

**MINUTES OF THE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Ripley was called to order by Supervisor Bowen at 7:30 p.m., in the Ripley Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Supervisor: Douglas Bowen  
Council: Patricia Hathaway - Absent  
Michael Rowe  
John Trevelline  
Phil Chimera  
Town Clerk: Rebecca Rowe Carvallo

Guests: Kathy Thompson

As the Town Board continues safe COVID -19 pandemic procedures, this evening's meeting was held with social distancing practices and on "Zoom" for those who would rather participate from home.

Zoom Dept. Heads: Ben Wisniewski; Solar Energy Town Attorney, Jim Spacht;  
Highway Superintendent & Shelly Spacht; Planning Board Chairman

Zoom Guests: Jim Boria, Rob Galbraith, Katherine Galbraith, Bob McIntosh, Jason Reslink, Mark Smith, Tye Bacille, Roy Fisher, Melissa Fisher, Donald Rice, Julie Rice, Derek Rieman, and Jamestown Post Journal Reporter

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting dated March 11, 2021 were approved. Councilman Rowe moved and Councilman Trevelline seconded. This was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS**

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$15,769.77 drawn on the General Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$11,734.51 drawn on the Highway Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$88.08 drawn on the St. Light Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$3,978.82 drawn on the Sewer Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$4,306.67 drawn on the Water Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 4 in the amount of \$111,297.69 drawn on the Capital Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Councilman Rowe made the following motion: that the Supervisor be directed to draw the checks to cover the warrant as allowed for vouchers numbered 239 through 299. This was seconded by Councilman Chimera and carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Councilman Rowe made the motion to approve the Supervisor's March 2021 Financial Statement. This was seconded by Councilman and carried unanimously.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

\*Supervisor's Office received the monthly Time Warner Cable (Charter Communications) update.

\*Thank you note from Town Historian to Barbara Greene for donated 2 books.  
(see letter attached)

#### **APPROVE GRANT SUBMISSION FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

##### **RESOLUTION 65-2021**

##### **TOWN OF RIPLEY**

##### **Authorizing Bridge New York application and preliminary engineering**

**WHEREAS**, there currently exists an application window for grant submissions for funding to assist in the repair or replacement of Highway facilities including bridges, roads and culverts, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town may be faced with the need to repair or replace a number of highway culverts in the foreseeable future making participation in the State program of great value, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town will need preliminary engineering services to assist with the grant application and to prepare for such repairs or facility replacements,

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to prepare an application for funding assistance and to execute the same on behalf of the Town and to expend an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 for engineering services to support the Town application with the Town's engineers Clark, Patterson and Lee.

Councilman Rowe moved to authorized the above Resolution 65-2021. This was seconded by Councilman Trevelline.

Discussion: Supervisor Bowen stated that the Grant deadline is April 14, 2021 and the Grant submission would be for Culvert replacement on Sprague Road and Johnson Road.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Trevelline YES, Mr. Rowe YES, Mr. Bowen YES. Carried. 4 -0 Mrs. Hathaway – ABSENT.

## **SPRING LARGE TRASH DAYS**

Supervisor Bowen reminded the Board and those present the following upcoming Large Trash Days for Spring:

|                        |                  |                          |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Saturday, May 1, 2021  | 8:00 a.m. – Noon | Ross Street Highway Barn |
| Saturday, May 8, 2021  | 8:00 a.m. – Noon | Ross Street Highway Barn |
| Saturday, May 15, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. – Noon | South Ripley Fire Hall   |

## **SOUTH RIPLEY SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE**

Attorney Ben Wisniewski presented his update on the Solar Energy and the South Ripley Solar project as follows:

Attorney Wisniewski reported that he was in the process of reviewing the written responses regarding the proposed updates to the Solar law. He stated that after his review there could be changes made to the proposed solar law and the Battery Energy Storage law, if changes are suggested the new proposals would be introduced and the Public Hearings would follow before there consideration.

Secondly, Attorney Wisniewski reviews State Budget proposals and how they may affect New York State Solar Projects.

Third, Wisniewski went over the South Ripley Solar Project Meeting held with ConnetGen, Supervisor Bowen, Deputy Supervisor Rowe, Town Solar Engineer, and himself relating to the 94c application process. He also stated that Supervisor Bowen asked for ConnectGen to meet with the Town of Ripley Fire Department, he requested that they would reimburse the Town and Fire Department for the meetings held, and that they would update their South Ripley Solar Project Maps.

Lastly, Attorney Wisniewski informed the Board that he would prepare a written statement regarding the South Ripley Solar Project meeting that could be posted on the Town's Facebook and Website page.

Supervisor Bowen opened the floor to the public for any questions anyone may have for Attorney Ben Wisniewski:

Shelly Spacht, Planning Board Chair asked if there would be a community comment response time for the proposed Battery Energy Storage Law. Attorney Wisniewski stated that would be a question for Town Attorney Michael Bolender.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **HIGHWAY REPORT**

Mr. Trevelline read Jim Spacht's Highway Superintendent's monthly report as attached.

### **WATER/SEWER REPORT**

Supervisor Bowen read the attached Water/Sewer Superintendent's monthly report.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT & CODE OFFICER REPORT** n/a This month.

## **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Shelly Spacht, Planning Board Chair reported their next meeting would be 7:15 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2021.

## **TOWN CLERK**

Mrs. Carvallo, announced that the Town's new website **ripleyny.org** is now up and running. She stated that the Town Clerk's office has up loaded Town Board Minutes for the year 2021 and as time goes by, they will keep current minutes uploaded for one year. They also would like to add pictures of scenery/landscapes throughout the community. Mrs. Carvallo Thanked Deputy Town Clerk, Ryleigh Enterline on her work to see the website through and uploading current information.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Jim Spacht NE- Sherman Road, commented on his concerns regarding Plastic Solar debris that could contaminate water supply. He stated his concerns came from the mention that The County Health Department is now mandating all Town's to test the level of plastic content in their water supply lead him to be concern that Solar Energy Projects could cause the same problem in the water supply.

Mark Smith, East Main Road, asked the Board when the Town Board Meeting will start to open back up allowing more people to attend in person rather than Zoom.

Shelly Spacht, NE- Sherman Road stated that the South Ripley Fire Hall may be an option to hold Town Board Meetings in a larger area making it possible to still social distance.

Roy Fisher, West Side Hill Road, Thanked the Highway Department for the 45 MPH speed limits signs being placed on West Side Hill Road.

Kathy Thompson, North Road, Thanked the Andrew Strine W/S Superintendent and Trevor Enterline Deputy Superintendent for their hard work correcting any concerns with the hydrants throughout the Water Districts and creating a plan that should keep them running smoothly in the future.

Mr. Rowe moved to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Chimera and carried unanimously. 8:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Rebecca Rowe Carvallo  
Town Clerk