**REGULAR MEETING**

**BAINBRIDGE TOWN BOARD**

**MARCH 9, 2021**

Present: Jennifer Sienko Councilwoman

Bob Evans Councilman

Gordie Daniels Councilman

Michael Kauffman Councilman

Gary Richman Highway Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Aric McKown Town Clerk

Absent: Dolores Nabinger Supervisor

**Guest(s):** Phil & Violet Wade, JR Bogert, John Payne, Rich Paul, Nancy Moffit Amy Bookout , Ernie Whitacre, Recreation Director Dale Palmer.

Deputy Supervisor Sienko called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**RESOLUTION # 1**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Kauffman, to approve the minutes from the February 9th Regular Meeting.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: none; Motion Carried.

The following claims as set forth on abstract #3 for 2021 were audited by Town Board:

General Town Wide#43-64 for $9,425.46

General Town Outside#4 for $250.00

Bennettsville Lights#3 for $15.29

Highway Town Wide#19-29 for $6,863.69

Highway Town Outside#11-13 for $9,083.16

**RESOLUTION #2**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Kauffman, authorizing clerk to issue warrant to Supervisor for payment of audited claims, the town board noting the incomplete invoices from Barnard's Hometown Hardware, the amount difference between the J&M Trophies invoice and abstract, Ron Sherman's shoveling date(s) log was missing, and the credit memo needed for the Burr Trucking bill.

Ayes:Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels; Councilman Kauffman; No: none; Motion Carried.

The town board agreed to hold off on approving the January and February 2021 Financial Reports until next month.

**Guest(s) Questions & Concerns;**

Nancy Moffitt attended the meeting to inquire about holding a 5K Run at General Clinton Park on May 15th. The event is in honor of her daughter who passed away a few years ago and it's for a scholarship at Afton Central School, to benefit a student who is going into the nursing field. Moffitt has held this event in Afton in past years, but felt it would be safer to hold it at the park. She agreed to all COVID guidelines, to provide water bottle and raffle ticket stations spaced 6 feet apart, and claimed to have more than enough help.

The town board fielded questions from Moffitt and emphasized the need for a County approved safety plan.

**RESOLUTION #3**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Daniels, to allow the event as long as it meets the Chenango County Public Health guidelines.

(Moffitt said she would not be using the park and her request for use of the park was withdrawn).

Town Clerk McKown read an email from Governor Cuomo's office providing an update on the guidelines for COVID-19 starting April 2nd.

JR Bogert asked Nancy Moffitt if she would provide a certificate of liability insurance to the town. Moffitt stated she'd never had to do that before, and had only provided a letter of waiver before. The town board held discussion with Bogert and Moffitt.

Bogert confirmed the certificate of insurance is used to protect the town against any lawsuits, and would cost Moffitt between $300-$500.00. Moffitt concluded that if using the park was going to cost her this money, than she wouldn't be using the park.

Ernie Whitacre inquired on the status of the events at General Park involving the Dog Show, Canoe Regatta, and the Car Show. The town board held discussion on the guidelines from the state, the status of the Canoe Regatta, capacity numbers, the planning of events, & County approved safety plans.

Councilman Kauffman proposed booking events and having communication with the County to make sure they're on board with the town's decision.

**RESOLUTION #4**

Motion was made by Councilman Kauffman, second by Councilman Daniels, to start booking events for the summer and for event organizers to be advised that they need to submit a safety plan to Chenango County Department of Health and that plan needs to be approved prior to their event taking place. In addition, any use of facilities are contingent upon a Chenango County approved safety plan.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

**STONE BIDS**

Stone Bids for the 2021-2022 season were opened at 7:15pm and read by Town Clerk McKown.

**STONE BIDS: #1A #1B #1ST (Washed Sand)**

Cobleskill $19.70/ton, $17.25/ton. $17.25/ton

Carver $19.45/ton, $17.30/ton $17.30/ton

Callanan $26.90/ton,$20.70/ton, $24.90/ton

Barrett $26.25/ton, $24.25/ton, $24.75/ton

**RESOLUTION #5**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Kauffman to award the bid for #1A, #1B, #1ST (Washed Stone) to Cobleskill Stone for the 2021-2022 season.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

John Payne and Rich Paul talked about the unification of our small towns including Bainbridge, Afton, Sidney and Unadilla forming an organization known as ' 4 Towns Forward', to offer a combined effort instead of competing against one another. Payne brought up a grant that's being offered to small towns and their public libraries, and how '4 Towns Forward' has been working on getting this grant. He stated the grant is worth $2500.00, and asked the town's permission to apply for this grant. The money can be used for upgrading computer systems, and obtaining programs that are educational for both adults and children. Payne said Terri Schunk is president of this group, and it's received good response from all 4 communities. Schunk is the grant writer for the organization and has been working under the supervision of John Redente. Payne clarified that the grant would be used for the Bainbridge Library.

