

APPROVED

Regular Meeting of the Cohocton Town Board
April 16, 2024

David Miller, Esq., Supervisor Judith Hall, Councilmember Peter Wallace,
Councilmember Geraldine Deusenbery, Councilmember Patricia Johnson
Absent: Councilmember Jim McCart

Judith Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge to the Flag

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA- Approval from the USDA for a Loan

CORRESPONDENCE- none

Motion made by Geraldine Deusenbery and seconded by Peter Wallace to accept the March 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Motion made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Patricia Johnson to accept the reports. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

There was one correction to the abstract on invoice #188 to the correct amount of \$215.00 to Mitch Miller.

Patricia Johnson questioned if invoice #171 to the Town of Wayland for \$6000.00 was for Shared Services and Judith said yes, it was.

Patricia also questioned why there was a voided check to Five Star Bank. Judith said they returned the check with a note saying the amount was incorrect, but the bank was mistaken.

Geraldine Deusenbery said Highway Superintendent Richie Schumacher should be having the men who work under him fill out vouchers and a tax-exempt form for their clothing purchases. Judith explained that the men buy the clothing themselves and cannot declare tax exemption for their purchases. This is the way the governor wants it done.

Patricia questioned why there was another drug screening test invoice to Accustar. Judith said it was because one of the highway men had not listed one of his prescriptions so he needed additional testing.

Geraldine and Patricia questioned the Staples invoice. Judith explained it was to replace her printer in her office.

The invoice to Stryker was for the battery pack for the ambulance stretcher.

The invoice to the Town of Wayland was for the Shared Services Kennel Contract.

Motion made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Peter Wallace to accept the abstract with corrections. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

OLD BUSINESS

Pool-The people from the PTSA contacted Peter Wallace and told him they had not heard anything from the state office regarding grants for the pool. Judith suggested having a Referendum put on the ballot in November and let the taxpayers of Cohocton decide whether to have a pool or not. David Miller said he

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believes the town cannot add it to the ballot because of restrictions in Municipal Law, but he will look into it.

Zoning Amendments-Judith would like to take a look at the solar law setbacks for residential solar panels on the ground. Zoning Officer Chuck Cagle told Judith the solar panels on Route 21 adhere to the setback requirements. The Town of Cohocton will be Lead Agency for the amendments to the Zoning Law. David Miller said we should start with Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment Form. Judith said we will do that next month.

Approval from the USDA for a Loan-The USDA has agreed to loan the North Cohocton Water District \$1,459,000.00 at an interest rate of 2.125 percent for 38 years for the water project. There will be a zoom meeting on April 22 at 11:00am if anyone would like to participate. This is to make the determination whether we will go with USDA or EFC for the loan. The USDA will also give us some grant money.

NEW BUSINESS

Training for Barry-

Motion made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Patricia Johnson to send Barry Fairbrother for training for meter maintenance at a cost of \$45.00. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Court Audition Resolution- The court books were audited, and Judith has a form to fill out and sign confirming the court audit was done. Peter Wallace asked who did the audit. The audit was done by Jill McCart and Jim McCart.

Motion made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Patricia Johnson for the approval for Judith to sign the court audit resolution. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Route 39A Resolution for County-Judith received a call from a gentleman from the county who was putting up new county road signs. He inadvertently put up a 30 mile per hour sign on the other side of the bridge on Beecher Street. The speed limit there is 50 MPH. He got called to task by the state and the county because he has no authority to change the speed zones. Judith told him the town has been trying to get the speed limit changed there for years. He sent Judith a form to fill out and he will send it in. He will get the state to do a traffic survey.

Motion made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Geraldine Deusenbery to sign Route 39A for the county. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Invasive Insect Study-Judith received a Box Tree Moth and European Cherry Fruit Fly Response Property Access Request from the USDA. They are asking permission to trap the invasive pests on Town of Cohocton property.

Motion made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Peter Wallace to sign the USDA request. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Playground at Hatch Hose-Rose Parks came in the office to discuss the problem at the Hatch Hose playground. Someone has been breaking glass and spreading it on the playground at Hatch Hose. Also, people have been burning their garbage in the fire pit. Rose asked if the board would consider putting up a new camera system and share the cost with them. Barry checked prices for a camera system with multiple cameras and it would be \$259.00.

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Motion made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Judith Hall to purchase a camera kit for the playground. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Battery Storage-Battery storage is becoming an issue with the governor taking all renewable energy out of the hands of the municipalities. The Town of Cohocton has no battery storage in our solar law. At county meetings, people are saying it makes sense for towns to have stand-alone battery storage law because the solar projects are bringing in a lot of battery storage. The attorney who is representing the Town of Cohocton for the Prattsburgh Wind Project, Dwight Kanyuck, has been involved in a lot of solar projects around the state and he said the batteries are catching fire. The Town of Cohocton does not have anything in the Wind Law about battery storage. Judith wants to ask the Planning Board to make a stand-alone law prohibiting battery storage for wind, solar and manure digestors.

Motion made by Judith Hall and seconded by Patricia Johnson to ask the Planning Board to address a Stand-Alone Battery Storage Law prohibiting battery storage in the Town of Cohocton. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

BOARD CONCERNS-Geraldine Deusenbery said back in January the Canisteo Valley DAR asked permission to mark a grave up in the old Clearview Cemetery. They had a meeting Saturday, and they are going to be marking Isaac Palmenter's grave May 18th at 1:00 pm. A Color Guard from Wayland, the SAR and some of the descendants of Mr. Palmenter will be present at the ceremony.

Pat Johnson called for the board to go into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter to discuss the behavior of the Code Enforcement Officer at recent Town Board meetings.

Motion made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Geraldine Deusenbery to go into Executive Session to discuss the behavior of the Code Enforcement Officer at Town Board meetings. Ayes 4 Noes 0. Judith said no action would be taken.

Motion made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Judith Hall to adjourn. 4 Ayes 0 Noes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Allen, Loraine Sanderson
Town Clerk & Deputy Clerk