

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 9, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Burke Town Board was held on February 9, 2021 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 Keith Trudeau
Supervisor:	Bill Wood
Supt. of Highways:	Larry LaPlante
Town Clerk:	Elizabeth Downing and Judy Tavernier, Trainee
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 January 12, 2021 minutes as read was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Jim Otis. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Jim aye, Tim aye, Keith aye and Bill aye.

New Business:

1. An error in procedure was made at the October 2020 meeting. To correct this error a new motion was made by Jim Otis to enact Resolution #4 to appoint West Firm as our lawyers for the Nexamp Solar Project. Motion was seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold – abstain, Jim – aye, Tim – aye, Keith – aye, Bill – abstain.
2. Also, to correct this error a motion was made to enact Resolution #5 to appoint Barton & Loguidice as engineers for the renewable energy projects was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Keith Trudeau. Roll Call: Arnold – abstain, Jim – aye, Tim – aye, Keith – aye, Bill – abstain.
3. Kevin Sheen, from Terra-Gen provided an update, stating that the new escrow agreement had been sent to the lawyers for review. First environmental study is planned for March 2021.
4. Steve LeFevre from Barton & Loguidice gave the Board an update regarding the Nexamp Solar Project that will be located in Burke. This will be a 5 megawatt facility with 13052 modules and a 7 foot fence encircling the project. LRC group has provided various plans and simulation photos to better understand the layout. Preliminary noise study was in accordance with DEC guidance. The Board reviewed Part 1 and completed Part 2 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form. West Firm will complete Part 3. Barton & Loguidice will work with Code Officer to ensure compliance and will prepare resolution regarding adopting SECRA. Planned Meeting in March 2021 will include zoom with Tom West along with Steve LeFevre and Barton Pitts from Nexamp.
5. Tim Crippen made the motion that Request for bids for the Town Mowing Contract be requested via Malone Telegram and Free Trader. Bids due by Friday, March 5, 2021. Bids will be opened at the March 9, 2021 meeting. Keith Trudeau seconded. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Jim aye, Tim aye, Keith aye and Bill aye.
6. Still waiting for the paperwork regarding USDA grant.
7. Steve LeFevre provided an update on the Brookside Solar project. Geronimo Energy has been sold to S-Power and is now owned by AES Renewables. A virtual public meeting is planned for March 16, 2021. Construction is expected to begin Fall of 2022 and be on-line in 2023.
8. A work session was scheduled for 6:00 pm on February 23, 2021 at the Town Hall to finalize the NYS Public Employer Health Emergency Plan.

9. A motion was made by Arnold Lobdell to appoint Dwight P. McLaughlin to the Town Tax Grievance Board. Tim Crippen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Jim aye, Tim aye, Keith aye and Bill aye.
10. Town Court Audit will be conducted tomorrow, February 10, 2021.
11. Arnold gave the Highway Committee Report:
  - a. New truck is on order.
  - b. Larry LaPlante will request bids to replace walk-in door at the garage and back door at the Town Hall.
  - c. Old truck will be used as a snowplow only.
  - d. On the lookout for a new excavator.
  - e. One employee resigned last week because of benefits. Committee suggested we look into cost for state pension – cost to enroll and annual funding needed. Linda Trudell and Deborah C. Jeror to look into.
  - f. Larry LaPlante will research cost of a sand shed and requirements.
  - g. Paving locations are under consideration.
  - h. Most of the highway equipment is in good shape however, the old grader needs replacing.
  - i. Noted that the department is running well with thanks to Larry LaPlante. He does a good job of leading, supervising and taking care of issues.
12. Larry LaPlant reported:
  - a. One of the trucks went off the road during the recent storm but no harm was done.
  - b. Windshield needed to be replace on 2004 Mack and hydraulics on snowplow wing needed to be replaced.
  - c. New truck has a recall which will be completed prior to receiving the vehicle.
13. Discussed plowing of roads. A list of town roads was provided.

Old Business:

1. Burke Tax Collector has requested a drop box be installed at the Town Hall. After discussion, it was determined that there was no need for a drop box.

Code Officer Jim Dumont has nothing to report this month.

Financial Reports were reviewed. It was noted that the \$675 in Miscellaneous for 2020 includes funds from Drivers' Education Course, etc. Tim Crippen made the motion to accept the Financial Reports. Keith Trudeau seconded. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Jim aye, Tim aye, Keith aye and Bill aye.

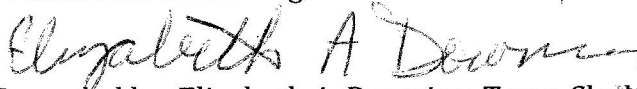
No Public Comments were made.

Bills were paid.

A motion to adjourn at 9:19 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