

The December 11, 2019 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Duggan Community Center meeting room.

Council members present: Vicky Simpson
Lillian Hendrickson
Bernie Cohen

Council member absent: Dawn Ryder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audit of Bills

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive audit of bills. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0 as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check Nos.</u>
General Fund	\$212,250.48	8955-8959, 8307 8960-9038
Highway Fund	\$335,173.70	2385-2424
Sewer Fund	\$ 33,991.93	1863-1909
Light Fund	\$ 2,160.70	1045
Trust Agency P&Z	\$ 4,646.95	1206-1209

Supervisor’s Monthly Report - December

Mr. Sturm reported as follows:

General Fund –

To date we received \$105,000 in revenue; 4.3% higher than last year.
Expenses are up 1.5% which includes the new police vehicle of \$39,000.
Expenses to date are 92.8%
\$15,000 Budget modification for paving of the Transfer Station.

Highway Fund -

Revenue is 1.5% higher.
Expenses are down 7.7% \$54,000 includes a new highway truck.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file the Supervisor’s Monthly Report. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Building Department Monthly Report

November 2019 Fees	\$ 4,002.00
November 2018 Fees	\$ 5,782.00
November 2019 Construction Totals	\$542,000.00
November 2018 Construction Totals	\$930,000.00

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the Building Department Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Town Clerk’s Monthly Report

Total fees for November 2019	\$7,140.75
State Share	\$2,118.73
Town Share	\$5,022.02

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file the Town Clerk’s Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Mr. Sturm said that the Town Clerk's Office has been very busy.

Rescind Sodium Hydroxide Bid awarded at November 13, 2019 Meeting

Mr. Sturm stated that the first bid for sodium hydroxide did not meet the bid specifications as requested in the bid package by the Sewer Department.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to rescind the original bid award on November 13, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Bid results for Sodium Hydroxide

Mr. Sturm said the Sewer Department has received three bids for sodium hydroxide and is still reviewing the bids. Therefore, I entertain a motion to table the bid awarding until our January 2, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to table the bid award for sodium hydroxide until the January 2, 2020 Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

NYS DEC Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility Inspection

Mr. Sturm read letter dated 11/4/2019 from NYS DEC, Division of Water, Region 3, from Vladimir Berezanskiy stating the on 10/10/2019 an inspection was done to evaluate compliance with the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPEDES) and Article 17 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. At the time of inspection, the facility was operating in a satisfactory manner. Refer to the inspector's report/comments for detailed information.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file correspondence from the NYS DEC Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility Inspection. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Mr. Sturm stated that this a highly favorable inspection.

Cancel December 25th Town Board Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to cancel the December 25, 2019 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Set 2020 Re-organizational meeting for 1/2/2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to set the 2020 Re-organizational meeting for January 2, 2020, 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Duggan Community Center Meeting Room, White Lake, NY. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Unsafe Property SBL #43.-6-28 (96 E. Thompson Place)

Per B.J. Gettel, Code Enforcement Officer, this property/building is still in disrepair. She went there today and still no work has been done. I do not believe him.

Mr. Sturm said the owner was here before the meeting and he wants to postpone again. I suggest the Town Board table this item until January 2, 2020 meeting. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to table this item SBL #43.-6-28 (96 E. Thompson Place) and re-schedule for our January 2, 2020 Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

General Fund Budget Modification

Mr. Sturm stated that this is a budget modification of transfers between fund account codes. As you recall this was part of the new salt barn under the State and

Municipal Facilities Capital Program Grant of \$50,000 through Mr. Bonacic (2016.) This was a matching grant and the transfer of \$15,601. completes the project (paving the transfer station).

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve the transfer between fund account codes, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0 as follows:

Acct Code	Title	Debit	Credit
A9060.8	Health Insurance	15,601.99	
A1330.1	Tax Collector	4,000.00	
DA 9901	Inter fund transfer		15,601.99
	(Salt Barn Project)		
A1620.4	Town Hall .4		\$4,000.00
		\$19,601.99	\$19,601.99

Correspondence to Constable Yates

Mr. Sturm read a note dated 12/5/2019 from Roger J. Hourihan thanking Constable Yates his professional courtesy.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file the note from Mr. Hourihan in Mr. Yates personnel file. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Resolution to abolish the position of Deputy Tax Collector

