

Town of Cohocton
Minutes for the Regular Town Board Meeting
of May 20, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present

Present: Town Supervisor Hall, Councilmember Patricia Johnson, Councilmember Geraldine Deusenbery and Councilmember James McCart. Councilmember Peter Wallace was absent.

Also Present: Town Clerk Loraine Sanderson, Town Attorney David Miller, Police Chief Mark Barnhart, Planning Board Member Marty Ohlbeck, Zoning Board Member William Yanda, Deputy Town Clerk Jade Perkins and approximately 19 members of the community.

Adjustments to Agenda: Addition of Police Department – New Hire; Removal of New Tractor, New Truck

Correspondence: None

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to accept the minutes for the April 15, 2025 Regular Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to accept the minutes for the April 19, 2025 Special Town Board Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Deusenbery; motion carried with all ayes.

Acceptance of Reports: **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to accept the February reports from the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Dog Control, Justices, Planning Board, Police, Code Office, and Ambulance, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Approval of Abstract: **Motion** was made by Councilmember McCart to approve payment of Abstract #5 with corrections to vouchers 272 and 273 for a total of \$141,623.93, seconded by Town Supervisor Hall; motion carried with three ayes and Councilmember Johnson abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Pool Update: Town Supervisor Hall and Attorney Miller will need to DocuSign the agreement for the pool. Discussion regarding changing the deep end of the pool from 8' to 6 ½' commenced; it was decided to keep with the original specs of 8'.

Water Project (Schedule Public Hearing, 202B Resolution) June 4:

1. Town Supervisor Hall explained that a slight modification to the SEQR is required because the Town was unable to get one easement signed. Bond Counsel Timothy R McGill has concerns that this will be a problem with USDA, and so a new public hearing and 202B Resolution would be required. These changes will cost the Water District ~\$45K. A public hearing was set for June 4, 2025 at

9:00am. Town Clerk Sanderson read the 202B Resolution. **Motion** made by Councilmember Johnson for Town Supervisor Hall to sign the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember McCart; roll call: Councilmember Deussenbery aye, Councilmember Johnson aye, Councilmember McCart aye, Councilmember Wallace absent, Town Supervisor Hall aye.

2. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the contract between the Town and Bond Counsel Timothy R McGill, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.
3. **Motion** was made by Town Supervisor Hall to accept the new MRB Group proposal for an increase of \$45,000.00 for the changes to the water project, seconded by Councilmember Johnson; motion carried with all ayes.

Prattsburgh Wind Project Update, Dwight Letter, O&M Laydown Area:

1. The attorney James Muscato for the Prattsburgh Wind Project and Kevin Sheen of Terra-Gen were in attendance at the meeting and spoke regarding the VanAuken substation as well as the need for the Town to execute a host community agreement and decommissioning agreement; the Town Board will review the two agreements for the June 17, 2025 meeting. The Prattsburgh Wind Project Attorney and Mr. Sheen exited the meeting at 8:05pm.
2. The attorney that represents Cohocton along with several other local towns for matters relating to wind projects has requested a conflict of interest waiver. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to grant a conflict of interest waiver to Attorney Dwight to allow him to represent all named towns in matters regarding wind turbines, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department New Hire: Police Chief Barnhart requested permission to hire a new officer. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to hire Joseph D'Ambrosia as a part-time police officer, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Procurement Policy, Mileage Policy:

1. The Town Board reviewed the newly proposed procurement policy for the Town. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to accept the new procurement policy with correction of \$150 and change to \$10,000.00 per purchase, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.
2. The Town Board discussed changes to mileage submission reimbursement requests. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Johnson to require the NYS mileage form be used for Town reimbursement requests and that all mileage reimbursement requests be submitted by voucher every 30 days, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Planning Board, ZBA Appointment: No new interest has been received.

Board of Assessment Review (BAR): June 3, 2025 from 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Hydrant Accident, Deer Collision:

1. A hydrant that had recently been installed at a cost of \$4,200.00 was hit by a motorist and will need to be replaced; Town Supervisor Hall is working on submitting a claim.
2. The ambulance was recently in a collision with a deer. A police report was filed. There was no damage other than a scratch.

Roadside Cleanup: The Town Board discussed dates and details for roadside cleanup - the Steuben County landfill will accept disposal of materials collected during designated cleanup dates for free. The matter was tabled until the June meeting.

Privilege of the Floor:

1. Wendy Fairbrother provided solar project updates.
2. Karen Johnson requested that the pool engineering bid be removed from the Town's website and that the most recent updates to the project be listed.
3. Shannon Logsdon inquired as to whether the Town has or could place notification that County Route 35/Kirkwood Road will be closed on May 22, 2025 from 8:30am-3:00pm for road work.

Board Concerns: None

Adjournment: **Motion** made by Councilmember Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm, seconded by Councilmember McCart; motion carried with all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Loraine Sanderson
Town Clerk