Town of Independence

Regular Meeting

March 14, 2024

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on March 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the regular monthly Board meeting.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council Meunier, Bissett and Brubaker; Town Clerk, Bissett; Highway Superintendent Acomb; Michael Sutley, resident and WCS students observing the meeting process. Absent: Council Howe.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was brought to order by Supervisor Reichman at 7:00 pm.

A motion was offered by Council Bissett, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to accept the February 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the 108th Allegany County Volunteer Firemen’s Association Convention to be held on July 10, 2024 through July 13, 2024 at the Whitesville Fire Hall. The representatives have requested that the Town suspend the noise ordinance and the open container law after 5:00 pm from July 10, 2024 through July 13, 2024; that Commercial Avenue be closed to through traffic on July 12, 2024 and July 13, 2024. A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to approve these requests.

Resident Michael Sutley addressed the Board with a complaint regarding caustic soda in the water. Supervisor Reichman invited Mr. Sutley to the upcoming meeting with the specialists working on the septic/water survey. Supervisor Reichman will also speak with the Health Department regarding adding caustic soda testing to the regular testing routine.

Highway Superintendent Acomb gave the highway department report which included cleaning trees out of the creek on Harrigan Gully Road and pulling back the rock to the road edge, replacing air valve on Peterbilt, receiving a load of block from Kibbes for headwall on Harrigan Gully Road, filling potholes on dirt roads in Township, replacing rear brakes on silver truck, removing pipe on snow road that resident had placed there, cleaning of shop, taking load of scrap to Weitsmans, straightening of road signs that had been tipped, plowed and sanded several times, moved excavator to Saunders’ property to begin cutting brush, cut brush on Pleasant Valley and moved excavator to Harrigan Gully Road for use on outlet pipe project.

Superintendent Acomb advised that the brine truck is rotting out, this is a safety issue, and the truck is out of commission. The Town needs a brine truck, the cost will be $40,000.00 to $65,000.00; the Board advised Superintendent Acomb to research trucks available and provide options and estimates for the same. Superintendent Acomb advised that the single axel blue International is also rotted out and can be repaired, estimates of $1,875.00 and $7,500.00 were provided for repairs. Board approved the truck be taken to Integrity in Wellsville for repairs, being the lower estimate.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all to purchase the sluice pipe necessary on Harrigan Gully Road.

There has been a report of a semi-truck traveling on a road restricted for semi-trucks; Supervisor Reichman will speak with the local residents to try to determine whose trucks are moving on these roads.

Board discussed the water leaks the Town is currently working on: (1) Maple Street, (2) Park Street and (3) Old Cryder Road area. Each of these are being addressed, water may be shut off for a period of time on Saturday to houses and businesses in the area of Old Cryder Road on Saturday 3/16/2024 if necessary.

A motion was offered by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Brubaker and carried by all to accept the estimate from Carpets Unlimited to install new carpeting in the Town Hall.

The Board advised that on February 19, 2024 Council Bissett, Meunier and Howe, together with Supervisor Reichman met with Justice Ames and audited his books and records for the Court through December 31, 2023, which were found to be in order.

The Board reviewed the Town Hall property survey to consider placement shed for storage; also discussed was a used 12’ x 16’ shed with a garage door offered for $4,500.00. It was decided that a quote should be requested from Andy Yoder for building of a new shed, Supervisor Reichman will also check prices on new, comparable sheds before a decision is made. It was further decided that there should be a concrete pad laid for placement of the shed to ensure longer life.

The Board reviewed the AHPC update, nine homes have been chosen at this point for distribution of the $400.00 grant for home improvements, one of these homes is being sold and may no longer qualify; two (2) more homes are needed to fill requirements of the grant.

Supervisor Reichman advised that the Teamsters and the Highway Department have agreed to a new contract.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay helper(s) needed for water leak at Old Cryder Road at the rate of $16.00 per hour.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to add Clerk, Mary G. Bissett as a signor for the AHPC paperwork. Council Bissett recused himself from this vote due to a conflict of interest.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay the sum of $1,500.00 for mowing of the Rural Cemetery and to close the account; the account balance of $255.80 will be used (together with general fund account funds) to pay the sum of $300.00 for mowing of the Independence Cemetery.

The Board reviewed Clerk Reports for February 2024, Profit and Loss Statements for first quarter of 2024 provided by Bookkeeper Welch, Justice Court Report for February 2024, Police Department and Dog Control Officer reports for February 2024 and Town of Wellsville Dog Shelter Agreement and found the same to be in order.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay abstracts #3-2024 in the following amounts:

General # 31-63 $ 31,125.70

Highway # 27-41 $ 17,699.32

Water # 18-25 $ 3,210.16

Sewer Fund # 1 $ 2,400.00

A motion to adjourn was offered by Supervisor Reichman, Seconded by Council Brubaker and carried by all at 8:35 pm.

Mary G. Bissett, Town Clerk