

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
March 10, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Burke Town Board was held on March 10, 2020 at the Burke Town Court House. Supervisor Bill Wood declared the meeting to order at 6:58 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

Roll Call:	
Councilman:	Arnold Lobdell Tim Crippen Jim Otis, absent Patrick Downing
Supervisor:	Bill Wood
Supt. of Highways:	Larry LaPlante
Town Clerk:	Elizabeth Downing
Bookkeeper:	Linda Trudell
Code Officer:	Jim Dumont

This Regular Meeting is being voice recorded by the Burke Town Clerk, Elizabeth Downing, as always.

A motion to accept the February 11, 2020 minutes as read was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Pat Downing. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill abstain.

No Public Comments were made.

New Business:

1. Brett Hastings, Senior Developer from Geronimo Energy, gave the Board an update about the Brookside Solar Project that will be located in Chateaugay and Burke. An Open House meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2020 at Chateaugay Central School at 5-8 P.M. to inform the Public. Environmental Studies, such as Raptor studies, noise studies, wetland studies, etc. for the project have started as of the winter of 2019-2020. Construction should commence in 2022-2023. 200-300 people would be employed on a project of this size.
2. Elavon through Community Bank sent in information detailing their Credit Card processing service to be used by the Town of Burke. The Board decided to table the discussion until additional information about other services used by Franklin County is obtained.
3. A motion was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Tim Crippen to accept the 2020 contract with the Burke Fire Department. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye. The contract will be signed, notarized and filed with the Town Clerk.
4. The EMS Committee sent out a letter detailing their steps for moving forward. They are working with a legal consultant to get a resolution passed by the Towns and Villages to support moving forward. This is going to be a Template resolution drawn up by the EMS Committee for the Towns and Villages.
5. The Board agreed that the Burke Fire Department can put their plow in the Town Courthouse garage.
6. Mowing bid ads will be rerun in the newspapers and opened at the next meeting.
7. Paperwork for an appeal that Burke Farm has summited to the Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division: Third Judicial Department for the dismissal of their Article 78 dismissal by the Franklin County Supreme Court was presented to the Board.
8. USDA Rural Development sent a Letter of Conditions for \$202,000.00 for purchase of the Highway's new 2021 Volvo plow truck. The loan for the truck and Bond Counsel legal fees will be for \$152,000.00 for 15 years at 2.75%. A maximum amount of the grant will be for \$50,000.00 for a total of \$202,000.00. Resolution #4-2020 - A motion was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Arnold Lobdell to pass a resolution to accept the Letter of Conditions from the USDA's Rural Development Office. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye.
9. Sexual Harassment training for 2020 with NYMIR will be scheduled.
10. A letter dated January 24, 2020 was received from Legislator Billy Jones agreeing with the Town of Burke that the Bail Reform Legislation needs to be changed. He and other Legislators are addressing the issue.
11. The Burke Town Clerk asked the Board if the Burke Health Officer, Diane Walfield, should be contacted for guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board decided no contact is needed at this time.

The Highway Committee did not meet.

Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante's Report:

1. The Highway Department is performing snow removal duties as required.
2. Culverts on Callahan Road were replaced.
3. The Highway Employees have started cold patching roads.
4. The Excavator needed to be repaired. Larry informed the Board that repair parts for the old excavator have become obsolete. Larry has located a 2006 Caterpillar Excavator for sale with 7100 hours for \$49,900.00. He proposed using \$20,000.00 from the Equipment fund and using left over CHIPS funding for the balance. A motion was made by Pat Downing and seconded by Tim Crippen to use \$20,000.00 from DA5130.45 Highway Appropriations, Townwide, Machinery, Special Equipment Expense and 29,900.00 plus any other expense encountered from DB5110.2 Highway Appropriations, Outside Village, Improvements, Capital Outlay (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program- CHIPS).
5. Resolution #5-2020 – A motion was made by Pat Downing and seconded by Tim Crippen to pass a resolution to accept the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys presented by Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye. \$92,140.00 shall be set aside to be used for general repairs upon 51 miles of town highways.
6. Burke Town Plow trucks slipped off the snowy roads on February 27, 2020 and February 28, 2020

The Code Officer collected \$280.00 for the month of February. A motion to accept the February 2020 Code Officers Report was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Pat Downing. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye.

A motion was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Arnold Lobdell to accept the February 2020 Financial Report. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye.

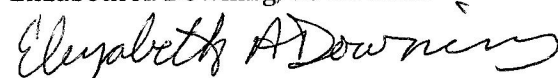
Public Comments:

1. June Parmeter asked if the Natural Gas PILOT contract with the Town of Burke will change now that St. Lawrence Gas has been sold to Liberty Utilities? Supervisor Wood informed June that Liberty Utilities has bought St. Lawrence Gas and all the contracts with St. Lawrence Gas would roll over to Liberty Utilities. The Town Clerk will make a copy of the Contract for June.
2. Keith Trudeau asked if the Town would be able to recoup our lawyer fees associated with the lawsuit brought against the Town of Burke by the Burke Friends Against Rural Mismanagement (FARM)? Supervisor Wood informed Keith that the Town of Burke would not be able to countersue.
3. Kelly Shanahan asked if the Town is worried about Article 23? Article 23 is a proposed amendment to the budget which would streamline the siting process of large-scale, green energy projects by giving siting decisions for these projects to a state agency, bypassing local and zoning laws. Supervisor Wood answered he doesn't like some of the language in the Article and he contacted State Legislator Billy Jones and Legislator Jones is working on trying to get some of the language in Article 23 changed. Supervisor Wood does not think this Article will be changed because Governor Cuomo usually gets what he wants.

Bills were paid.

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 P.M. was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Arnold Lobdell. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim absent and Bill aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk



Recorded by, Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk