

The October 14, 2020 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was 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

Guest: Frank Segro, Bethel Woods

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audit of Bills

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check(s) #</u>
General Fund	\$263,789.50	9601-9656; 9584
Highway Fund	\$324,436.36	2699-2721
KL Light District	\$ 2,173.54	1056
KL Sewer District	\$106,361.59	2099-2108
KL Sewer Extension	\$ 58,602.68	1; 1011
Planning & Zoning Escrow	\$ 1,111.25	1229-1230

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

Supervisor’s Monthly Report

1. General fund versus last year
2. Building department, inspection fees are up 60%
3. Recreation department is down due to COVID-19, but we were one of the few towns that did have a program this past summer, and a safe one.
4. Transfer revenue is up
5. Interest rate is up \$15,000 Year-To-Date
6. With the courts starting to open our bail money should increase
7. Mortgage tax is down \$70,000 2nd quarter
8. Revenue is fine \$112,000 2nd quarter last year. Overall we are 2.5% down from last year.
9. Highway revenue is up; CHIPS money came in early. Also we sold old equipment (approximately \$30,000)
10. The highway department is 2.7% better in expenses year-to-date. 72.2% of the budget has been

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file Supervisor’s monthly report as submitted.

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

Building Department Monthly Report- September

September 2020 Fees	\$ 17,932.00	
September, 2019 Fees	\$ 3,865.00	
September, 2020 Construction Totals	\$ 3,332,600.00	YTD \$11,478,828.00
September, 2019 Construction Totals	\$ 499,072.00	YTD \$ 4,510,773.00

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the building department’s monthly report as submitted.

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

Town Clerk’s Monthly Report - September

Total fees for September, 2020	\$11,612.08
State share	\$ 3,018.54
Town share	\$ 8,593.54

The transfer station is very busy and shows in report.

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

Correspondence from Atlantis, Florida Police Dept.

Received a condolence letter and patch from the Atlantis, Florida Police Department on the death of Bethel Constable Darryl Yates. Darryl’s younger brother Michael Dombeck works for the Atlantis Police Department. Also, card from Darryl’s wife Judy Yates.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file letter from the Atlantis Police Department and card from Judy Yates. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2019 State Comptroller Fiscal Street Monitoring

Mr. Sturm read a statement from the State Comptroller.

The Office of the State Comptroller uses the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System to examine the annual financial information reported by the Town. This analysis provides an objective assessment of the fiscal challenges facing individual local governments and school districts, identifying situations where corrective action may be needed. These 2019 scores are based on end-of-year results (as of December 31, 2019 – just before the start of the pandemic, and thus provide a baseline measurement of local governments’ ability to respond to the current crises.

As of August 31, 2020, our review of the 2019 Annual Update Document (AUD) for your Town has been completed.

	<u>Fiscal-Stress</u>			<u>Environmental Stress</u>	
<u>FYE</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Designation</u>	
2017	5.0	No Designation	30.0	Susceptible Environmental Stress	
2018	6.7	No Designation	30.0	Susceptible Environmental Stress	
2019	3.3	No Designation	3.3	No Designation	

We look at the fund balance. 2018 we bought some highway trucks. 2019 we bought in more case ratio. Street trend 000 personnel service divided by total revenue (2019 53%).

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file 2019 State Comptroller Fiscal Street monitoring. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2019 Moody’s Update to Credit Analysis

Mr. Sturm read a statement from Moody’s Investors Service.

Summary – The credit profile of the Town of Bethel, NY (Aa3) is characterized by a modestly-sized tax base, average resident wealth and income, sound financial position with ample reserves, and manageable debts and pension burdens. The town has an auditor’s qualified opinion associated with the lack of OPEB liability reporting.

We regard the coronavirus outbreak as a social risk under our ESG framework, given the substantial implications for public health and safety. We do not see any material immediate credit risks for the Town of Bethel, NY The town has robust reserves

and liquidity following three years of consecutive surplus operations. However, the situation surrounding the coronavirus is rapidly evolving and the longer term impact will depend on both the severity and duration of the crisis. If our view of the credit quality of the town changes, we will update our opinion at that time.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file the 2019 Moody's Update to Credit Analysis report as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Property Violation Update – Bednarowski

B.J. Gettel, Code Enforcement Officer, is satisfied with the progress Mr. Bednarowski has made on dismantling and removing the structure. Mr. Sturm noted that Mr. Bednarowski is taking the structure himself. Mr. Sturm stated that we will close the file on this item.

Nourish Your Neighbor Press Release

Mr. Sturm read the Nourish Your Neighbor Press Release. Food and monetary donations are being collected for the Shepherd's Food Pantry in White Lake. This year Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has joined the effort and will be collecting healthy food at their October Harvest Festivals. Guests can drop their items in a bin on their way into the Festival on October 4 and October 11.

As in prior years, donations can be delivered to collection bins at Bethel Town Hall, Body, Mind and Spirit Wellness Center, Hector's Inn, Jeff Bank, Shepherd's Food Pantry and the White Lake Post Office from October 1st through December 1st.

