

The January 22, 2020 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Dugan Community Center meeting room.

Council members present:                   Vicky Simpson  
  Lillian Hendrickson  
  Bernie Cohen  
  Dawn Ryder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy Buck, Sullivan County Treasurer, was present to introduce herself and to explain that her office happy to help the Town of Bethel and Bethel tax payers. Also, anyone can come to the Sullivan County Government Center County Tax Office to pay their taxes in person Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mr. Sturm explained that the Town of Bethel has an agreement with Sullivan County at no charge for the collection of property taxes this year. Mr. Sturm expressed his gratitude for what the County is doing.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to send a letter of gratitude to the Sullivan County Tax Office for their cooperation in collecting Town of Bethel taxes. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Town of Thompson Dog Shelter Contract**

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve Dog Shelter Services Agreement between the Town of Thompson and the Town of Bethel for the period commencing January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. The municipality will pay a fee of \$200. per dog delivered to the Town of Bethel; and if the Town of Bethel assists your municipality due to the unavailability of the Town of Thompson animal control officer or police department, the Town of Thompson will be billed an additional fee of \$100. Seconded Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence NYS D.O.T. – Speed Limit Reduction CR 75**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file letter dated 12/26/2019 from NYSDOT, Tony Signorelli, P.E. Regional Traffic Engineer, regarding a request for a speed limit reduction on CR75, Harris-Bushville Road, Towns of Bethel and Thompson, Sullivan County, NY.

A radar study was performed during the summer months at multiple locations to determine 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds on CR75. The speed limit will be reduced to 45 MPH on CR75, Harris-Bushville Road, between CR73 in the Town of Bethel and CR174 in the Town of Thompson, a distance of 2.1+/-miles. A notice of order 11 48.00 has been issued by Anthony Signorelli, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer. NYSDOT. Copy of order given to Constables and Highway Department.

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

**Moody's Report**

Mr. Sturm highlighted items regarding Moody's Investors Service Report of 1/6/2020 to the Town of Bethel, NY (annual comment).

**Credit Overview** - Bethel has a high quality credit position. Its Aa3 rating matches the median rating of Aa3 for cities nationwide. Notable credit factors include a healthy financial position, a moderate debt burden and a low pension liability. The town's credit position also reflects a healthy wealth and income profile and a modestly sized tax base.

**Finances** - The cash balance as a percent of operating revenues (31.5% is slightly lower than the US median, but it remained stable from 2014 to 2018.

**Debt and Pensions** - Bethel's net direct debit to full value (0.8%) is slightly lower than the US median, and it remained stable between 2014 and 2018.

**Economy and Tax Base** - Overall, Bethel has a healthy economy and tax base that are roughly consistent with its Aa3 rating. The full value per capita (\$161,237) is much stronger than the US median, and it remained stable from 2014 to 2018. In addition, the median family income of Bethel residents is a healthy 93.6% of the US median level.

**Sodium Hydroxide Bid Award**

Bids were opened and publicly read on November 12, 2019. Results for 4,000 gallons of Sodium Hydroxide 25% liquid bid and the results are as follows:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. PVS Minibulk, Inc., Detroit, Michigan delivered | \$1.12 per GL/4000GL        |
| 2. Slack Chemical Co., Carthage, NY                | \$2.44 per Gallon delivered |
| 3. Kuehne Chemical Co, Kearny, NJ                  | \$2.667 per Gallon          |

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and approve the low bidder (PVS Minibulk, Inc.) for the 4,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide 25% liquid. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church Thank You**

Motion to receive and file a thank you note from the Mongaup Valley United Methodist Church for Nourish Your Neighbor Clothing Drive; and send the thank you on to the Healthy Task Force. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Bethel Speedway Letter of Permit Renewal**

Motion by Mr. Simpson to receive, file and set public hearing date for February 26, 2020 at 7:45 p.m. to hear request for Bethel Motor Speedway renewal permit for the year 2020 to operate the pre-existing racetrack located at 361 Horseshoe Lake Road, White Lake, NY. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**LED Streetlight Conversion**

Mrs. Simpson stated that she reviewed the LED conversion proposed by NYPA and NYSEG and based on all the information NYPA proposal seems the best for the town.

Mrs. Ryder thank the Green Committee for all their volunteer hours. LED is wonderful and it is a move forward, but LED changes every ten years will our units be outdated and unserviceable, purchase option, lifetime commitment. Based on her review, Mrs. Ryder is supporting the NYSEG proposal; does not think Town should be in the lighting business.

Mr. Cohen stated he is going with NYPA.

Mr. Sturm indicated he had concerns over NYPA. NYSEG gave a good price. He brought his concerns to NYPA Staff, Green Committee, Mid-Hudson Consortium. Main and his concerns were alleviated. NYSEG could be 3-5 years and will not give a commitment. NYPA has larger savings overtime, better design.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve NYPA for LED streetlight conversion. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote as follows:

|                  | AYE | NAY |
|------------------|-----|-----|
| Mrs. Ryder       |     | X   |
| Mr. Cohen        | X   |     |
| Mr. Sturm        | X   |     |
| Mrs. Simpson     | X   |     |
| Mrs. Hendrickson | X   |     |

Upon a roll call vote motion carried 4-1 with Mrs. Ryder voting no.

**Authorize Auction for Surplus**

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve listing Town of Bethel vehicles and machinery online with Auction International as follows:

- Item #1: 1998 Chevrolet Dump      VIN: 1GBS7H1J2WJ102787
- Item #2: 1990 International      VIN: 1HTSDZ3N3LH212568
- Item #3: 2006 Ford Dump      VIN: 1FDXF47P66EB24224
- Item #4: Kubota Tractor      VIN: 50596
- Item #5: 2006 Ford Dump      VIN: 1FDXF47P06EB33159
- Item #6: 2004 Chevrolet Pickup      VIN: 1GCEK14T04E178106
- Item #7: 1995 Case Mower      VIN: RNCJJE0904765
- Item #8: Wolfpack Roller      VIN: 312005247
- Item #9: 2005 Roller
- Item #10: 10-yard dump body
- Item #11: Monroe Sander      Serial #: 98-01-7127
- Item #12: 2011 Dodge Dump      VIN: 3D6WU7EL3BG503346

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

**Appoint Boat Constable**

Motion by Mr. Cohen to appoint Gerad Sarosy as part-time boat constable at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Appoint Maintenance Program Supervisor**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to appoint Daniel Cunningham as Maintenance Program Supervisor at the rate of \$12.50 per hour. Note this is part of the Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Grant with pays half of the salary. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Public Comment**

Garret Gabriel received a certified return receipt letter dated January 6, 2020 from the Ricciani & Rose asking him to return badge #128 and I.D. Card. Mr. Gabriel turned over both items to the Town Clerk for the record.

**Adjournment**

There be no further items on the agenda, motion by Mrs. Simpson to adjourn the January 22, 2020 Town of Bethel Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk