

DRAFT

Regular Meeting of the Cohocton Town Board  
May 21, 2024

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

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

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA-**

C. Pilot for Prattsburgh Wind Project, D. Highway 284, E. Police MOU

**CORRESPONDENCE-** Judith read a thank you note from Zion Lutheran Cemetery for the generous donation of \$2000.00.

Judith read an email she received from Jill Staats of the IDA. Jill was in touch with someone from Dimension confirming they want to push the start of the pilot back one year. The IDA Board approved the extension and will send the amendment to the schedule to all the taxing entities. This will begin with the 2025-2026 school taxes and is the solar project on State Route 371.

**Motion** made by Jim McCart and seconded by Judith Hall to accept the April 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Ayes 3 Noes 1(Geraldine Deusenbery).

Patricia Johnson questioned the Planning Board minutes where they discussed the permit for the solar project. She wondered why it was on hold and Judith said the board did not know the reason.

**Motion** made by Geraldine Deusenbery and seconded by Jim McCart to accept the reports. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Patricia Johnson questioned voucher #244 to Axon Enterprises dating back to 2022 and why it was only being paid now. Police Chief Mark Barnhart explained that the police get a grant for cameras and are only billed once a year.

Patricia also voiced concerns regarding the vouchers for Verizon Wireless and Charter Communications. She wondered if any of these services can be consolidated to save money. Judith explained the cell phones and internet services that are included in these bills are for multiple people and locations.

**Motion** made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Jim McCart to accept the abstract. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Zoning Amendments-The only change to the zoning law Judith would like, besides what the Planning Board has recommended, is the setbacks on the solar law. She would like to have the setbacks on ground residential panels changed from 10 feet to 20 feet with screening like what is required for a commercial project.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Jim McCart to revise the amendment to change the setback. Ayes 3 Noes 1 (Geraldine Deusenbery).

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B. Moratorium for Battery Storage Law-The Planning Board suggested there be a Moratorium for a Battery Storage Law, but since David Miller was not present it was tabled until next month.

C. Park-Dana Guffy is willing to do the pavilion cleaning and monitoring at the park this year. Judith said Dana is the only person who needs to be hired for the upcoming season.

D. Pool-Karen Johnson and Elise Meldrum from the PTSO were present to discuss the New York State Swim Grant information to replace the Lawrence Park pool. The grant would cover 80% of the funding for all the pool, parts for the pool, restrooms and bathhouse. It would only cover a splash park at 10% of the total grant cost which means we have to do a pool to get a splash park. Marjorie Burns and Tom O'Mara have offered letters of support to the Town Board and to DASNYD which is the funding agency for the grants. The PTSO conducted a survey with 152 people responding, 141 in favor of keeping the pool and 9 against it. The town must meet the initial criteria based on poverty and the rural area. Karen said Cohocton meets that level. The score must be 20 or higher and Cohocton's is 26. She also stated our residents and children have benefited from the park for 50 years, and without the pool our children and teens will be left with a huge void during the summers. The completed grant is due between June 13 and July 12. Recipients of the grants will be notified at the end of August. Judith would like to see a joint resolution with Wayland and Avoca and the other towns that use our pool. Patricia Johnson said she was willing to work with Judith Hall and the PTSO to try get the grant.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Patricia Johnson to apply for the grant with the stipulation that this is not committing the Town of Cohocton in any way, shape or form if we do not get the grant. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Judith and the women from the PTSO agreed to meet Friday, May 24 at 1:00 pm to discuss the pool grant. Patricia Johnson she would check her schedule and Jim McCart said he might come. Karen Johnson told them to let Judith know. This would not be a board meeting, but a Committee Meeting.

E. Public Informational Meeting Regarding a New Pool-The board decided to wait and schedule a Public Informational Meeting after they find out if the Town of Cohocton has been awarded a grant.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Empire Telephone Easement-Judith was contacted by Empire Telephone. They want to place a pole on River Street. They are also placing one in the village. Judith has to sign an easement in order for Empire Telephone to put up a pole.

**Motion** made by Patricia Johnson and seconded by Geraldine Deusenbery to have Judith sign the easement agreement. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

B. County EMS Services-Because towns like Greenwood and other towns in the southern portion of the county have very little ambulance coverage, the county has been working on an EMS service. They are currently recruiting temporary part-time paramedics and EMTs. They anticipate the start-up date to begin the week of Jun 24, 2024. The county does intend to bill the patient's insurance and would appreciate the town's help in conveying this to their residents. The county will also charge the towns that have to use their service.

C. Pilot for Prattsburgh Wind Project-Judith went to a Supervisors Meeting in Prattsburgh regarding the Prattsburgh Wind Project. They have talked with the IDA about going with a different formula for the pilot where the towns get 50% of the pilot as opposed to the 25% we currently get.

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D. Highway 284-Highway 284 is for Highway Superintendent Richey Schumacher's CHIP money. Every board member had to sign 2 copies of it.

Patricia Johnson asked if the CHIPS money was coming out of Richey's budget. Judith said no. Richey has to say what roads he will be working on to get the CHIPS money.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Jim McCart to sign the 284 Agreement. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Supervisor Judith Hall, Councilmember Jim McCart, Councilmember Geraldine Deussenbery, and Councilmember Patricia Johnson signed the 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Jim McCart. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

Richey brought a quote to the board recently for a new dump truck. The truck would not be available for 2 years and some CHIPS money should be available to aid in the purchase of the dump truck. Patricia Johnson about the two trucks that were recently purchased, and Jim McCart explained we are trying to get on a five-year plan to replace all the trucks. It takes 2 years to get a truck that is ordered, and the price goes up every year. Patricia asked if the trucks ordered were paid off and Judith said we have no debt on trucks right now and we would not have debt for the next truck either. This truck would replace the 2011 dump truck. The cost is \$303,041.99.

**Motion** made by Jim McCart and seconded by Judith Hall to put an order in for the International 2026 dump truck costing \$303,041.99. Ayes 2 Noes 2 (Geraldine Deussenbery, Patricia Johnson). Motion failed to carry.

E. Police MOU-Police Chief Mark Barnhart presented a Memorandum Of Understanding which is an agreement between the Town of Cohocton and the Village of Wayland which states if they have an emergency and we have an officer on duty, our police will respond and their police would reciprocate. David Miller has looked at the agreement and has no problems with it.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Jim McCart to approve the Memorandum Of Understanding between the Town of Cohocton Police Department and the Village of Wayland Police Department. Ayes 4 Noes 0.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

### **BOARD CONCERNS**

Patricia Johnson wondered if an ad was placed in the paper again advertising for a Code Enforcement Officer. Judith said no, but she will place an ad.

**Motion** made by Jim McCart and seconded by Patricia Johnson to adjourn. 4 Ayes 0 Noes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Allen  
Town Clerk