state's website that the courts

log into. When using Fiberspark there are issues when onsite at the Town Hall.
They are still using the Spectrum internet at this time.
Rose is going to contact the Tioga County IT dept.

Quotes for blinds for Town Hall Ray discussed quotes for blinds for both the conference room and the town clerk's office.

A motion to purchase blinds for both the conference room and the clerk's office up to \$2000.00
By R. Cole 2nd by E. Woods
Roll Vote; R. Cole (abstain), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye).
Carried 4 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0- abstain

Southern Tier Network – Reached out to Ray asking if we'd be able to be used as a drop off for their
This was discussed at the town and we decided that we don't want to do this.

Cemetery Lot – Sell back

There is an individual that would like to sell back to the grave to the town.
After discussion amongst the board it was determined that the town doesn't wish to do this.

Light – replacement on front of bldg. – The cost will be 300.00 – we have to have it.
That is basic maintenance. Carriage House lights

Speaking about light- what about the back of the carriage house.
Ray is waiting for a quote.

Library – The bilco door is rotted out; the entire shell is rotten. A primed door is \$1002 and lead time is 4 week, a powder-coated door is \$1360 with the same lead time.
A motion to purchase a powder-coated door made by E. Woods 2nd by R. Cole
Roll Vote; R. Cole (aye), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Ladd Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye).
Carried 4 aye- 0 absent- 0 No- 0 abstain

Rose inquired if the part time B/G crew was still working? Yes, probably to around Thanksgiving Day.
The winter months are a great time for painting the carriage house. Start painting as soon as the weather changes.

Status of the changes of the locks – the door is swollen and the door sticks.

Bob Nugent, S/W – Report was in tonight's meeting packet.
Brenda asks if there were any updates of SCADIA quotes. Bob replied; No, haven't meet lately.

Committee Reports: Reap –Rose didn't attend last meeting
Hazard Mitigation – No Report.
LEPC – No Report
Council of Government – Shared Services meeting coming up soon.

Old Business:

- *Depot Rd Project – 11/2 there was a PreCon Meeting. Work was started that day. Substantial completion has to be done by 12/15/23. . It is a Class C stream and DEC accepted it. Part of the creek will be “reused”.*
- *Village of Nichols – Drainage from Roki Boulevard – Woidt Engineering is being contacted to revisit this situation.*
- *NY Class Investments – Revisited investing with NYCLASS. It was reiterated that we will leave 3-month’s cash on hand but invest the rest. The was approved by vote at an earlier meeting.*
- *FEMA Property(s) No Update*

Bicentennial Contract – *Ladd shared input on the bicentennial committee contract.*

A motion to approve the Bicentennial Committee contract per Ladd’s email by R. Cole 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte.

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

Carried 4 aye- 0 absent 0 No- 0 abstain

Accept vouchers and pay bills:

Motion to accept vouchers and pay bills made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by R. Cole

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

Carried 4 aye- 0 absent 0 No- 0 abstain

Motion to Move to Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by R. Cole

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

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

Motion to reconvene to regular meeting:

Motion to adjourn made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by R. Cole

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

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Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by L. Yost

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*Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Hill 11/7/2023*

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