

Town of Covert, Seneca County  
Regular Town Board Meeting  
10 July 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Michael Reynolds, Councilman Brayton Foster, Councilman Todd Wyckoff.

**Others Present:** Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Deputy Town Clerk Brian Quan, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, and other interested citizens.

**Call to order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to approve the minutes from the 12 June 2023 regular board meeting; all approved.

**Public Hearing:**

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to open the Public Hearing to hear comments on the request of variance to the Land Management Ordinance by Ruch to construct a house on their property where acreage is short the requirements; all approved. There were no comments.

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to close the Public Hearing; all approved.

**Highway:**

MacCheyne reported on digging up and resetting a driveway pipe on Savercool Road, installing a new pipe on Townline Road for a new Amish house.

They delivered stone to Frontenac Bridge to fill test holes, piled ROC for paving projects, ground rebates for paving projects, and paved for Covert, Lodi, and Ovid, adding crusher runs to driveways after paving was completed. Cold patching was done on some town roads.

Brush was cleaned up after the phone company trimmed trees for the Town. They prepped the roadside mower in addition to regular maintenance on all equipment.

MacCheyne advised the new pickup truck is in Ithaca; it still needs to have the plow installed. The old pickup is at Auction International.

MacCheyne reported the Lodi Town Board has approved the sale of their midi excavator: three different buckets are included with the \$34k sale.

MacCheyne spoke about the quotes he received for the Caterpillar and Deere payloader. Morrell advised both were state contract bids and the lowest bidder obligation was not necessary because they are presumed to be a good value.

Discussions about the hydraulic systems, parts, and serviceability, including the service trucks available in the region.

Reynolds reported on the Booth Road FEMA project: bids received ranged from \$1.4M to \$420k. The project engineers found the lowest bidder, Silverline, to be acceptable. Silverline would like the town to award the contract. Reynolds cautioned about awarding the contract at this point because the money from FEMA is not guaranteed because of their internal administrative issue. Awarding the contract was tabled this month pending guaranteed funding from FEMA.

**Town Clerk:**

Quan reported Farmerville-Union Lodge was interested in using the Town Hall for a 22 July 2023 Child ID event sponsored by Seneca County Sheriff's Department and Interlaken Police Department. John Hubbard spoke about the history of the program and how it operates today. Insurance coverage was discussed regarding the event and its benefit to the public. The Town Board expressed support for the program and designated the event a Town function.

**Supervisor:**

Reynolds reported the phones and computer are set up for Assessors Fiorille and Hagin. They will begin holding office hours this week after they get their county made identification cards.

Because of poor internet connection speeds, Reynolds investigated an upgraded service, noting it would cost an additional \$150 monthly. Discussion about reliability of services of both Spectrum and OTTC and the needs of the municipal building and town barn.

Jeffrey Taylor, 4951 Frontenac Rd., seeks a request of variance from the Land Management Ordinance to construct a second dwelling where there is a limit of one dwelling structure per parcel.

**Resolutions:**

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to adopt a resolution for the exemption from SEQR for the purpose of construction of a single-family residence; all approved.

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Covert has reviewed the variance application of Sara & John Ruch to build a single-family residence at 8923 Lone Retreat Rd., Tax Map 11-2-51; and

Whereas, the SEQR regulations under 6 NYCRR §617 designates "the construction or expansion of a single-family, a two-family or a three-family residence on an approved lot including provision of necessary utility connections as provided in paragraph (13) of this subdivision and the installation, maintenance or upgrade of a drinking water well or a septic system, or both, and conveyances of land in connection therewith" as a Type II action not being subject to SEQR review; and

Whereas, the Town Board finds that this application fits within this exemption.

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board finds the variance application of Sara & John Ruch to build a single-family residence at 8923 Lone Retreat Rd., Tax Map 11-2-51 to be a Type II action under 6 NYCRR §617.5(c)(11).

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to approve the request of variance from the Land Management Ordinance for Ruch to construct a house where acreage is short the requirements. Following discussion, it was found the circumstances of the substandard lot size creates a hardship for the applicants; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to approve the purchase of Ford F-250; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to declare surplus 2002 Sterling and 2020 Ford F-250 pickup with plow; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to approve purchase of Caterpillar 938M Wheel Loader, according to the quote provided from NYS Office of General Services #PC69406; all approved.

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to approve Farmerville-Union Lodge use of the Town Hall on 22 July between noon and 2 PM; all approved.

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to refer the Variance Request for Taylor to the Planning Board, 27 July, with a Public Hearing scheduled for 14 August; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to approve the Supervisor's Income and Expenditure Report for the month of June 2023; all approved.

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to approve the Highway Superintendent's Report for the month of June 2023; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to approve the Town Clerk's Report for the month of June 2023. The Town Clerk received a total of \$1652.; \$836.76 was remitted to the Supervisor; all approved.

Foster motioned, Wyckoff seconded, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's Report for the month of June 2023; all approved.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, that Highway Fund Vouchers #83-99, amounting to \$177,032.37, and General Fund Vouchers #129-147, amounting to \$11,094.01, be approved for payment; all approved.

**Petitioners to the Board:**

Barry Ford spoke about how the Board previously did not approve use of the Town Hall because of lack of insurance coverage. The exemption of insurance required for use of the Town Hall by Farmerville-Union Lodge is contradictory to the policy

requiring all users to provide insurance, and a loophole was created to support the organization.


Ford spoke about purchasing equipment for the Highway Department that was not budgeted for. He provided comparative costs of renting versus purchasing as well as cost concerns related to warranty and transportation. He pointed out how members of the Town Board asked where the money was coming from, adding part of the responsibility of the Board is planning. He ended with how it was deemed there was no money to spend four or five thousand dollars to support Camp Barton.

Wyckoff motioned, Foster seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM; all approved.


Respectfully submitted,

Brian Quan  
Town of Covert Deputy Town Clerk

6/1/2023



**Milton**  
938M 3V - BlackBook  
Town of Covert



541-2673	938M WHEEL LOADER	\$304,420.00
0P-9002	LANE 2 ORDER	\$0.00
430-2943	PREP PACK, UNITED STATES	\$0.00
536-5343	HYDRAULICS, 3V, CPLR READY, SL	\$3,070.00
536-5264	HYDRAULICS, STANDARD	\$0.00
559-0844	LIGHTS, AUX, LED, PREMIUM	\$1,325.00
541-3066	LIGHTS, ROADING, HALOGEN, RH	\$0.00
333-8698	STEERING, STANDARD	\$0.00
536-5314	INTEGRAL OPEN REAR	\$0.00
536-5314	ENVIRONMENT, STANDARD	\$0.00
454-0643	WEATHER, COLD START, 120V	\$2,740.00
536-5268	CAB DELUXE	\$5,340.00
536-5268	ENGINE, 938	\$0.00
563-5967	SEAT DELUXE	\$1,380.00
372-1868	STANDARD RADIO (12V)	\$965.00
565-0908	PRODUCT LINK, CELLULAR PL641	\$0.00
376-0830	TIRES, 20.5R25, 11MXL * 1.3	\$16,370.00
366-8150	FENLERS, STANDARD	\$0.00
467-7990	COUNTERWEIGHT, 3770LBS, HEAV, 7PC	\$3,470.00
519-8081	TOOLBOX, AUX, NONE	\$0.00
619-8439	HYDRAULIC OIL, STANDARD	\$0.00
421-8926	SERIALIZED TECHNICAL MEDIA KIT	\$395.00
530-1628	LINES, AUX 3RD, STD LIFT	\$5,240.00
430-2860	RIDE CONTROL	\$345.00
333-1425	WARNING, BEACON, LED STROBE	\$120.00
482-5167	SIDE MIRROR, RH	\$0.00
0P-0210	PACK, DOMESTIC TRUCK	\$0.00
0P-2266	SHIPPING/STORAGE PROTECTION	\$286.00
536-5314	QUICK COUPLER, FUSION	\$5,440.00
445-4725	JUMPER LINES, AUX 3rd FUSION	\$750.00
345-2427	BUCKET-GP, 3.5 YD3, FUS, BOCE	\$11,986.00
	5 year 1500 hour premer warranty included	
	Caterpillar 938M List Price --	\$363,572.00
	NYS OGS/NJPA Contract #PC69406 Advertised Discount 24% --	(\$87,257.28)
	<b>Caterpillar 938M Machine Price --</b>	<b>\$276,314.72</b>
	CAT Discount --	-\$31,945.72
	<b>Caterpillar 938M Sale Price --</b>	<b>\$244,369.00</b>
	Less Trade In Value --	-\$155,000.00
	<b>Sale Price After Trade In --</b>	<b>\$89,369.00</b>

\*Due to the current situation with Global steel costs, this quote is valid for 30 days. We'll do our best to hold the price when an order is placed, but please contact me for an updated quote if it's been longer than 30 days. Lead times are based on current demand and subject to change without notice.\*