

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
July 26, 2023

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Ozzie Sterling, Councilman
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent
Jim Hawkins, Dog Control
Rich Sweeney, Codes
Karl Manne, Town Attorney
Pam Jones, Town Clerk
Absent: John Brewer, Councilman
Public: 3 people attended, see sign-in sheet

MEETING was called to order by Rovazzi at 5:30 at the Town Community Center. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

CORRESPONDENCE

LAURIE WHITNEY VOTER AUDIT RESOLUTION – Laurie Whitney asked Board if they were interested in signing the Voter Audit Resolution. Board requested facts and figures of data be sent to Kim Tranter of the Herkimer County Board of Elections. Include names of people with 2 ID# and those who voted twice.

CYNTHIA BENNETT INSURANCE PRESENTATION – Bennett introduced Chris Pistello of Lifetime Benefit Solution. Pistello presented a proposal on a HRA insurance plan. Bennett also gave a presentation on insurance, comparing different insurance plan for active and retired.

MATT VANSYLKE COMP PLAN UPDATE – VanSylke gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan for the Town. Gave Rovazzi sign-up sheets for people interested in being on group committees (need not be a resident of Town). Potential groups are environmental, transportation/ infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, historic preservation, youth, seniors and disabled persons.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve the June 28, 2023 minutes. Carried.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to approve the Town Clerk's 6 months Treasures report January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve the Receiver of Taxes' 6 months Treasures report January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023. Carried.

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Engert's 6 months Treasures report January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve Judge Stone's 6 months Treasures report, January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to approve the June 2023 Treasure's report. Carried

MOTION by Rovazzi, seconded by Sterling to approve the Town Clerk's June 2023 report for \$1,149.50. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Hendrix to approve Judge Engert's June 2023 report for \$2,537.00. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Rovazzi to approve Judge Stone's June 2023 report for \$14,327.00. Carried.

BILLS

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Sterling to pay GFIM bill for \$942.45. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to pay bills as audited. Carried.

OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY – Newtown reported Highway Dept. has been busy at the Town Park saying it has been a productive year.

DOG CONTROL – Hawkins reported 1 call in Ilion, 7 calls in Mohawk and 2 days of ticket writing. Hawkins was issued a summon to appear in Herkimer County Court for the case of Miracle the Dog.

CODES – 17 permits out, 5 have been closed. Sweeney stated he needs to be more firm with some residents due to the lack of paperwork submitted with the permits. Sweeney asked to have Dan Clayton put on next month agenda. Mr. Clayton is a historical motivational speaker.

ROVAZZI reported Town received \$470.00 for I beams on Auction International.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN APPROVAL – Rovazzi asked Board if they would like to approve Haylor, Freyer & Coons as Brokers for Town as sole insurance representative with respect to all coverage provided to the Town by Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield. Hendrix wishes to wait for a full Board present and with the new proposal given by Bennett want to review and compare both proposals.

JOHN KROLL RETIREMENT LETTER – Letter was received from Kroll of his intent to retire from his position with the Town effective October 16, 2023.

SUE MEEKER RETIREMENT LETTER – Retirement letter was received from Sue Meeker with a retiring date of October 7, 2023. Last day on payroll will be October 6, 2023.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CLARENCE DYGERT & NOAH NICHOLS HIRE – Clarence Dygert starting date July 10, 2023 & Noah Nichols starting date July 24, 2023. Both men will be MEO at a pay rate of \$21.54.

TEMPORARY AT WILL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT POSITIONS APPROVAL MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to create 2 at will temporary Highway Department employees in the positions of HEO, MEO, Laborer or any Combination thereof, providing that the expense falls within the Pers.Serv.line items of the budget. Laborer will receive a pay rate of \$21.54 per hour.

BUDGET TRANSFER #6 RECORD BRIDGE BAN INTEREST – To increase expenditures for interest for BAN.

Increase revenue to \$135,345.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$135,000.00 in fund DA-2302.0, account Snow Removal Services – Other Govt.

Increase expenditures to \$1,945.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$1,600.00 in fund DA-9730.7, account Debt Interest, BAN.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve budget Transfer #6. Carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER #7 SALE & PURCHASE 2023 FORD F350 – To purchase of 2023 f350 truck purchased & truck sold.

Increase expenditures to \$125,011.28 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$78,426.00 in fund DA- 5130.2 account Machinery, Equip & Cap Outlay.

Increase revenue to \$45,000.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$0.00 in fund DA-2665.00 account Sales of Equipment.

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Increase revenue to \$136,930.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$135,345.00 in fund DA-2302.0 account Snow Removal Services, Other.

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MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to approve budget transfer #7.
Carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER #8 2015 MACK SNOWPLOW/DUMP BOX UPFIT - To record uplift truck including Herkimer County grant funding.

Increase expenditures to \$222,696.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$125,011.00 in fund DA- 5130.2 account Machinery, Equip & Cap Outlay.

Increase revenue to \$50,522.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$45,000.00 in fund DA-2665.0 account Sales of Equipment.

Increase revenue to \$15,000.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$0.00 in fund DA-3089.0 account St. Aid, Other.

Decrease fund balance to \$206,065.00 from 2023 budgeted amount of \$283,228.00 in fund DA-911.0 account Unreserved Fund Balance Unappr.

MOTION by Sterling, seconded by Hendrix to approve budget transfer #8.
Carried.

SCHOOLHOUSE EXTERIOR RESTORATION BID SOLICITATION
APPROVE – Town received 1 bid for the schoolhouse exterior restoration submitted by William Jaquish. Rovazzi recuse himself from all discussion and vote on this matter. Watkins read bid \$15,100.00 with job being done 90 days after start date of around August 21, 2023.

MOTION by Sterling, seconded by Hendrix to accept the bid of William Jaquish for \$15,100.00 for schoolhouse exterior restoration. Rovazzi abstained. Carried.

LETTER OF SUPPORT HERKIMER COUNTY HOUSING STUDY-
MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to sign & send letter to Commissioner Visnauskas showing support for Herkimer County's housing study. Carried.

COMMUNITY CENTER DAMAGE – Rovazzi reported walls were damage during a rental. (paint removed when removing pictures taped to wall). Town will keep \$125.00 of the security deposit to repair the walls.

316 WARREN ROAD SOLAR FARM AGREEMENT PROPOSED –
MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Sterling that the Town authorize a proposed \$2,200.00 per megawatt per year for the project host community benefit agreement, with a 2% annual escalator for a term of 15 years. Carried.

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MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Sterling at 7:45 to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with Newtown. Carried.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to exit executive session at 9:00. Carried.

Rovazzi reported the Town Board will do a reassessment of the Assessors position.

MOTION by Hendrix, seconded by Watkins to continue the employment of Derek Newtown as an AT Will Employee after his Herkimer County Youth program's time is over, working up to 3 weeks but no more than 4 weeks, at a pay rate of \$21.54. Keeping with the law of the Codes of Ethics, Newtown will work under the supervision of Rovazzi and not the highway superintendent. Carried.

NEXT meeting August 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts