

*Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting
February 25, 2025
6:00PM*

Board Members Present: *Supervisor Esther Woods, Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte, Councilperson LeeAnn Tinney; Councilperson Rose Cole, and Councilperson J. Ladd Yost*
Board Members Absent: *None*

Others Present: *Harold Hall, Cathy Westfall, Brandon Sickler, Bob Bradley, Lou Striley, KC Holbert, Scott Holbert, Debbie Stubecki, John Stubeck, Howard Stoltzfus, Debra Blair, Bryan Cole, James Campoli, Victor Chapman, James Lohmeyer, Ray Loymeyer Jr., Ronald Van Winkle, Kris Swagler, Steven Varga, Sandra Lynch, Milt Lynch, Linda Silvanic, Ady Silvanic, Amber Keefer, Laura Kittle, Dan Keefer, Stephanie Fuller, Donna Patterson, Roger Patterson, Jason Rossi, Elisha Greenwalt, Karen Herrala, Barb Cushman, Karen Hall, Marcia Pierson, Tamie Jacobs, James McIntyre, Kaylee McIntyre, Charles Jacobs, Rick Thetga, Meagan DePue, Chelly Girando, Sarah Whitey, Charles Talcott, David Carlson, Eric Baker, Robert Nugent, Ray Thetga, Jr. Jeff Blow, Tyler Bowen, Ray Thetga, Sr., and Marcy Hill, Town Clerk.*

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, seconded by Esther Woods at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing #1 commenced at 6:05 PM

Supervisor Woods introduced a proposed law regarding moving the Town Clerk position from an elected position to an appointed position. She also said that this; if approved, would go on the November ballot and would not be done prior.

Many residents of the town filled the room and commented.

One resident was in favor of appointment and felt that getting the most qualified people in these positions is an asset to the town. However, all others that spoke, or read prepared statements, were against the process. The concerns ranged from hours worked to losing their right to vote.

Close hearing #1 at 6:20 PM

Open Public Hearing #2- Highway Superintendent – 6:21 PM

Supervisor Woods introduced the new proposed law regarding moving the Highway Superintendent position from an elected position to an appointed position. She reiterated that this; if approved, would go on the November ballot and would not be done prior.

More residents spoke out during this public comment section. Their concerns again ranged from residency, the hiring process, and again losing the right to vote.

Public hearing closed – 6:44 PM

Councilperson L. Tinney, on behalf of the board, thanked everyone for coming.

*Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve January 28, 2025 minutes by, Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by R. Cole
Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

Acceptance of Financial Reports: A motion to accept the February 2025 financial reports by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay0-Pelotte.

Vote: -4 Ayes, 0-No, 1-astain, 0 absent

Public Comments –

Mr. Bob Bradley, expressed concern for the need for street lighting at the end of State Line Rd.

*Departments- *Note full reports have been given to the board and are on file in the clerk's office.*

Highway – Jeff presented his report to the board. He shared that it has been a struggle to get salt due to the shortage; however, salt was finally delivered just ahead of our last storm. Also, the new truck should be here near the end of April.

Building & Grounds –

Working on his to-do list along with a new issue involving the handicapped access button at Town Hall. LeeAnn and Ray are working on the five-year plan.

Councilperson Rose Cole wanted to publicly thank Ray for the fire department's handling of the recent fire on E. River Road.

Sewer/Water – Report on file.

Code Enforcement – Report on file. The set of plans for the Babcock Rd tower was just submitted. Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte stated that the Town of Nichols is the first of four towers going up in the county. The Code Officer will review the submission.

Library – Erica shared the upcoming library events.

Nichols Fire Commission – Bryan Cole highlighted the fire department's monthly happenings. He also shared that Nichols now has a paid EMS service. This service is shared with Tioga Center and coverage is from 6 AM-6 PM Monday-Friday.

New Business:

Supervisor E. Woods introduces Megan Depue. Megan is interested in being on our board assessment review board. Megan has lived in the town for years and is interested in the open BAR position.

A motion to appoint Megan Depue, Assessment Review Board Member by Supervisor E. Woods, Seconded by B. Fay-Pelotte. Supervisor Woods will be in contact with Megan to get her information on the required training.

A. Town of Nichols Emergency Plan Update 2025

Will be reviewed and final edits will be approved at the next meeting.

Committee Reports.

REAP meeting – Councilperson L. Yost stated that he joined the noon-time meeting again this month. There was no quorum again, so, he is not on the board as of yet. Also, Eddie VanScoy has resigned. The committee is a tremendous asset to the county – we can't let it go.

LEPAC – Meeting will be held next month.

Old Business:

1. Signage for Town Hall & Library – Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte will reach out for that status of signage.

2. *Library Front Porch – waiting for handrails. Everything else has been completed. – waiting for warmer weather to complete the installation.*
2. *Depot Road Reimbursement – More movement; permits have been requested.*
3. *FEMA Properties – Nothing new this month.*
4. *Emergency Shelter – Supervisor Woods will reach out the emergency management office for guidance.*
5. *Design Connect- Fishing Access – we lost this this year’s deadline. Work on it for next years grant.*

A motion to approve vouchers and pay bills by Councilperson L, Yost, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte

Vote: 5-Ayes, 0-No, 0-abstain

General Fund: \$516114.41

Highway \$ 21,476.95

Library \$3,713.40

Sewer/Water \$5761.53

*A motion to adjourn at 7:38 pm by Supervisor Esther Woods, seconded by Councilperson Rose Cole.
All in favor*

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcy Hill

2/28/2025