

**WALES TOWN BOARD MEETING  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
Minutes of January 12th, 2021**

\*covid restrictions required by all who attended meeting- facemasks and social distancing

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 12th day of January 2021 at the Wales Community Center, 12345 Big Tree Road, Wales Center, New York.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rickey Venditti at 7:00 pm EST

**ROLL CALL:** Supervisor Rickey Venditti  
Councilman Gerald Klinck  
Councilman Dan Driver  
Councilman Kyle Barry  
Councilman Donald Butcher

also present: GHD Engineering, and residents (13) whose names are on file.

**INVOCATION:** led by Councilman Donald Butcher

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** led by Councilman Gerald Klinck

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA: MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Daniel Driver, second by Councilman Kyle Barry approving the agenda. **CARRIED**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher approving the Town Clerk's minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> and public hearing as presented. **CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Paul Borden - East Creek Rd - Would like to speak on behalf of my neighbors, Samantha & Travis at 5527 East Creek Rd that I'm in favor of their special use permit.

James Hardee - 5885 East Creek Rd - Would like to say he is in favor of the special use permit for my neighbors at 5527 East Creek Rd.

Samantha Grandquist -5527 East Creek Rd - Would like it said on the record, that the Planning Board and Conservative planning did approve my special use permit.

- Councilman request to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues

Motion by Supervisor Rickey Venditti and second by Councilman Don Butcher to enter executive session at 7:04pm return from executive session at 7:27pm.

**ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:**

**1. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE OF TOWN BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2021**

Call to Order by the Supervisor

- \* Roll Call
- \* Invocation
- \* Pledge of Allegiance
- \* Adoption of Agenda
- \* Acceptance of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)
- \* Invitation for Public Comment on Agenda Items
- \* Old Business
- \* New Business
- \* Communications
- \* Reports of Department Heads
- \* Reports of Committees
- \* Representatives of Community Organizations \* Second Invitation for Public Comment
- \* Review and Action of Supervisor's Report
- \* Review and Action of Town Clerk's Monthly Report
- \* Action of General Fund Bills
- \* Action of Highway Fund Bills
- \* Adjournment

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the "Adoption of Rules of Procedure for Town Board Meetings - 2021" as outlined above. **CARRIED**

**2. SALARIES FOR TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - 2021**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Kyle Barry, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the list of 2021 Salaries for Town Officers and Employees as attached and reported. Note that all payrolls will be paid out of .1 accounts. **CARRIED**

**3. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY OFFICIALS FOR USE OF HOME FACILITIES**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the Highway Superintendent to receive \$10.00 per month for radio home usage. **CARRIED**

**4. DESIGNATE PERSONS OR PERSONS TO SIGN AND COSIGN CHECKS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Dan Driver, second Councilman Kyle Barry, designating Supervisor Rickey Venditti or Deputy Supervisor Donald Butcher and Melinda Eaton or Ellen Bapst as co-signers for Town checks.

**CARRIED**

**5. DESIGNATE OFFICIAL BANKS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Daniel Driver, approving M & T Bank, Bank of America, Five Star Bank, Bank of Holland, HSBC, Key Bank and Chase Bank as official banks with which the town will do business. **CARRIED**

**6. AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO RENT SPACE FOR TOWN FUNCTIONS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Gerald Klinck, authorizing the supervisor to rent space for town functions for such things as public hearings, etc., as needed. **CARRIED**

**7. DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Daniel Driver, approving the East Aurora Advertiser as the official newspaper for the Town of Wales. **CARRIED**

**8. AUTHORIZE TOWN OFFICIALS TO ATTEND THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS AT TOWN EXPENSE**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving town officials to attend their respective local association meetings at town expense. Out of town and overnight meetings will require a special request and approval by the Town Board. Detailed receipts and vouchers are required. **CARRIED**

**9. REVIEW TOWN OF WALES PROCUREMENT POLICY - 2021**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Daniel Driver, approving the – 2021 Procurement Policy will remain the same as 2020. **CARRIED**

**10. AUTHORIZE TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT TAXES – 2021**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Kyle Barry, authorizing the tax collector to collect taxes **Town and County** taxes due by March 15<sup>th</sup> without penalty. Penalties added as follows: if paid on or after March 16<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> inclusive add 7.5%. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the 7.5% penalty fee is added to the levy, forming the base tax then due, thereafter interest is added to the base at the rate of 1.5% interest per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, making 18.78% in all, when unpaid taxes are sold in November. Residents have the option to pay at least one half of the bill and the remainder can be paid in installments (max. of 4) however, the 7.5% penalty will still be applied to the unpaid balance as of the due date. **School Taxes** due by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> without penalty. Penalties added as follows: 7.5% will be charged from Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Nine percent (9%) will be charged from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Last day for payment is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Unpaid taxes are then returned to the county and added to the county tax roll as a relieved school tax unless paid to the county by Nov. 31<sup>st</sup>. **CARRIED**

**11. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY MILEAGE TO ALL TOWN OFFICIALS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher second Councilman Daniel Driver, authorizing the payment of \$ .50 per mile to all town officials for use of their cars on official town business. This will not apply to mileage from residence to places of performance of official duties. **CARRIED**

**12. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS - 2021**

Councilman Butcher would like to request changes to the appointment list, these changes would include that Building Inspector and any other associated positions, that are connect to that office, from David Bender to Walter Raichel. Also, the Town Historian position from Dee Ziegel to Pat Spahn. The other change would be the Zoning and Planning boards clerk from hourly to a salary of \$60 per meeting.

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Kyle Barry approving the changes to the 2021 Appointment of Officers with those requested changes by Councilman Don Butcher. **CARRIED by 4** Councilmen with Supervisor Rickey Venditti recusing himself.

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated he is recused himself, stating he is friends and family with the people being changed, he would of too seen a more respectful communication with the people involved with these changes.

following appointments

- \*Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Walter Raichel*
- \*Building Clerk Ellen Bapst*
- \*Historian – Pat Spahn*
- \* Deputy Historian – Camille Venditti*
- \*Property Manager/RMO - Melinda Eaton*
- \*Town Attorney - Ronald Bennett*
- \*Town Prosecutor – Phyllis Todoro*
- \*Deputy Supervisor – Donald Butcher*
- \*Zoning Board & Planning Board Secretary/General Clerk –Dave Newman salary*
- \*Zoning Board of Appeals – Glen Goerke, Chairman*
- \*Planning Board - Richard Munn, Chairman*
- \*Deputy Town Clerks – Pat Owczarkak and Ellen Bapst*
- \*Court Clerk - Christa Dake*
- \*Bookkeeper, Budget Director and Supervisor’s Clerk - Rae M. Hoxsie*
- \*Assessor Clerk - Dawn Martin*
- \*Town Registrar - Melinda Eaton*
- \*Cleaner – J&M Cleaning*
- \*Constable – Paul Solomon & Scott Zelli*
- \*Town Engineer - GHD Engineering*
- \*N.E.S.T. Delegate – Rickey Venditti*
- \*Superintendent of Parks & Cemeteries - Michael Zywar*
- \*Superintendent of Buildings – Michael Zywar*
- \*Refuse Clerk - Melinda Eaton*
- \*Fire Inspector – Walter Raichel*
- \*Flood Plan Administrator – Walter Raichel*
- \*Affirmative Action Officer - Rickey Venditti*

\*Disaster Services Coordinator – Walter Raichel

\*All other appointed positions from 2020 to remain as appointed

**13. AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS ANNUAL DUES**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Gerald Klinck, authorizing the payment of the Association of Towns annual dues. **CARRIED**

**14. TOWN CONTRIBUTION FOR BASIC PERSONAL CELL PHONE USE**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the following town contributions for basic cell phone usage Building Inspector Code Enforcement Officer to receive \$50.00 per month Highway Superintendent, Supervisor and Natural Disaster Services Coordinator to receive \$50.00 per month (on call 24/7). The Court Clerk \$25.00 **CARRIED**

**15. AUTHORIZE PREPAYMENT OF CLAIMS IN ADVANCE OF AUDIT**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Gerald Klinck approving the prepayment of claims in advance of audit on all approved contracts extending over one (1) year and at which time payments will be presented at the next regular board meeting for audit. **CARRIED**

**16. AGREEMENT TO SPEND HIGHWAY FUNDS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Gerald Klinck, approving the “Agreement to Spend Highway Funds” as presented by Highway Superintendent Zywar, and rates to be paid by highway department for gravel and rental of equipment. Highway Superintendent may advertise for any and all supplies and spend budgeted funds pursuant to section 284 of the Highway Law. **CARRIED**

**17 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the following Councilman Committee appointments. **CARRIED**

\*Capital Improvements & Finance - Gerald Klinck and Kyle Barry

\*Recreation & Youth Services - Donald Butcher & Daniel Driver

\*Solid Waste, Conservation, Soil, Water – Kyle Barry & Daniel Driver

\*Insurance - Daniel Driver & Kyle Barry

\*Disaster Preparedness -Donald Butcher and Daniel Driver

\*Highways - Gerald Klinck and Donald Butcher

\*Health, Welfare and Senior Services – Dan Driver

\*Cemeteries – Gerald Klinck

\*Planning & Zoning – Gerald Klinck and Dan Driver

\*Buildings and Grounds - Gerald Klinck and Don Butcher

\*Cable TV - Donald Butcher

\*Planning Board Liaison- Kyle Barry

\*Conservation Board Liaison-Donald Butcher

\*Zoning Board of Appeals- Gerald Klinck

*Note: the supervisor will serve as member of all committees*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1.S.U.P. application from The Broadway Group for proposed Dollar General Store at 6401 Olean Rd.**

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated we received an accident report from GPS Consulting for review. The Z.B.A. board approved the parking variance. The Planning Board has requested additional traffic data, which they will review at the scheduled planning board meeting on January 20, 2021 at 7pm. Supervisor Rickey Venditti wanted to clarify that applications for a variance, go in front to the ZBA, do not have to go to the Planning and Conservation Boards. The application is given to the Z.B.A. for a variance. The S.U.P.’s go to the Planning and Conservations boards. The S.U.P. has been referred to all applicable boards. We are waiting for the Conservation and Planning Boards final recommendations. Hopefully we will have that for the February meeting. At the February meeting we will call for a public hearing for March. Councilman Donald Butcher stated that the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council will help us look at the traffic pattern there, regarding pedestrian issues at the site, of the proposed Dollar General on Olean Rd. The possibility of sidewalks were mentioned, and a crosswalk is already there. Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated, if we do not have any help from Dollar General regarding sidewalks, we may try to apply for funds through Community Block Grant.

**2. S.U.P. application from Thunder Hill Storage to amend their current permit at 13014 Big Tree Road.**

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated that we are waiting for a new S.U.P. updated, a small block of land was sectioned off that was not incorporated with the main commercial property and has did not have the proper side lot clearance. This is on-hold until the building inspector receives an updated application.

**3. S.U.P. application to house large animals at 5527 East Creek Road.**

We have received approval. We have the recommendations for approval from both the Planning and Conservations boards. This application is for housing two (2) sheep on the property. We will have our town attorney start to draft the S.U.P. This S.U.P. is only for the animals. The garage or barn itself is a separate issue that is being dealt with. We should have the S.U.P. for approval at the next board meeting. If you have any ideas for Special Conditions for the S.U.P., please advise myself or town attorney, Ron Bennett.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1.Authorize Supervisor to sign contracts with the Boys and Girls Club of Holland for \$4,019.00, the Boys and Girls Club of Elma, Marilla and Wales for \$8,037.00, the Town of Wales Senior Citizens for \$5,588.00, Hearts & Hands for \$1,223.00, Wales Hollow Cemetery Association, \$1,000.00, Holmes Hill cemetery Association,**

**\$500.00, South Wales Community Hall for \$523.00, and E.M.W. Little League Baseball, Football and Soccer for \$964.00 each.**

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** so moved by Councilman Gerald Klinck, and Donald Butcher approving the Contracts Boys and Girls Club of Holland, Boys and Girls Club of Elma, Marilla and Wales, Town of Wales Senior Citizens, Hearts & Hands, Wales Hollow Cemetery Association, Holmes Hill cemetery Association, , South Wales Community Hall and E.M.W. Little League Baseball, Football and Soccer for 2021. **CARRIED**

**2. Authorize payment of Annual donation to Aurora Adult Day Care Services for \$611.00, the Sergeant Mark Rademacher Veterans Post for \$611.00 and Meals on Wheels for \$1,166.00.**

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** so moved by Councilman Kyle Barry, and Daniel Driver approving the annual donations for 2021 to Aurora Adult Day care Services, Sergeant Mark Rademacher Veterans Post and Meals on wheels. **CARRIED**

**3. Set audit dates for all Town Departments, Town Clerk, Court Clerk, Supervisors Clerk and Tax Collector**

beginning Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 PM. All Department books will be available for time required for this review. **MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** so moved by Councilman Gerald Klinck, and Daniel Driver approving the audit date for all Town Departments. **CARRIED**

**4. Resolution to authorize Supervisor to sign contract with G.H.D. Consulting Services Inc. for 2021 services.**

**AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

**2021 Services Provided by GHD Consulting Services Inc.**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town Wales, Erie County, New York, held on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 the following Resolution was adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Supervisor Rickey A Venditti of the Town of Wales, New York,

is hereby authorized to sign, submit and execute a contract for engineering services with GHD Consulting Services Inc.

for the calendar year 2021 at an annual retainer fee of \$5,000.00 and the project-specific services fee not to exceed **\$5,000.00.**

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** so moved by Councilman Donald Butcher and Gerald Klinck approving the engineering contract for 2021. **CARRIED**

**5. Resolution to authorize Supervisor to sign Dog Warden contract for 2021 services.**

**AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION RENEWING CONTRACT FOR DOG WARDEN**

WHEREAS, William Newell has provided services to the town of Wales for the year 2021 in the position as Dog Warden, and

WHEREAS, the town is very satisfied with the services of William Newell, and

WHEREAS, William Newell has indicated his acceptance to continue as Dog Warden for the year 2021 upon the same terms of the present 2020 employment agreement, (copy of the 2021 employee agreement attached),

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, the Town does hereby approve the contract with William Newell to perform services as Dog Warden for the town of Wales for the year 2021 on the same terms included in the contract for 2020,

and be it further RESOLVED, the supervisor is authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the town, and be it further, RESOLVED, the town clerk is requested to send a signed copy of the agreement to William Newell.

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** so moved by Councilman Donald Butcher and Gerald Klinck approving the dog control contract for 2021. **CARRIED**

**6. Resolution to designate Supervisor as Appointing Officer for 2021 under N.Y.S. Civil Service Law.**

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE APPOINTING OFFICER FOR 2021**

**UNDER NEW YORK STATE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.**

WHEREAS, New York State Civil Service Law requires a Town to designate an Appointing Officer to comply with the requirements of said law,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that Town Board of the Town of Wales does hereby designate the Officer to be Supervisor Rickey A. Venditti as the Appointing Officer under the

New York State Civil Service Law for 2021, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Erie County Department of Personnel.

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Councilman Daniel Driver approving Supervisor Rickey Venditti as appointing officer. **CARRIED**

**7. Request to approve Dresher and Malecki LLP 2019 Town of Wales Department Head audits.**

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** By Supervisor Rickey Venditti and second by Councilman Gerald Klinck approving the 2019 Town of Wales department head audits including the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Town Justice Courts and Chief Fiscal Officer performed by Dresher and Malecki LLP. **CARRIED**

**8. Resolution pertaining to senior and disability exemptions for real property taxes.**

**RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO SENIOR AND DISABILITY**

**EXEMPTIONS FOR REAL PROPERTY TAXES**

**TOWN OF WALES**

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order Number 202.83 which, among other things, gave local governments the ability to adopt a Resolution extending the senior exemption and the individual with disabilities and limited income exemption through 2021 without need for qualified individuals to file an application with the Assessor, and

WHEREAS, because many seniors and individuals with disabilities do not have the ability to file for their real property tax exemptions due to COVID-19 related safety precautions the Town Board believes it to be in its citizens best interests to adopt a Resolution extending the 2020 exemption status for such qualified individuals for the 2021 year, and NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Assessor shall extend the 2020 exemption status for those individuals receiving the senior exemption and the persons with disabilities and limited income exemption through 2021 without a renewal application except in circumstances provided below; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Assessor may require a renewal application if he or she believes a property owner who qualified in 2020 has since changed primary residence, added another owner to the Deed, transferred the property to a new owner or has died.

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Daniel Driver, second Councilman Gerald Klinck approving the resolution pertaining to senior and disability exemption for real property taxes. **CARRIED**

**9. Resident letter to request traffic study to reduce speed limit on Hunter Creek Road.**

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated a request from a resident for a traffic study on Hunters Creek Road. The Town Clerk did contact N.Y.S.D.O.T. and they have done a traffic town-wide traffic study within the last three(3) years, unless there are any significant changes like more houses, more driveways, developments, or changes in traffic patterns. They would not be able to forward this request. Rickey Venditti will communicate this to the resident who requested this study.

**10. Request to Appoint Replacement Zoning Board of Appeals Member**

We had two (2) people retire at the end of December 2020. One being Sandy Laub member from the Zoning Board of Appeals. We would like to thank her for her many years of service. The Chairman has requested us to appoint Kevin Ingraham to fill this position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher to appoint Kevin Ingraham to fill this position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. **CARRIED**

**11. Request to Appoint Replacement Planning Board Member**

Supervisor Rickey Venditti said Thomas Carpenter was on other, who retired at the end of December 2020. We would like to thank him for his years of service to the Planning Board. The Planning Board Chairman has requested, that the town board appoint Mark Gaston to fill this position on the Planning Board.

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Dan Driver to appoint Mark Gaston to fill this position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. **CARRIED**

We still have one (1) vacancy on the Planning Board, which we will discuss, in the near future.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated due COVID-19 restrictions, do we needed a workshop this month or cancel it?

**MOTION# \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher, second Gerald Klinck to cancel January's 2022 Workshop. **CARRIED**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Town Clerk: *Rec'd & filed* Building Inspector/CEO: *Rec'd & filed* Highway Dept: *Rec'd & filed*

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

Councilman Daniel Driver stated, presently there is no water testing. Mr. Winkle is putting together a plan that referenced to all 4 points. Supervisor Rickey Venditti said this will help with future S.U.P.'s., Councilman Daniel Driver stated the Drill Your Well information advising future single-family home applicants to drill their well before construction of a house for adequate water.

Councilman Gerald Klinck stated a couple items with zoning, need to be address in the new year.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:**

South Wales Fire Dept-Councilman Donald Butcher stated that members Rob Garlow and Don Perry passed away.

**SECOND INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Charles Ritter**, on behalf of Thunderhill-You indicated under Old Business. You indicated that there is some information you are looking for. Supervisor Rickey Venditti responded we are looking for a new site plan. The last site plan had a narrow illegal lot formed. Charles Ritter stated the revised site plan was submitted with the amended application which addressed that. We have not received anything stating the adequacy of what was submitted as of December 16, 2020.

Supervisor Rickey Venditti responded he will have to follow up on that. He was just going by the information he was given. Charles Ritter asked can you be more precise as to the missing pieces? Supervisor Rickey Venditti responded the last thing seen was a piece of property sectioned off the house, as a separate lot it was not combined with the business and it was an under-sized lot. It did not have proper side-lot clearance with the buildings there, this was my communication with the Building Inspector, Dave Bender.

The Building Inspector, Dave Bender, he went back and they were going to take this piece of property and combine it with the business property as all one(1) piece and provide the proper side lot clearance for the buildings that are there. I will follow-up on that a.s.a.p. Charles Ritter responded when I heard it tonight, frankly, I was shocked. I looked at the email that I had and that was what I understood to be the resolution. Supervisor Rickey Venditti responded that was the last that I heard from him that we were waiting for that. I will follow up tomorrow and get back with the applicant.

Charles Ritter responded in turn stating that please feel free to contact me. Ron Bennett has my number.

**Brenna Gawronski-12732 Big Tree Road.** I would like to speak on the decision on the removal of Town Historian, Dee Zeigel, made by the Town Board, The Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk. Dee Zeigel has devoted 30 years to this town trying to preserve the town's artifacts. She had dedicated endless hours of her own time and to help at events, as well. I question the board with "why". Can you answer this tonight? Is this because she exposed thievery? Stolen chairs and town's historical items and some belonging to a town resident. Also, damaged artifact displays? When the Highway Superintendent was accused of stealing and destroying files in the town. Maybe, he should have been asked to resign. He was given a public reprimand, which is basically a slap on the hand. I see this as a retaliation against whistleblowing and bullying towards Dee Zeigel.

**Dee Zeigel-4498 Woodchuck Road.** She thanked Supervisor Rickey Venditti for his support. She knows that Councilman Donald Butcher know what her job entails, she feels that the other councilmen have no idea what she does, maybe it's my memos to the board. The way it was handled was ridiculous, if they had a problem with me, someone should have said something to me, before a few days ago.

**Kevin Ingraham**-Member of the Planning Board until now, I am the member of the Zoning Board. There have been a lot of development within our business districts. Whether it is town people coming to us saying “what can you do”. It has exhausted our laws which allows us to take care of things. We have had a few issues with buildings that are going up without permitting and then those building’s going up again without permitting or at least some structure being made. When I pressed the Building Inspector, Dave Bender, what can we do about this? He said, we are finding them. I asked if police intervention is available. The Building Inspector, Dave Bender, responded “I do not know”. In the town, we seem to have an inability to deal with larger projects. We have a system down for working with residents and working with projects. I propose that there is an option we can look at which is a moratorium. A moratorium is a temporary stop gap for allowing towns to resist the right to build projects temporarily. While they look at the laws and going on from there. Whether or not the laws stand as they are. There needs to be a stop from any new buildings going up, until those potential changes are evaluated. The nice thing about the moratorium it does not need to be on the whole town. It could be on either a business district or it can be on a certain type or use of buildings. There are five reasons that you can do a moratorium. Prevent rush development, inefficient and ill-conceived construction. Address a new kind of “use”. Prevent hasty decisions that would be a disadvantage to landowners’ and the public. Prevent immediate construction that might be inconsistent with future plans of the town. So, this is something that we would have a legal document put in place. I feel it would give the town board and the zoning board a chance to look at the laws and reevaluate. It covers quite a bit so the Planning Board could have a site plan review ahead of time. So, they can review and halt the process there or go forward with it. Right now, they have an advisory and actual have a binding rule there. I just wanted to give the board an option that we could draft a moratorium within the business districts, because that is where we seem to be having the most trouble with projects going down the pipeline. Once put in place you can always have exceptions for examples, garages so you would not hinder residents who are doing general things. It is a legal document under New York State law that can be drafted.

Councilman Donald Butcher responded we would have to be more specific on the amount of time, the moratorium would be in place.

Supervisor Rickey Venditti-agreed with Kevin Ingraham’s impression as the business district is where we seem to be having more of a problem. Stop work orders and fines are not effective, given the courts are closed. I spoke with the town attorney and you would have to take them to the Supreme Court.

Walter Raichel-newly appointed Building Inspector stated that the code book is out-of-date with some codes from the 1980’s.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON SUPERVISOR’S REPORT: Not presented.**

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Donald Butcher and second by Councilman Gerald Klinck, approving the Town Clerk’s monthly report for December 2020 as presented. **CARRIED**

**GENERAL FUND BILLS:**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Donald Butcher, approving payment of the 2020 General Abstract #13, voucher #356-375 total amount \$12,885.69 and 2020 General Abstract #014 vouchers 356-372 total amount \$3054.72 **CARRIED**

**HIGHWAY FUND BILLS:**

**MOTION # \_\_\_\_\_** by Councilman Gerald Klinck, second Councilman Daniel Driver, approving payment of the 2020 Highway Abstract #13, voucher #146-151 total amount \$62,072.47 and Highway Abstract 2020 #14 146-152 total amount \$3,282.37 **CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF:**

Motion duly made by Supervisor Rickey Venditti and seconded Councilman Daniel Driver to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda Eaton, Town Clerk