Town of New Albion

7151 Route 353

Cattaraugus, NY 14719

 **Regular Board Meeting**

January 22, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**PRESIDING:** Patrick Murphy, Supervisor

**PRESENT:** Councilmen: Cynthia Eaton; Michael Weishan; Norman Kazmark; Daniel Goss; George Borrowdale, Highway Superintendent; Frank Watson, Code Enforcer; and Sherry Rupp, Town Clerk.

**VISITORS:** Autumn and Brandon Sawyer

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Followed by the Pledge to the American Flag. Regular Minutes for December 18, 2023, and Organizational Minutes for January 3, 2024. Town Clerk Monthly Report, and the Register’s Report were all approved as presented by the Clerk.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

* Southern Tier West Newsletter
* Et cetera
* NYS Dept. of Public Service-National Fuel looking to Increase delivery revenues by 30.8%
* Cattaraugus County DPW-Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds-2024
* Cattaraugus County Statement of payments made to the Town for 2023
* Thank You Card to the Board from Norman and Norma Kazmark
* Email from Debbie Goslin regarding Tug Hill
* Email from Steve McCarthy regarding State land Road
* Note from John Santonocito regarding Old Chautauqua Road

**REPORTS:**

**Code Enforcer:** **Frank Watson,** currently I have 3 Appearance Tickets ready to go, working on the 4th.

**Yearly Report 2023**

Building Permits – 26

Demolition Permits – 2

Pool Permits – 0

Wood Stove/Chimney/Solar Power Permits – 0

Special Use Permits – 4

Variances – 2

**Permit Totals = 34**

Certificate of Occupancy – 2

Stop Work Orders – 2

Violation Notices – 6

Appearance Tickets – 2

Accomplishments:

* Continued to implement Town of New Albion Zoning
* Established code enforcement presence with various citizen via violation/request letters and personal visits.
* Completed 24hrs of required code enforcement training.

Goals 2024:

* Increase use Town of New Albion Zoning Law for Special Use Permits and Variances.
* Increase code enforcement towards poorly maintained/unsafe properties.
* Increase code enforcement towards junk and disrepair automobiles.
* Accomplished code enforcement for Telecommunications Tower at New Albion/Sweeney Hill Road Area.

I have enjoyed my 12th year with the Town of New Albion. I am still learning a lot about this town and its citizens. I am hoping for a more productive year in code enforcement for this town in 2024. As Zoning Law is enforced, there will be increased resistance and defiance. I am hoping to get the easier, less hostile, cases through the zoning process first. We will take the more difficult cases as they increase in size and non-compliance. I am also hoping that all governing boards and members are able to cooperate and move forward with the town Zoning Law improvements and enforcement.

**Highway Dept.:** **George Borrowdale,** January has been challenging from learning paperwork to a major windstorm! Tuesday January 9th numerous trees down blocking town roads and causing power outages. Worked until it was too dangerous to be out with high winds still knocking trees and branches down. We had roads, not involving ones with power lines, open by 3:30 Wed. afternoon. Will finish cleaning up trees and branches when the weather breaks. Put out for bids on a standby generator. Will be ordering salt delivery soon.

**Treasurer:** **Eugene Doucette,** Expenditure Report

**Assessor: Elizabeth Lerow,** the December report is as follows:

* Renewal applications for Agricultural Assessment and Senior Citizen Exemption are being submitted and processed. So far, 54% of Agricultural Assessment and 19% of Senior Citizen renewal applications have been returned.

These applications are due March 1, 2024. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Assessor’s Office

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM with any questions. We will hold hours for exemption season in New Albion from 1:00-4:00 January 22nd, and February 26th. Our town hall hours for exemption season can also be found online at: https://maps.cattco.org/taxes/assessors.php

* The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions.
* There were 4 property transfers in November. You can find more information about these sales here:

<https://www.cattco.org/real-property-and-gis/sales>

**Board:**

Councilman **Patrick Murphy** – None

Councilman **Norman Kazmark** – None

Councilman **Daniel Goss** – None

Councilman **Cynthia Eaton** – None

Councilman **Michael Weishan** –None

**CLERKS REPORT:**

**Clerk Report:** December 2023, Amount Collected $ 385.00

Animal Population Control: Check # 2746 - $ 40.00.

Town of New Albion: Check # 2747 - $330.83.

NYS Environmental Conservation: EFT - $14.17

Amount Paid Out $ 385.00

* As of 1/22/2024, $668,299.11 was collected in taxes. I was able to deposit Tax Levy funds into the following accounts: General A - $216,409.50, General B - $10,250.00, HDB - $180,392.50.

**Resolution # 9- 2024 – Board Audit of Court and Town Clerk Books**

On a motion by Councilman Goss, seconded by Councilman Weishan, the following resolution was

 **ADOPTED** Aye 5 Weishan, Eaton, Kazmark, Goss and Murphy

 Nay 0

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board has completed the Audit and approved the 2023 books for both the Town Clerk and the Town Court of New Albion as of January 22, 2024.

**Resolution # 10- 2024 – Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds**

On a motion by Councilman Kazmark, seconded by Councilman Eaton, the following resolution was

 **ADOPTED** Aye 5 Weishan, Eaton, Kazmark, Goss, and Murphy

 Nay 0

**RESOLVED**, Approved the 2024 Agreement to Spend Highway Funds with Cattaraugus County.

**Resolution # 11- 2024 – Upgrade Phone and Internet**

On a motion by Councilman Kazmark, seconded by Councilman Weishan, the following resolution was

 **ADOPTED** Aye 5 Weishan, Eaton, Kazmark, Goss, and Murphy

 Nay 0

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board approved having Armstrong upgrade our phone and Internet.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* Hazard Mitigation Project

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Abstract #1– January 22, 2024 / Pay the Bills
2. Ambulance District-will readdress later.
3. Brandon Sawyer/Building Permit

**APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT:**

**Resolution # 12- 2024– Abstract # 1- 2024– January 22, 2024**

On a motion by Councilman Kazmark, seconded by Councilman Weishan, the following resolution was

 **ADOPTED** Aye 5 Weishan, Eaton, Kazmark, Goss and Murphy

 Nay 0

**RESOLVED**, that Abstract # 1 -2024 in the following amounts is to be paid.

 **ACCOUNT VOUCHER # TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

 General A 12860-12885 $ 43,931.97

 General B 998-1003 $ 3,049.48

 Highway DA 9654-9659 $ 8,198.00

 Highway DB 3838-3844 $ 21,572.34

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Rupp

Recording Secretary

Town of New Albion Town Council

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting February 19, 2024