

REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 2022

The Regular 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 11th day of July 2022.

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

Attended by: Laurie Halladay – Railway Historical Society, Ron Trottier, Railstar Corp./RHS, Joanne Dicob, Chad Pate, Jim Kieffer, Josh Pate, Dylan Pate, Ken Flint Jr, Chris Adams, John Campeau, Shane and Samantha DeRycke

Supervisor Keys called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

RESOLUTION NO. 63 OF 2022
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, the minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting are approved.

FLOOR

Supervisor Keys opened the floor to Laurie Halladay, Curator for the Railway Historical Society. Mrs. Halladay gave a presentation to the Board briefing on the history of the short line railroad from Croghan to Lowville along with work they are doing to preserve several “working” engines providing rides from the Village of Croghan Depot to State Rte. 126 and back. They are also progressing forward with the operation of a trolley car and rail bikes; and need the full Lowville/Beaver River Railroad for said development. Looking for the Town Boards support to continue to move forward with their plans and also noted that the tracks have been deemed historical and donations are welcomed as they are a non for profit organization.

Ron Trottier, owner of Railstar Corp. and President of the Railway Historical Society also presented a brief history of the railroad. Currently working to obtain liability insurance for their rail bikes, which were purchased back in 2016 to help promote rail tourism in the area. They are very popular for ages 6 to 86 and hope to have them operational by the end of July/August of this year and will run from the Village of Croghan Depot to State Rte. 126. He stated that GVT is the owner of the rails and has been working with them. Repairs are needed to the base of the track in several areas, along with trimming of trees and clearing of debris from the tracks. The County of Lewis is supposed to be putting back the 300’ of track they ripped up with no knowledge to the company. A July 30th chicken bbq is planned to help raise funds. They will be having train rides and the museum will be opened for people to walk through also.

Mrs. Halladay and Mr. Trottier thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Discussion followed with residents that own property along the railroad and are against the County’s Rails to Trails project.

1. Joanne Dicob, 7714 State Rte. 812 spoke stating “we are not interested in rails to trails” and is opposed to the County’s proposed project, which would convert the railroad to public accessed trails for walking, biking, ATV’s, snowmobiles, etc., if the county’s filing for eminent domain on the railway is a success. There are many residents opposed to the proposed project, as they obtained approximately 400 signatures within 6 days. Said petition was submitted to the County Board of Legislators. Mrs. Dicob is asking for the Boards support in fighting the County and tell them we are not interested in “rails to trails”.
2. Chad Pate, 10075 Resha Rd. also owns property along the tracks, asking if there is an option for adjacent land owners to the tracks to be able to purchase the property back.
3. Jim Kieffer, 8426 Mattis Rd. stated it will open up liability issues for the landowners that use their own land for hunting.

(Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022 con't.)

Councilman Aucter would like to see the Board take action now rather than later. Councilwoman Buell feels the County has no idea what the track will be used for, although southern Lewis county could benefit from it. After discussion, Supervisor Keys thanked them all for attending.

**RESOLUTION NO. 64 OF 2022
DCO'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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, the DCO's monthly report and six (6) month report are approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A Motion was made by Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, to move into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. to discuss the Employment and Liability Guidelines with the highway employees

Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

REGULAR SESSION

A Motion was made by Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, to return to Regular Session at 8:10 p.m.

Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Aucter

1. LCHS Shelter Contract – they forwarded the contract to their attorney for review and are meeting this week. He will follow up after.

Councilwoman Buell

1. ZBA – will be meeting with the new ZBA on July 25th at 6 p.m. to discuss the 4 hrs. of training they will need to complete and to assist them setting up a chairman, secretary, when to meet, etc.
2. Planning Board – still working on, but have several interested people in serving.
3. Playground – supplies ordered via the grant should be shipping July 27th. Brenda Buell is creating a fairy garden along the walking trails in the park.
4. Restore NY Grant – trying to get the old cheese plant in the sights of the county to clean up the site, with the possibility of the Town assisting. Said project is a priority of hers. There is a 10% match required for this grant.

Councilwoman Lyndaker

1. NBCIA – with the passing of her Grandmother, Linda Hall, her family would like to donate to the New Bremen Community Improvement Association, but are uncomfortable with the current status of the organization as they have not been filing reports with the Town or State and have not followed through with youth recreation contracts with the Town in a couple years now. Councilman Aucter suggested the family establish a grant as we have contacted our Town Attorney on said matter, but Mr. Farley stated our hands are tied so to speak. Would like some kind of correspondence with Robin Houppert, President of the association. The Board has been unsuccessful.

**RESOLUTION NO. 65 OF 2022
TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk's monthly report is approved as submitted.

(Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022 con't.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 66 OF 2022
YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS**

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 the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen does hereby enter into a contract with the Beaver River Recreation Association to provide instructional and recreational swim and structured recreational activities for the youth of the Town of New Bremen for the 2022 Summer Youth Recreation Program, and that the Town of New Bremen will expend to the Beaver River Recreation Association the sum of \$3,250.00, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen does hereby enter into a contract with the Village of Croghan to provide structured educational activities for the youth of the Town of New Bremen for the 2022 Summer Youth Recreation Program, and that the said Town of New Bremen will expend to the Village of Croghan the sum of \$4,500.00. Complete contracts to be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

**RESOLUTION NO. 67 OF 2022
STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION**

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

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen hereby establishes the following standard work days for the following elected/appointed officials – Aimee L. Murphy, Justice and Joseph E. Aucter, Councilman - and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on their record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body and that said resolution be posted on the Town's Official Website for at least 30 days according to state requirements.

*Copy of said resolution/form RS 2417-A is incorporated at the end of these minute proceedings.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Herzig reported on the following:

1. Paving – planning to start paving first week in August.
2. New Tractor – still waiting on delivery.

**RESOLUTION NO. 68 OF 2022
JUSTICES MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

RESOLVED, the Justices monthly reports are approved as submitted.

SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Keys reported on the following with a motion following:

1. Assessor Computer – County Real Property Tax Office spoke at the Supervisor/Mayor's meeting; they are looking for Towns to purchase new laptops for their Town Assessor as many are out dated. Cost would be approximately \$1000 each through the County.
2. Transfer – asked the Board to approve transferring the \$38,891 from the sale of the 2019 town pickup, from highway fund to equipment reserve.
3. ARPA Funds – will be receiving the second portion of ARPA funding this summer - \$121,691.93.
4. ARPA Maintenance Plan – continuing to work on the plan.

TRANSFER

A Motion was made by Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilman Schantz, to transfer \$38,891 received from the sale of the 2019 pickup, from Highway Fund to Equipment Reserve Fund.

Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0



RAILS TO TRAILS

Further discussion followed pertaining to the proposed county rails to trails project. Councilman Aucter is against the project and would like the Board to act on it now rather than later. Councilwoman Buell would like more facts on it before she makes a decision. Supervisor Keys will contact Ryan Piche, County Manager for more information on the project for the Boards review.

**RESOLUTION NO. 69 OF 2022
SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

RESOLVED, the Supervisor's monthly financial report is approved as submitted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 70 OF 2022
AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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 Supervisor Keys is authorized and directed to pay the following amounts on Abstract #6 & #7 of 2022 and also approved the report of prior to audit payments for insurance, utilities and comptroller fees for justice court.

General	Voucher #87 thru #96	\$8,990.50
Highway T-Wide	Voucher #61 thru #68	\$2,607.39
Highway T-Outside	Voucher #15 thru #16	\$22,507.99
H. Insurance - \$10,347.36		
Utilities - \$1,921.94		
Comptroller - \$1,147.00		

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Keys handed out budget request forms in preparation for the 2023 Budget. He will not be at the August meeting as he will be attending MDS Leadership Training.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen will be held on August 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. Carried unanimously.

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