

*Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting  
April 9, 2024  
6:00PM*

*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 (absent), Councilperson Rose Cole (present), and Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).*

*ALSO PRESENT;*

*John Hazard, Robert Nugent, Basil Bacorn, Erica Deretz, Stephanie Fuller, Chris Fuller, Joan Shultz, Kem Baker, and Marcy Hill, Town Clerk*

*Public Comments*

*John Hazard – Mr. Hazard came to speak to the destruction of the eco system in Sacketts Creek. There is a person “picking” rocks daily in the creek. This person is driving machinery in the creek to retrieve rocks. He is cutting logs off the steep side of the bank. There are no owners to the land. Mr. Hazard asked “Does anyone actually own a named stream? No, they are property of the state. Mr. Hazard also stated he wants to proceed logically.*

*The board responded that he (John) would be told to call the DEC when there is work being done in the creek. Mr. Hazard also stated he was going to call all the Susquehanna River Basin.*

*Joan Schultz - Family Resource Center*

*Joan shared information regarding Family Resource Center including the fact that they use space at the Town Hall on a weekly basis. There is a play group that is held on Tuesday mornings from 9-11 in Nichols. In 1988, Cornell received a grant to run these programs. They have several sites throughout the county. They also offer parenting classes for parents of children ages 2-18.*

*Recently purchased a farm on Cass Hill Farm in Berkshire. All programs and information can be found on their website.*

*Kem Hart Baker*

*Kem started by inquiring about the signage for the museum. She then went onto voice her concerns regarding the town board minutes on the town’s website. Her demands included that the minutes be correct to reflect that she reported at each monthly meeting. It was noted that her report is filed monthly in the clerk’s office, given to the town board, and if she was not present at a meeting recorded as no report – due to there being no report given “verbally” at the meeting.*

*Going forward it will be recorded that a report was filed in the clerk's office.*

### *New Business*

*Southern Tier Network Grant for internet infrastructure.*

*Esther stated that STN has applied for grant money to finish East & West River Roads.*

### *Change Zoning Board members from 5 to 3*

*Local Law – Draft presented. Our next step would be a public hearing that will take place at our May meeting. This change will take effect in 2025. It is noted that this will basically reflect what we are doing now.*

### *Board Meeting Date Change*

*As discussed at the March meeting – we would like to change Town Board meetings to 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday this would work best for financial reporting.*

*A motion by the move town board meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at by B. Fay-Pelotte 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

*It is noted that this will start with the May meeting – May 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Fall Clean Up* - *Tire removal contractor rates were discussed. The current company is charging a \$2500 minimum. The rates with ClayRidge Trucking are much less and he will bring as many trailers as we need. It is noted that ClayRidge works with Chemung County and other municipalities. Rose will reach out to him for a contract.*

### *Tioga Opportunities Inc. Programs*

*They would like to bring programs to Nichols. They will bring any of their programs to Nichols. We could eventually have a rotation of programs. Bringing the mammography van and dental van to the community is a priority. There are also exercise classes that are available. We will request a list of programs and let them know we have space available. Rose will reach out to them for a list.*

### *Emergency Preparedness*

*Rose shared that she has attended this event in in Spencer, NY and feels our community would benefit. They give you a great deal of information to prepare you for the first 72 hours after an emergency. The Army Reserves hands out backpacks full of essential information/items if 50 people are in attendance. We need to give Tioga County 6 week's notice for an event. We can host the event at the Fire Dept in the community room. October 19<sup>th</sup> was the chosen date for this event.*

Old Town Barn –The surveyor was contracted ad we are on the list. They recommended that they survey the entire property and then the portion off the property. We want to keep the “mound”, river frontage and fishing access. Also, we would like to have the property assessed. The board agreed to have three (3) realtors assess the property.

