

The May 13, 2020 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. This our second online video conference zoom and call-in meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Sturm, Mr. Cohen, and Mrs. Hendrickson were present by video conference at the Bethel Town Hall in separate rooms. Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Ryder and Rita Sheehan were all video conferences from their respective homes.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Audit of Bills**

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check</u>
General Fund	\$279,358.77	9302-9313, 9316-9334
Highway Fund	\$128,087.87	2564-2581
Kauneonga Lake Sewer District	\$ 41,086.40	1998-2000 2003,2007
Kauneonga Lake Light District	\$ 1,950.53	1050
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$ 656.75	1218-1219

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

**Supervisor’s Monthly Report**

General funds revenue is 1.1% higher. Recreation income is down. Interest check was good for first quarter. 12.9% in expenses are down. 33.9% in expenses are spent so far.

Mr. Sturm reported – Town has a strong fiscal management. We have made smart cash flow decisions, and our conservative fiscal policies have allowed us to deliver our services, while we are positioning ourselves to help manage this crisis and provide stability to our residents. We are watching carefully the State and County picture, because it may have a severely negative effect on all of us, at the Town level. (Chips Funding \$250,000, AIM \$50,000, Youth Funding, Grant Funding). If we need to put projects on hold we will. If there is any Federal Funds, we need to fight for them.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson 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 – April**

The Building Department is monitoring job sites for proper distancing.

April 2020 Fees	\$ 3,440.00
April 2019 Fees	\$ 3,250.00
April 2020 Construction Totals	\$554,000.00
April 2019 Construction Totals	\$277,500.00

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file Building Department Monthly Report as submitted for April, 2020. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried.

**Town Clerk's Monthly Report**

Total fees for April, 2020	\$8,619.19
State Share	\$ 134.54
Town Share	\$8,484.65

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to receive and file Town Clerk's Monthly Report as submitted for April, 2020.

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

**Resolution to Approve Contract with Sansoucy for Appraisal Consulting Services for Assessment Appeal – Eagle Creek**

This resolution authorizes the Town of Bethel to enter into an agreement with George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC to provide professional services in relation to the pending tax certiorari proceedings involving parcels owned by Eagle Creek Hydropower, LLC.

The cost of such professional services shall be shared amongst the municipalities with the County of Sullivan paying 33.33%, Monticello Central School District paying 33.33%, Town of Forestburgh paying 16.67% and the Town of Bethel paying 16.67%.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to approve the contract with Sansoucy for Appraisal Consulting Services for Assessment Appeal – Eagle Creek. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Clean-Up Day Discussion**

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to hold the Town of Bethel Clean-Up Day May 30<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 from 8:00 am to 4 pm at the Bethel Transfer Station, 608 Old White Lake Turnpike, Swan Lake, NY for Town of Bethel residents. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Letter to Support Funding to Local Governments**

Mr. Sturm read a letter dated May 14, 2020 to Hon. Congressman Delgado and Senator Schumer asking them to support direct funding for local governments in the next federal stimulus package. Gov. Cuomo has stated that local governments can expect a reduction in state aid anywhere from 20-50 percent if the federal government does not provide aid to states. Lack of federal funding, combined with a decrease in state aid, and reduced revenue from sales tax, court fines, permit fees etc., would be catastrophic for towns, and ultimately New York State residents. We are writing to urge our members to contact their federal representatives about the importance of including direct funding for ALL local governments regardless of population size in the next federal stimulus package.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve sending the letter to Hon. Congressman Delgado, Senator Schumer and copy to Senator Gillibrand and to support funding to local governments. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Contract with Sterling Env. For Landfill Post-Closure Monitoring**

Letter dated April 24, 2020 from Sterling Environmental Engineering, PC regarding the most recent Town of Bethel Landfill Post-Closure Monitoring (PCM) Report. Sterling recommended that the landfill cover system should be mowed and the two (2) damaged gas vents be repaired prior to (30 days) initiating the 2020 Site Inspection and PCM monitoring activities. In conjunction with the water sampling, the annual explosive gas survey will measure subsurface gas concentrations around the perimeter of the Landfill and in the interior air space of the Town buildings on the Landfill property with a Q-RAE Multi-Gas Monitor. Sterling's 2020 PCM report will recommend a reduction in the frequency of explosive gas monitoring to every other year.

Sterling proposes conducting the PCM annual event during the third quarter of 2020 (July).

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and approve contract with Sterling Environmental for Landfill Post-Closure Monitoring. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

#### **Liquor License Application for Brew II, Inc. 1568 Route 17B, White Lake, NY**

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to receive, file, approve and the Town of Bethel waives the 30-day hold and consents to the processing and issuance of the liquor license to the BREW II, Inc., 1568 Route 17B, White Lake, NY. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

#### **Municipal Grant Award from Sullivan Renaissance**

Letter Dated April 20, 2020 from Sullivan Renaissance congratulating the Town of Bethel on being selected to receive a Sullivan Renaissance 2020 Municipal Partnership Grant. Attached is an addendum with details on your grant package. Sullivan Renaissance asked that any documentation or publicity in connection with your project include the following language: "Funding for this project was made possible in part by the Municipal Partnership Grant from Sullivan Renaissance." \$6,250 is from Sullivan Renaissance. Daniel Cunningham has been hired to plant flowers, mulch, etc.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file letter dated April 20, 2020 from Sullivan Renaissance. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

#### **Cancellation of Kauneonga Block Party**

The Town has been notified by the Kauneonga Block Party organizers that they are cancelling the 2020 block party. Mr. Sturm stated that the Town is making decisions accordingly to open up such as Bethel Lakeside Music, the farm market, fireworks and will follow all guidelines.

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

#### **Heritage Trail Thank You from Carol & Gordon Macadam**

Mr. Sturm read a note received from Gordon and Carol McAdams thanking those who worked so hard to put together the Bethel Heritage Trail.

Motion Mr. Cohen to receive and file note from Gordon and Carol McAdams regarding the Bethel Heritage Trail. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

#### **Town Board Comments**

Mr. Sturm wanted to announce that White Lake Homes Friends and Neighbors through the BLDC collected \$12,600 for the Shepard's Food Pantry. Steve Martin spearheaded the project and they were very happy to help.

Mrs. Simpson - No planning or zoning board meetings. The recreation program is on hold at the current time. The Green Committee is going forward.

Mrs. Hendrickson - The contractor who took over the Sewer Department is saving the Town money and making money. They hired our one full-time sewer employee to their staff.

Mrs. Ryder - 2020 maps have been delivered to the Town Hall. They will be distributed to the NYS Thruway and around town at local businesses.

Mr. Cohen - The Highway Department are sweeping and patching the roads.

**Public Comment**

Marcia said there is a big pile of gravel in front of her garage. The Highway Department could come and get it.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to adjourn the regularly scheduled Town of Bethel Town Board Meeting of May 13, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Rita J. Sheehan  
Bethel Town Clerk