

Bovina Town Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2013

RESOLUTIONS: 2013 – 10 – 28

Board Members Present: Tina Molé, Supervisor; Charles McIntosh, Mark Rossley, Evelyn Stewart, Gerald Wright, Members of Council; Catherine Hewitt, Town Clerk; Edward Weber, Highway Superintendent

Others Present: Gabrielle Pierce, Delaware County Times Reporter; Ken Brown, Kevin Brown, Dick Barnhart, Pat Miele, Josh Choquette, Water Superintendent

The meeting was opened at 6:15 PM by Supervisor Molé.

2013-10 The minutes of the December 11, 2012 minutes were approved as amended.

Supervisor Molé	Aye
Councilman McIntosh	Aye
Councilwoman Stewart	Aye
Councilman Rossley	Nay
Councilman Wright	Aye

Supervisor Molé informed the Board about the Association of Towns annual notification of training as well as the annual dues of \$600.00.

2013-11 The **GENERAL** bills (179-190) from December 2012 were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Stewart, seconded by Wright. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-12 The **WATER** bills (51-52) from December 2012 were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Rossley. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-13 The **SEPTIC** bills (57-61) from December 2012 were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Wright, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-14 The **HIGHWAY** bills (225-239) from December 2012 were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Rossley, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-15 The **GENERAL** bills (1-10) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Stewart, seconded by Rossley. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-16 The **LIGHTING** bill (1-1) was audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Wright, seconded by McIntosh. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-17 The **WATER** bill (1-1) was audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Rossley, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-18 The **SEPTIC** bill (1-1) was audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Rossley, seconded by Wright. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-19 The Board audited the Town Accounts and the Account of the Justice Court prior to the meeting and it was moved by Rossley, seconded by Stewart to approve as final for 2012. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays

2013-20 It was moved by Wright, seconded by McIntosh to authorize the Bookkeeper to make the budget transfers necessary to close the books for 2012. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

2013-21 It was moved by Wright, seconded by Rossley to authorize the Bookkeeper to transfer up to \$5,000 in spending within funds to avoid overages in appropriations. When this occurs, it will be reported back to the Board the month following any changes made to the budget. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

2013-22 It was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Wright to authorize Supervisor Molé to sign the yearly contract with the Delaware County Planning Department. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Supervisor Molé distributed a letter from Andy Wos, representative for Broadland's Management Corporation. They are asking for the Town to discontinue maintenance of the entire length of Bigger Hollow Road and the portion of Calhoun Hill Road between the intersections of Alder Pond Road and Bigger Hollow Road. Wos will attend the February Board meeting to discuss this with the Board. Questions from Council were: who owns property on both sides of the road, does the Town have the responsibility to establish if there is a school bus route, will there be issues with turning around for the plow and other highway equipment, what happens if the Broadlands property changes hands in the future. It was also noted that the road can't be privatized unless other owners on the road are in agreement. It was further noted that taking away from the total miles of roads will hurt the CHIPS funding for the Highway department.

2013-23 It was moved by Rossley, seconded by McIntosh for the Supervisor, Members of Council and the Highway Superintendent to sign the Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys for 2013. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Councilman McIntosh said that the estimate from Richard Brannen Carpentry is for \$701.81. This includes removing the track lighting from the office and installing it in the foyer, put new fluorescent lighting in the office and a new ballast in the light on the stage. The amount is an estimate and will be done for less if possible.

2013-24 It was moved by Wright, seconded by Stewart to accept the \$701.81 estimate. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

2013-25 It was moved by Rossley, seconded by Stewart to have Highway Superintendent Weber deliver 100-gallons of diesel fuel to the emergency generator at the septic field. Highway will bill the Septic District for the fuel. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

ADVISOR REPORTS

FINANCIAL – Councilwoman Stewart met with the Bookkeeper Hanley. He has assured her that the 2012 Annual Report will be done in February. Stewart noted that two of phone bills have still not had the long distance switched and that two of the electric bills are still not on Ambit. Councilman McIntosh noted that it was three electric bills and that it is now two. Supervisor Molé noted that the report from the Comptroller's Office will be mailed to the Board. She and Bookkeeper Hanley will meet with the representatives from the Comptroller's Office for an exit interview.

TRANSFER STATION/PLAYGROUND – Councilman Rossley has talked with the Operator and things are going well. Rossley will go over the contract with the Operator and the Owner of the hauling company to adjust for the next RFP.

HIGHWAY – Councilman Wright said he had a phone call from a resident on Doig Hollow who said the wing was low on the plow and sod was pushed up. Wright said he noticed snow by the steps in front of the hall. Councilman McIntosh said that the snow in front of the hall has been pushed up past the handicap ramp. Highway Superintendent Weber asked about plowing the parking area next to the building and McIntosh said people use it when they come to the Post Office so highway should plow the whole thing. Wright went on to say that he's been on the Board a year and he likes working here. He hopes that the tax payers appreciate the Board, especially Evelyn, Chuck and Tina as he feels they do an excellent job, and added that Joe Hanley is an excellent bookkeeper and the Town is lucky to have him.

BUILDINGS – Councilman McIntosh said that he hasn't gotten a chance to go over the Community Hall Use Policy. There is a group of young girls playing basketball every week now. Good to see the Hall being used.

