

**PRESENT:** Greg Reuter, Supervisor, Patty Bikowsky, Deputy Supervisor, Brad Dixon, Jim Lundrigan, and Steve Johnson, Councilpersons; Tina Livermore, Town Clerk, Roy Kirley, Road Superintendent and 12 guests.

Supervisor Greg Reuter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Patty Bikowsky made the motion seconded by Steve Johnson to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** The November 9, 2023 minutes were read by Town Clerk Tina Livermore. Steve Johnson made a motion seconded by Brad Dixon to accept the minutes as read with corrections. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor's Report: Highway Supt. Report: Town Clerk Report: Justice Reports:  
Dog Control Officer Report: Bookkeeper Report: Code Enforcer Report: Ambulance Report:  
Reports were presented and viewed by the Board.

Greg Reuter reported that Judge Haight has still been busy collecting fines dated back in the 80s & 90s.

Roy Kirley, Highway Superintendent said that his crew has been working on equipment, trees, water in the road, ditches, and 20,000 gallons of brine. The crew has been out plowing 4 times. He stated that the men have requested uniforms. The cost would be \$11 per week per man, though the first month would be extra. It would eliminate the clothing allowance, but they would need shoe allowance. The uniforms are Carhart (good quality) and would be picked up and cleaned weekly. They would start with 11 sets. The uniforms would be of high visibility, and they would be supplied with a winter coat. Uniforms would be ordered after January 1.

Diane VanSlyke, Historian, is keeping in touch with the CNY Community Foundation for a Capital Building Grant for the Historical Society Building. Diane sent a Special Interest Capital Grant application to the Pomeroy Foundation in Syracuse to help cover Phase 1 & 2 which is washing down mold, spraying mold retardant, digging out and replacing the foundation, rebuilding two interior stairways, replacing floor joist, beam support, and insulating under the kitchen floor, reinstalling the side porch, and installing heat/air conditioning/humidity control in the basement. It is hoped that the CNY Foundation will share costs with Pomeroy. Diane also reported that she has been showing the Chenango Canal documentary to various groups. She also has been meeting with Amber Twentyman on how to analyze small non-profits for improvement. Habitat For Humanity through Colgate has been working on the Canal Cottage Museum. Madison County Tourism is providing a Strategic Planning Session for non-profits at Morrisville State College. Gale Abrams of Brookfield bought some old Town of Madison Highway Department records dating back to the 1800s at an auction that he donated to the town. Diane submitted 2 private cemeteries, Solsville, and the Solsville Hotel to the notice received from Hoffman Falls Wind Farm that would be included in a 5-mile radius of the windmills.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Blueprints have not been received from the Koen project. They met with the Planning Board on October 14. They have met the requirements of the Madison County Department of Health and also the State.

The Transient Rental Law will be completed by the January meeting.

Work on the Town Parking Lot has been put on hold due to the rain. Roy has the stone which will be laid in the spring.

Trees have been coming down with one that landed on and damaged a Revolution War soldier's gravestone. Greg received a price of \$20,000 to take down the trees. Because it is a county road, he contacted Madison County which has a dedicated tree crew who took down every tree at no cost to the town, therefore saving the town a lot of money. The surveyor put in new pins at the cemetery, which resulted in more land being owned than originally thought.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Cindy Edick, Madison County Treasurer, gave a 2024 Tax Update on county finances. There will be a hefty 9.28% increase in next year's taxes, the largest ever. There was an 8% tax increase in 2015, but other years have been between 0 to 3%. Inflation, increases in salaries, and lack of Medicaid payments from the State are some of the reasons for such an increase. NYS Retirement has increased as well as a lot of employees are retiring, and as salaries are going up, retirement goes up. The Medicaid from the Federal Government that is being passed to the State is not being passed on to the county. The State has held over \$4 million from Madison County alone.

With great sadness we have to say goodbye to a very dedicated and loyal employee that has graciously served the town for the past 17 years. With that being said Trevor Snyder our Dog Control Officer will be retiring December 31, 2023. He will be greatly missed but we wish him the very best in his new adventures. We have reached out to Ann Brown who may be interested in becoming our new Dog Control Officer.

David Young has been appointed to the Planning Board to replace Ken Hepburn. Pam Fuller has been appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace David Young.

The representative from EDP wind turbines will be attending the January 4, 2024 meeting to give an update on the turbines off Quarterline Road.

Mike Hynes, the write-in candidate for Town Court Justice, has submitted his resignation, due to health issues. With approval from the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court, it is hoped that Don Haight will be appointed to stay on another year as the second judge.

Jason Mitchell, Superintendent of Madison Central School District. And Melanie Brouillette, Business Officer, stated that the amounts of the bids for a second exit to North Street came in too high. However, the school would like to build a parking lot behind the soccer field before the tree line to eliminate the amount of cars that park on the lake road. The school is asking for an acre of town property to complete this parking lot. Greg stated that using an acre would inhibit the town barn from being able to add additional expansion possibilities to the town barn. Steve Johnson made a motion seconded by Jim Lundrigan to table the request for 60 days.

The sealed fuel bids were opened and read by Town Clerk, Tina Livermore. Buell Fuel submitted bids at 2.945 for summer fuel; 3.249 for winter fuel; 1.625 for propane. Mirabito submitted bids at 2.996 for summer fuel; 3.071 for winter fuel; 1.85 for propane. Broedell Fuel Group submitted bids at 2.736 for summer fuel; 2.933 for winter fuel; 1.399 for propane. Patty Bikowsky made a motion seconded by Brad Dixon to accept the Broedell Fuel Group as the 2024 provider. Motion carried.

The January Town Board Meeting has been changed from January 11 to January 4 at 7 pm.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION: None.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** Patty Bikowsky made a motion seconded Brad Dixon to pay the General Bills in the amount of \$42,541.61 and Highway Bills in the amount of \$58,445.59 for a total of \$100,987.20. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Patty Bikowsky made a motion seconded by Brad Dixon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Livermore, Town Clerk