We do have enough room to build a building at the new town barn property. Rose would like an estimate of how much it would cost to erect a building at the new town barn. We could look at several options for building types. There will be millings available and we should look into getting them. There is a lot of debris in the back of the old town barn. We need to get that area cleaned up. Esther will talk with Will about cleaning it up.

NYS AG & Markets – Inspection – Town of Owego Kennels. Esther shared the reported violations and stated that there will be another inspection in 30 days. Brenda will follow up with the Town of Owego tomorrow.

#### Justice’s Audit

The annual audit of their books was completed by Melissa at LGSS. The audit went well and Esther will convey that to them.

A motion to accept the justice (court) system audit for both Judge Grinage and Judge Lute by R. Cole and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

#### 5 Year Plan –

We need estimates for the proposed items and then need a work session – prioritized year to year. Ray was asked to get a quote on the roof. The roof and boiler are the most important for this building. Rose does not believe we should pay for quotes. Would it be better to do a RFP or go out to bid. The porch for the library is going to be done this year.

#### Departments-

Highway – Monthly Report on file. Brenda would like to know more specifics on backhoe door handle that we are purchasing in this week’s check run.

Building & Grounds – Report on file. Rose shared that Ted Dydinski complimented Ray on his work at the cemetery.

*Sewer/Water – Report on file. Bob also shared Nelson’s cut trees down – they cut all that were marked and whatever looked like it was going to “fall”. DEC sent the follow-up report back. Signs ordered to go along the river. Bob would like to would like to keep an old mower if B/G is getting rid of one.*

*Code Enforcement – Owego Code has shared that they have a project going on 500 feet from a Nichols property. However, it didn’t make the county’s 239 review. The cell tower company has applied and been approved for Pad permits for tower. ENVO (Lounsberry Truck Stop) has been notified regarding the “tipping” of their lights. Complete report on file.*

*Historian – Kem stated that the Proclamation went well. Committee has agree that they are doing the Old Home Day event. They soon will be turning in the invoices for the brochures. Facebook page has almost 2000 members. The music is all lined up for Labor Day and they are working with the rest of the vendors. Complete report on file*

*Library – Is it REAP or just the town doing the porches? The Town - Ray has reached out for quotes. Erica will also reach out for some quotes. Erica asked “If we push off the porches – can we paint instead?” We can get quotes for both painting and porches replaced.*

#### Committee Reports –

*REAP – REAP is working with Team Tioga looking for administrative assistance.*

*Hazard Mitigation - Done for the next 3 years.*

*LEPC - No meeting this month.*

*Council of Governments –REAP asked to be on the next meeting agenda. USDA grants will be discussed. May is next meeting.*

#### Old Business:

*Town Hall locks – YelHelp did a walk through and it appears to be straightened out and moving forward. All keys will be signed out in the clerk’s office.*

*Internet infrastructure will be installed April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Sewer/Water department wells and pump house.*

*Depot Road Project - Waiting for FEMA reimbursement. Scope of work change has been submitted.*

FEMA Properties– still working on it – Working on a review.

Motion to approve vouchers and pay bills by E. Woods 2nd by B. Fay-Pelotte

<u>Fund</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AA - General Townwide		
	000	45,986.34
<b><u>AA Fund Total</u></b>		<b>45,986.34</b>
BB - General Outside Village		
	000	26.58
<b><u>BB Fund Total</u></b>		<b>26.58</b>
DA - Highway Townwide		
	000	14,937.76
<b><u>DA Fund Total</u></b>		<b>14,937.76</b>
DB - Highway Outside Village		
	000	15,041.02
<b><u>DB Fund Total</u></b>		<b>15,041.02</b>
SS - Sewer		
	000	2,950.08
<b><u>SS Fund Total</u></b>		<b>2,950.08</b>
SW - Water		
	000	2,445.14
<b><u>SW Fund Total</u></b>		<b>2,445.14</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>81,386.92</b>

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 adjourn by E. Woods 2nd by Rose Cole

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

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Hill

04/09/2024