

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY**  
**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	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, Deputy Clerk Brian Quan, and 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 August 14, 2023. Aye - Wyckoff, Aye - Nottke, Aye - Bishop and Aye - Foster.

**Mowing Bids Opened:** One bid was received for the mowing of three properties: the Town Municipal Building, Old Town Hall and the Cemetery on Schier Road, for the years 2024, 2025, 2026. JB Lawncare Services submitted a bid of \$2730/year, \$325 more than 2023 bid.

**Highway Superintendent:** MacCheyne said they helped with oil and stone for Ovid, Lodi and Covert, finished ditching and headwalls on south end of Stout Road for FEMA project, did ditching and culvert replacement on Halls Corners Rd, and worked with the County on shoulders. They did bridge deck repairs using steel plating on Frontenac bridge for New York State, cut down trees behind the highway garage, cut brush on Savercool Rd. They took the roof off of the Town Hall sign and made repairs to the Highway garage's water heater. The 2010 International was serviced, they hauled 1As for chip sealing, mowed roadsides again due to quick growth of weeds, did cold patching on all town roads and regular maintenance on all equipment.

MacCheyne said John Hunt would borrow the grinder and paint had been purchased for the Town Hall sign posts.

MacCheyne also said that the repairs on the Frontenac Bridge would remove the "red flags" and the bridge had been changed from a 5 ton to a 3 ton rating due to the narrowed width.

Nottke asked about the survey issue for the Town's Lakeview St property. MacCheyne said the property next door had a prospective buyer. The recent survey showed the same as the Town's survey: the neighboring garage was built over the Town's property line and pins moved. Morrell said that wording in the transfer can recognize the Town's ownership of the land and revert back when the building no longer stands. It was speculated that the Town may be able to sell the property to the neighboring owner, as the Town does not have much use for the 10-15'. Morrell said that if a bank is involved in the neighboring property sale, it would not allow the situation of the structure encroaching on neighboring property. The Town may be contacted by lawyers/realtors before the sale can proceed.

MacCheyne said he hasn't heard from Ryan/Municipal Disaster since he was busy with the hurricane situation in Florida. He said that Ryan and Owen/T.G. Miller have been working to keep the Booth Road Project bid "alive".

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

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Committees:** Nottke presented the Resolution to authorize a voting representative as the last part of establishing the agreement with NYS Parks. It would allow Nottke as representative for the Town to vote on the Park Management Agreement.

She said that an agreement with the Boy Scouts would be coming soon. Nottke said that they were setting up a meeting with multiple municipal representatives and engineers regarding the new Frontenac Bridge. She will let the Board know when.

Nottke announced that the next Three Falls LDC meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 9 AM at the Town of Ulysses building. She said they've set up Operations Committee and a committee for seeking funding, such as grants, donations, private foundations, State + public agencies for planning, capital improvements and operations of the park.

Nottke also shared that Senator Gillibrand has introduced legislation designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area for promoting tourism, preservation, and flourishing the Finger Lakes, calling the area a "National Treasure".

Nottke announced that "The Dance" contra dance is on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Brook Farm Barn, Interlaken.

Foster questioned the park management agreement, that they're not acquiring anything except the right to run the park. Nottke said it is not done yet, no details yet, but the resolution would allow Nottke to vote "yeah" or "nay" to the NY Parks/LDC agreement. Foster mentioned that when the Town wanted to make changes to the LDC agreement, they "were politely told to sit down". Nottke agreed the Parks would probably have its own way.

Nottke said they would be taking care of this beautiful property on the lake that services over 40,000 people with drinking water, so they can help maintain and work with the Watershed; the Boy Scouts will still have their jamborees, badge night and weekends.

Bishop expressed concern of where the money will come from and that there was no vision for what the children would be doing at the Park. Nottke said that they would get grants from private foundations and State and public agencies. She said they are hoping to pay back the Towns and Village the seed money. She said the children need more space, and that the Summer Rec programs have been operating for years and the soccer fields, etc. could be rented, but that is for the operations committee to decide.

Nottke said that the Boy Scouts would have 300 volunteers and money to donate. She said that they would all be working together, people are going to enjoy it and it will be wonderful.

Nottke welcomed all to attend the meetings for the Park and to be on a committee.

Wyckoff asked about the project on the cemetery road where it had been surveyed and markers had been placed by the bank. Reynolds said that contractors would be working on it next spring and that Ruth Lucas had been in on the discussions since part of the road would have to be closed.

Wyckoff also said that the Town of Ovid wants to contract with the Interlaken Police and wondered how the Town felt about that and the legality of it. Morrell mentioned that there had been an agreement before when services were shared for a Resource Officer at Ovid school. In the agreement, the IPD were

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

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

allowed to write tickets in Ovid. Morrell thought it could be done, if they were paid for the expansion of jurisdiction. The Town of Covert has \$2000 designated for the shared service with Interlaken.

