**REGULAR MEETING**

**BAINBRIDGE TOWN BOARD**

**DECEMBER 10TH, 2019**

Present: Dolores Nabinger Supervisor

Deborah Hromada Councilwoman

Bob Evans Councilman

Jennifer Sienko Councilwoman

Gary Richman Highway Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Aric McKown Town Clerk

Absent: Kelly Hromada-Johnson Councilwoman

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

**RESOLUTION #1**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hromada, second by Councilman Evans, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 12th, 2019.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

The following claims as set forth on abstract #12 for 2019 were audited by the Town Board:

General Town Wide#298-320 for $9,067.97

General Town Outside#24 for $60.00

Bennettsville Lights#11 for $33.87

Highway Town Wide#95-105 for $8,749.89

Highway Town Outside#58-62 for $17,585.92

**RESOLUTION #4**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilwoman Hromada, authorizing clerk to issue warrant to Supervisor for payment of audited claims:

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

The October 2019 financial report was received and filed.

Councilwoman Hromada mentioned her request to Bookkeeper Sherman to separate out the boots and uniforms under 'Employee Benefits' before the end of the year to get a better look at totals. She reaffirmed with Highway Superintendent Richman that we still have not received our CHIPS check, to make sure that the final dollar amount in the General Repairs Fund is readjusted.

**Guests Questions & Concerns:**

Mr. Jeff Vandermark of Neff Hill Road attended the meeting to submit a formal complaint against the town highway department. Mr. Vandermark spoke, on the 'lack of maintenance' on this road. He talked about an accident involving his son, due to the sheet of ice on the road that hadn't been addressed and also stated that he had slid down the road in his eighteen wheeler. Mr. Vandermark, a fireman for Bainbridge, expressed the importance of maintaining the road more than a couple times a day during bad weather.

Highway Superintendent Richman spoke to this, and said that his department can't be everywhere at once when the weather gets bad. He stated that we've had a lot of bad ice this year and that his guys have already been out plowing 17 times this year.

Richman and Mr. Vandermark discussed the matter and talked about the times that the highway trucks plow, and maintaining the school turn around at the top of Neff Hill Rd.

Supervisor Nabinger stated we'll try to be more 'diligent' during these times.

JR Bogert of Gates-Cole Insurance attended the meeting to provide the Town Board with the town's insurance renewal. Mr. Bogert gave an overview of the insurance premium's summary and the breakdown of the insurance. He stated the town's liability insurance is $17,855.53, and is down about $600.00 from last year.

Mr. Bogert talked about what the insurance covers, including the Salt Shed, all contents in the highway garage, the playground equipment for both the pool and Clinton Park, and the highway department's 12 ton trailer and the 2010 Hamm Roller.

Councilman Evans asked Mr. Bogert about required trainings for the highway department's drivers.

Supervisor Nabinger brought up background checks that Highway Superintendent Richman that needs to do on the licenses of his drivers. Bogert stated that this can be done through a website and is free to municipalities. Mr. Bogert said he would look into this and come in with the information needed.

Mayor Phil Wade spoke on the increasing health insurance costs both for the town and the village, and that he's always looking for new options. He informed the town board that he'd been in contact with Tompkins County, who operates their own health insurance consortion and offers health insurance to other municipalities in Tompkins County and to municipalities in adjacent counties.

Wade talked about the base rates that they've established and have been set up with the state. He asked them if they would consider our municipality for the 2020 year. Wade brought up alternate sourcing for insurance and has concerned modifying the village's insurance for retirees.

He suggested the idea of consolidating the insurance for both the town and the village, and also eliminating the 'middle man'/ Teamsters, and deal with Blue Cross Blue Shield directly. Wade said he would like to get with Councilwoman Sienko, who handles the insurance for the town, to try and figure out a 'Shared Services' plan for both the town and the village.

Sanitation, Dog Control Officer, Assessor's reports were received and filed.

Assessor Faline Ward was in attendance, to update the town board on what she's been doing since recently taking over. She informed the board that she'd received

here letter of approval on December 4th from the state, clearing her to stay on as sole Assessor for Bainbridge. Mrs. Ward talked about her work on building permits and wanting to have them all filed by the end of year. She spoke on how a lot of the work recently done by paper, is now being done online, and that she needs to get herself trained on that. Ward stated she expects to receive a letter on her training sometime in January, but is already looking into that. She said her biggest challenge will be learning to do all the paperwork online.

Supervisor Nabinger asked Mrs. Ward if she would follow up with the farmer on Lyon Rd, who had misplaced his Ag Exemption last year, to make sure he was considered for this year.

