

The January 2, 2020 Town of Bethel re-organizational meeting and regular Town Board meeting were 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
Dawn Ryder

Attorney for the Town: Karen Mannino

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Re-Organizational Meeting

Legal Notice for the Town of Bethel 2020 Re-organizational Meeting was posted in the designated official newspaper of the Town of Bethel and posted on the Town Clerk's signboard at Town Hall.

Supervisor's Opening Remarks:

Good evening, I would like to welcome everyone to our 2020 reorganizational meeting, as I start my 13th year as your supervisor, and I am always grateful for this opportunity. We have accomplished a lot together, but we have a lot to do still. So are goals are:

- 1) To be fiscally responsible, and attentive on a daily basis. We will be under the 2% tax cap or better again this year. We will watch out for our taxpayers in all departments.
- 2) We will continue with our commitment to energy efficiency, going green in our operations where we can and save taxpayer money in doing so. Construction on the solar project on our closed landfill should begin in 2020, and we will be making the decision about which company we will be using to switch all our streetlights to LEDS. (Either NYSEG or NYPA). This will save a lot of money over the long term for our Town.
- 3) Also in the works, this year is the planning for the Deep Energy retrofit of the Town Hall, again helping the environment and saving money.
- 4) Finally, we have not solved all issues in the Town of Bethel, but we are stable and we are moving in the right direction and have a positive future working together.

Meeting Rules and Procedures

1) A Town Board meeting is a serious matter. The Open Meetings Law gives the Public the right to attend Town Board Meetings and to listen to Town Board deliberations. However, the public may not participate in the meeting except upon the invitation of the Board.

2) A Town Board has the right to promulgate rules of procedure for the orderly conduct of its meetings and for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Town.

3) The Town Board may invite and permit residents of the Town to participate therein so long as such participation is orderly and constructive and does not interfere with the business and purpose of the meeting, for example:

- a) We will not tolerate slurs, derogatory comments, shouting, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations, or speaking out when another person is talking, defamation, intimidation, profanity or threats of violence, no loud phones, pagers, radios, computers or other electronic

equipment, no booing, hissing, foot stomping, parading, singing or other similar behavior that impedes the orderly conduct of our meeting.

b) Any person speaking to the board with the consent of the Supervisor should address their remarks to the Board, not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate. Also no person has the right to demand an answer to a specific question from a member of the Board. All such questions shall be directed to the Supervisor who may either answer them or defer them.

4) You can disagree but cannot be disrespectful.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to approve meeting rules and procedures as read by Mr. Sturm.

Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Salaries and Appointments

Salaries and Appointments		2020	
Employee	Position		
Anker, Henrietta	Animal Control Officer	\$18,453.47	Yearly
Barber, Cindy	Town Justice	\$26,226.56	Yearly
Bonnaci, Kelly	Confidential Secretary/ Bookkeeper	\$33,620.00	Yearly
Bonnaci, Robert	Highway Superintendent	\$60,127.47	Yearly
Cassaro, Michael	P/t Constable 2 days/wk	\$18.22	Hourly
Cohen, Bernard	Councilman	\$15,286.49	Yearly
Collins, Michael C.	Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent	\$50,222.54	Yearly
Conroy, Richard	Assessment Board of Review Chairman	\$1,172.22	Yearly
Crowley, James	Assessment Board of Review	\$1,097.32	Yearly
Cunningham, Chris	Grants Administrator	\$39,821.60	Yearly
Cunningham, Shane	Boat Constable	\$17.34	Hourly
Davis, James J.	Transfer Station Operator	\$16.61	Hourly
Duncan, Ruth	Deputy Town Clerk II	\$13.00	Hourly
Feeney, Robert	Cleaning	\$12.86	Hourly
Foster, Charles	Assessment Board of Review	\$1,097.32	Yearly
Foster, Richard	Part Time Transfer Station Operator	\$17.49	Hourly
Vacant	Tax Collector	\$15,000.00	Yearly
Gettel, Bette Jean	Enforcement Officer	\$42,178.50	Yearly
Gettel, Daniel	Assessor	\$50,852.90	Yearly
Graffeo, Chris	Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator	\$40,895.82	Yearly
Heinz, Robert	Boat Constable	\$19.29	Hourly
Hendrickson, Lillian	Councilperson	\$15,286.49	Yearly
Ketcham, Douglas W.	P/t Constable	\$26.51	Hourly
Lynch, Terri E.	Housekeeping/Transfer Station Attendant P/T	\$15.00	Hourly
MacArthur, Jannetta H	Planning Board Secretary	\$2,610.30	Yearly
	Zoning Board Secretary	\$652.57	Yearly
McCarthy, Christian	Constable	\$26.51	Hourly
McFadden, Cathy L.	Recreation Director p/t	\$11,508.10	Yearly
Prince, Mary	Court Clerk	\$40,789.13	Yearly
Semenetz, Gregg	Bldg. Inspector p/t	\$30,457.18	Yearly
Rhyne, Jared	Laborer, Sewer	\$35,755.78	Yearly
Rhyne, Kevin	Town Justice	\$26,226.56	Yearly
Rotondo, Pat	Boat/ PT Constable 1 day a wk	\$17.00	Hourly
Ryder, Dawn	Councilperson	\$15,286.49	Yearly
Sheehan, Rita J.	Town Clerk	\$46,110.66	Yearly
Sheehan, Rita J.	Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$1,028.88	Yearly
Simpson, Victoria	Councilperson	\$15,286.49	Yearly
Stackhouse, Charles	Boat/ PT Constable	\$18.22	Hourly
Stackhouse, Donna	Highway/Sewer Account Clerk	\$44,238.76	Yearly
Stackhouse, Nicholas	Boat/ PT Constable 1 day a wk	\$17.00	Hourly
Sturm, Daniel	Town Supervisor	\$60,127.47	Yearly
Sturm, Daniel	Budget Officer	\$15,000.00	Yearly

Sturm, Dina M.	Assessor Clerk	\$41,040.15	Yearly
Sturm, Dina M.	P/T Clerk	\$15.84	Hourly
Tagliamonti, Alex	P/T Clerk	\$12.75	Hourly
Touwsma, Samantha	Court Clerk	\$34,560.93	Yearly
Vassmer, Marion E	Town Historian	\$1,348.16	Yearly
Weiss, Madelyn J.	Housekeeping/Transfer Station Attendant P/T	\$13.23	Hourly
Yates, Daryl	Full Time Constable	\$26.51	Hourly

Motion by Mrs. Simpson approve salaries and appointments, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Constable Longevity

10 to 15 Years of Service	Full Time constables only	\$500.00
16 to 20 Years of Service	No provision for Annual Increases	\$1,000.00
21 Yrs of Service & Over		\$1,500.00

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve Constable Longevity, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Uniform Allowance

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve uniform allowance; \$500.00 full-time Sewer employees; \$500.00 full-time Constables; \$100.00 boat Constable, and \$200.00 part-time uniformed volunteers, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0

Designation of Official Newspaper

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to designate the Sullivan County Democrat as official newspaper and the River Reporter as needed seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Official Depository

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to designate the bank depositories, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

- Wayne Bank
- First National Bank of Jeffersonville
- J.P. Morgan – Chase

Deputy Supervisor

Mr. Sturm appointed Mrs. Simpson as Deputy Supervisor.

Authorized Bank Signatories

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to designate the following for bank signatures, seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Daniel Sturm | Supervisor |
| Rita J. Sheehan | Town Clerk |
| Vicky Simpson | Deputy Supervisor |
| Bette Jean Gettel | Code Enforcement Officer |
| Cindy Barber and Kevin Rhyne | Town Justices |

Engineering Firms

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to designate the following engineering firms, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Glenn Smith, P.E. – Landfill, Mining, Highway, and Planning Board
K.C. Engineering, P.E. – Sewer
Pitingaro & Doetsch - Planning Board
Wasson Engineering,- Planning Board

Attorneys for the Town

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to designate the following attorneys for their designated purposes, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0

Karen Mannino	Attorney for the Town
Jacqueline Ricciani	Planning and Zoning Boards, Building Department, and Enforcement
Scott Russell	Traffic tickets at Justice Court (max. \$7,000 per yr)