**RESOLUTION #6**

Motion was made by Councilman Daniels, second by Councilman Kauffman, to support the 4 Towns Forward in their effort to apply for the library grant.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

Rich Paul talked about how challenging the grant process can be with small towns, and the idea of inviting Clarissa Riker from the Sidney Group of '4 Towns Forward' to come in and help administer the grant writing for a cost of $200.00 per month. Paul asked if the Town of Bainbridge would be willing to help with this cost.

Councilman Evans spoke on the town's current dealings with Thoma Consultants, and held conversation with Mr. Paul & JR Bogert on the benefits of doing business locally and how it could be cost effective. The town board concluded they were in agreement with this grant project.

**RESOLUTION #7**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Daniels, to contribute $1200.00 for one year in support of this grant project.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

John Payne and Rich Paul approached the town board about the use of General Clinton Park for the Flea Market that usually happens in the center of the village, if the village doesn't allow it this year. After some conversation, the town board were in agreement with having the Flea Market at General Clinton Park provided there was a area designated, there was no conflict with other events, and they were in compliance with COVID guidelines.

**JAC**

Phil Wade of the Jericho Arts Council announced the musical being performed by the Out of Woodwork Players, and that it's being taped and will be broadcast online. Tickets are available for purchase. Wade said they would be looking into purchasing new seats in the balcony section of the theater.

**VILLAGE**

Mayor Wade stated the Police Reform was filed with the state last month. The village has put in for a CBDG grant for a water engineering survey. He talked about another grant for repairing the water main break over on Kirby Street. Wade mentioned the village has been working on their budget that's due on April 15th.

He said the village board had passed a resolution in support of the flags for the Hometown Heroes, and commented on the support the local mayors have for the '4 Towns Forward'.

John Payne talked about the importance of keeping pressure on our representatives, like Akshar and Angelino, with calls and letters to keep moving forward on where we would like to be with COVID guidelines and restrictions.

Councilman Evans opened up a conversation on the restrictions put on General Clinton Park, due to insurance. JR Bogert fielded questions from the town board, talked about the risks of being sued, the idea of the town sponsoring events and how other groups handle their own insurance with events.

**POOL**

Recreation Director Palmer gave an update to the town board on what he's been working on and provided a handout on the reopening of the summer recreation programs. Palmer said he's begun to put together staffing for the pool and playground program. He informed the town board he's been given the okay from the school to hold the playground program there this summer. Palmer commented he's hopeful things will work out this summer, but realizes things are changing daily.

He said salaries will remain the same this year and would provide the town board with a salary schedule for next month's town board meeting.

Ernie Whitacre of the West Bainbridge Cemetery Board asked about the repair of the cemetery stone wall. He affirmed that both the Cemetery's insurance and the town's insurance would not cover the costs to repair the wall, and asked how the wall would be repaired. Whitacre expressed his appreciation for any help offered.

**RESOLUTION #8**

Motion was made by Councilman Kauffman, second by Councilman Evans, to receive and file the reports from the Dog Control Officer, Sanitation Officer, and Assessor.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

**CLINTON PARK**

Park Superintendent Richman informed the town board that the case involving the pickup trucks and the abuse of the grounds has been closed by NYS Police, but the town could reopen this case if anything else is heard.

Ernie Whitacre asked that the representatives of the Dog Show and Algonquin Car Show be contacted about the COVID regulations for this year, so they had time to plan.

**HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Richman said his department has plowed 68 times this season and have been busy working on the trucks and getting their Spring equipment ready. He informed the town board of an incident involving employee Anthony Christian who got his foot caught in an auger while working on the paver.

Richman brought up the Shared Service Agreement with the County and that it needed to be signed and to include a check for $300.00.

**RESOLUTION #9**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilman Daniels, to have Supervisor Nabinger sign the Shared Services Agreement and to include a check for $300.00.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

Highway Superintendent Richman shared an email from the state letting him know he'd be receiving 20% of the money from CHIPS, PAVE-NY, and Winter Recovery. He also let the town board know that all uniforms from Aramark were turned in, but received a bill for these uniforms. Richman said we should not pay this bill and we may need our attorney to offer some communication to Aramark.

**TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk McKown talked about his recent communication with Coughlin & Gerhart involving the bond for the new truck. He said the 20 day waiting period from the time of publication will be up on March 17th, at which time the town could proceed with the borrowing and correspond with the bank to set up a closing date.

McKown shared an email regarding the CDBG Housing Grant application and the deadline for the grant. The town board held some discussion about the information. He informed the town board of a couple events being organized by Melissa Matthews.

He asked the town board for a motion to appoint Ray Newbauer to the Town Planning Board.

**RESOLUTION #10**

Motion was made by Councilman Kauffman, second by Councilman Evans, to appointed Ray Newbauer to the Bainbridge Town Planning Board.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

McKown said Dana Cirigliano will remain in place on the Town Planning Board. Court Clerk Bickford had asked McKown to find out if the town court would have police presence on ADA days, and wondered if Mayor Wade knew anything.

Wade asked to know when those days were and was certain there would be coverage.

Councilman Kauffman presented a question from Ivan Barkman on Lyons Road about activating the old cemetery on his property. The town board held conversation on the matter, and concluded Highway Superintendent Richman would meet up with Barkman after the snow has melted to discuss it.

Councilman Evans said Supervisor Nabinger had been contacted about getting the basketball court fixed up. Evans asked Superintendent Richman and Councilman Daniels to look into it.

He brought up the reserve transfers and wondered who would be responsible for doing that. McKown replied Supervisor Nabinger would need to do that.

Evans asked if Councilman Daniels and Councilman Kauffman had done their Oaths of Office yet. Town Clerk McKown said he would get with them to get them done.

Councilman Evans inquired about the status of the emergency plan due April 1st. McKown said we would need to get that update from Supervisor Nabinger.

He brought up the Spring Clean Up Day and asked the town board about scheduling that day in May. The town board concluded they would hold the Spring Clean Up Day on May 1st, 2021.

Evans asked about the state report being filed and the town court audit. He brought up the agreement between the town and the library, and asked Town Clerk McKown to get it signatures from the Town Supervisor and Representatives from the library.

Councilman Evans brought up the conversation on 'Hometown Heroes', and the wonderful response he's had from the community. He talked about all the local groups who have helped to fund the banners for this event. Evans said they are short on the costs for hardware, and asked anybody who wanted to contribute the $70.00 to help with these costs, to do so. The banners would be hung from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day, and the Lions Club is heading this event.

Evans asked for any thoughts on the topic of 'Appointed vs. Elected'. Town Clerk McKown asked why his position was being grouped with the Highway Superintendent's position. Evans responded there was feeling for grouping those two positions together, and that some people have a sense of security with an appointed position, along with not wanting to run for election every 4 years.

McKown expressed he would rather run for election and have the constituents of the community decide on who they want in this position.

The town board held a discussion on this, talked about the differences of 'Appointed vs Elected' positions, and decided to table it for a month.

Councilman Evans brought up our Highway Department being down a man, and asked when Highway Superintendent Richman would like to hire on another man. Richman thought the town should advertise the vacant position the middle of April and deal with it then.

Councilwoman Sienko provided the town board with copies of the Facilities Use Agreements from Clinton Park and Payne Park, the Copes Corners Park agreement, and an updated version of the Rules and Regulations for Clinton Park that she had worked on. She had also provided hold harmless agreements that she had drafted and asked the town board for their opinion on these documents. Councilwoman Sienko asked the town board to take a look at these documents and let her know of any changes that need to be made. The town board concluded they would need to consult our attorney on the Hold Harmless agreements, and talked to JR Bogert about the documentation that would be needed from different events at the park.

Park Superintendent Richman provided prices for the signs at Clinton Park and Payne Park, showing the rules and regulations. The price for 4 signs is $1,726.70. The town board talked about the signs and decided to make a decision at next month's meeting.

Councilwoman Sienko shared with the town board that her Facebook account was hacked and she had deleted all social media. She asked Deputy Clerk Cooper to handle all Facebook posting for now.

Sienko informed the town board that her term is up in December and doesn't anticipate running for another term. She asked the town board to be looking for someone to replace her.

**RESOLUTION #11**

Motion was made by Councilman Daniels, second by Councilman Kauffman, to go into executive session.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION #12**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilwoman Sienko, to come out of executive session.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION #13**

Motion by Councilman Kauffman, second by Councilman Daniels, that the meeting be and hereby is adjourned at 9:47PM.

Ayes: Councilwoman Sienko, Councilman Evans, Councilman Daniels, Councilman Kauffman; No: None; Motion Carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Aric McKown

Town Clerk