

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

May 8th, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilwoman Deborah Nottke	Present
	Councilman Bill Bishop	Present
	Councilman Brayton Foster	Present
	Councilman Todd Wyckoff	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, Deputy Clerk Brian Quan, other interested citizens.

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

Approval of Minutes: Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve the minutes from April 10th, 2023. Aye - Wyckoff, Aye - Nottke, Aye - Bishop and Aye - Foster.

Phil Stannard invited the Town Board and the community to the Memorial Day Service at the Interlaken Lakeview Cemetery on Monday May 29 at 9 AM.

Highway Superintendent: MacCheyne reported that the Highway Dept. hauled and spread millings on Little Point Road, scraped and added crusher run on dirt roads, did cold patching on some roads, used payloader to clean up large willow on E Bates Rd, replaced crossover pipe on Arden Rd, cut shoulders on Arden and Stout Roads, and they hauled crusher for summer road work. They also sand blasted and painted winter wheels of small truck, swapped winter wheels off 2022 F-55 and did regular maintenance on all equipment. Employees attended mandatory OSHA training at the Romulus Fire House.

MacCheyne said new MEO Craig Coonradt began work on April 24th.

MacCheyne shared a quote for a Chevrolet truck available through Seneca County, to replace pick-up. Ford trucks are not available. Chevy quote was 62,000 "pending fleet pricing" and would give \$34,000 trade-in, but MacCheyne received a bid from N. Tonawanda for \$4,200 more. Morrell advised that the pick-up be declared surplus only when MacCheyne had a firm quote.

Nottke asked about the situation where 25 - 30 tires were dumped in the gully off of S. Frontenac Rd. MacCheyne said they would fish them out Tuesday or Wednesday. Reynolds said Seneca Meadows would take them, just waiting for a Certificate of Liability Insurance from Eastern Shore Insurance.

MacCheyne said they've cleaned up dumping on West Covert and Arden Roads all the time. He said that residents hire someone to remove their garbage and they dispose of it on the roadsides.

Nottke asked MacCheyne what will happen on S. Frontenac Road when the Frontenac Bridge is closed. MacCheyne said they will put in pull-offs. He said that the residents don't want the road improved, resurfaced, but they will make sure it's safe.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton said she plans on attending the NYALGRO Records Management School in Ithaca on June 5th + 6th. Quan will cover the Tuesday Town Clerk's hours.

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Committees: Bishop asked how the State budget will affect the County taxes. The speculation was the budget would increase up to 17%.

Reynolds said last year they budgeted extra. He said there were good sales tax returns. There was some discussion that CHIPS and AIM money would be raised.

Seneca County's budget is approved at the end of the year; they will begin working on the budget in July.

Foster brought up Sales Tax sharing currently being discussed by the Seneca County Board of Supervisors and asked why Reynolds is opposed to Sales Tax sharing with the towns. Reynolds said if they give it away, they lose control and County tax will go up. Foster said that taxes will be raised only if all of the sales tax money is being used. He heard that 5 out of six years, sales tax exceeded the budget. Foster asked if the excess tax money was unappropriated. Reynolds said this year's revenue was up, but it depends on the year. Northern towns in the county have other sources of revenue and don't have much property tax revenue. Foster said the sales tax monies would benefit the Town and could fix the Town's highway equipment situation. He suggested the money not be budgeted because next year it may not be there. He asked if the decision to share sales tax would be "cast in stone" moving forward. He encouraged the support of tax sharing.

Reynolds said the County had the potential to use the monies for "big bills coming", such as a new highway barn, moving the Mental Health department out, and a payroll increase. He said the County tax will go up a lot if the County doesn't have the sales tax reserves. He said that Seneca County Union contracts will include a 3% payroll increase.

The County budget is 78 million and Foster does not believe the sharing of tax monies would make a dent in their budget. Three million is the proposed amount for sharing. With payroll expenses and EMS, etc. going up, the Town could benefit from the increased income.

Mayor Rich Richardson spoke in favor of tax sharing. He would like the people to decide rather than give the Board of Supervisors the choice. He said that the Town should receive \$300,000. He said if County taxes are raised, the Town can use the money to spend the tax down or put it in reserve for when it's needed.

Nottke said she and Reynolds met to discuss the sales tax sharing issue after hearing from other Supervisors. After looking at the numbers, she could not find any reason for not sharing with the municipalities.

Committees: Nottke said Three Falls LDC had a meeting Thursday morning. They hired a lawyer. No other decisions made.

Nottke said members of the LDC and the Park Commission met with the Seneca County Supervisors that Seneca County was interested in joining the LDC, but they were told to wait until the property was sold to the NY Parks Commission. She said that new members would be considered case by case and can join only by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

A meeting is scheduled for May 25th with the Parks Commission. They will discuss a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the Boy Scouts.

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Nottke also met with engineers about the new Frontenac bridge. They expect to get bids for the project by the fall.

It will be a \$35,000 project to keep the bridge open. Bridge work is expected to take at least 4 months, and should be open by next summer. They should have bridge designs by June. MacCheyne said they need some NYSEG poles moved, but he hasn't been able to reach them. Reynolds will contact Nancy Fisher.

Wyckoff said that he had received many phone calls in favor of sales tax sharing.

Supervisor: Reynolds said that he, Foster and Tompkins Assessors had interviewed three candidates for the Town Assessor's position. He said they were all good candidates.

There was some discussion about the video conferencing equipment proposed for purchase using ARPA money. The Historical Society had some technical difficulties using their own system for the recent meeting. The Court could use the new system, as well as using it for the Town Board meetings. LaPrade, Seneca County IT, had picked out some equipment, Cooperative Extension uses the Owl Camera with the ability to follow the speaker 360°. Set up would be "in house".

Reynolds said that there was only one bid received after comparative specs for a 2-sided sign were requested from vendors. The Florida company Stewart Signs decided not to bid. Tosh Sports had submitted a bid.

Reynolds said that ≈ \$38,000 remains in the ARPA fund. The Town is obligated to spend it by 2024.

Reynolds said he spoke with Interlaken Library Director Chelsea Hastings. She said that the Library was counting on \$2,500 from the Town of Covert for their 2023 budget. The Town budget had only \$1,500 designated for the library, an increase of \$100 over the previous year.

Nottke asked if the Town should give equal amounts to the Library and Historical Society. Reynolds said "no" but the Historical Society has requested more money. Bishop said insurance cost has gone up.

Richardson said that the Village gives the library \$2,000, and the library receives funds from the school and County.

Foster asked if the \$1,000 increase is approved, what will it mean in the future?

Discussion on an increase in Interlaken Library funding was tabled until next month.

Attorney: Morrell said the Resolution for Facts of Findings for Mikeska's 2019 Development was filed.

Reynolds, MacCheyne, Owen and Dave/TG Millers, and Ryan/Municipal Disaster met. Ryan has submitted the appeal to get FEMA money for Booth Road flood recovery project. They can begin advertising bidding for the projects. If the Town doesn't receive the funds, the Town wouldn't be obligated if advertised as contingent on funds. Ryan can advertise on the NYS Bidding Contract website.

Petitioners: Barry Ford commented that it seems that the Board only spends, spends, spends, and that wages are not keeping up with spending and that it's changing the landscape of the community. He said it can't keep going like this without serious ramifications down the road for the people represented.

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Resolutions: Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the purchase of Owl Labs Meeting Owl 3, Samsung 55" TV and Tripp Lite TV Floor Stand. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Foster, Aye-Wyckoff, and Aye-Bishop.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the purchase and installation of a 2-sided electronic sign as presented in the 3/23/2023 quote from Toth's Sports. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Foster, Aye-Wyckoff, and Aye-Bishop.

Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the 2023 Interlaken Historical Society Agreement, annual cost \$1,400. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the 2023 Interlaken Public Library Agreement, annual cost \$1,500, with discussion for increase tabled for next month. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to advertise for proposals for FEMA projects. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Foster, Aye-Wyckoff, and Aye-Bishop.

Office of the New York State Comptroller
NYS SLRS
New York State and Local Retirement System
110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244-0001
Please type or print clearly
in blue or black ink.

Employer Location Code
3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3

Received Date

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials

RS 2417-A
(Rev. 11/17)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the TOWN OF COVERT, hereby established the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record of activities:

Name	Social Security Number	NYS LRS ID	Title	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier 1
Elected Officials:									
Eileen Schmidt	xxxx	xxxxxxx	Court Justice	01/01/2023-12/31/2026	6	3.66	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bi-weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointed Officials:									
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

I, Leslie Adams-Compton, secretary/clerk of the governing board of the Town of Covert of the State of New York,
(Name of Secretary or Clerk) (Circle one) (Name of Employer)

do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board at a legally convened meeting held on the 8th day of May, 2023 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Covert on this 8th day of May, 2023.

(Signature of Secretary or Clerk)
Affidavit of Posting: I, Leslie Adams-Compton being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the Resolution began on May 9, 2023 and continued for at least 30 days. That the Resolution was available to the public on the:
(Date)

Employer's website at: www.townofcovert.org
 Official sign board at: _____
 Main entrance Secretary or Clerk's office at: 8469 South Main St, Interlaken, NY

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(seal)

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution, above. Aye-Foster, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Wyckoff, and Aye-Nottke.

Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's Income and Expenditure report for the month of April 2023. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Foster moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of April 2023. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve Town Clerk report for the month of April 2023. Town Clerk received a total of \$786.00; \$416.64 was remitted to the Supervisor. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

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Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of April 2023. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye- Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve Dog Control Officer's report for the month of March 2023.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, that Highway Fund Vouchers #60-72 in the amount of \$15,397.70 and General Fund Vouchers #92-109 in the amount of \$22,681.64 be approved for payment. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to enter into executive session to discuss a matter of potential employees of the Town at 8:27 PM.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to come out of executive session at 9:00 PM.

Foster said that it should be conveyed to the new assessors that the position is salaried and not necessarily their keeping specific office hours.

Foster moved, seconded by Nottke, to allow the Town Supervisor to enter into negotiations with Al Fiorille and Sandra Hagin for appointment as Town Assessors subject to arriving at an acceptable contract between the Town of Covert and Fiorille and Hagin as negotiated by the Town Supervisor. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

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