

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Burke Town Board was held on June 9, 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.

A motion to accept the March 24, 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.

Jim O'Brien, the Burke Adult Center's Board President, sent us a copy of a letter he received from the Franklin County Office for the Aging. A motion to accept the May 28, 2020 corrected minutes was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Jim Otis. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.

No Public Comments were made.

New Business:

1. Jim O'Brien, the Burke Adult Center's Board President, appeared before the Town Board. He informed the Board about the Adult Center's activities that are scheduled for 2020. An August and October Blood drive are still scheduled and a strawberry social is still going to be held in July. Jim also discussed having Meals on Wheels taken away from the Burke Adult Center and administered through the Malone Adult Center during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meals were delivered 5 days a week from the Burke Center but are only delivered 3 days a week from Malone. Jim feels that the lack of 2 days of additional human interaction with Burke's elderly is harmful. He also stated that the drivers have less time to visit due to the extra driving distance. Resolution #8-2020 - A motion was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Jim Otis to pass a resolution to draft a letter to Michelle Breen at the Office for the Aging in Franklin County supporting the reinstatement of the Burke Adult Center's Meals On Wheels Program to support the elderly in the Town of Burke. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.
2. Cindy LaPlante spoke to the Chateaugay Food Pantry about giving donations of food to Burke citizens. Cindy stated for a donation of \$500.00 from the Town of Burke, the Chateaugay Food Pantry would start allowing full access to Burke citizens. A motion was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Jim Otis to donate \$500.00 to the Chateaugay Food Pantry. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.
3. An ad will be placed into the newspaper to solicit bids for the Courthouse Propane.
4. The Burke Fire Department will be asking for a 5% raise for 2021.
5. A thank you note will be sent to Janet Burl and John Eich for the plantings in front of the Burke Courthouse.
6. Resolution #9-2020 - A motion was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Pat Downing to pass a resolution to accept an Escrow Agreement from NY North Country, LLC for the payment of Municipal Consultant and Legal Expenses. Roll Call: Arnold abstain, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill abstain. The motion carries.

The Highway Committee did not meet.

Highway Superintendent Larry LaPlante's Report:

1. The Highway Department has graded gravel roads and applied calcium.
2. Roadsides are being mowed.
3. The Highway Department has received one application for a new employee.

Old Business:

1. The Burke Town Board passed a Resolution to create an EMS District on May 28, 2020. The Burke Town Attorney, Brian Stewart is drafting paperwork to continue with the process and a public hearing will be scheduled in the future.
2. Paperwork for the USDA Grant/Loan has been forwarded to Attorney Eric Gustafson who has agreed to represent Burke as our Bond Consul.

3. The Board discussed if High Falls Park is a Public Health issue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since New York State is opening up, the Board decided to leave things as is.
4. All Burke Credit Cards have had the credit limit lowered to \$5,000.00 per card.
5. A Get Well card will be sent to Assessor Jim Gonyo due to him breaking his ankle. The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance established a final 2020 State and/or Class equalization rate for the Town of Burke of 100%.
6. The Burke Town Court is planning to re-open on August 1, 2020.
7. The Town of Chateaugay has received an application for the Brookside Solar Project. The Chateaugay Board noted they will need an attorney for the Article 10 process for the Solar Project.

The Code Officer collected \$285.00 for the month of May. A motion to accept the May 2020 Code Officers Report was made by Jim Otis and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Tim aye, Pat aye, Jim aye and Bill aye.

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

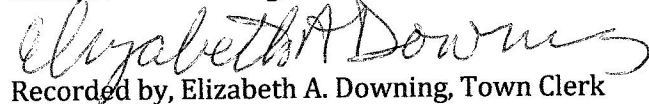
Public Comments:

1. Burke citizen, Kelly Shanahan, asked about Article 23. "Under the new legislation, large-scale renewable energy projects will now apply to a streamlined permitting regime overseen by a newly-created Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) and its Executive Director. The Governor originally proposed ORES to be in New York's Department of Economic Development, but the final bill places it within the Department of State. Accordingly, the law is no longer codified in "Article 23" of the State's Economic Development Law but instead in Section 94-c of the Executive Law." Supervisor Wood stated that not all local control will be taken away.
2. Burke citizen, Keith Trudeau, asked if the McCoy property could be cleaned up. Code Officer Jim Dumont stated there is nothing we can do.

Bills were paid.

A motion to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. was made by Pat Downing and seconded by Tim Crippen. 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