RESOLUTION OF TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

WHEREAS, the Town has historically had an open position of Deputy Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Tax Collector position has been vacant for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Town has not funded the position of Deputy Tax Collector for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently does not have an elected Tax Collector, as the previous elected official has resigned from the position; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the position of Deputy Tax Collector is not necessary for the operation of the Town; and

WHEREAS, no elected official currently exists who could either appoint a Deputy or consent or object to the abolition of this position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Bethel hereby abolishes the position of Deputy Tax Collector; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion by Town Board Member: Mrs. Lillian Hendrickson
 Seconded by Town Board Member: Mrs. Vicky Simpson

Adopted upon a roll call vote as follows:

		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mrs. Hendrickson	voting	X	
Mrs. Simpson	voting	X	

Mr. Cohen	voting	X
Mr. Sturm	voting	X

Town Board Comments

Mrs. Hendrickson – I would like to thank everyone for coming and wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Simpson - I would like to end the year on a positive note. The Tree Lighting, movie at Sorella’s (Tangerine Bear) and Santa Express were great. Thank you all who made it a success.

Mrs. Simpson gave an overview of the BLDC and Town of Bethel projects this year:

Various educational classes in cooperation with Sullivan County Public Health. Saturday Farmers Market in Kauneonga Lake. Nourish Your Neighbor - Partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension, food donated to the Shepherd’s Pantry and hats and mittens to the Mongaup Valley UMC. Development of the Forest Reserve with a foot bridge/exercise equipment, etc.

Worksite Wellness for town employees. Sustainable Bethel – created the Green Committee. Solar array on the closed town landfill. EV charging station. Conversion of older streetlights to LED. Proposed renovation/expansion of the Town Hall.

Grants: Bethel maps; Dog Park; Forest Reserve Trails and Signage and Heritage trail. Sullivan Renaissance grants; Community Development Grant; architectural work on the town hall renovation and SCVA Doves at the Town Hall and 17B and Pine Grove Road.

State & Municipal Facilities (SAM) Grants – Through Senator Bonacic’s office to offset the cost of town capital projects – Rehabilitations to Town Justice Court, Senior Center and new Salt Barn. \$100,000 for proposed Information Center/Comfort Station at the Forest Reserve. 2016 winning the Golden Feather Award through Sullivan Renaissance.

Bethel Business Association (BBA) – Basically the local chamber of commerce became part of the BLDC in 2017. Yearly visitors guide and networking mixers.

CEAP – Citizens Energy Assistance Program to help Bethel residents who are struggling to pay heating costs, totally funded by donations from the local community (“THE POSSE”).

Save Your Life – Installs smoke and CO detectors in the homes of Bethel residents at no charge. They have partnered with the Red Cross.

Community Projects & Programs – Bethel Lakeside music. Yoga has been supported, the Kauneonga Lake Block Party, the Bethel Council of the Arts in its beginning.

Complete Streets/Kauneonga Lake consultant and study

Public Spaces and Beautification –Town road clean-up. Applied and accepted into a program called America in Bloom. We will be working with Sullivan Renaissance on this.

Woodstock 50th - Town held a parade and outdoor movie in July 2019. The town created a Heritage Trail, US postal cancellation.

Unfunded projects – Projects that were pursued but were not funded. They are still possible going forward. Bridge NY – repair culverts on Pine Grove Rd & Wormuth

Road. Cultural District - focus on Kauneonga Lake and a loop going through White Lake and Bethel Woods. Forest Reserve at Smallwood - grant to upgrade the facilities at the Forest Reserve at Smallwood.

BLDC Administration - The BLDC is subject to oversight as a Public Authority through the NYS Comptroller's PARIS reporting system. Reports are submitted twice a year detailing the activities of the BLDC and budgetary projections.

Mr. Cohen - I would like the Town to recognize Patrick Cunningham for great job he has done as Town of Bethel Highway Superintendent. Also for appointing Bob Bonnaci as foreman.

Mrs. Hendrickson - I would like the Town Board to send a thank you to Patrick. Motion by Mr. Cohen to have the Bethel Town Clerk send a thank you letter to Patrick Cunningham. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Public Comment -

Ray Neuenhoff – When are we going to fix the Christmas lights on the tree in the square? Mr. Sturm - Will be fixed Thursday, 12/12/19.

Mrs. Hendrickson - I would like to welcome Debra Gabriel on being in the Town Hall on January 2, 2020.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to adjourn the Town of Bethel Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk