

The June 10, 2020 Town of Bethel Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. This is our fourth online video conferencing and call-in meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Sturm, Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Hendrickson were present at the Bethel Town Hall in separate rooms. Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Simpson, and Rita Sheehan were all video conferences from their home.

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>Checks</u>
General Fund	\$172,778.28	9369, 9407-9459
Highway Fund	\$298,620.44	2596-2597, 2614-2618 2620-2636
Kauneonga Lake Sewer District	\$ 54,964.03	2013-2036
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$ 762.75	1223

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

Supervisor’s Monthly Report

The General Fund income is 2.34% higher than last year. The Building Department is way up. Recreation and Parks is down due to the COVID-19. Bethel Transfer Station is up. Interest is up. The Town moved accounts for a better return. Expenses are down 12%.

General Fund vs. Budget –
91.4% of revenue has been received.
41.9% has been spent.

Highway Department income is up due to the selling off of surplus equipment (\$28,000.) Had an insurance claim on a highway truck and received \$49,000 on the truck.

Highway vs. Budget –
Revenue on target
32% of the budget spent. Last year it was 40% at this time.

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

Building Department Monthly Report

May 2020 Fees \$ 11,023.00
May 2019 Fees \$ 8,449.00
Building department is up 54%.

May 2020 Construction Totals \$1,038,787.00
May 2019 Construction Totals \$1,006,281.00
Building department year-to-date is up 31%.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file the Building Department Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Town Clerk's Monthly Report

Total fees for May, 2020	\$9,298.61
State Share	\$ 191.67
Town Share	\$9,106.94

Mr. Sturm mentioned that a large portion of the Town share is the Transfer Station receipts. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the Town Clerk's Monthly Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Approve Journal Ad for SC Firemen's Parade

Mr. Sturm stated that the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association Parade for 2020 has chosen the White Lake Fire Company to host the parade.

Mrs. Hendrickson said, a full page ad since it will be in our town. Mrs. Simpson said if we are the host town it should be a full page ad.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to put a full page ad in the the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association Parade Journal for 2020. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Request to Sullivan County to close a portion of Horseshoe Lake Road in Kauneonga Lake for specific dates in the summer

Mr. Sturm read the following letter addressed to Sullivan County DPW, Mr. Ed McAndrew, Commissioner regarding Outdoor Restaurant Seating in Kauneonga Lake.

As we begin to reopen our communities over the next few weeks, it is imperative that we do whatever we can to assist local businesses. Local restaurants have been particularly hard hit by the closures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Town of Bethel would like to request that Sullivan County permit the closure of a portion or all of County Route 141 (Horseshoe Lake Road) in Kauneonga Lake for the purpose of outdoor restaurant seating on certain evenings (Thursday, Fridays and Sundays) over the summer from 2 PM until 9 PM commencing on Friday, June 19th. Attached is a map depicting the section to be closed. This special accommodation would be reviewed on a weekly basis up to and until regular indoor seating for our restaurants is permitted at some future date.

As you know, one of the final recommendations that came out of the Kauneonga Lake Complete Streets study was to consider such closures as demonstration or pop-up projects such as this.

We would like to get together with you and your staff as soon as possible to put a plan together. We can bring the local restaurant owners in to the discussion as well.

This would include Barrio Kitchen, Benji & Jakes, and The Local Table and Tap.

Mrs. Simpson this is a great idea.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to send the letter requesting to close a portion of Horseshoe Lake Road for outdoor restaurant seating. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Forest Reserve Committee Report

Grant money from the state is on old at the present time. No spending of town money until the funding comes from the state. We will be going out for bids for open air gazebos. One for each side – Dog Park and Forest Reserve.

Mrs. Hendrickson stated that the town is going forward with trail signs using grant money from last year. The program focused on the youths and went over well.

Mr. Sturm – Forest Reserve Committee Report

The Forest Reserve Committee met on June 2nd down at the park. We had a good turn-out and got a lot accomplished. We are going forward with the trail signage. The signs look great. W-Design put together some great concepts. We are using the grant that we got from Sullivan County last year so our costs should be minimal.

There are some good ideas for programs focusing on the youth that we are working on as well. Overall, this committee is going forward and I think the board should be pleased with the progress.

Both the Forest Reserve and the Dog Park have shown to be great assets for all our residents. Especially in these times when our residents and families are looking for safe places for recreation and reflection. I encourage all residents to check it out. Visit the Dog Park, go for a nice hike or walk, or a picnic. It is kind a like a secret treasure for all to enjoy, and of course use it responsibly and follow the rules.

Dormitory Authority funding on hold. No spending town money until funding from state is authorized. New building/construction is on hold, as with any state funding, but we will be going out for bids shortly for the comfort station to help us get our budget together for the project.

Town of Bethel Summer Camp Update

Mr. Sturm gave an update on the TOBY Camp this summer. We hope that pools and playgrounds will be able to open in Phase 4 (Recreation) as those are a huge part of what the children love about TOBY Camp. When we are ready to present our plan for opening we will let everyone know. For those of you who registered in February or applied for a job and do not plan on being part of TOBY Camp no matter what our plan is please e-mail or message us. All others will be contacted by the end of the week about our plan. Please note that there are many guidelines and logistics we have to work out as well as having certified staff in place to open.

1. Modified camp, with up to 50% of normal capacity if possible. No all day, no mixing public with campers. Closing at 1:30 PM then opening to the public at 2 PM.
2. A lot of restrictions which we will adhere to, to the letter. As safety of campers and staff will be our #1 priority.
3. If anyone can run a camp safely with the new guidelines in place it is our long-time camp and youth director, Cathy McFadden.
4. We have no guidelines yet for public play grounds or our public pool, other than we can get the pool ready, which we are doing. But I guarantee the usage of it will be severely limited, and we will all have to abide by the new rules and be patient (which is not always easy when it is 95 degrees out).
5. Much more information is coming soon. Like temperature checks, limited time in the pool, no sun bathing on deck.
6. We are trying to do what we can do safely within the guidelines instead of just closing everything up.
7. Finally, other towns are closing parks and pools.

Town Board Comments

Mrs. Hendrickson - thanked everyone that worked so hard and so proud of the Forest Reserve and Dog Park.

Mrs. Simpson - The staff has done an amazing job. The Planning Board will meet next Monday, June 15th. This will be a live meeting. I would like to thank the Fire Departments and Police for taking part in the birthday parades for the youths.

June 10, 2020

(Online Zoom Meeting) Audit Meeting

Mr. Cohen - The Highway Department is back fully staffed and parching the roads.

Mrs. Ryder – Thank you all for participating. I am happy with the next phase. Be Safe!

Mr. Sturm - Town Hall has been open to the public since June 8th. The next Town of Bethel Town Board meeting will be June 24, 2020 in person

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, a motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to adjourn the June 10, 2020 Town of Bethel Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk