

**TOWN OF BUTTERNUTS REGULAR MEETING- February 02, 2021- 7:00P.M.**

Present were Supervisor Bruce Giuda, Board Members: Keith Lilley, and Paul Irwin.

Pledge Of Allegiance led by Bruce Giuda

**Privilege Of The Floor:** Michelle Farewell, Otsego County Representative reports- 2021 Bridge's, N.Y., hopeful for funding. She has been in contact with both Assemblyman, Joe Angelino and a sponsor in State government to possibly name Highway 51 after Richard Walton Jr., to become a Memorial Highway. All Town board members in attendance tonight are interested in this possibility. The Otsego County Manager position is still waiting on compromise.

**Motion To Dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 05, 2021 (Re-Org. and Regular) and January 23, 2021 (Special Meeting)**

MOTION INTRODUCED BY: Bruce Giuda                      SECONDED BY: Paul Irwin

YES- Bruce Giuda      YES- Keith Lilley      YES- Paul Irwin

Motion Carried- 3-0

**Motion To Approve the Re Organizational Minutes of January 05, 2021 , per Keith Lilley, with corrections, to remove Linda Gover from two Motions**

MOTION INTRODUCED BY: Keith Lilley                      SECONDED BY: Paul Irwin

YES- Bruce Giuda      YES- Keith Lilley      YES- Paul Irwin

Motion Carried-3-0

**Motion to approve the January 05, 2021 Regular Meeting and January 23, 2021 Special Meeting**

MOTION INTRODUCED BY: Paul Irwin                      SECONDED BY: Bruce Giuda

YES- Bruce Giuda      YES- Keith Lilley      YES- Paul Irwin

Motion Carried-3-0

**Acceptance Of Reports:** Town Clerk- \$113.10- Read by Mary Brown

Town Justice- \$286.00- Read by Bruce Giuda- Paul Irwin needs to perform yearly Audit on the Court records and dockets

Assessor-January 2021- Read by Bruce Giuda

Highway Report-Submitted by Jerry Madsen- Read by Bruce Giuda-

Per the report, "A successful couple of weeks so far"

Supervisor- Bruce Giuda's report has MANY topics that he been working on, therefore, the report is scanned/attached , as part of permanent retention.

**Committee Reports:** Finance/Laws- Paul Irwin reports, his audit on November and December 2020 are complete with no problems.

Building and Grounds- Keith Lilley reports-He performed work on Highway exhaust fan. Met with Auditors regarding building and grounds concerns







## Supervisor's Report

Working with Jerry Madsen and the crew to keep the Highway Department operational. Great cooperation.

Want to thank Jim Polhemus for volunteering several hours to correct Payroll # 2 and format and develop payroll # 3. paperwork

Communicating with DEC concerning issues and violations at Bank # 2 regarding the renewal of the mining permit there.

The application for the Butternut Copes bank has been amended and updated several times at the request of DEC. Working with Griggs / Lang we have satisfied all their requests for information and the completed application has been sent back to DEC

Over \$850,000 tax revenue collected in January out of a total of \$971,836.91

Working with Auditors to complete the audit. Already implementing several suggestions concerning the safety of town funds regarding use of debit cards and autodrafts by several vendors. Working with Jason Fleming to bring the bathroom / shower project to bid by March.

Getting prices to trade backhoe and purchase new model. Will have information for March meeting. Talked to Mike Burr and set the process in motion to purchase a new 2020 Volvo 10 wheel plow truck same as the one we just received.

Worked with Keith to complete the move out of old highway garage. Spike is now in possession and control of the building with a closing date coming soon. We signed an agreement which was approved by Mr. Merzig. He is now responsible for heat and utilities.

## Machinery and Highway committee

Review of fleet as of January 1, 2021 shows 3 trucks still not inspected as well as the 20 ton trailer. Truck 285 one of our older Volvos has a significant hydraulic fluid leak and I'm told that the clutch is not working. The board was never advised of this in any of the former highway superintendents reports and I found this out when asking why there was a huge puddle of hydraulic fluid seeping from the truck. The other older Volvo is stored in the new blue building as a spare with plow, wing and sander ready to go. The road grader is sitting outside in the weather despite the fact that there is room to put it under cover. The 20 ton trailer is also sitting outside while there is space to put it under cover. The backhoe is showing signs of age and wear so I am getting quotes to trade it in for a new one. Will have figures at the March meeting. The 4 main plow trucks are running fine with minor maintenance as needed. We have some minor issues to address with the Mack and the Western Star in the spring when plows are off. The Dodge 5500 is back from an engine repair for a bent pushrod. Covered by warranty. The new Farmall tractor needs a battery and shows signs of neglect and misuse pertaining to the three point hitch and the cooling system. The protective screens over the radiator and AC evaporator are plugged with dried mud which seriously restricts the cooling capacity of the tractor. These screens are designed for easy removal and washing as part of daily pre trip service but it has not been done. The extendable parts of the 3 point hitch arms were misused and one of them was severely bent to the point where it no longer worked. This also affects the performance and longevity of the new mower and new broom when they are hooked up incorrectly to these 3 point hitch arms.

The new garage is working extremely well especially with the radiant heat in the floor. Within several hours of parking the trucks inside, the snow and ice have melted off and the trucks are drying out. Melted snow, ice and slush runs into the floor drains and into the containment system. The concrete floor temp is running at 66 degrees and the 2 backup heaters are set at 64 degrees. They are for a quick recovery when the garage doors are opened for trucks to go in or out. Reviewed purchasing practices for 2020. Despite overspending the parts / repair budget - the crew indicated to me that there was NO hydraulic fluid on hand and they also needed DEF fluid. We used to buy these fluids bulk / delivered for free. The crew gave me a list of drive tires that are needed. There are several that are showing steel cords and they need to be replaced immediately. Safety is a serious issue here and there was a lack of concern and planning to keep good tires on the trucks. I am pricing between at least 3 suppliers. In the recent past we simply just purchased from one vendor with no price comparisons.

Things to do : \*develop a recommendation for purchase of backhoe.

\*Order the new Volvo 10 wheel plow truck

\*Get quotes to replace the Dodge 5500 - or have 2 of them

\*Create a maintenance and service program consistent with manufacturers recommendations

\*Create an accurate and up to date record of ALL maintenance for trucks and equipment. There are no records for some and most records are out of date or incomplete.

\*Create an inventory of ordinary and common parts and supplies to have on hand with records indicating when something is used and should be replaced.

\* Begin to purchase parts and supplies through competitive pricing using bulk purchases rather than paying retail prices for small quantities or individual items.

\* Initiate pre planning of purchases which allows vendors to deliver for free rather than sending a crew member (or two) to purchase individual or small quantities repeatedly.