Councilman Rossley said that there was a comment from the Fire Commissioner's regarding the water meter for the Fire Hall. Contact should be DeeDee Stewart, not Bob Burgin, for anything to do with the building as it belongs to the Fire District not the Fire Department.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Highway Superintendent Weber said that KJBL has installed a temporary frequency for the Highway Department. This is currently a service call so the cost is for a service call. A repeater will be needed and the salt shed will probably be the best place for it. The cost to install will be \$4,500 to \$5,000. Weber said that in regards to the fuel issue with the Fire Department, they currently have one key. They were told they could have one for each truck but have not been down to get them. The Fire Department has an existing key fob system in place which could be expanded for fuel access but it wouldn't log fuel usage. The Bovina Road Bridge has to have engineering done in order to move forward. Weber has contacted five Engineering firms and had a response back from two. Delaware Engineering gave a price of \$58,800 and Keystone Hawk's estimate was \$77,700. The designs for the new bridge have to go through Army Corp of Engineers, DEC and Delaware County DPW. The Town has 60-days to appeal the decision made by FEMA. Councilman McIntosh asked if the costs were eligible from FEMA and Weber said they were. Supervisor Molé said the County costs would be for the County to take over the bridge. McIntosh asked if the Town could change what is done in the rebuild to a smaller bridge, maintained by the Town that would last 50 years and if there is a start-up fee. Weber said that the start-up fee for Delaware Engineering is \$12,500 and for Keystone Hawk it is \$22,000. The Town can stop at \$12,500 and see what they want to do at that point. McIntosh said that this phase has to be done to see if the Town can win the appeal. Councilwoman Stewart asked if the appeal process can be done in 30-days. Weber said that the companies involved said that it can be done in that time frame. Molé feels that there's a good chance the appeal will benefit the Town. She said the engineering study has to be done no matter what. McIntosh said that the Town is risking \$12,500. He said that this has to start someplace and the Town should have a good case. If the bridge has to be shut down, it will affect 30 full and/or part time residents. Weber said it has been approved to be rebuilt and both engineers are confident and familiar with the bridge. Weber said that the Clerk of the Works for the project can be someone from the Town. He said that FEMA is only going to give \$80,000. If the Town can prove the bridge needs to be bigger in the appeal

process, FEMA has to pay for it to meet Army Corp of Engineers standards/specifications. Councilman Wright asked if there was another plan if the Town gets turned down in its appeal. Weber said there isn't at this time. Councilman McIntosh asked Weber about replacing a tire on the Mack and said he didn't see a bill for that. Weber said the Town had a spare tire and the cost was \$10.00 to put it on. McIntosh asked if State Bid for tires had been looked into. Weber said he is looking into cost of tires and has contacted Becker's and McCarthy's thus far. Councilwoman Stewart said that she understood that the Town of Bovina Highway and the Town of Andes Highway had a radio system together. Both entities paid half of set-up and half of the yearly maintenance. She asked if anyone on the Board knew why the Bovina Highway was removed from that radio system. There was no knowledge as to why that system was no longer used by Bovina. It was noted that the High Band radio has better coverage. Councilman Rossley said he believes that Bovina Highway was switched off the Andes frequency and put on High Band sometime between November 2006 and March of 2007 for better coverage and less users. The radio repeater had already been purchased by the Fire Department so the Town Highway only had to purchase, he believes, ten radios. Supervisor Molé said she doesn't recall a charge with Andes for radio set up or maintenance. Stewart asked Rossley if the existing radios will work with a new system. Rossley said they would.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Ken Brown said that the Board is discussing how to pay to repair a bridge at a cost of \$325,000. The Board approved new assessment rates when he was on the Board and there are no results yet. He realizes now that the approval of the three-year project, now going into the fourth-year, could have been done in error. There could be another two or three year delay. Supervisor Molé said that the Assessor is close to completing the update. Councilman Wright said that the older community members on fixed incomes cannot afford a big tax increase and with a revaluation things usually go up. Brown said that 1/3 go up, 1/3 go down and 1/3 will stay the same. He feels that the Board needs to look into this and hurry it along. He never would have approved the project if he knew it was going to take this long. Kevin Brown said that with the split rates, new construction is paying the new rates and that hurts them. Ken Brown asked about the status of the insurance claim on the phone building. Supervisor Molé said it's covered and she will check on the status. Brown said if a claim was filed, and a claim was paid, were they made aware of the circumstances? Molé said that they were.

Pat Miele said that the Bovina Road Bridge is a big inconvenience for Fire and EMS as well as others. Highway Superintendent Weber said it adds 3 ½ miles to access Crescent Valley.

2013-26 It was moved by Stewart, seconded by Rossley to move into Executive Session at 7:50 PM for personnel discussion. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

2013-27 It was moved by Stewart, seconded by Rossley to adjourn Executive Session at 9:08 PM. All in favor, 5 ayes. 0 naves.

2013-28 It was moved by Rossley, seconded by Wright to have Water Superintendent Choquette go to class when the Department of Health deems it necessary and to notify the Department of Health of the Boards plans to further Choquette's education. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 naves.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hewitt, Clerk