

**REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2024**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Town Board Meeting of the Town of Parish held January 18, 2024 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym. Supervisor Bernys called the meeting to order at 6;30 pm.

**PRESENT:**

Doug Houghton, Councilor  
Gary Wood, Councilor  
John Horning, Councilor  
Robin Eaton-Novak, Councilor  
Jim Bernys, Supervisor  
Kelly Reader-Petit, Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:** L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Nate Metcalf, Hwy Sup't; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; John Dunham, Pl Brd Member; Paul Gage, Karen Gage, and Kevin Dwyer, Tax Collector.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No comments.

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Bernys welcomed all Parish residents to the new year. He also wanted to welcome John Horning back to the Board. Supervisor Bernys is hoping for another two years of continued growth for the Town of Parish. He would like all councilors to know that he is readily available and wants them to please come and see him if they have any questions or would like to see any paperwork concerning town finances.

Supervisor Bernys thanked the CARP group for putting up the Christmas decorations around the Village. Thanks going out to: Shannon Masters, Reggie Hall, Kathy Allardice, Haiden Masters, and Keaghan Crews. Also, Mandy Brown from OCMIC who purchased some new lights and spot lights. Special thanks goes out to the Town of Williamstown Highway Department and Belden Dawley who put up the Christmas decorations on the light poles. All of these decorations added to the holiday spirit for our residents.

On another bright note, Supervisor Bernys wants to thank Angie our bookkeeper for her continued hard work. Supervisor Bernys is hoping not to jinx it, but we have no budgetary year end transfers to make our accounts balance at the end of 2023.

He commented that he is hoping that our annual report goes to the state comptroller with the same success.

**COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS:**

Councilor Horning asked why Clerk Reader-Petit called the Board of Elections regarding the filing of his Oath Card. Clerk Reader-Petit responded that she called the Board of Elections for her own knowledge regarding the time frame for filing oath cards with the clerk. Clerk Reader-Petit, also responded that she can call the Board of Elections anytime to ask any question she wants to.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2023 Meeting as presented. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Assessor's Report:** Tabled.

**CEO/ZEO Report:** Supervisor Bernys read CEO/ZEO Hamacher's CEO/ZEO Report.

**DCO Report:** DCO Cronk was excused.

**Fire Chief's Report:** John Dunham gave the Fire Chief's Report for 12/2023. The Fire calls for 2023 were the highest on record. Also, John Dunham reviewed the 2023 Annual Report.

**Highway Report:** Hwy Sup't Metcalf reported that he had to make an emergency purchase for man doors for a total amount of \$7,000.00. The 2<sup>nd</sup> shift started Tuesday night and he is fully staffed and ready to go.

Supervisor Bernys commented that he had received a call today regarding a resident that was thankful that the roads were plowed.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Tax Collector Dwyer reported that he has collected a total of \$396,682.70 as of 1/16/2024. The taxes outstanding to be collected are \$2,291,418.87. Total Tax Warrant is \$2,687,703.10.

**Tug Hill Report:** Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep gave the following report:

Announcements have gone out for the 2024 Tug Hill Conference, scheduled for May 1st-May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Turning Stone Casino. Paul has extra copies of the program description and registration information. The form is also on the Tug Hill website at <https://tughill.org/localgovernmentconference>. Description in details of program offerings are at <https://tughill.org/local-government-conference-presentations/> Plans are currently underway for scheduling the first Salmon Rivers of Council of Governments meeting for calendar 2024. He will be in further touch about this as plans go forward. There is nothing new to report about the status of wildlife management area payment legislation. There is nothing to report on salmon restoration for the little Salmon River.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Merrill Park Signs:** Hwy Sup't Metcalf has the signs and thought he would put them up in the spring.

#### **Judicial Audit: (January-June, 2023)**

Supervisor Bernys needs a councilor or two to conduct a Judicial Audit-(January-June) 2023 on Judge Conroy's books.

Supervisor Bernys and Councilor Houghton will conduct the audit. Councilor Wood may be able to assist.

#### **Travel Reimbursement Amounts:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to pay the following rates for meals when employees are out of town while attending schools or training:

Breakfast-\$15.00, Lunch-\$20.00, Dinner-\$25.00.

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

#### **OLD BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR:** None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Highway:**

**1. Grader Disposal:** Hwy Sup't commented that the 1969 Cat Grader is in bad condition and it is difficult to get parts for. Hwy Sup't would like permission to sell it to the Town of Amboy Hwy Department for \$2,000 and 20 loads of bank-run from the Town of Amboy equivalent to \$2,000.00

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Wood to sell the 1969 Cat Grader to the Town of Amboy Highway Department for \$2,000.00 and 20 loads of bank-run gravel equivalent to \$2,000.00. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**2015 New Holland Boom Mower:** Hwy Sup't Metcalf presented information to the Board for a 2015 New Holland Boom Mower and he would like to purchase it to mow the road sides. The purchase price is \$113,500.00.

Councilor Wood stated that those machines have a reputation of having oil leaks and he is working on one for the state right now. Councilor Wood commented that is is a big job and costly.

It was the consensus of the Board to table the purchase and Hwy Sup't Metcalf will personally check over the machine for any oil leaks.

**Tug Hill Conference:** Reply needed to Clerk Reader-Petit by 3/1/2024.

**Kilts Property Lease:** There is a lease with the Town of Parish and property owned by Marilyn Kilts for storage of hwy material. The lease states \$100.00 per year. It was a recommendation of Supervisor Bernys to pay Marilyn Kilts \$500.00 as she has not been paid in some time and he went back five years.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to pay Marilyn Kilts \$500.00 on a voucher for conditions on using land on State Rte 69 for the storage of hwy materials. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Getman Cemetery Accident:** Supervisor Bernys explained that the NYS Troopers informed him on 12/28/2023 a car went through the fence and knocked down some cemetery stones. Supervisor Bernys has not received the report from the State Troopers Department. Supervisor Bernys will continue to work on it.

**Volunteer Firefighter's and Voluntary Ambulance Services Tax Exemption in the Town of Parish: Local Law of 1 of 2024:** This exemption grants 10% exemption on the assessed value of properties

located in the Town of Parish for those volunteer firefighters and voluntary ambulance service members that meet the requirement of the exemption.

**Public Hearing:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2024 on February 15, 2024 at 6:15 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Planning Board Vacancy and ZBA Vacancy:**

Supervisor Bernys commented that he has received a letter of resignation from Stewart Brown on the ZBA. There is a vacancy on the Planning Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 pm. To discuss the appointment of a particular person or (persons). Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Horning to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:48 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to advertise for the vacancy on the Planning Board and the vacancy on the ZBA. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**NEW BUSINESS OF THE FLOOR:-None.**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

Supervisor Bernys gave the Supervisor's Report for December, 2024 for the Board's review.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the Supervisor's Report as presented. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Supervisor Bernys reported that there was \$21,325.74 left in ARPA Funds.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**General Fund A Account:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the claims to the General Fund A Account, those being claims #1-#23 for a total warrant of \$59,323,11. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Highway Fund DA Account:** A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the Highway Fund DA Account, those being claims #1-#14 for a total warrant of \$93,768.22. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Horning to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader-Petit  
Parish Town Clerk