

The April 22, 2020 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. This was our first video conference Zoom and call-in meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Sturm, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Hendrickson and Mr. Cohen were present by video conference at the Dr. Duggan Community Center meeting room. Mrs. Ryder and Rita Sheehan, Town Clerk both video conferenced from their respective homes.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audit of Bills

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check</u>
General Fund	\$194,992.51	9247-9301
Highway Fund	\$168,766.49	2530-2563
Kauneonga Lake Sewer District	\$ 66,011.03	1981-1997
Kauneonga Lake Light District	\$ 2,027.92	1049
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$ 1,557.00	1213-1217

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve audit of bills. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Supervisor’s Monthly Report

Mr. Sturm stated that the Town’s General Fund is in good shape vs. 2019. The County and State are in a struggle with a decline in sales tax. The Town is very careful in our spending.

The Highway Department has sold excess equipment. To date, the Town has received \$28,960. The Highway Department did a good job on snow plowing this past winter.

Mrs. Ryder questioned the Parks and Rec’s as to why there is a minus verse 2019, down 50%. Mr. Sturm stated no money for summer camp has been posted. We are waiting from the State as whether or not camps will be allowed to open this summer.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file Supervisor’s Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Building Department Monthly Report – February and March

February 2020 Fees	\$ 2,190.00
February 2019 Fees	\$ 2,305.00
February 2020 Construction Totals	\$122,000.00
February 2019 Construction Totals	\$154,500.00
March 2020 Fees	\$ 2,705.00
March, 2019 Fees	\$ 3,368.00
March 2020 Construction Totals	\$300,000.00
March 2019 Construction Totals	\$366,465.00

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file Building Department Monthly Reports for February and March 2020 as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Highway Department

Mr. Sturm stated that the Highway Department needs to purchase a new BW900-50 Roller at a cost of \$15,236.

Mr. Sturm also stated that the Town of Bethel reserves the right to bond this purchase of the BW900-50 Roller or use surplus monies.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to approve the purchase of a BW900-50 roller. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Clerk’s Monthly Report

Total fees for March, 2020	\$4,486.00
State Share	\$ 47.50
Town Share	\$4,438.50

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file Town Clerk’s Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

96 E. Thompson Place

Per B.J. Gettel as of April 22, 2020 the demolition has not been completed. The owner is not following through, and no contractor has responded. After May 18, 2020 the Building Department will issue an appearance ticket to appear in the Town of Bethel Court and report back to the Town Board.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to follow-up after May 18, 2020 and report back to the Town Board. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

192 Lee Cole Road (30 day follow-up)

Per B.J. Gettel as of April 22, 2020 due to non-essential businesses to be closed due to COVID-19 this item will be reviewed after May 18, 2020 and report back to the Town Board.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to follow-up after May 18, 2020 and report back to the Town Board. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Noise Permit Application (Hector’s Inn)

Noise permit request from Bonnie Lagoda (Hector’s Inn), 14 Dr. Duggan Road, Bethel, NY to allow various bands to perform every Friday and Saturday nights from May 23, 2020 through October 31, 2020 and August 13, 2020 through August 16, 2020. Music will be over by midnight and no amplified music.

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to receive, file and approve noise permit for Bonnie Lagoda (Hector’s Inn, Bethel, NY) to allow various bands perform per the dates specified on the application dated April 6, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence from NYS DOG- Speed Limit John Bishop Road

Per correspondence dated March 23, 2020 from NYS DOT, Pamela Gendron, PE, Regional Traffic Operations Engr. The Traffic Safety and Mobility Office will review this request and assess the current situation and outline opportunities for improvement. Notification will follow.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file NYS DOT response dated March 23, 2020. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Request for High Speed Internet Access on Jaketown Road

Correspondence dated March 22, 2020 from Kim Wingert, 107 Jaketown Road requesting the Town of Bethel's assistance in getting some sort of access to high speed internet. Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and forward to Spectrum for high speed internet on Jaketown Road. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Sullivan Renaissance Technical Assistance Grant

Correspondence received from Sullivan Renaissance dated March 11, 2020 awarding the Town of Bethel a matching grant of up to \$2,000 for preliminary architectural designs in connection with the Town's planned information center and comfort station at the entrance to the Forest Reserve in Smallwood. Unless other arrangements are made the work must be completed by October 1, 2020.

