

TOWN OF NICHOLS
REGULAR MEETING
March 1, 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), Council Member Bill Middleton (present), Council Member Ladd Yost (present), Council Member Rose Cole (present), and Council Member Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).

ALSO PRESENT;

Will Heveland, Bob Nugent, Ray Thetga, Steve Hill, Kem Hart-Baker, Ches Spencer, and Marcy Hill (Town Clerk).

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023 made B. Middleton 2nd by L. Yost
Roll Vote; B. Middleton (aye), R. Cole (abstain), B. Fay-Pelotte (aye), Lad Yost (aye), and E. Woods (aye).

Carried aye- 4- 0 No- 1 abstain

Public Comments:

Kem Hart-Baker asked approval for the purchase of a new bulletin board for the historical society at the cost of \$143.79 from WB Mason.

A motion to approve the purchase of a bulletin board for Historical Museum use by Bill Middleton 2nd by Rose Cole.

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

Ches Spencer stated he loves the new Fiberspark. He feels this is a very positive thing for Nichols.

NEW BUSINESS –

● *Shelter Dogs*

Esther Woods proposed going with the Town of Owego for our dog control issues. The Town Of Owego has a DCO and two deputies. The contract between Town of Owego and Town of Nichols will be completed and shared by tomorrow (March 2, 2023) The board liked the idea of going with the Town of Owego- it's a cost savings. The Town of Owego is also a full blown kennel and dogs can be adopted from there.

A motion to rescind the services of our Dog Control Officer made by Rose Cole 2nd by Bill Middleton

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

Cady Library – The library is concerned about security lighting and panic button now that the Town Hall has moved. They are requesting more lights in the parking lot – after discussion it was determined that no more lighting will be installed.

The panic button and security system will be reviewed. A grant will be looked into for this service at the library.

The submission of timesheets and mail were also discussed. The timesheets will be emailed to the bookkeeper going forward.

Inter office mail and USPS mail was also discussed. There was no solution at this time for either.

Narrows Road (Revisited)

In 2017 this road was dropped from road list. There are forms that need to be completed by the Town and filled with NYS.

There is a process:

- 1) Discontinuance*
- 2) Abandonment – period of 6 years*
- 3) Qualified abandonment – releases the Town of maintenance of road. This requires a public hearing.*

Ladd Yost stated that it qualifies as an abandoned road. He would like to follow the attorney's advice and relieve the burden of maintaining it.

Bill Middleton feels that it should be maintained.

Rose Cole we are maintaining a road that no one lives on

Bottom line no one know why it was taken off road listing six years ago.

For Option #2 Will would have to contact the lawyer. This option is what the Board can defend. The Highway Superintendent will formally send his recommendation.

UPDATE FROM TOWN PERSONNEL –

Will Heveland – Highway Superintendent.

Will passed on message regarding Greenlight Internet having to be cancelled due to the use of the new Fiberspark installation. He would also like a new "cheat sheet" for his budget codes. He also stated that there is no need for a new printer at his office – he just got a new one and it works fine.

Truck 105 which is a 2001 has no oil pressure. He obtained two different engine prices; one with a 30 day/500 mile warranty and another with a 12 month/12000 mile from NAPA.

Motion to approve rebuilt engine purchase from NAPA made by Bill Middleton 2nd by L. 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

Truck #109 Fuel Tank Issue – This truck is the next to be replaced next. It was recommended that it be welded – if not we will look at replacing it.

Ray Thetga – Building & Grounds:

Assessor's Office desk – Talk with Denise to see what type of desk she would like and get quotes after that.

Schoolhouse front exterior door – Ray is working on 3-written quotes for these.

Code Officer- Max Chandler will be working with Martin as his deputy two hours a week(Wednesday) for approximately 2-3 months. Max is the Newark Valley Code Officer.

Robert Nugent – Sewer & Water

Bob reviewed cost for pump \$16,679 for rebuilt and a new pump for \$17, 259.

Motion to approve new pump purchase made by Bill Middleton 2nd by B. Faye-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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Reap – Rose Cole continues to work on grant for fencing at highway department.

Council of Governments –Bob Nugent attended via zoom, they are starting to address lead issues. There will be funding available for those that need to change out systems containing lead.

OLD BUSINESS –

Highway Department – Ray will order pedestal for mailbox. Mail will be delivered directly to 170 Buck Road. A note will go out to vendors regarding this change.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS –

Depot Road – Hunt and FEMA are working together on the grants. Hunt has submitted the “rescope” of the project. They are looking to “harden” both sides of the creek,

Shared Services Update- Cameras have been installed. Brenda debriefed with Tioga County and discussed how dis-jointed the process felt to us. We are happy to be on board but felt they needed to work on this process.

Website Update – Brenda continues to work with Brad daily with updates. We are being charged \$350 annually and the recoding will be \$500 which is a \$3000 saving over the ECode 360

FEMA properties – No update

Nichols Elementary Checklist

Town Hall sign at Carriage House be taken down as soon as possible

Quotes for new sign at 139 RoKI.

Martin Plumbing

Pavement Markings

Janitorial Services – Do we pay by the job or by the hour? Also look into cleaning highway garage bathroom and breakroom.

If paid by the hour – the person does not need to be bonded. To be done efficiently - At this time we are unsure how long it will take to clean each of the offices. We will need to monitor how long it takes.

*Motion to approve Shay Bill as an hourly cleaner by B. Fay-Pelotte 2nd by 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*

Catholic Charities – Esther stated that a discussion and vote was need on the issue of Catholic Charities Rent. We have been advised that our lawyer has been in contact with their lawyer. Catholic Charities does not want to pay until 4/1/2023. Again, the consensus was that we have to continue with the new rate increase. The town has to get fair market value for this space. Also, if they do not pay they will have to be evicted. Tioga Downs and the Food Bank have supposedly been helping them financially.

*A motion to reject the amended lease agreement presented by Catholics Charities made by E. Woods 2nd by 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*

*A motion to follow Section II –Lease agreement default rules made B. Middleton 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*

*A motion to accept vouchers and pay bills made B. Middleton 2nd by L.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*

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

*Motion to go into executive session to discuss legal considerations pursuant to public officers’ law Section 105 at 9:15 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 9:16 pm made by B. Middleton 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 9:40 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 TO ADJOURN –

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm made by E. Woods 2nd by R. Cole.
Roll Vote. 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
03//14/2023*