

REGULAR MEETING
June 13, 2022

DRAFT

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 13th day of June 2022.

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

Also present: Ian Gilbert – Legislator

Supervisor Keys called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

RESOLUTION NO. 55 OF 2022
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, the minutes of the May 9, 2022 meeting are approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Aucter reported on the following:

1. LCHS Lease Agreement – have not received a response from the Lewis County Humane Society concerning items the Board would like to see addressed in their shelter agreement. Councilman Aucter to follow up with them.
2. Rails to Trails – several residents have reached out for more information on the County's Rails to Trails project. The Town has not received any information from the County on this. Legislator Gilbert stated packets are being put together with information, should receive them by our July meeting. He also stated the county has not decided what to do with the property as of yet, but are in the process of filing for eminent domain.
3. County Event Law – County of Lewis adopted an Event Law requiring permits for certain events held within the county limits. We have not received any information from the county. Legislator Gilbert stated Towns can "opt in" if they wish. Board is not interested in doing so, but would like more information and/or a copy of said local law for their review.
4. Sales Tax – would like to see sales tax revenue come back to the towns as he is unhappy with the direction the county management is headed in.

Councilwoman Lyndaker

1. Crystal Pond – she and Councilwoman Buell continue to research on their idea of building a dock/pier on Crystal Pond. Spoke with Nancy Kovach trying to determine where the property boundary lines are for sure. Will continue to work on.
2. Community Mural – there is an issue with the community mural that was projected to be put on the side of the New Bremen General Store or the Crystal View building. The size of the mural is much larger than expected; it is 20' x 40' and will cover windows on the building. Working on a solution.

RESOLUTION NO. 56 OF 2022
TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

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

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's monthly reports are approved as submitted.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Rodney Buckingham, member of the Board of Assessment Review, submitted his resignation effective July 1, 2022. Need to find someone to fill his term.

INSURANCE STIPEND

Clerk Jones asked the Board for clarification – if a qualified employee would like to enroll only in the dental insurance plan offered by the Town, would that affect the \$1000 stipend he currently receives for not participating in the towns health insurance plan? As the towns Employment and Liability Guidelines section 2.0 Coverage section 3 – states “if they choose NOT to participate in the health insurance plan program they are compensated the \$1000 stipend”. The Board is in agreement that if an employee chooses to enroll in the dental plan only, it will not affect the stipend fee they receive.

PICKUP BID

Rebid the sale of the 2019 F350 pickup truck on linkinglewiscounty and craigslist. Two bids were received and are as follows: \$38,891– Edward Samsa \$38,251.81 – Scott Sauer

**RESOLUTION NO. 57 OF 2022
ACCEPT BID FOR PURCHASE OF 2019 F350 PICKUP**

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

RESOLVED, the high bid of \$38,891 for the purchase of the 2019 Ford F350 Pickup, as submitted by Edward Samsa, Water Street, Lowville, NY is hereby accepted by the New Bremen Town Board, and be it further

RESOLVED, if the first bidder falls through the Board defers to the next bid of \$38,251.81 submitted by Scott Sauer, Beech Hill Road, Lowville, NY.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Herzig reported on the following:

1. New Tractor – is in Cazenovia and has tires now, but waiting on other equipment to arrive that needs to be installed on it before delivery can take place.
2. Fuel Shed – highway crew has taken down the fuel shed except for a couple posts with electrical attached. Need to resolve the electrical portion and paint the fuel tanks. Will notify PESH tomorrow and ask for a 30-day extension in order to finish the project to their specifications.
3. Summer Projects – everything is still as projected as previously reviewed with the Board.
4. Soft Maple Road – obtained a quote from Suit Kote to repair the damage to the Soft Maple and Bush Roads by a resident logger - \$18,993.81. Discussed billing said resident for the repair of the roads for the damage he caused by driving a track hoe up the Bush road and rounding the corner on the Soft Maple/Bush road intersection. Board agreed that Supervisor Keys is to contact Attorney Farley for his guidance before moving forward.
5. Water Issue – contacted Paul Denise, Village of Lowville DPW on a projected time frame to complete the work on the #3 Water District main to resolve Tom Gray’s water problem. Mr. Denise stated he will research the area to locate the main; and that his crew will complete the digging for the project instead of the Town, as their equipment will already be there and are experienced in it. The Board is ok with them doing the digging for the project and are aware there may be charges for the work.
6. Sweeping – billed county and school for sweeping this spring.

COUNTY

Ian Gilbert, Legislator for District No. 4 gave a brief report on happenings at the County level as most items were previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 58 OF 2022
JUSTICES MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

RESOLVED, the Justices monthly reports are approved as submitted.

(Regular Meeting of June 13, 2022 con't.)

COURT CLERK

Court received final approval from the Office of Court Administration allowing the appointment of Erin Murphy as Court Clerk. As per Town Board Resolution No. 35 of 2022, the Town Board approved of Ms. Murphy's appointment as Court Clerk pending OCA's approval. Ms. Murphy started as Court Clerk on May 25, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 59 OF 2022**DCO'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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

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

ZBA

Councilwoman Buell forwarded three (3) letters of interest from McKenzie Lehman, Tim Lee and Jessica Clemons to serve on the towns Zoning Board of Appeals. As it has been inactive, the Town Board will need to reinstate the ZBA and appoint new members as it would if it was a newly created board. Hereafter, each term reappointment will be for three (3) years. After discussion and review of the letters of interest, the following resolution was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 60 OF 2022**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REINSTATEMENT & APPOINTMENTS**

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

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen hereby reinstates the Zoning Board of Appeals with appointments and terms of members as follows:

McKenzie Lehman	-	6/13/22 through 12/31/2022
Tim Lee	-	6/13/22 through 12/31/2023
Jessica Clemons	-	6/13/22 through 12/31/2024

FACILITY UPGRADE

Supervisor Keys submitted a proposal for upgrades/maintenance to the highway and municipal buildings to provide for more energy efficiency and ensure a safe workplace for town staff. Plans to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for said improvements is projected. ARPA funding has been expanded to include all phases of government services, with the use of these funds for this project will benefit all the taxpayers in the Town. Without the use of these funds said project would need to be funded through the town budget, therefore affecting future tax bills for every taxpayer. Supervisor Keys will gather further information and details on the project before contacting contractors for quotes.

EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

Discussed upcoming budget for 2023 and getting together with the highway employees to discuss changes or requests they would like addressed concerning the Employment and Liability Guidelines. The Board would like them to attend the July 11th meeting.

SUMMER YOUTH WORKERS

Discussed applying for summer youth workers to assist with small jobs around the municipal building, etc. Due to the lack of full or part-time help it would be difficult to leave one man supervising over them at all times. Not going to work out this year.

RESOLUTION NO. 61 OF 2022**SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 62 OF 2022
AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

RESOLVED, that Supervisor Keys is authorized and directed to pay the following amounts on Abstract #5 & #6 of 2022 and also approved the report of prior to audit payments for insurance, utilities and comptroller fees for justice court.

General	Voucher #72 thru #86	\$6,022.74
Highway T-Wide	Voucher #51 thru #60	\$5,575.97
Highway T-Outside	Voucher #11 thru #14	\$27,730.37
H. Insurance -		\$10,347.36
Utilities -		\$1,905.20
Comptroller -		\$2,547.00

The next meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen will be held on July 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Carried unanimously.

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