Utility, Postage & Insurance

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to authorize payment of utility bills, postage and insurances prior to audit and to present at the next audit meeting thereafter, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0

Petty Cash

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to set petty cash at \$150. for Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Building Department, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Bonding Counsel

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to designate Orrick & Herrington LLP as Bonding counsel, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Highway Department – Appropriations

Motion by Mr. Cohen to authorize Highway Superintendent to spend appropriations as set in annual Highway Budget, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson put to a vote and carried 5-0

Highway Designated Representative

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to appoint Daniel Sturm as Highway Designated Representative, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Health Officer

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson designate the Bethel Medical Center as Health Officer; seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Water Patrol Fuel Reimbursement

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to set 2020 fuel reimbursement at \$200 for each water patrol volunteer (if needed), seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2020 Mileage Rate Reimbursement

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to set mileage reimbursement at the 2020 Federal Rate of 57.5 cents per mile, seconded by Mrs. Ryder put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Board Liaisons - Supervisor Appointments

Mr. Sturm announced the following Town Board liaisons:

Mrs. Simpson- Planning Board, Parks & Rec. Dept. and Sustainable Bethel

Mr. Cohen -	Highway Department
Mr. Sturm-	Constables, Sustainable Bethel
Mrs. Hendrickson-	Sewer, Zoning Board, Sustainable Bethel

Auxiliary Constables

Auxiliary Constables presented by the Town Supervisor as follows: Steve Schwartz, Bernard Cohen, Timothy Dexter, Robert Blais, Simon Gelb, Avrohom Flohr, Denise Frangipane, David Biren, Lillian Hendrickson, Timothy Blais, James Reilly, Vicky Simpson, Sue Collins and Lowell Feldman.

Auxiliary Constables that are uniformed volunteers and have completed the Peace Officer Training and the Assault Weapons training: Gerard Sarosy and Ozzie Gonzales.

Set Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Cohen to set the Town Board meeting schedule for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Duggan Community Center, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Procurement Guidelines

As required in the Procurement Guideline number 7 the Town Board is re-adopting the Procurement Guidelines. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to renew the adoption of the procurement guidelines as adopted in 1996, seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Resolution Adopting the Official Undertaking of Public Officials

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL
REQUIRING AND APPROVING THE
OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS, various sections of New York State Town Law and Public Officers Law require that certain officials execute an Official Undertaking; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Bethel hereby requires the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector (vacant), Town Justices, Court Clerks and Highway Superintendent to execute said Official Undertaking as required by said laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Bethel approve the document, attached hereto, entitled “Town of Bethel Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers” as to its form and manner of execution and the sufficiency of the insurance, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that said Official Undertaking containing the notarized signatures of those named municipal officials be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, as well as, the original copies of the insurance policies indicating the sufficiency of the sureties to indemnify the Town against losses which may arise from failure of such officials to properly discharge their duties.

Motion by Councilman Mrs. Simpson seconded by Councilwoman Mrs. Hendrickson, and upon a roll call vote the Town Board voted as follows:

Bernard Cohen	Voting
Lillian Hendrickson	Voting
Dawn Ryder	Voting
Vicky Simpson	Voting
Daniel Sturm	Voting

Duly adopted by 5 ayes, 0 nays the 2nd day of January, 2020.

Effective Date: This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

**Town of Bethel
2020 Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers**

WHEREAS, Daniel Sturm, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Supervisor of the Town of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, Rita J. Sheehan, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Clerk of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, Cindy L. Barber, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Justice of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, Kevin Rhyne, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Justice of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, Robert Bonnaci, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Highway Superintendent of Bethel, and

WHEREAS, Mary Prince, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, is appointed the position of Court Clerk, and

WHEREAS, Samantha Touwsma, of the Town of Bethel, County of Sullivan, New York, is appointed the position of Court Clerk, and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, as respective officers above, do hereby undertake with the Town of Bethel that we will faithfully perform and discharge the duties of our office, and will promptly account for and pay over all moneys or property received as a Town Officer, in accordance with the law; and;

This undertaking of the Town Supervisor is further conditioned upon that he will and truly keep, pay over and account for all moneys and property, including any special district funds, belonging to the Town and coming into his hands as such Supervisor, and

This undertaking of the Town Receiver of Taxes is further conditioned that she will and truly keep, pay over and account for all moneys and property coming into her hands as such Receiver of Taxes and Assessment, and

This undertaking has been duly approved by the Town Board of the Town of Bethel.