The expertise of local police was questioned, but it was stated that Officer Duello is very knowledgeable. Seneca County Sheriff Dept covers on weekends, but being at the southern end of the County, coverage may be sparse.

**Supervisor:** Reynolds said that the Town municipal building sign was available. He has offered it to the Village but they don't have enough room, maybe the Fire Department would be interested in it.

Reynolds is working on the Budget.

**Attorney:** Morrell said the JB Lawncare mowing bid of \$2730 would be the annual fee for the three years. He also said that if the Town were to do a tax cap override, it would be introduced in October with a Public Hearing in November.

Morrell said there is a date set for later this month regarding an assessment challenge. He will speak with Al Fiorille on the details.

**Petitioners:** Barry Ford asked if Town Board meetings can be streamed now that the Town has the equipment. Quan said the camera works, we recently received a replacement for a damaged tv and the computer has yet to be set up.

Ford asked if Booth Rd can be stone and oiled, rather than paved. MacCheyne said that there are many factors to consider for CHIPS funding. He said it's up to the people who live on the road, but there are issues when plowing. He said it was cold-mix paved about 20+ years ago. He said the culvert will be wider but he would like to keep the road narrower. There was concern for speeding on the road.

**Resolutions:** Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to accept the bid for Lawn Mowing from JB Lawncare Services for an annual fee of \$2730 for the years 2024, 2025 + 2026. Aye-Foster, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Wyckoff.

**Resolution # 4-2023**

**Awarding Contract for Booth Road Culvert Replacement**

WHEREAS the Town of Covert Town Board finds that the culvert on Booth Road is in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS the Town of Covert Town Board did solicit bids for the General Construction contract for this project under the direction of T.G. Miller, P.C. engineers; and

WHEREAS three firms submitted bids, the lowest being submitted by Silverline Construction, Inc. out of Burdett, NY; and

WHEREAS all bids were reviewed by T.G. Miller, P.C. engineers and they have recommended that the Town accept the bid of Silverline Construction, Inc. and award the contract to them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board hereby awards the General Construction Contract for the Booth Road Culvert Replacement to Silverline Construction, Inc. with the lump sum bid of \$418,697.00; and

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

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Covert authorizes the Supervisor to execute all necessary documents to enter into a contract with Silverline Construction, Inc. for the completion of this work.

Foster moved, seconded by Nottke; Aye-Foster, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Wyckoff.

**RESOLUTION #5-2023  
to Authorize Representative as Voting Member of Three Falls LDC  
for Approval of Park Management Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the Towns of Ulysses and Covert and the Village of Trumansburg, having collectively engaged in discussions with the State of New York and the Boy Scouts concerning an opportunity to manage certain real property known as Camp Barton (the "**Park Premises**") for public recreation and other purposes, determined to jointly form a local development corporation to take possession of and manage the Park Premises; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Covert, having considered the proposed certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the Three Falls Local Development Corporation (the "**Park Corporation**"), approved the execution and filing of the certificate of incorporation and the adoption of said bylaws (the "**By-laws**") on March 13, 2023, which certificate of incorporation was filed with the Department of State on March 17, 2023 and By-laws are in full force and effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Covert, together with the Village of Trumansburg and the Town of Ulysses, is a Voting Member of the Park Corporation, as such term is defined in the By-laws; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 3.07 of the Corporate By-Laws, the Voting Members, must approve, *inter alia*, any transaction involving the purchase, lease, license, exchange or other acquisition by the Park Corporation of any assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Park Corporation is currently negotiating a certain municipal park management agreement by and between the Three Falls Local Development Corporation and the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (the "**Park Management Agreement**"), which Park Management Agreement is the contractual vehicle by which the Park Corporation will acquire possession of the Park Premises, and which must be approved by the Voting Members in accordance with Section 3.07 of the Corporate By-laws of the Park Corporation.

**NOW BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that Deborah Nottke (the "**Authorized Representative**") hereby is, authorized and empowered to vote in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Covert as a Voting Member of the Park Corporation for purposes of approving the Park Management Agreement without additional approval of the Town of Covert Town Board.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster; Aye-Foster, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Wyckoff.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to declare the old Municipal Building sign surplus. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

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

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

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve Town Clerk report for the month of August 2023. Town Clerk received a total of \$3693.00; \$1269.81 was remitted to the Supervisor. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, that Highway Fund Vouchers #119 - 135 in the amount of \$15,306.80 and General Fund Vouchers #168 - 185 in the amount of \$13,527.05 be approved for payment. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster.

Wyckoff moved, seconded by Nottke, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk