

Town of Cohocton
Minutes for the Regular Town Board Meeting
of January 21, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Town Supervisor Judith Hall at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance: said by all present

Present: Town Supervisor Hall, Councilmember James McCart, Councilmember Patrica Johnson, Councilmember Geraldine Deusenbery and Councilmember Peter Wallace

Also Present: Town Clerk Loraine Sanderson, Town Attorney David Miller, Planning Board Member Marty Ohlbeck, Zoning Board Member William Yanda, Deputy Town Clerk Jade Perkins and approximately eight members of the community.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

Correspondence: None

Acceptance of the Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilmember Wallace to accept the minutes for the December 17, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Deusenbery; motion carried with four ayes and Councilmember Johnson abstaining because she had not been present at the 12/17/2024 meeting. **Motion** was made by Town Supervisor Hall to accept the minutes for the January 7, 2025 Organizational Town Board Meeting with one correction, seconded by Councilmember Johnson; motion carried four ayes and Councilmember Deusenbery abstaining because she had not been present at the 1/7/2025 meeting.

Acceptance of Reports: **Motion** made by Councilmember Deusenbery to accept the December reports from the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Dog Control, Highway, Justices, Ambulance, and Police, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Approval of Abstract: Concerns and questions were addressed with vouchers for Code Officer Chuck Cagle's cell phone bill, a shared bill with Dansville for Monroe Tractor and an ambulance bill for Stryker. A lengthy discussion took place regarding a voucher for Alleghany Pipe and Tubular and associated cost of a pipe delivered to Fairbrother Road for the Highway Department. Several failed motions to approve the vouchers took place during the discussion.

Motion made by Councilmember Johnson to approve payment of the Abstract with the omission of voucher 19 and to pay only the invoice for the Davis Road pipe for voucher 56 and wait to pay the invoice for the Fairbrother Road pipe until documentation of State Bid is received, seconded by Councilmember Wallace; motion carried with four ayes and Councilmember McCart abstaining.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the status of an invoice for Blair Supply that was not approved at a previous meeting; the matter was tabled for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Easements for Water Project: Town Supervisor Hall reported that the project is moving forward despite some outstanding easements.

Pool Project Update: Supervisor Hall reported that only one engineering quote has been received and she is waiting to hear back on her inquiry as to whether the Town has time to re-solicit. **Motion** made by Councilmember Johnson to re-solicit engineering quotes for the pool project with notices to be published in The Evening Tribune, Democrat & Chronicle and State website with a quote submission deadline of February 14, 2025, seconded by Deusenbery; motion carried with all ayes.

Baron Winds Proposal: Town Supervisor Hall reported that Baron Winds has agreed to pay the Town \$26,000 for the community host agreement but does not want to obtain a permit for the placement of work trailers that are already on site; the cost of the permit is \$25. It was determined by the Planning Board that a new special use permit is not needed.

Frederick Street: A Resolution was provided by Attorney Miller to abandon a strip of land belonging to the Town off University Avenue known as 'Frederick Street' which will result in the adjoining property owners extending their current property lines to the centerline of the Frederick Street strip. Attorney Miller recommended the adjoining property owners have new surveys of their properties completed after the abandonment process is complete.

Motion made by Councilmember McCart to accept the Resolution to abandon Frederick Street, seconded by Councilmember Wallace; roll call: Councilmember McCart aye, Councilmember Deusenbery aye, Councilmember Wallace aye, Councilmember Johnson aye, Town Supervisor Hall aye. Motion carried.

BESS Law: Attorney Miller recommended that Town Supervisor Hall complete Part I of the SEQR and send out Letters of Intent for the Town to be lead agency.

NEW BUSINESS

Barry Winter Training: **Motion** made by Councilmember Wallace for Barry Fairbrother to attend winter training, seconded by Councilmember Johnson; motion carried with all ayes.

Resolution for the Water Project: **Motion** was made by Councilmember McCart to accept the Resolution for the Water Project, seconded by Councilmember Johnson; roll call: Town Supervisor Hall aye, Councilmember McCart aye, Councilmember Deusenbery aye, Councilmember Wallace aye, Councilmember Johnson aye. Motion carried. A copy of the Resolution is to be sent to MRB Group and a copy is to be kept on file.

Hiring Attorney for ZBA: **Motion** made by Councilmember McCart to hire Attorney Jennifer Galvan of Avoca for matters pertaining to the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals at a rate of \$200/hr with a \$1,000 retainer, seconded by Councilmember Deusenbery; motion carried with four ayes and Councilmember Wallace abstaining.

Water Billing Corrections: With assistance from Village Clerk Ashely Adams, Town Clerk Sanderson has been able to correct erroneous billing dating back several years. Quarterly water billing has averaged approximately \$7,000 since 2022 but with the corrections averaged \$19,000 for the most recent quarterly billing. An incorrect water relevy has also been found and is in the process of correction with assistance from the County.

Delaware Solar: Town Supervisor Hall reported that Delaware Solar is back soliciting in the area.

Clearview Solar: Town Supervisor Hall said she has spoken with a representative from Clearview Solar regarding a host agreement; however, the host agreement they're proposing is not currently more than the Town would receive from the pilot so the Town Supervisor asked the Board to think about considerations the Town could request be included in a host agreement.

Privilege of the Floor: A representative of the Atlanta Fire District requested a copy of the water easement paperwork; Town Supervisor Hall responded that they should have the paperwork in 30-60 days and will include information regarding designation of the playground located adjacent to the Atlanta fire hall. Planning Board Member Marty Obrecht provided Steuben IDA updates on Clearview Solar and Baron Winds pilot addition; he also provided information from the Planning Board minutes that have not yet been received by the Town Supervisor.

Board Concerns: None

Adjournment: **Motion** made by Supervisor Hall to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm, seconded by Councilmember Wallace; motion carried with all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Loraine Sanderson
Town Clerk