The Town does and shall maintain insurance coverage presently with Travelers in the sum of \$20,000 plus an additional \$500,000 for the Tax Collector; \$100,000 for the Town Supervisor; and \$20,000 for all other employees to indemnify against losses through the failure of the officers, clerks, and employees covered thereunder faithfully to perform their duties or to account properly for all monies or property received by virtue of their positions or employment, and through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by the officers, clerks and employees covered thereunder.

REGULAR MEETING:

Supervisor's Monthly Report - December

Town Supervisor Daniel Sturm has submitted the supervisor's monthly report for December 2019 as follows:

General fund total income profit and loss from 2018 to 2019 up 3.7% more revenue from last year. This is \$96,000 more which includes the new police car.

General vs. budget – 111% of budget. 109% last year.

Expenses – 94.2% in 2019 and 98.4% in 2018.

Highway revenue is flat. 6.4% under 2018. 93% spent of the budget.

\$187,000+ better than last year.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the monthly supervisor’s report. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Audit of Bills

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve audit of bills.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check No.</u>
General Fund	\$169,396.14	9039-9049 9051-9091
Highway Fund	\$170,729.87	2425-2449
K. L. Sewer Fund	\$ 27,478.88	1910-1930
Capital Special Projects	\$ -3,873.98	Bill Pmt Check
P & Z Journal	\$ 1,522.50	1210

Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Building Department December Monthly Report & Yearly Report

December 2019 Fees \$4,285.
December 2018 Fees \$3,962.

December 2019 Construction \$ 578,000.
December 2018 Construction \$ 406,000.

Jan, 2019 – Dec, 2019 Construction \$6,504,073.
Jan. 2019 – Dec. 2019 Construction \$7,097,290.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file building department monthly report and yearly report. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Clerk’s December Monthly Report & Yearly Report

Town Clerk’s Monthly report for December has been filed with Town Supervisor.

December 2019:
Total Local Shares Remitted: \$ 4,792.14
Non-Local Revenue: \$ 83.14
Total State, County & Local Revenues: \$ 4,875.28

Yearly Report 2019:
Total Local Shares Remitted: \$73,959.05
Non-Local Revenue: \$10,589.41
Total State, County & Local Revenues: \$84,548.46

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file town clerk’s monthly report and year-end report as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence Planning Board – 2020 Appointments

Correspondence received on 12/20/2019 from the Planning Board recommending appointment of James Crowley to fill the unexpired term of Dan Gettel and to reappoint Steve Simpson. The Planning Board has appointed James Crowley as Chairman and David Slater as Vice Chairman.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and appoint James Crowley to fill the unexpired term ending on December 31, 2020 and reappoint Steve Simpson for a term to expire December 31, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried.

Correspondence from Zoning Member James Crowley

Letter of resignation dated 12/20/19 has been received from Zoning Board of Appeals member Janes Crowley.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file resignation. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence Zoning Board – 2020 Appointments

Correspondence dated 12/23/2019 has been received from the Zoning Board of Appeals recommending reappointment of Dan Brey. And also recommending appointment of Wendy Brown to fill the unexpired term of James Crowley. The Zoning Board has appointed Steve Morey as Chairman and Richard Conroy as Vice Chairman.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive, file, and recommend appointment of Wendy Brown for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2025 and to reappoint Dan Brey for a term to expire December 31, 2026, and to advertise for a candidate to fill the alternate position. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence SC Planning – Training Credits

Correspondence dated 12/12/2019 from Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development to notify the town of the following board members received 2.5 credit hours training in “conservation subdivisions with natural lands.”

