

Regular Meeting of the Cohocton Town Board  
January 18, 2023

David Miller, Esq., Judith Hall, Jan Kastberg, Peter Wallace, Nancy Levesque, Jim McCart.

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

A moment of silence was observed for Wayne Hunt for his service to the Town of Cohocton.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Judith received an email from Margorie Byrnes which she will address later in the meeting in new business.

**Motion** to accept the minutes from the December 20, 2022, meeting made by Jim McCart and seconded by Peter Wallace. Ayes 4 Noes 0. Abstain 1 (Nancy Levesque).

Reorganizational Meeting- Nancy Levesque recommended the minutes from the January 3, 2023, Reorganizational meeting be amended to include the Genesee Valley PennySaver as one of the official papers of the Town of Cohocton.

**Motion** made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Jim McCart to amend and accept the minutes from the Reorganizational Meeting on January 3, 2023. Ayes 5 Noes 0.

**Motion** made by Jim McCart and seconded by Peter Wallace to accept the receipt of reports. Ayes 5 Noes 0.

Discussion on the Abstract- Nancy Levesque questioned the invoice on the abstract for Eagle Associates of Cazenovia. She said it was a statement rather than an invoice. Judith Hall stated that it was an invoice, and it was the second payment for the salt barn. Nancy also said invoices need to be signed by department heads and some appear to be statements rather than invoices, which is required by the Town of Cohocton. The bills called into question were Rogers and Tenbrook and Utica Central Truck Company. She also said the invoices need to be date stamped by the Town Clerk.

**Motion** made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Jan Kastberg to accept the abstract. Ayes 5 Noes 0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Wind Project-Baron Winds has not sent the host agreement payment because LaBella has not sent the completion certificates. Labella is not prepared to do that yet. LaBella is working on the foundation certificates. Peter Wallace spoke with Project Manager Jason Dagger who has emailed different people and has gotten no response. Judith Hall has asked David Miller to review the host agreement.

Judith Hall watched a webinar with the judge from the Department of Public Service concerning Phase 2 of the Baron Winds project. The judge pointed out to Jessica Klami that the DPS is getting many complaints about the noise and the construction of the wind turbines. The judge said the problems need to be addressed before the hearing.

Solar Project-The TG&A has been sold and the new company has applied for a pilot. Jill Staats from the IDA sent Judith Hall a copy. The town's payment would be approximately \$5000.00 a year for the project on Route 371. Staas said that the Town of Cohocton could negotiate a host agreement which is separate from the pilot.

Taxes-Judith Hall said someone approached to her say the Town of Cohocton went over the tax levy. She explained how this was not the case. Governor Hochul reduced the assessment on the wind turbines and solar projects, causing an increase in property taxes. The fire taxes and the ambulance tax also increased because of this, but the Town of Cohocton was still under the cap.

Nancy Levesque said people have been complaining about the water tax the county put on the North Cohocton Water District customers. She asked if a letter was sent to people letting them know about the increase. Judith said we did not find out the county did this until the end of December, and there was not enough time to inform the water district customers. Nancy suggested that in the future, letters be sent to the water district customers informing them if a water tax is expected to be added to the Town and County taxes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Judith Hall received an email from Margorie Byrnes. She said a judge has ordered the Assembly districts be redrawn and she will no longer represent the Town of Cohocton, but any changes will not take effect until after the Assembly election in 2024.

Carol Allen would like to have Christi Johnson be the third Deputy Clerk.

**Motion** made by Peter Wallace and seconded by Jan Kastberg to appoint Christi Johnson as the third Deputy Clerk. Ayes 5 Noes 0.

Barry Fairbrother has a quarterly training day which will cost \$40.00.

**Motion** made by Jan Kastberg and seconded by Peter Wallace to pay \$40.00 for Barry's quarterly training. Ayes 5 Noes 0.

## **BOARD CONCERNS**

Nancy Levesque asked whether the Supervisor's Clerk position will be accepting job applications. Judith Hall said it is at her discretion who she hires for that position. Nancy Levesque also asked for a key to the Town Hall and Judith said she would get one made for her.

**Motion** made by Judith Hall and seconded by Jan Kastberg to adjourn. 5 Ayes 0 Noes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Allen