Sullivan Renaissance asked that any documentation or publicity in connection with this project include the following: "Funding for this project as made possible in part by a Technical Assistance Grant from Sullivan Renaissance."

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file notification of the Technical Assistance Matching Grant Program for the comfort station at the entrance to the Forest Reserve in Smallwood. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

8Clean-Up Day Postponement

Town of Bethel Clean-Up of May 2nd & 3rd has been postponed due to the COVID-19. A later date will be set. Motion by Mr. Cohen to postpone the scheduled clean-up dates of May 2nd & 3rd and reschedule for a later date. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Residents Concern Regarding Vehicles Speeding through Pine Grove Road.

Correspondence dated April 14, 2020 from Carol & Howard Dallinga, Pine Grove Road, regarding the many contractor trucks and resident vehicles that zoom through Pine Grove Road to get to the service entrance for their clients at the end of Pine Grove. This is especially true between Orange and Cliff Streets. The Dalingas's would like town to consider speed bumps or verbal warnings or summons. Their are full-time neighbor has two young children, ages 5 and 7, so we are not all elderly crossing the streets. Town Clerk distributed copies to the Constables. Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive and file correspondence concerning vehicles speeding on Pine Grove Road. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2020 Town Insurance Renewal Proposal

Mr. Sturm noted that there is an 1.7% increase from last year's policy.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive, file and approve the 2020 Town Insurance Renewal Proposal as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Re-bid Tire Removal

There were no responses to the initial tire waste hauling bid on March 24, 2020. Request that the Town Clerk reissue the Tire Waste Hauling Sealed Bids. Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to re-bid the tire waste hauling. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Board Comments

Mr. Sturm Coronavirus Statement:

Our number one goal here in the Town of Bethel is the public safety of our residents and staff during the coronavirus public health emergency. Basically we have tried to be pro-active, helpful and reasonable in these trying times, for example:

We closed the Town Hall and Highway Barn to the public on March 18th, but we are still maintaining our essential functions and services. We then (after state guidance and requirements) cut our highway staff to 50% on a rotating basis and cut all town hall staff to one per office or less as needed. I have been in the office myself every day to help monitor as we make sure every department answers every e-mail, phone message and concern every day as needed. We are conducting business by phone, e-mail remotely as much as possible. As an employer, we have tried to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, and we have supplied all departments with needed masks, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, and Lysol spray and have been following all state and federal guidelines. We closed the children's playground and exercise equipment at the Smallwood Forest Reserve because they can't be sanitized properly. We did leave open the walking loop, hiking trails and dog park at the Forest Reserve provided everyone follows the social distancing guidelines. You do not need a mask to use the trails as long as you are practicing the social distancing guidelines and use these trails for prevention and reflection.

I want to thank the Sullivan County Government including the County Manager, Josh Potosek, Deputy County Manager John Little and our Chairman and Legislator Rob Dougherty for providing guidance and updates, having weekly conference calls with all Supervisors to discuss all matters, and of course all their staff (communications, emergency operations center participants).

I want to thank our most professional and experienced Town of Bethel Staff. All of them for working together to do the best we can for our residents during this time. I want to thank the Town Board and Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk who were available every time I reached out for support and guidance and assistance.

The Sullivan County Association of Supervisors has been a great asset, as we all spoke frequently during this crisis.

All Planning and Zoning Board meetings are cancelled until further notice, and I think we will continue to zoom our Town Board meetings until further notice.

Finally, a thank you to all our residents for your patience; we urge you all to not panic, but be prepared and responsible as well as respectable and friendly towards one another in this time of crisis. The Bethel community should be quite proud of themselves for the way they have risen above and beyond for each other at this time. BLDC, Volunteers, the Posse Food Pantry.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, motion by Mrs. Simpson to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan
Bethel Town Clerk