Jim Ahearn, Dan Brey, and Cirino Bruno

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to approve the 2.5 hours of training for Jim Ahearn, Dan Brey and Cirino Bruno. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Appointment and Reappointment of Sustainable Bethel Members

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL
DESIGNATING SUSTAINABLE BETHEL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS
THEREOF AND CSC COORDINATOR**

WHEREAS, the Bethel Green Committee has served in an advisory capacity to the Town Supervisor and Board since 2013 to facilitate the Town’s sustainability initiatives pursuant to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s Climate Smart Communities program;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Green Committee enabled the Town to achieve Bronze Certification as a Climate Smart Community in 2018, one of only 21 municipalities in all of New York State to achieve certification status; be it

RESOLVED, that the Bethel Green Committee, henceforth called the “Sustainable Bethel Committee,” shall be reauthorized for the 2020 calendar year to serve as the Town’s Climate Smart Community Task Force, further and facilitate the Town’s Climate Smart Community pledge, and act in an advisory capacity to the Town Supervisor and Town Board with respect to climate action, energy conservation and sustainability initiatives pursuant to the Climate Smart Community Certification Program;

RESOLVED, that the following individuals shall be re-appointed to serve on the Sustainable Bethel Committee for the 2020 calendar year:

1. Jeffrey Allison, MBA (Retired, President, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance; docent and volunteer, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Museum)
2. Michael Chojnicki, R.A. (Principal, MJ Chojnicki, Architect, PC, specializing in sustainable design and renewable energy; President, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development; conference volunteer and member, Northeast Sustainable Energy Association)

3. Christopher Cunningham, MBA (Manager, Bethel Land Development Corp.; Town of Bethel Grants Coordinator)
4. Karen London, Esq. (Retired; Co-founder, Sullivan Area Citizens for Sustainable Energy Development)
5. Wendy Robinson, Esq. (Co-founder, Sullivan Area Citizens for Sustainable Energy Development)
6. Vicky Vassmer Simpson (Councilwoman, Town of Bethel; Trustee, Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church)
7. Daniel Sturm, Town Supervisor
8. Jennifer Young (Owner, Fairytale Farm and Petpal Sitter Service, Bethel, NY)

RESOLVED, that Jeffrey Allison and Karen London shall be re-appointed to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Sustainable Bethel Committee; and

RESOLVED, that Sustainable Bethel Committee member Christopher Cunningham shall be appointed Climate Smart Community Coordinator for the 2020 calendar year to assist in the coordination of Sustainable Bethel Committee initiatives and serve as the interface amongst the Committee, Town Supervisor and relevant Town personnel.

Motion by Councilwoman Mrs. Hendrickson to receive, file and adopt the reappointment members to the Sustainable Bethel Committee. Seconded by Councilman Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Duly Adopted: by 5 ayes and 0 nays the 2nd day of January, 2020.

Reappoint and Appoint Member of the Internal Green Team

Resolution of the Town of Bethel, Sullivan County, New York to appoint members to the Bethel Internal Green Team as part of the Climate Smart Community Pledge

Motion by Councilwoman Mrs. Simpson to appoint members to the Internal Green Team Committee.

Whereas, the Climate Smart Community Certification Manual encourages local governments to create an internal green team and involve staff members from all relevant departments in the climate action planning and implementation process, for developing both a government and community climate action plan; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town of Bethel Town Board hereby reappoints members to the Bethel Internal Green Team for the 2020 calendar year:

Vicky Simpson, Chairwoman
Daniel Sturm, Town Supervisor
Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk
Michael Collins, Sewer Superintendent
Bette Jean Gettel, Code Enforcement Officer
Robert Bonnaci, Jr., Highway Superintendent
Christopher Cunningham, BLDC Manager

And Be it Further Resolved, that the Bethel Internal Green Team shall meet at least 3 times per year, prepare agendas and minutes, and advance its mission to support the development and implementation of energy efficiency, climate action, and sustainability strategies.

Seconded by Councilwoman Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Reappoint members to the Town of Bethel Dog Park Committee

Town of Bethel Dog Park – Mission Statement:

To maintain a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering people, property, other and

dogs or wildlife. To maintain a respectful, enlightened co-existence with other park users through the proper supervision and appropriate conduct of dogs off-leash.