The Shepherd's Food Pantry serves approximately 400 families and 200 individuals over the age of 65 monthly; with 80% of those coming from within the Town of Bethel.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file Press Release on Nourish Your Neighbor. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Authorize Assessment Settlement SBL #15.-1-6.2 (Estrada)

Mr. Sturm stated that this resolution to lower the assessment from \$220,000 to \$143,500. The Town of Bethel will lose \$750 in town taxes.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF BETHEL TO ENTER INTO AN SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION (INDEX #E2019-1516) IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT AND MELANIE ESTRADA

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel (hereinafter "Town") has been served with a Tax Certiorari proceed by Robert and Melanie Estrada in reference to SBL 15.-1-6.2; and

WHEREAS, the assessed value for the 2019 final role for SBL 15.-1-6.2 is \$220,200; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Gettel, as Sole Assessor for the Town of Bethel has determined that the assessed value should be amended and reduced to \$143,500; and

WHEREAS, Robert and Melanie Estrada, through their attorney, Walter Garigliano, Esq., have agreed to enter into a stipulation and settlement reflecting an assessed value of \$143,500; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Stipulation and Settlement is attached and made part hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Bethel that it hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the Town to settle this matter in accordance with the attached Stipulation and Settlement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Bethel hereby approves this settlement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Attorney for the Town, Karen Mannino, Esq., is hereby authorized to enter into this Stipulation and Settlement on behalf of the Town and execute and cause to be filed the Stipulation of Settlement.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve to lower the assessment on SBL#15,-1-6.2 From \$220,00 to \$143,000. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Presentation of 2021 Preliminary Town Budget

Mr. Sturm explained the Lighting District due to an error no taxes were collected in 2020. The adjustment will be made in 2021 and the tax will be doubled.

The Highway Department we purchased to rollers and a truck with no bonding. We save hundred thousand dollars in mining our own sand.

The General Fund worker's comp, health coverage, insurance are up. The State Aid will be cut this year from \$5K to \$36K this year and next year. We are under the cap at 1.56%. We have no frills bare bone budget.

Sewer District in O&M the same. Debt service is now \$175 going up to \$192 per year. The 3.1M project is going out to bid. We will get a 0% interest free load. A \$900,000 state grant we do not have to pay back. More users cost is spread out; only 1,000 users. Project started in 2009 and should be done next year.

Set 2021 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing 10/28 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Sturm, we need to set October 28, 2020 at 7:55 p.m. for the 2021 Preliminary Budget public hearing. Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to set October 28, 2020 at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Set 2021 Sewer User Rate Public Hearing 10/28 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Sturm, we need to set October 28, 2020 at 7:45 p.m. for the 2021 Sewer User Rate Public Hearing. Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to set the Sewer User Rate public hearing on October 28, 2020 at 7:45 p.m.. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2011 Bond Refunding Overview

Mr. Sturm stated that the Town is refinancing for the remaining 9 years. The Town will be saving \$198,000 over 9 years. The net present value savings is \$187,445. Savings as a % of refunded bonds is 11.75%. Savings GOAL as % of refunded bonds is 3.00%.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and file the 2011 bond refunding overview. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence from The Club at Smallwood

Thank you letter for the generous donation of mulch around the club house. Motion to receive and file letter dated September 29, 2020 for the mulch. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Correspondence from Tom Hendrickson

Mr. Sturm read a thank-you card from Tom Hendrickson, White Lake Fire Commissioner and past Chief, thanking those who organized the music in the park honoring the first responders. Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file Mr. Hendrickson's regarding the music in the park. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2020 Road Repair Agreement

AGREEMENT between the Town Superintendent of the Town of Bethel, Sullivan County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS. The sum of \$483,213.36 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 144.67 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.
2. PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS. The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of Town highways:
 - a) On the road commencing at Swiss Hill II and leading to Hughson Farm, a distance 2900', there shall be expended not over the sum of \$41,000., Type 6 & 7, Width of traveled surface 18', thickness 2 ½" total, Subbase pavement true and level, road with type 6 at 1 ½" thick, top road with type 7 at 1" thick. Swill Hill.
 - b) On the road commencing at cul-de-sac and leading to Mt. Hope Road on Lake Drive, a distance of ½ miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$26,000., type 6, width of traveled surface 18', thickness 1 ½", subbase pavement. Lake Dr.
 - c) On the road commencing at Soule Road and leading to Lake Drive on Mt. Hope Road, a distance of 1 mile, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$47,000.00, type 7, width of traveled surface 18', thickness 1 ½" subbase pavement. Mt. Hope Rd.

Motion by Mr. Cohen to receive, file and approve the 2020 Road Repair Agreement as submitted for Swiss Hill II Road in the amount of \$41,000; Cul-de-sac to Mt. Hope Road on Lake Drive in the amount of \$26,000; on Mt. Hope Road from Soule Rd to Lake Drive in the amount of \$47,000.

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

Peace, Love & Lights Traffic & Mobility Plan

Frank Segro, representing Bethel Woods, submitted the traffic and mobility plan for Peace, Love and Lights at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The plan is for a dazzling, drive-through holiday lights experience featuring scenes and characters of the season using the latest LED technology and digital animations. Dates of the event will be from November 23, 2020 through January 3, 2021, 7 days a week, including all holidays. They are anticipating approximately 10,000 – 15,000 visiting cars over the 42 days.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to approve the Peace, Love & Lights Traffic & Mobility Plan starting November 23, 2020 through January 3, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

2019 Bethel Vol. Amb. Corp. LOSAP

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL TOWN BOARD
APPROVING THE 2019 SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM POINTS FOR
THE BETHEL VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPORATION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel as the governing sponsor of the Bethel Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (BVAC) Service Award Program has received the 2019 list of members who have earned service credit, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board at their October 14, 2020 meeting has reviewed and approved the 2019 service credit list.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board has directed the Town Clerk to certify the attached list and forward to the BVAC so they may post for thirty days as required by the Pen Flex Data Request Package (DRP).

Motion by: Councilwoman Lillian Hendrickson
Seconded by: Councilman Bernard Cohen
Duly adopted 5 ayes and 0 nays upon a roll call vote as follows:

	AYE	NAY
Dawn Ryder	X	
Bernard Cohen	X	
Daniel Sturm	X	
Vicky Simpson	X	
Lillian Hendrickson	X	

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, motion by Mrs. Simpson to adjourn the Town of Bethel Town Board meeting of October 14, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Sheehan
Bethel Town Clerk