

Bovina Town Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2013

RESOLUTIONS: 2013 – 41 – 49

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

Others Present: Gabrielle Pierce, Delaware County Times Reporter; Joe Gifford, Town Assessor; Kevin Brown, Steve Burnett, Ken Brown, Chris Ingvorsen, Dick Barnhart, Joan Burns

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

Supervisor Molé asked Joe Gifford to give a report to the Board. Gifford said that the project is ongoing; it has taken longer than first anticipated. There is a tremendous amount of computer work involved with the process. He uses the Delhi Youth Bureau and has an Intern who works with him during the summer months. There are 1002 pieces of property in Bovina, 484 are residential. He has completed all of the vacant land parcels and has finished site visits on half of the residential which brings him to about 65% completed. He said that the State won't entertain a re-evaluation until all of the data is in the computer. If the Town decides to do a re-evaluation when the data entry is finished, it won't be started until about two years after the Inventory Project. Since the re-evaluation needs five-years of sales to go on, and the sales in Bovina are low, sales from adjoining Towns may have to be used. The State is looking for 40 sales in one-year, and Bovina has a little more than 40 in five years. Gifford said that the Board needs to discuss cost estimates for the re-evaluation. The estimates he had gotten varied from \$32,000 to \$90,000. He said that he will do what he can to assist on a re-evaluation and there is a state assisted re-evaluation which uses the data Gifford has completed. A re-evaluation can be less money if it is done in-house. Gifford said that he would like to see the data collection project finished by the spring of 2014. Supervisor Molé said that if the Board decides that a re-evaluation is the route to take, they will have to plan ahead. It will not be feasible to do a re-evaluation without budgeting for it. Judging from the estimates, a re-evaluation could be up to a 20% tax increase. Gifford said that when he feels that the data is accurate and ready for a re-evaluation, he will come back to discuss it with the Board.

Steve Burnett from Farming Bovina came to the Board to discuss having a Farmer's Market at the Transfer Station on Saturday mornings during the hours of operation. The Market has been held at Russell's Store and after two-years, it is felt that they need to be in a higher traffic area. Supervisor Molé said that she has spoken to Councilman Stewart, a member of Farming Bovina, as well as the Insurance Company. Councilman Stewart said that the individual farmers have their own insurance. Highway Superintendent Weber said he doesn't see a problem with it and the area needs to be cleaned up anyway. Councilman Rossley asked what the footprint of the Farmer's Market would be. Burnett said that they are looking at about a 10X20 foot space with a portable canopy for the vendors and five parking spaces. Supervisor Molé asked how many vendors there were. Burnett said currently there is one, others dropped off due to lack of traffic. There could be 4 or 5 vendors. Burnett asked about how many people use the Transfer on an average Saturday. Councilman Rossley said about 75. Supervisor Molé said that she will talk to the Town's Insurance Representative. It was noted that the Town will need a copy of the vendors Certificate of Insurance on file

and that Highway Superintendent Weber and Councilman Rossley should be involved in the preparation of the area to be used. Burnett said that they anticipate running the Market June through October. Councilwoman Stewart told Burnett that May through September the Transfer Station is open on Wednesday afternoons. Burnett said they will see how Saturday mornings go and move from there.

2013-41 It was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Rossley to accept the minutes of the February Meeting as amended. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays. Councilman McIntosh asked that the letter of response from Supervisor Molé to the State Comptroller's Office be attached to the February minutes.

It was noted that due to a problem with Pump Station #9 for the Septic System, there was an increase in the bill from Lamont this month.

Supervisor Molé said that the Contract to mow the Town Lawns and the Septic Field have two 1-year options to hire the same contractor. Councilman Rossley asked if the pump stations, the Water Filter Building, and the stations on the septic field were added to the contract. Molé said she will speak with Mike Jonker and have him write up exactly what should be put in the contract. The RFP will be done after the April Meeting, with bids being awarded at the May Meeting.

2013-42 The **GENERAL** bills (33-50) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Stewart, seconded by Rossley. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-43 The **LIGHTING** bill (3-3) was audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Wright, seconded by McIntosh. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-44 The **WATER** bills (6-11) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Rossley, seconded by Stewart. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-45 The **SEPTIC** bills (7-10) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Wright, seconded by McIntosh. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

2013-46 The **HIGHWAY** bills (19-32) were audited prior to the meeting and approval for payment was moved by Rossley, seconded by Wright. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Supervisor Molé brought up the discussion of the pay raises and how they are calculated. She feels that the raise should be based on what the employee's salary is now, not the rate they came in on. She will write up what she feels the policy should be and bring it back for the Board to vote on.

2013-47 It was moved by Rossley, seconded by Wright to have the Clerk place the Legal Notice advertising the Highway Material Bids. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

ADVISOR REPORTS

HIGHWAY – Councilman Wright said that he met with Highway Superintendent Weber and a replacement program was discussed. Wright feels that a replacement program doesn't always work. There is a need to talk about replacing equipment. Wright looked at the office and there doesn't seem to be any noticeable movement. He had a call from a neighbor to the Highway Garage saying they are getting a lot of noise in the morning when the trucks are being loaded and getting ready to plow.

FINANCE – Councilwoman Stewart said that she met with Bookkeeper Joe Hanley. He has applied for an extension for the Annual Report. They discussed the Audit Report from the Comptroller's Office. Stewart

said Hanley is working on a spreadsheet for the checkbooks and bills to be done quarterly. She would like to get this to a monthly thing. Stewart noted that there was a decrease in the insurance bill of \$1,437.44 from last year.

BUILDINGS – Councilman McIntosh said that Bookkeeper Hanley isn't happy with the new light in the office. McIntosh will look into a second light or what a solution could be. He said that two bulbs are needed to fix the lights on the stage. McIntosh said that there was a class held at the Community Hall recently and there was a problem with a light in the basement. He contacted Chad Trimbell, who came in and replaced a ballast. Trimbell said that the lights in the basement are older and should be replaced for safety. McIntosh said that there has been talk about painting the Community Hall. He would like the Boards input on what should be done. Should something be done to the ramp and deck or just the building? He asked for Board input for possible painters to send an RFP to. The track lighting that was going in the foyer has the wire hookup on the end and it needs to be in the center. Two new pieces of track will be needed to finish that job. McIntosh noted that the Drogan's bill had included tax which the Bookkeeper will have removed. A resident asked to use the basement to do painting for his business. The Clerk asked the resident to contact Councilman McIntosh to set it up and obtain the key from him. That was not done and the Board feels that the Hall is not for someone to use for business purposes. The Clerk will send him an email asking him to finish up and remove his equipment.

PLAYGROUND/TRANSFER STATION – Councilman Rossley said that he has talked to the operator about cleaning the station up. He spoke with Highway Superintendent Weber about the Highway Department taking a load of small appliances and a couple of refrigerators to the County landfill or should a dumpster be hired. Weber said the Highway Crew will take care of it when the weather warms up.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Highway Superintendent Weber said that the paperwork for the Bovina Bridge is in FEMA's hands. The specs will come from the County. In regards to the fuel, he has a couple of estimates. They will use a fob system which has a dial system to shut things off and there is a time set. Councilman McIntosh asked about the price. Weber said it is about \$850. The fire alarm system prices ranged from \$3,200 to \$15,000. Weber personally feels that the fire alarm system should be done. The Highway Department has older vehicles with older wiring. There would be smoke detectors in the office, break room and hallway and heat detectors in the garage area. The fuel system has a monthly monitoring charge of \$24.95, to include a yearly certification the monthly cost goes to \$34.95. Councilman Rossley asked if the fob system will be the same as the Fire Department. He feels that the Town Highway should be different. He doesn't want to see 30 fobs that can be used, 10 would be better. Weber said that the fuel usage will still have to be recorded on pads in the trucks as well as a fuel log by the fuel tanks. Councilman McIntosh asked about what will happen if something goes wrong. ZS Security has a 90-day warranty on the installation and Kevin Brown was unsure what Honeywell offers on their equipment. McIntosh said that the key fob system does have to be done. Supervisor Molé said she's sorry to see it come to this, but it is what it is.

2013-48 It was moved by McIntosh, seconded by Wright to accept ZS Security's price of \$852.32 to install a fob key system for fuel usage at the Highway Garage. The Fire Commissioner's will pay half. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Highway Superintendent Weber said that the fire alarm system should seriously be considered as soon as possible. Councilman McIntosh feels that there should be some investigation done on that with the Insurance Company. Supervisor Molé said that she will speak to the Insurance Company. Councilman Rossley moved to install the fire alarm system at a cost of \$3,194.20, there was no second.

2013-49 It was moved by Stewart, seconded by McIntosh to get more information from Insurance in regards to savings with having the fire alarm system and bringing it back at the April meeting. All in favor, 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Weber said that the radio system KJBL installed temporarily is working fine. KJBL feels that the repeater can go at the Highway Garage rather than the salt/sand storage building. This will mean a considerable savings since everything is already at the garage. There isn't a final price since that will depend on when the FCC license is done.

Weber said that there had been discussion on replacing the backhoe in 2013. He feels that the current backhoe still works and can be put on hold as far as replacing it. He said that the trucks continue to give the crew issues and he feels that replacement should start with the trucks for now. He has found a 2009 International in Jamestown, NY. It was \$173,000 new and the negotiable price now is \$99,000. It has 16,000 miles and a wing. Everything is in place for a front plow and he thinks one they have may fit. He would need to purchase a sander which would be about \$7,000. He asked for input from the Board on their feelings about him pursuing this truck or looking for other possibilities. Councilman Rossley asked if Weber was planning to add this truck in or take a truck out and replace it with this. Weber said that the Volvo has given them the most problems, it has a bent frame and there is a lot of rust on it. He can keep it for use as a dump truck. He added that a lot was spent on the purchase of the truck and a lot has been spent on it to keep it going. Councilman Stewart asked if the Volvo was the latest truck that was purchased. Weber said that it was. Councilman McIntosh asked if Weber is keeping track of the amount spent on each truck. Weber said that he has kept track but needs help with the computer work. Supervisor Molé asked if this would be an outright purchase and not an auction. Weber said that it would be a purchase, and that he has talked with Russ Cole at Cole's Garage who says that the truck is set up for what Bovina can use. Weber is looking at an auger sander and asked for the Board's input on whether or not he should pursue this. Molé as well as all council members agreed that Weber should go look at the truck. Deputy Highway Superintendent Barnhart asked if the Board had a dollar amount they want to cap out at. Molé said they should see what their bottom dollar is. McIntosh asked if there was anyone Weber knew of that had auger sanders. Weber said he has to look into that. Weber said he's not sure if the truck has to be put out to bid or it can be an outright purchase. He will contact Association of Towns to find out how to go about the purchase.

Weber said that during the last storm they had two trucks go into the ditch, one was on its side but there was minimal damage. He has posted Cape Horn Road for spring conditions and has talked to the loggers in that area. They have agreed to go in early in the morning before the road gets soft. Councilman McIntosh said that he noticed on the bills that the Highway Department had replaced two rims on the Mack. He asked if any other rims had been replaced this year. Weber said that one on the other side of the Mack was replaced and the rims on the International last month. McIntosh asked if any chains had been replaced and Weber said yes they still have to run chains and they wear out. He did purchase extra chain since the price is about half right now.

Councilman McIntosh said that his son Brian worked for the Highway Department and was hurt on the job. He had to have an operation and has had to do it over again. Someone has said that Brian was going back on compensation. He never was on compensation, and won't be now. McIntosh wanted to set the record straight.

Councilwoman Stewart said that she noticed that the propane bill was high for the Highway Garage this month. Weber said that Amerigas hadn't filled it and it ran out on a cold weekend. It doesn't appear that there was an extra charge for this to be taken care of.

Supervisor Molé advised the Board that there is a group sending anti-fracking emails to herself, Councilwoman Stewart and the Clerk. She will do a response to the emails and copy the Board on that. She has spoken with the Town Attorney and a ban would take 10 to 12 days so this is not an issue at this time.

Councilman McIntosh said that he noticed the bill from Quill was high. The Clerk said that Highway had the expense of a new printer since the old one was shot, all of the general office supplies are charged to the building because all offices use them, and the paper products purchased were for the custodian to use between the Highway Garage and the Community Hall.

Highway Superintendent Weber said that the floor has been done in the office, hallway and break room at the highway garage. They came out great and protection has been put on the bottom of the chairs to protect the floor.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Ken Brown said that he feels that using the Community Hall for business purposes would be a mistake. There is no Board or Community Hall Policy and that allows the Board to charge. The old policy said donation, so you could get a \$20.00 donation and have a \$100.00 heating bill.

Councilman McIntosh said that there is income that comes into the Town from various sources. He would like to have an account of the income beside the property tax money. Supervisor Molé said that she will talk with the Bookkeeper about doing this. Councilwoman Stewart asked if McIntosh wants something annually. He said he would like to see it done more often and wants it broken down from different sources.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hewitt
Clerk/Collector