

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
May 28, 2020

A Meeting of the Burke Town Board was held on May 28, 2020 at the Burke Town Court House. Supervisor Bill Wood declared the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

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

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Regular Town Board Meetings were canceled on April 14, 2020 and May 12, 2020 but vouchers were approved by the Board members and bills were paid.

A work session on April 12, 2020 at the Burke Town Court House at 8:00 A.M. was held to open bids received for mowing Burke Town properties. Supervisor, Bill Wood, Councilman, Jim Otis and Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante opened the three bids received for mowing.

1. A bid for \$9,200.00 was received from Eugene Nesbitt.
2. A bid for \$9,350.00 was received from JRL Contracting.
3. A bid for \$14,820.00 was received from Dumont Lawn Care.

Supervisor Bill Wood and Councilman Jim Otis voted to accept the bid received from JRL Contracting. Councilmen Tim Crippen and Pat Downing each voted by phone to accept the bid from JRL Contracting. Councilman Lobdell voted by phone to accept the bid from Eugene Nesbitt. JRL Contracting was awarded the Burke Mowing contract for \$9,350.00 by a vote of 4-1.

A motion to accept the March 10, 2020 minutes as read was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim abstain and Bill aye.

No Public Comments were made.

**New Business:**

1. The Board discussed the limits set by the First Bankcard MasterCard accounts for Supervisor Bill Wood, Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante, Bookkeeper Linda Trudell and Town Clerk Elizabeth Downing. The Supervisor and Bookkeeper limits were set at \$24,300.00. A motion was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Pat Downing to set the limit of all Town Credit Cards at \$5,000.00. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.
2. The Chateaugay Food Pantry gives donations of food to Burke citizens, but the Town of Burke does not give yearly donations to the Chateaugay Food Pantry. Three days of food donation per visit is all Burke residents are eligible for without donations from the Town of Burke. The Board discussed donations to Chateaugay and suggested co-ordination with the Belmont Food Pantry. The Board will discuss the matter in more detail if additional need is warranted.
3. An EMS District Meeting was held on May 27, 2020. The Towns of Chateaugay and Belmont have drafted a resolution approving the EMS District. Resolution #6-2020 – A motion was made by Jim Otis and seconded by Pat Downing to pass a resolution authorizing the expenditure of up to \$3,000.00 for the preparation of a map plan and report for providing the facilities, improvements, or services reasonably required for the creation of an ambulance district to be located in the entire Town of Burke, including the Village of Burke. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.
4. Grievance Day was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The Assessment Review Board had 5 people show up to contest their assessment and the Grievance Board adjusted 17 parcels in the Town of Burke.
5. A Letter of Conditions has been received from USDA's Rural Development outlining the steps to be taken to get the Grant/Low Interest Loan through USDA. Resolution #7-2020 – A motion was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Pat Downing to pass a resolution to secure the services of Eric J. Gustafson, Attorney from Massena, NY to act as Bond Counsel for the Town of Burke with the USDA's Rural Development Department. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.
6. A Thank You Note dated April 17, 2020 was received from the Burke Adult Center, thanking the Town of Burke for it's continued support. Jim O'Brien, the Burke Adult Center's Director, sent us a copy of a letter he received from the Franklin County Office

for the Aging. The Office for the Aging intends to suspend the Burke Adult Center's contract with the Office for the Aging on Monday, May 18, 2020 for the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic because the Burke Adult Center is very expensive. Home delivered meals for the Town of Burke's aging residents will be prepared out of the Malone Adult Center's kitchen during this time.

7. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation will terminate the Town of Burke's appointment as a License Issuing Agent in June 2020 due to low annual license sales and the transition to a new license sales system.
8. The Town of Burke received a 2019-2020 Justice grant payment of \$13,274.69 approximately April 1, 2020 and has 180 days to use the grant. A 50-50 cost share must be utilized for the proposed Generator and Air Conditioning that was applied for. A motion was made by Pat Downing and seconded by Arnold Lobdell to decline the Justice Grant Funding received due to the increased costs associated with the grant and the unpredictable future that has arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye. The \$13,274.69 in Justice Grant Funding will be returned to the Office of Justice Court Support.
9. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Franklin County Assessor's Association will be waving the 2020 \$50.00 annual membership fee this year.
10. A letter dated May 21, 2020 from the Office of the Franklin County Treasurer, contained a check for \$8,002.54 for the Town of Burke's share of Mortgage Tax from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. It will be deposited into the appropriate account.
11. Electricity at Seller's Field will be turned on June 3, 2020.
12. People are starting to visit High Fall's Park in Burke. The Board has questioned the liability of the park to the Town of Burke. No trespassing signs may need to be posted. Supervisor Wood will discuss this issue with Town Attorney, Brian Stewart.

The Highway Committee did not meet.

#### Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante's Report:

1. The Highway Department has removed snowplows from all plow trucks.
2. Gravel roads have been graded once and will be graded again before placing calcium down on the roads.
3. Cold patching has commenced.
4. Trucks have been serviced and painted to protect them from rusting.
5. A culvert has been installed on the Selkirk Road.
6. A six-foot culvert has been replaced on the Flynn's Line Road.
7. Burke has helped the Town of Bellmont with blacktopping.
8. Gravel has been purchased and delivered to the garage.
9. The Town of Burke is seeking a new employee.
10. Work is being done on the Burke Bellmont Road.
11. Franklin County Soil & Water and the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) will be continuing their wastewater programs this summer that includes documenting culverts and prioritizing them for replacement. Documents produced by NAACC can be used to apply for grant funding for culverts by municipalities.
12. Larry has been instructed to not depend on Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program may have funding cut by the State of New York this year.
13. The Town of Burke's Highway Department did not purchase an excavator because the excavator the Highway Supervisor intended to purchase was not approved for funding with CHIPS funding due to age of the equipment (greater than ten years of age).

The Code Officer collected \$261.00 for the month of April. A motion to accept the April 2020 Code Officers Report was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Pat Downing. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.

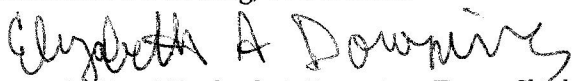
No Financial Report was presented at this meeting.

No Public Comments were made.

Bills were paid on May 12, 2020.

A motion to adjourn at 8:42 P.M. was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Jim Otis. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk

  
Recorded by, Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk