

## **Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting March 25, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

### **Board Members Present:**

Supervisor Esther Woods, Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte, Councilperson LeeAnn Tinney, Councilperson Rose Cole, Councilperson J. Ladd Yost

**Board Members Absent:** None

### **Others Present:**

Robert Nugent, Ray Thetga Jr., Jeff Blow, Ray Thetga Sr., Erica Deretz, and Marcy Hill, Town Clerk.

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The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Woods at 6:00 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the February 28, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Councilperson R. Cole, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

### **Acceptance of Financial Reports**

A motion to accept the February 2025 financial reports was made by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson R. Cole.

**Vote:** 4 Ayes, 0 No, 1 Abstain, 0 Absent

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### **Supervisor's Statement**

Supervisor Woods expressed appreciation for the high community turnout at the February meeting, calling the standing-room-only attendance “awesome.” She noted that the Board values public input and announced that no changes will be made at this time, and both positions will remain elected.

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### **Public Comments**

- Erica Deretz spoke about a recent loose dog incident in the Village.
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### **Presentation – Solar on Earth Proposal**

Rachael Martin presented a cost-savings report from **Solar on Earth**, explaining there are no additional fees to opt in. Savings would be reflected on NYSEG bills within 3–4 months.

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## Department Reports

*Note: Full reports are on file in the Clerk's Office.*

### Highway

- Jeff Blow reported gravel crushing is complete.
- A new stone rack is needed to replace the current 50+-year-old rack.
- Jeff praised the new backhoe as a valuable addition that will support upcoming ditch work.
- The Board approved ordering a **new 10-foot hydraulic stone rake**.

### Buildings & Grounds

- Front door requires a new timer/receptacle switch. Teledair was consulted, and a quote is pending.
- Roof work is progressing well.
- Tri-County Communications will quote the new radio antenna, installation to follow roof completion.
- Servicing the dishwasher would cost \$300–\$500. If unused, the suggestion is to scrap it.

**Motion:** To accept the Teledair bid for front door repair, **not to exceed (NTE) \$2,000**, made by Councilperson J. Ladd Yost, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

**Motion:** To approve expenditures NTE \$20,000 for Room 2 upgrades, made by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

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### Sewer/Water

- Bob Nugent requested approval to attend a class in Cortland in late April.

**Motion:** To approve Robert Nugent's attendance at the Cortland conference, made by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson J. Ladd Yost.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

**Motion:** To approve the purchase of a **HACH water sampler** (via USA Bluebook), made by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

- The sewer ordinance is currently under legal review.
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## **Code Enforcement**

Report on file.

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## **Library**

- Erica reported that the upstairs room is halfway done.
  - Discussion on adding portable air conditioning units and UV-blocking window film.
  - Library needs 30 chairs for the Carriage House.
  - Library's savings account is earning 4.25%; checking earns no interest.
  - A vote will be needed for funds transfer between accounts.
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## **Nichols Fire Commission**

Report on file.

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## **New Business**

### **A. Solar on Earth Program**

**Motion:** To opt into the Solar on Earth cost-savings program, made by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte, seconded by Councilperson R. Cole.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

### **B. Emergency Communication Tower Permit Fee Waiver**

- The \$4,000 fee was not budgeted in the grant; request made to waive it.

**Motion:** To waive the special permit fee for the Emergency Communication Tower, made by Supervisor Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

### **C. Solar Moratorium**

- Review of existing solar law recommended; a one-year moratorium proposed.

- Public hearing scheduled for April 22, 2025.
- A 239 Review will be conducted with Tioga County in May.

#### **D. Budget Transfer – Highway Department**

**Motion:** To approve a \$50,000 budget transfer to the Highway Fund (per accountant), made by Councilperson L. Tinney, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

#### **E. 284 Agreement**

- This outlines the agreement between the Highway Superintendent and Town for road repairs.

**Motion:** To accept the 284 Agreement as prepared by Interim Highway Superintendent J. Blow, made by Councilperson L. Tinney, seconded by Supervisor E. Woods.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

#### **F. Surplus Equipment**

- Jeff will present a list of surplus items for disposal.

#### **G. Quadiant Postage Machine**

- Marcy Hill presented a contract for a new postage machine from Quadiant, providing cost savings.

**Motion:** To approve the new postage machine purchase, made by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson J. Ladd Yost.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

#### **H. Sunnyside Road Signage**

- The Town will pay for additional signage.
- Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte will coordinate with the Code Enforcement Officer and homeowner.

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### **Committee Reports**

- REAP Meeting scheduled for April.

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### **Old Business**

1. Emergency Plan for 2025 presented – Thanks to Rose for her work. A contact list and annexes will be discussed next month.
2. Signage for Town Hall & Library nearing completion.
3. Library Front Porch – Waiting on better weather.
4. Depot Road Reimbursement – Progress made; permits requested.
5. FEMA Properties – Reimbursement process underway.
6. Emergency Shelter – Red Cross to provide information to Supervisor Woods.
7. Design Connect Fishing Access – Application submitted; site visits mid-April.

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## Public Comments

None.

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## Final Motions

**Motion:** To approve vouchers and pay bills, made by Councilperson J. Ladd Yost, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

**General Fund:** \$270,275.52

**Highway:** \$23,965.71

**Library:** \$2,201.09

**Sewer/Water:** \$18943.72

**Motion:** To move into Executive Session, made by Supervisor Woods, seconded by Councilperson R. Cole.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

**Motion:** To reconvene into regular session, made by Supervisor Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte.

**Vote:** 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM, made by Supervisor Esther Woods, seconded by Councilperson Rose Cole.

**All in favor.**

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**Respectfully submitted,**

Marcy Hill

Town Clerk

**Date:** 3/25/2025