To view the park as a community project in partnership with the Town of Bethel that is designed to satisfy the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners alike through the promotion of education, training and recreational activities that facilitate responsible dog ownership and encourage community/member involvement.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive, file and approve correspondence received from Mr. Sturm on the 2020 reorganizational of the Town of Bethel Dog Park Committee recommending the following reappointments.

Sammy Killilea, Michelle Albrecht, Caroline Akt, Bette Popovich, Allen Wakstein, Fran Miller, Denise Connelly, David Biren, Lillian Hendrickson, and Daniel Sturm

Seconded by Mrs. Simpson put to a vote and approved 5-0.

Approve request for 2020 Out of the Darkness Walk

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive, file and approve request from Out of the Darkness Community Walk for September 12, 2020. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Approve request for 2020 Allyson Whitney Foundation 5K

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive, file and approve request for the 2020 Allyson Whitney Foundation 5K on May 9, 2020. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Set Special Meeting for LED Street Light Conversion Options

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to set a special meeting on January 13, 2020 for LED Street Light Conversion Options at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0. Mrs. Ryder stated that she is not available on January 13, 2020.

Cancel January 8, 2020 Town Board Meeting

Motion by Mr. Cohen to cancel the scheduled Town Board meeting of January 8, 2020. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Association of Towns Annual meeting Feb 16-19, 2020 training notice.

Correspondence received from the Association of Towns to register for the annual meeting and training in New York City on February 17-20, 2020.

Humane Society Dog Shelter Contract Renewal

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and approve the Humane Society of Middletown agreement with the Town of Bethel beginning 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried.

Correspondence from Camp Chipinaw (Abandon/Discontinue of Silver Lk Rd)

Correspondence has been received from Camp Chipinaw requesting the town to Abandon or Discontinue Silver Lake Road (TR 25). Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and forward to Karen Mannino, Attorney for the Town. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Sodium Bid Award

Per Rita Sheehan, Town Clerk, no response from Mike Collins, Sewer Department) on which bid they will accept. Per Mr. Sturm, we will table this item until our January 22, 2020 meeting.

Letter of Resignation – Debra Gabriel

E-Mail has been received from Debra Gabriel, Bethel Tax Collector, dated January 2, 2020 resigning from her position as Tax Collector. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive, file and accept the resignation. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Statement from Town Supervisor on Tax Collector Vacancy

Mr. Sturm read a statement regarding a letter of Resignation from Debra Gabriel:

“Yesterday, I received this sudden notice of resignation from Debra Gabriel as Tax Collector effective as of today. Just to be clear, with no notice we were left with no one to collect taxes or perform the other duties of that position.

Rather than dwell on this, we all rolled up our sleeves and got to work. I am happy to report that as of today we have a temporary plan in place to make sure that the tax collector’s office continues to function.

I have spoken to our County Treasurer, Nancy Buck, and she has graciously offered to help us out. Starting shortly, we will have a county employee in the town hall to collect taxes M-W-F from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, anyone that wants to can go to the County Treasurer’s office in the Sullivan County Government Center to pay their taxes Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Those folks who come by to pay their taxes in person will still have the same face-to-face contact to answer questions and provide information that they have had in the past.

I ask for everyone’s patience as we work through these short-term difficulties, but as we always do, we are going to make sure that the taxpayers of the town get the services they need.”

Karen Mannino, Attorney for the Town, suggested to effectuate an Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Town Supervisor to sign.

Mrs. Ryder asked will the fees be retained by the town? Karen Mannino – Yes, but there may be an expense to the town for the tax collection. The Inter-municipal agreement should come before the Town Board before the Town Supervisor signs. Mr. Sturm will share with the Board before he signs.

Mrs. Ryder stated that she would like more discussion.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2020 collection of taxes. Seconded Lillian Hendrickson, by put to a roll call vote and carried 4-1 as follows:

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mrs. Dawn Ryder		X
Mr. Bernie Cohen	X	
Mr. Dan Sturm	X	
Mrs. Vicky Simpson	X	
Mrs. Lillian Hendrickson	X	

January 2, 2020

Reorganization Meeting

Post for Automotive Mechanic Position

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve the posting for an automotive mechanic position for the highway department. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, motion by Mrs. Simpson to adjourn the Town of Bethel Town Board meeting of January 2, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk