

**Bovina Town Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 9, 2010**

RESOLUTIONS: 2010 – 37 – 46

Board Members Present: Tina Molé, Supervisor; Charles McIntosh, Kenneth Brown, Councilmen; Evelyn Stewart, Mary Joan Robson, Councilwomen; Catherine Hewitt, Town Clerk; Robert Burgin, Highway Superintendent

Others Present: Peter Manning, Delaware County Times Reporter; Mark Rossley; Joshua Choquette, Water Superintendent; Brian McIntosh, Septic Operator, Joe Hanley, Bookkeeper.

The meeting was opened at 6:02 PM by Supervisor Molé, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no community concerns.

Supervisor Molé asked Brian McIntosh, Septic Operator to give his report on the Septic System. McIntosh reported that everything is working well and there are no problems. The generator was serviced last month and everything was fine with that. Molé asked how many times a year the system is pumped out. McIntosh said that it's done once a year in the spring. Councilman Brown asked if the system is anywhere near capacity. McIntosh said that it is not, probably not even to half of it's capacity. Councilman Charles McIntosh said that he thinks it's good that the Town hasn't had any problems with the system.

Supervisor Molé asked Joshua Choquette, Water Superintendent, to give a report on the Water System. Choquette said that things are running pretty well right now. There are two filters, Train A and Train B, and both of them are plugged. The infiltration gallery at the head of Coulter Brook needs to have the gavel changed out and that would require about a bucket of gravel. He's been working with Turn-key Solutions, who have helped him a great deal. Supervisor Molé asked what the fix would be for the problems with the water plant. Choquette said that the media needs to be changed in both Trains and he is getting the specifics, as well as, some quotes together to do that. He said it will be about \$5,000 per filter for the media. His recommendation is to do Train A first. Molé asked if the clogged filters slow the water pressure down. Choquette said it doesn't drop the pressure, it causes turbidity. High turbidity can lead to a boil water order. Choquette is working with the Health Department on getting the problems fixed. He said that the new media will need to be trucked in, and the old media will need to be removed, perhaps vacuumed out. Once the media is changed, the new pressure switches can be put in. He suggests that Train A be taken care of during 2010 and Train B in 2011. When that is done, the computer problem needs to be addressed. His recommendation is to do upgrades over a period of time so things don't have to be done all at once. The Health Department wants the TTHM level not to exceed 80 ppb and it is now around 87 which is much better than when it was well over 100. Choquette reported that there was one water leak this winter. He also said that the fire hydrants are all fixed and working. Molé said that right now steps are being taken to avoid a complete breakdown of the system. Councilman Brown said there is no surplus in the Water Department Fund to cover the expense of this. Molé said she has received a three page letter of recommendations and requirements from the Health Department and with it was a loan application. Brown said he understands the necessity, just not where the funds are going to come from. Councilman McIntosh feels that it's important to get a phone at the water plant for Choquette. It's a minor expense and is best for Choquette's safety and the well being of the water plant. McIntosh asked if there is a health risk with the filters being plugged. Choquette said that it isn't or the Health Department would be here. McIntosh asked about the existing Town well, and if a lot of the problems arise from using surface water. Choquette said well water would have to be chlorinated not filtered. McIntosh feels that the Town should look into using the well. He asked if Choquette knew how deep the well is or the capacity of it. He thinks the Town should look into digging a second well and switching to the use of wells for the water system. Choquette said he would be in favor of that but a second well would be needed because of the fire hydrants. The surface water system could be used as a back up. McIntosh asked why Bovina was forced to filter their water and New York City is exempted. Molé said that she's not sure this will be as simple as putting in a second well; we can talk to the Health Department. McIntosh wondered at what point the water users won't be able to afford to maintain the water system. He feels that drilling a second well should be investigated and get away from filtration. McIntosh asked if Choquette has operation manuals. Choquette said he does not and that has been very frustrating for him. He's been working with Turn-key Solutions to get some kind of operation procedures together. McIntosh feels that it was good to have Brian McIntosh and Josh Choquette come in and report to the Board. He feels that they should work together and

if one has a problem the other can help him out. Choquette said that he would like to have someone who is in town daily to be able to troubleshoot when he's working or has to be out of town. Molé asked if the alarm system would alert to a problem. Choquette said it will alert who the system is set up to alert.

Supervisor Molé asked Bookkeeper Joe Hanley to talk to the Board about health insurance, and the budget. Hanley spoke to the Board about putting together an exemption certificate and cover letter for local businesses that the Town purchases from. Spending needs to be prohibited where there is no Town account. Auditors can hold the Board accountable because they approve reimbursement payments that include sales tax. Hanley will put the paperwork together so it can be taken to vendors as needed. Office supplies will be ordered through Quill by notifying the Town Clerk or the bookkeeper.

2010-37 It was moved by Robson, seconded by Stewart to move into Executive Session at 6:50 PM to discuss personnel issues. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-38 It was moved by Robson, seconded by Brown to move out of Executive Session at 7:10 PM. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Supervisor Molé told the Board that she has received notification of a \$5,000 grant from New York State. She doesn't have a contract yet but asked the Board to think about it for next month.

2010-39 It was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Stewart to continue the contract with Sean Trimbell, DBA Brush Hollow Firewood, for lawn and septic mowing for 2010 for the same fees as the 2009 season. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-40 It was moved by Stewart, seconded by McIntosh to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting as presented.

2010-41 The **GENERAL** bills (28-46) were audited prior to the meeting. Councilwoman Stewart asked about the overage being paid out quarterly on the C&D dumpster, and whether or not the lack of a cover on that dumpster, is letting the elements in, and causing more weight. Supervisor Molé has spoken with Chairman of the Board of Supervisor's about this problem. Every town has a different approach. Some don't take C&D at all; some limit the amount they take. Councilman McIntosh feels that with about \$500 being spent each quarter that perhaps four poles and a roof to put the C&D dumpster under would cut the cost due to weight from the elements. Molé will talk with Haynes and Eisel about this problem. Approval of payment for the general bills was moved by Robson, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-42 The **LIGHTING** bill (3-3) was audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Brown, seconded by Robson. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-43 The **WATER** bills (6-8) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Robson, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-44 The **SEPTIC** bills (5-7) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Brown, seconded by McIntosh. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2010-45 The **HIGHWAY** bills (16-32) were audited prior to the meeting. Councilwoman Stewart asked Highway Superintendent Burgin about the bill for Otsego Iron & Metal. Burgin said it was for the sander bottom. Stewart asked Burgin why Shulz's trucking was hauling sand from the storage shed to the highway garage and why the highway crew isn't doing that. Burgin said that the highway crew has been kind of busy with the snowstorm. Stewart asked what the note that says "State Rate Certificate" is on the LaFever bill. Burgin said that the secretary from LaFever usually has that information with the bill. He will check on it. Stewart asked about Dixson Diesel & Machine doing the repair on the 1995 International. Burgin said that the men were busy plowing so he had Dixson come in to get the truck repaired so they could use it. Approval for payment of highway bills was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Brown. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Supervisor Molé gave Board members a vehicle use policy from Delaware County to look at. This policy says that employees cannot use their own personal vehicles unless a Town vehicle is not available. Councilman McIntosh said that the Town only has one pickup truck, and wondered if the policy should include the big trucks. Molé feels that the policy should say Town vehicles. She will type this up for Bovina and bring it to the April meeting.

Supervisor Molé and Highway Superintendent Burgin will be attending a Department of Labor Training on March 29th. Councilman McIntosh asked what the Town is currently doing that this training would change. Molé said the garbage hauling will change. McIntosh asked if it would increase the contract. Molé is unsure if it will or not. Councilwoman Stewart said that this training will assure that the contractor's are paying their employees prevailing wage.

Councilwoman Robson was recently asked by Margaret Hilson about the possibility of having a Dead End or Children at Play sign put up on the corner of Maple Ave and County Route 6. Supervisor Molé said she will talk with Wayne Reynolds and see what he recommends.

Supervisor Molé attended a meeting with the Towns of Andes & Delhi, Andy Wos from Broadlands and an engineer that has been hired regarding the Aman Resort. The developers want to name a lead agency. The County Planning Department can't be lead agency. Nicole Franzese will speak to each Planning Board in the Towns affected.

Mark Rossley told the Board that the basement in the Community Hall looks like a tornado went through it. Councilman Brown suggested a spring clean up day. Brown will look into this and bring it to the next meeting.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE – Councilman McIntosh reported that he met with Supervisor Molé and Highway Superintendent Burgin on Monday, March 1st. McIntosh said he rode with Brian the morning of the big storm and he's never seen so much snow on the roads before. He feels that Burgin made a great decision on having two trucks together due to the amount of snow, and if one had trouble, there was the second to help out. McIntosh said that the \$7,880 bill from LaFever's came about because there were areas that the Town plow trucks couldn't get through. There were no major breakdowns and McIntosh feels that Burgin did a great job. All the roads were open in a timely fashion.

Supervisor Molé thanked Burgin and the employees. She was out of Town and Burgin kept her informed throughout the weekend. He worked with Rich Bell, Emergency Coordinator because the roads in Bovina were kept closed for an additional eight hours after the state of emergency was lifted. Councilman McIntosh said that coordinating things is a big part of an operation like this and Burgin did a great job coordinating this. McIntosh said that the Highway garage has been working great for the men. The apron is clear from the heat from the floor. He said that the Walter's hadn't been used in 6 years and perhaps that needs to be kept in the fleet incase it may be needed again in the future for another big storm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Stewart reported that she met with the Bookkeeper, Joe Hanley. She told the Board that the Annual Report will be filed by May 1, 2010.

TRANSFER STATION – Councilwoman Robson reported that she has spoken with the fellow at the Transfer Station. She wanted to reinforce the Boards concern over the C&D cost overage. He thinks that part of the overage problem is from contractors coming in and dumping extra. He suggested some kind of surveillance or look at other options to cut down on the C&D overage. Robson also told him that whoever is manning the transfer station needs to make sure people have a permit. Robson also said that the game table is here and she will have her husband put it together.

BUILDINGS – Councilman Brown reported that he has taken the Community Hall Use Policy and made a few changes to it. He recommends that only Board members can admit people to use the hall. Councilman McIntosh said that he has left his key out for people to pick up when he's not home. Brown said that he has also done that. Brown feels that at this time, access needs to be through him as he keeps the schedule. If he's away, he will pass the schedule on to a Board member or the Town Clerk. Councilwoman Robson suggested putting the use policy on the website as well as posting it at different locations around town. Brown said that his key has been borrowed and shows back up three days later, at one point he had to call the last user to return the key. He feels that this is a problem. He asked the Board's opinion on the Post Office employees opening the door to the hall for someone. Councilwoman Stewart said that it

should be okay, but the Post Office employees need to ask if the user has spoken to Brown to be sure the schedule is clear.

2010-46 It was moved by Stewart, seconded by Robson to approve the update to the Community Hall Use Policy with the addition that all furniture will be placed back where it was when the user came in. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Highway Superintendent Burgin reported that they have been busy with snow removal. He thanked his employees, as well as, the County for their help. Burgin said that the road posting notice went in the paper two weeks ago, and roads will be posted as needed. The Annual Mine Safety Meeting will be held at the Highway Garage on March 10, 2010, together with LaFever Excavating. Burgin is getting more quotes on a tractor and mower for roadside mowing. He has submitted the paperwork to Emergency Services as an estimate for the snowstorm expenses. Councilwoman Stewart asked Burgin if Delaware Bulldozing was also involved in helping open up some areas after the snow storm. Burgin said that they did help in the Tunis Lake area on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning but he has not yet received a bill from them. Councilman McIntosh asked about sharing services with other Towns. Burgin said that he has been working with Roger Dibble and they will be trading work back and forth between the Highway Departments. In regards to the roadside brush cutting, Councilman McIntosh thought that the rental of the brush cutter the Town had a couple of years ago was \$10,000 a month and the Town had it for two months, and the Town also had to pay for the trucking of the equipment. McIntosh feels that it is good to do that work in the spring and then things green up over the summer. Councilwoman Stewart asked Burgin if he would be brush cutting all roads. He said he would see how much they could get done. Councilwoman Robson said that Bovina roads were all open and passable in good time. She said that other Towns were still not completely plowed out the Monday following the storm. Supervisor Molé asked Burgin if he was anticipating any problems with the rain that is forecast. Burgin said that there have been outlets made in the snow where possible for runoff. He added that there was 54" of snow on Tunis Lake area.

Councilman McIntosh feels that the changing of the committees that was done by Supervisor Molé in January was a very wise move. He said there is a lot of conversation back and forth now and things are working fine. He feels that the Board has more insight on what's going on now.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hewitt
Town Clerk