

*Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting  
August 8, 2023  
7:00 pm*

*Town Supervisor, Esther Woods, brought the 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), Councilperson Bill Middleton (present), Councilperson Ladd Yost (present), Councilperson Rose Cole (present), and Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte (present).*

**ALSO PRESENT;**

*Barbara Cushman, Kem Hart-Baker, Ray Thetga, Jr., Bob Nugent, and Marcy Hill (Town Clerk).*

**MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup> minutes on September 12<sup>th</sup> made by B. Fay-Pelotte 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

**Public Comments:** *None.*

**New Business:**

*Health Insurance -* *There was a lengthy discussion regarding active and retiree health insurance.*

*This discussion will be continued at the next meeting. However, the Board did agree upon moving to the high deductible PPO plan January 1, 2024 for active employees. .*

*Motion to approve the move to the Excellus Bronze 4 with HRA insurance made by L. Yost 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

*Tax Cap –*

*Motion to approve the 2% tax cap override Esther Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

*Amendment of Town of Nichols Zoning Code – Frontage Requirements*

*After discussion regarding the proposed 25ft frontage requirement – the town board does not care to support this requirement.*

*Court Clerks Conference -*

*The courts clerks would like to attend an out of town conference in September. The board agreed that it was fine for them to attend the conference with the understanding they follow the*

*employee travel policy.*

*Motion to approve the \$300 cost of the conference Esther Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

*\*Note they must follow the travel reimbursement policy.*

#### *Fuel Management System*

*Rose Cole shared the proposal from Tioga County for the setup of a fuel management system. At this time we are not going to pursue this proposal. It was determined after further discussion that fuel usage is being recorded by the various departments and this will continue and a separate budget line will be created for all fuel usage.*

#### *Senior Information Series –*

*Rose shared that Tioga Opportunities has quite a few informational programs. She is hoping to have them come to Nichols to share these with our Nichols residents. Julie Wendela from the Nichols Lions Club would also like to partner in this adventure and bring more topics for discussion. Many ideas were discussed. The Lion's Club will come to the next meeting with a list of events.*

*There should be not charge for residents to participate in these informational sessions. The Lions will provide the service and the town will reimburse them for the cost.*

#### *Department Reports:*

*Kem Baker, Historian –*

*For the past few months Kem has been working on finding a “pass-through” for donations made to the museum. Tioga County United Way will now be accepting funds for the museum. Tioga County United Way will accept donations on behalf of the museum. They will then send the check to the town. They will handle the tax deductible and thank you letters as well.*

*Motion to approve that Tioga County United Way as the pass through for Town of Nichols Historical Museum donations.*

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

*Carried 3 aye- 0 absent- 2 No- 0 abstain*

*It was also discussed that the Bicentennial Contract does not need to be accepted. Whoever is on that committee will sign it. The two advisors will sign. The committee members and advisors will sign vouchers for the committee members. These expenses cannot come out of town wide monies.*

*Ray Thetga, B/G – Ray shared that he had two quotes for the AC unit in the assessor's office. The unit is pushing warm air. Martin's have come to inspect it and fell that it is the heating coil The quote to cut out and put in a new coil is \$4500.00 They also quoted an internal head replacement for \$4400.00 with a ten-year warranty. There was also a third quote to replace the entire unit for \$6500.00*

*A motion to approve option number #2- internal head replacement by Bill Middleton 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Ray also shared that the boiler service repairman passed away last year. Ray has reached out to P&J to cost out a service contract.

They quoted \$3750 a year to service the boiler semi-annually. This includes preventative maintenance also.

A motion to approve the P&J service contract by L. Yost 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill 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

Knox Box – this is the box needed to hold keys for the fire department to gain access to buildings. This box is temper resistant and there are others throughout the town. The cost is approximately \$550 a box.

A motion to purchase three (3) Knox boxes needed town wide by R. Cole 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Front door keys – the lock is being made when completed it will be installed and new keys made. Marty's door lock has been changed.

Bob Nugent, S/W – Bob attended a free seminar a few weeks ago regarding PFAS litigation. Do we want to enroll in the class action lawsuit? There is some work involved with applying for it. There was a brief discussion about the lawsuit participation.

Committee Reports:

Reap – Nothing new to report – meeting tomorrow

Hazard Mitigation – Meeting August 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm.

LEPC – Next meeting in September

Council of Governments - Nothing

Old Business:

- Cleaning of 139 RoKi – Everyone is happy doing their own areas. Right now Tioga Downs and Catholic Charities clean the bathrooms and hallways. Building and Grounds will clean the community room before the Tuesday morning play group.
- Depot Rd Project – Just got word we are under budget. The final submission was sent to FEMA. We will look into getting someone to haul the gravel out.
- FEMA Properties update – No update since last meeting.
- NY ALERT Contract –This will allow the town to issue our own hazard and safety alerts. Esther will send a copy to the lawyer for review.
- Fall Clean up – Will reached out to Taylor Garbage will pick up tires for \$ 200/a ton for

*the used tires. We would have to have a permit to haul the tires.  
No tires on a rim and no tires 20' tires. No charge for up to 6 tire a \$2 a tire charge after  
that. Residents only – no businesses.*

- *Signage – Waiting to see what is left of the budget doors are done.*

*Rose stated another newsletter will go out by the end of September.*

**Accept vouchers and pay bills:**

*Motion to accept vouchers and pay bills made by B. Fay-Pelotte 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 more to Executive Session at 9:05PM by B. Fay-Pelotte 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*

**Motion to Reconvene:**

*Motion to reconvene into regular session at 10:00PM made by R. Cole 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*

**Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn made by R. Cole 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*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Hill  
9/12/2023*