**CLINTON PARK**

Park Superintendent Richman commented on the 'disaster' at the park with 'Toys for Tots', adding that no was in charge and there was no place to park.

Councilman Evans called the experience a 'nightmare', and that someone needs to be charge.

The town board held a conversation on how the park was not the best place for 'Toys for Tots' and that you'll probably never see it done by train again. They made suggestions on using the school or the village parking lot as a better location.

Councilman Evans talked about the LED sign at the park and that using Dale Fox's WIFI would not be an option for operating the sign. He checked on WIFI rates for a single location by the information booth at the park. Evans shared with the town board, that the Community Foundation agreed at a recent meeting, to purchase any hardware for the WIFI if the town would agree to cover the monthly costs.

The town board and JR Bogert had a discussion about using a 'personal hotspot' as a means of finding WIFI to operate the sign.

Councilman Evans gave an estimated cost of $65 per month for WIFI through Spectrum to service the sign and a one time installation fee of $99. He also said he checked on satellite WIFI for $100 per month and didn't have much luck with Frontier. If the town decides to go with WIFI through Spectrum, it would cost $780 per year.

Supervisor Nabinger suggested charging $5 to advertise on the sign for those that are using the park. The town board discussed this idea of charging to use the sign to offset the cost of WIFI, as well as charging more to camp at the park.

**RESOLUTION #5**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilwoman Sienko, to move forward with Spectrum at $65 per month and install the WIFI at the park, for a period of 1 year.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Superintendent Richman told the town board that his department has plowed 17 times this year, had a few minor breakdowns, and some trees taken down.

**TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk McKown brought up Councilman Evan's 'Letter to the Taxpayers' and asked the town board if they wanted this letter to go out with the tax bills. Supervisor Nabinger stated that we would not make that decision tonight.

McKown mentioned a phone call he had received regarding the town's NYSEG bills, from an ESCO company. He wondered if the town would be better off dealing with an ESCO company, instead of NYSEG directly, based on the minimal amount of charges with an ESCO company.

Supervisor Nabinger and Councilman Evans commented on this and felt that the town would be just charged more if dealing with the ESCO company.

Councilman Evans brought up the 'Letter to the Taxpayers', and spoke about the confusion and questions from village residents about the increase in taxes. He went over the details of his letter, and offered an explanation on how the sales tax was involved.

The town board made the decision to have Councilman Evans' letter mailed out with the tax bills. Supervisor Nabinger suggested adding the names of the town board council to bottom of the letter.

Mayor Wade expressed his concerns with the letter, stated it wasn't a 'true argument', and that he didn't agree with the letter. The town board discussed the matter with Mayor Wade, and expressed their opinions.

**RESOLUTION #6**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilwoman Sienko, to add the add the 'Tax Letter' to the tax bills.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

Evans provided the town board with his letter of resignation from the Board of Assessment Review, and recommended Melissa Fuller to replace him for the remainder of his term. He spoke about her and her thoughts on giving back to the community.

**RESOLUTION #7**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hromada, second by Councilwoman Sienko, to appoint Melissa Fuller to the Board of Assessment Review and to finish out Councilman Evans' term to 03/31/23.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Sienko; No: none; Motion Carried.

Supervisor Nabinger asked about the AED devices, and if they'd been ordered yet.

Town Clerk McKown said that after talking to Recreation Director Palmer today, he was told they hadn't been ordered yet.

Nabinger stated our signs for the DEC Fishing Access site will be here in the Spring and that our AIM funding should be coming this week. She proposed January 18th for the 'After the Holidays' party, and said we will get a note on that to confirm.

Supervisor Nabinger informed the town board that we have received the approval and paperwork for our State and Municipal Facilities Program Grant. She asked the town board for a motion to allow her to fill out the grant paperwork, sign it, send it in along with a letter from our attorney.

**RESOLUTION #8**

Motion was made by Councilman Evans, second by Councilwoman Hromada, to sign and send in the Grant Disbursement Application paperwork.

Ayes: Supervisor Nabinger, Councilman Evans, Councilwoman Hromada, Councilwoman Johnson; No: none; Motion Carried.

Supervisor Nabinger confirmed with Town Clerk McKown that the Housing Grant paperwork would be in at the end of the week for her to sign.

She scheduled our end of the year meeting on December 30th at 6:30PM, to pay any of the 'end of the year' bills.

Nabinger scheduled our Organizational Meeting at 01/14/2020 at 6:30PM.

Councilwoman Hromada asked for Bookkeeper Sherman to provide a summarization of any negative amount balances to the town board, so we can make any necessary transfers and take care of that.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:10PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Aric McKown

Town Clerk