

REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen, County of Lewis and the State of New York was held via Zoom due to COVID-19 pandemic, New Bremen, New York on the 11th day of May 2020.

Town Officer’s participating:

Peter J. Keys, Supervisor
Joseph E. Aucter, Councilman
David L. Becker, Councilman
Casandra M. Buell, Councilwoman
Alexis L. Lyndaker, Councilwoman
Douglas E. Herzig II, Hwy. Superintendent
Elizabeth B. Jones, Clerk

Also participating in the Zoom call – John Young - Deputy DCO

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 44 OF 2020
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED, the minutes of the April 13, 2020 meeting are approved.

COUCIL REPORTS

Councilman Aucter

- 1. Received several complaints from residents on their increased assessments and is concerned how grievance day will work due to the pandemic. Clerk is to post the legal notice for Grievance Day and Filing of 2020 Tentative Roll on Town’s Website for clarification and public to view.
- 2. Need to look into the issue of roadside parking and laws to regulate it. Was brought to the Board’s attention at the January meeting. Highway Superintendent Herzig obtained copies of resolutions the Town of Croghan adopted for their Town and will forward to Supervisor Keys and Attorney Farley for his review and further recommendation on how to move forward.

Councilwoman Buell – close to opening the region back up if testing requirements for Covid-19 are met. Looks promising and will know more by May 15th.

**RESOLUTION NO. 45 OF 2020
TOWN CLERK MONTHLY REPORT**

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 46 OF 2020
TAX COLLECTOR MONTHLY REPORT**

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

RESOLVED, the Tax Collector’s monthly report is approved as submitted.

DECALS

Beginning June 1, 2020 NYS DEC will have a new DECALS licensing system which includes the use of a new website for license sales and will be providing a new printer for the Town Clerk to issue licenses.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Herzig reported on the following and sent full report via email:

1. Was rear ended in Town pickup on May 1st on State Rte. 812, Croghan. Received check from the insured's insurance company to cover the damage and repairs to the pickup.
2. Took delivery of the dually pickup from Nortz & Virkler. Waiting on temporary plates and registration.
3. CHIPS funding looks promising but waiting for a definitive answer before any paving dates are set.
4. Created guidelines to return to work on May 11th and will have all employees sign off that they read and understand them. Shop will remain closed to the public unless an appointment is made.
5. Summer youth program remains on hold.
6. Discussed mowing of the cemetery for the summer – whether to be done by the highway crew, Joel Kloster (as in the past) or a suggestion by Councilwoman Buell – possibly a school kid but would need to check to see if there's an age requirement for an employee of the Town. Will look in to further with insurance agent Bill Schaab.

JUSTICE

No monthly reports – court is not in session.

**RESOLUTION NO. 47 OF 2020
DCO MONTHLY REPORT**

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

RESOLVED, the DCO monthly report is approved as submitted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 48 OF 2020
WATER COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT FOR
BEAVER FALLS WATER DISTRICT**

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

WHEREAS, the office of Water Commissioner for the Beaver Falls Water District held by Robert B. Boliver, expires May 31, 2020, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Robert B. Boliver is hereby reappointed as Commissioner of the Beaver Falls Water District for a 5 year term effective 6/01/20 thru 05/31/2025.

SOLAR PROJECT - DISCUSSION

1. Engineering and legal representatives for the Town – Jim Burrows of Conboy law firm have experience with the Article 10 process and solar projects. Unsure of their preference for an engineering representative. Supervisor Keys is to contact Mr. Burrows to discuss further and a possible contract. The Board would like Attorney Farley to review the contract before it's put in place.
2. Councilwoman Buell stated Geronimo Energy will be utilizing the Article 23 process and feels we need to have a plan in place. Concerned with the cost and using up of the PIP funds – maximum is \$35,000.00.
3. Still waiting on the PILOT through NYSERDA – put on hold due to the pandemic.
4. Siting Board - once the Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) for the “proposed” solar project is filed, earliest date is July 2, 2020, Supervisor Keys has a 15 day time period from the filing date to nominate four (4) candidates to serve as the ad hoc public members and two (2) will be appointed to the Siting Board. Nominees are to be submitted to the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly. Must be over 18 years of age, Town of New Bremen resident and not be a local official.

SOLAR

Councilwoman Buell presented a “draft” for a proposed local law cited as “Regulation of Solar Energy Systems in the Town of New Bremen”. The Board reviewed said draft and will also need to adopt a fee schedule. After discussion the following motion was made.

Motion by Councilman Becker, seconded by Councilman Aucter, to forward the “draft” solar local law to Attorney Farley for his review and recommendations.

Ayes 4 Becker, Aucter, Lyndaker, Keys

Abstained - Councilwoman Buell

**RESOLUTION NO. 49 OF 2020
SUPERVISOR’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 50 OF 2020
AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

RESOLVED, that Supervisor Keys is authorized and directed to pay the following amounts on Abstract #4 & #5 of 2020 and also approved the report of prior to audit payments for insurance, utilities, water bill and equipment payments.

General	Voucher #45 thru #50	\$810.18
Highway T-Wide	Voucher #56 thru #56	\$13.59
Highway T-Outside	Voucher #7 thru #7	\$769.71
H. Insurance - \$9,038.05		
Utilities - \$2,230.87		
Village of Lowville - \$1316.24		
Key Finance - \$35,385.30		
Nortz & Virkler - \$51,092.32		

The next meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen will be held on June 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Becker, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Elizabeth B. Jones, RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector