Town of Independence

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2024

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on January 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the regular monthly Board meeting.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council Meunier, Bissett and Howe; Town Clerk, Bissett; Highway Superintendent Acomb. Absent: Council Brubaker.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oaths of office were administered by Clerk Bissett to Highway Superintendent Acomb, Supervisor Reichman, Council Bissett and Council Meunier.

A motion was offered by Council Bissett, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to accept the End of Year Meeting Minutes.

A motion was offered by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all to accept the December 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was offered by Council Howe, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all to accept the January 2024 Reorganizational Meeting Minutes.

Superintendent Acomb gave the Highway report which included repair to brakes of pickup, replacement of faded signage, brakes on town trucks, repair of lights on Peterbuilt, cutting brush on Skinner Hill Road, repair and inspection of silver truck, repair of exhaust on blue International, repair of sluice pipe on Forsythe Road, repairs to Harris Road, problems with excavator, shaving in oil, must repair, estimated cost of repairs is $10,000.00. Fuel report – bills have been sent. Pipe above bus garage on Harrigan Road need to be replaced, will use squash pipe, estimate from 2023 was $11,000.00, will seek current quote for repair. CHIPS funds will be used for this project.

Board discussed trees on State Line Road property that need to be removed – 2 estimates were submitted ($8,500.00 and $16,000.00). Motion was made by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all to accept the bid from C. Waters in the amount of $8,500.00; the Highway Department will remove the stumps after the trees have been taken down and removed.

Board discussed that a new dump truck for the salt sprayer is needed, Superintendent Acomb advised there is an owner having an auction including three dump trucks in April 2024, those will be checked before purchase of a new vehicle is discussed further.

A motion was offered by Council Bissett, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to purchase 550 Ford Diesel Truck available at Kightlingers at an approximate cost of $72,120.00.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to purchase a stainless box for the 550 Ford Diesel Truck at an approximate cost of $36,065.00; bringing the total cost of the truck and box to approximately $108,185.00.

Board discussed work coveralls for the Highway Department employees, they are currently being washed by the Amish and the Superintendent will check on smaller sizes for the employees who need them.

Board discussed a generator for the water department, Supervisor Reichman will research. Supervisor Reichman advised water service line inventory information is due October, 2024.

Board discussed LED lighting installation at the Town Hall, project is progressing.

Supervisor Reichman advised that the check for maintenance from OYA, per agreement, will be delivered by currier.

A motion was offered by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all to schedule a public hearing with regard to the OYA projects on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 6:00 pm, to be held at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Reichman offered Resolution #2-2024, approving the mutual agreement between municipalities of Allegany County, New York, which was seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all.

Supervisor Reichman will distribute meeting minutes for Resilient Flood Water Project meeting to Board members for review.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to appoint Steve Kear assistant patrolman at the rate of $18.00 per hour.

Board discussed the water grant agreement with NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation regarding the feasibility of a Town sewer system. A motion was made by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to sign said agreement for study.

Board reviewed and approved the AHPC monthly update.

Board reviewed and accepted the Clerk’s report, Bookkeeper’s report and payroll audit, Town Justice report and Police Department report.

 A motion was made by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all to pay

Bookkeeper report unavailable as Bookkeeper is ill and unable to attend meeting.

The board discussed the Board of Assessment Review Member Listing received from NYS Tax Department; all current members will remain for the Year 2024.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay abstracts #1-2024 in the following amounts:

General #1-13 $ 6,664.61

Highway #1-9 $42,844.34

Water #1-8 $ 1,409.06

Playground #1 $ 1,347.38

A motion to adjourn was offered by Council Howe, Seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all at 8:15 pm.

Mary G. Bissett, Town Clerk