

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen, County of Lewis and the State of New York was held at the Town Municipal Office Building, 8420 State Rte. 812, New Bremen, New York on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2023.

Town Officer's Present: Peter J. Keys, Supervisor  
Joseph E. Aucter, Councilman  
Casandra M. Buell, Councilwoman  
Alexis L. Lyndaker, Councilwoman  
Thomas J. Schantz, Councilman  
Douglas E. Herzig II, Hwy. Superintendent  
Elizabeth B. Jones, Clerk

Also Present: Jon Campeau, Shane DeRycke, Brandon Atwood – Highway Employees

Supervisor Keys called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. This meeting was called to review the Tentative Budget for the 2024 year and conduct any other business that may come before the board.

### **DISCUSSION – HEALTH INSURANCE/WAGE RATES**

Supervisor Keys – received notification that the 2024 health insurance premium rates for our current BCBS health plan will be increasing 11.8%. Robert Ransier of Brown & Brown sent a group proposal comparing our current health plan with a couple other options and reviewed with myself and Clerk Jones. Mr. Keys recommends staying with the current Silver2 plan as it's better coverage and seems to be working well for all. He increased the health insurance budget lines to 12% to cover the increase and will still be able to stay under the 2% tax cap.

Jon Campeau spoke on behalf of the highway employees, asking the board to consider a possible \$1-hour increase in their hourly rate for 2024 due to ever rising cost of living expenses and to help defer the increase in health insurance premiums. Further discussion followed with the board proposing a possible \$1 to \$1.50 hr. rate increase. Will discuss further when reviewing the tentative budget later on in the meeting.

### **MINE**

NYS DEC received an application proposing a sand and gravel mine in the Town of New Bremen and Watson on lands owned by Carlton Zehr, Permit Application #6-2399-00031/00001, New Bremen Mine. This proposal is a Type 1 action subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). DEC proposes to act as lead agency for the SEQR review of said mining permit application and is requesting a letter of endorsement from the Town if they have no objection. After discussion, the following resolution was presented.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 88 OF 2023**

#### **LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION – NEW BREMEN MINE**

On a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the following resolution was  
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received an application proposing a sand and gravel mine in the Town of New Bremen, Lewis County and is proposing to act as lead agency for the SEQR review of said permit application; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen has no objection to this request and hereby authorizes Supervisor Keys sign the letter of endorsement.

### **SUPERVISOR CORRESPONDENCE**

- Meeting at Town of Lowville, October 24<sup>th</sup> on RPTL pertaining to solar and wind farm assessments, and filing a law-suit against NYS by numerous towns and counties.
- Received envelope of numerous letters pertaining to the Rail to Trails – unknown sender.
- IDA is updating their UTEP policy and is hosting 3 information sessions: Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-3pm at Town of Croghan Office; Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 to Noon at Village of Lyons Falls Office and Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 11-1pm at Town of Lowville.

**ZONING LAW**

Board reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft for “proposed” Local Law No. 1 of 2023 – Town of New Bremen Zoning Law and completed FEAF parts 1, 2 and 3. Said proposed local law is to amend and consolidate the existing Solar Energy System Law and the Site Plan Review Zoning Law to improve the environment, especially forested areas. It is required to be referred to the County Planning Board for their review and recommendations. After review and discussion, the following resolutions were presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 89 OF 2023**

**CONSIDERATION OF A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED**

**“REPEALING LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2021 – SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM LAW AND LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2001 – SITE PLAN REVIEW ZONING LAW, AND REPLACING WITH LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023 - TOWN OF NEW BREMEN ZONING LAW”**

On a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilman Schantz, the following resolution was  
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Aucter, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Recusal 1 Buell Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town of New Bremen is considering for adoption, a local law entitled “Repealing Local Law No. 2 of 2021 – Solar Energy System Law and Local Law No. 1 of 2001 – Site Plan Review Zoning Law and replacing it with Local Law No. 1 of 2023 – Town of New Bremen Zoning Law”, and

WHEREAS, said law was introduced by Councilwoman Buell, and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Board hereby determines this action to be Type 1 according to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and hereby designates itself as “lead agency”.
2. The Town Board hereby sets a public hearing for November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building, 8420 State Rte. 812, Lowville, New York, to consider adoption of said local law and to hear comments for and against the proposed local law.
3. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of the public hearing in the Town’s official newspaper, to notify adjacent municipalities of such hearing and proposed local law, and to submit the proposed local law with all documentation to the Lewis County Planning Board for their review and recommendations according to GML-239L&M.

**RESOLUTION NO. 90 OF 2023**

**SEQR NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**FOR “PROPOSED” LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023 – TOWN OF NEW BREMEN ZONING LAW**

On a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilman Aucter, the following resolution was  
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Aucter, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Recusal 1 Buell Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town of New Bremen is considering for adoption, a local law entitled “Repealing Local Law No. 2 of 2021 – Solar Energy System Law and Local Law No. 1 of 2001 – Site Plan Review Zoning Law and replacing it with Local Law No. 1 of 2023 – Town of New Bremen Zoning Law”, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined this to be a Type 1 Action according to SEQR and completed FEAF parts 1, 2 and 3 for said proposed local law, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board determined this project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Review of the 2024 Tentative Budget followed. After review and discussion, the following resolution was presented.



**RESOLUTION NO. 91 OF 2023  
ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

On a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the following resolution was  
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, that this Town Board of the Town of New Bremen, did review the Tentative Budget of this town for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024. Itemized estimates of salaries and expenses are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and made a part of this resolution; and now, therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk will give notice of a public hearing in the manner provided by Section 108 of the Town Law, and that such notice shall be published for 1 week in the Journal & Republican with at least 5 days prior to the date specified for the Public Hearing, 1 copy posted on the Clerk's bulletin board, post to the Town website and linkinglewiscounty.com website, in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of New Bremen for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, has been filed in the Town Clerk's Office, at the Town Municipal Office Building, 8420 State Rte. 812, New Bremen, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during regular business hours.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget is to be held on November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building, at which time any person may be heard in favor of or against any items therein contained. The proposed salaries of the following Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	\$12,000.00
Justices (2)	\$ 9,550.50 each
Councilmen (4)	\$ 3,000.00 each
Hwy. Superintendent	\$55,570.00
Town Clerk	\$24,000.00

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respectfully Submitted  
Elizabeth B. Jones, RMC  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector