

TOWN OF COVERT
SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, August 8, 2016 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
	Councilman Gary Hunt	Present
	Councilman Jeffrey Vann	Present
	Councilman Leon Anderson	Present
	Councilman William Bishop	Present

Others Present: Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Planning Board Member Rob Schoffel, Assessment Review Board Members Will Millard and Brayton Foster, 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: Anderson moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular meeting minutes from July 11, 2016 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Presenter: Linda Blossom addressed the Town Board about how Tompkins County shares sales tax revenue with all their towns while Seneca County does not. The county should be required to do what the local communities do, by using its share of sales tax revenue.

Councilman Hunt shared that Highway Superintendant MacCheyne was pleased with their new mower, Tom Hayward and the great job he is doing.

Councilman Bishop asked if the budget process and workshops could be started sooner and could they meet with the employees to see what they wanted for salary and equipment needs.

Councilman Hunt shared about the Bicentennial plans for the Town of Covert, and that Deb Nottke is Chairman. Some things they are planning are an art contest that will include all students and three places for prizes money. Some activities planned are a barn dance, a float for Olde Home Day and different kinds of transportation in the Town of Covert over the years.

Councilman Anderson shared that maybe a grant could be applied for through the STEPS Program for a social night, a dunking booth and ice cream, and maybe a fire demonstration.

Councilman Anderson also shared that he talked to the State Comptroller Office about the Court revenue from tickets and they said a town should not depend on the Judge to raise so much money for the budget. Money that comes in from tickets should be considered a surplus and then it can be used in the next year's budget.

There was some discussion on solar installations, and should it be taxed; does it increase value of a property? Councilman Vann read an email from the Town of Covert Assessor. Mr. Franklin shared that he has yet to see an impact, positive or negative, on the solar installation on a residential property. So, at this time, they are not adding tax value to property. There was more discussion on wind farms and solar; they will not be taxed at this time.

The Town of Covert was asked to consider adopting a resolution called "Think Differently". This is a call to action, a genuine challenge to determine if we have it within ourselves to look past our differences and treat others the way we would hope to be treated. Too often, too many with special needs are overlooked and their unique abilities are overlooked or ignored. This request comes from a father who has an autistic daughter. Councilman Bishop asked what could be done to help out and make a difference. A suggestion was made that road signs could be put up so the disabled can cross the road easier.

There was some discussion on camping trailers and, if the wheels are removed, are they permanent and can they be taxable. It was determined that if the axles were still on them legally, they could still be moved.

There was discussion on changing the name of Schier Road again and how to have the correction of the spelling to "Schrier" reflecting the actual last name of Charles Schrier. Councilman Vann made a motion to change the road sign but did not receive a second. Councilman Hunt made a motion to put up a plaque in Charlie Schrier's honor on the road.

Resolution 6-16 Accounting budget lines

WHEREAS good accounting practices require balanced budget lines and WHEREAS there is an overspending in the following budget lines: Town Board Contractual, Deputy Clerk Personnel, Municipal Dues and WHEREAS due to the change in status from Active to Retired there is a surplus in the Supervisor's Personnel line, now therefore be it RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Board authorizes the following budget amendments to the 2016 budget:

Decrease the Supervisors Personnel Line A1220.1 from \$6,485.00 to \$4,255.99

Increase the Town Board Contractual A1010.4 from Zero to \$373.95

Increase the Supervisor's Contractual A1220.4 from Zero to \$165.00

Increase the Deputy Town Clerk A1410.11 from \$1,500 to \$3,000

Motion: Councilman Hunt, Seconded by Councilman Bishop:

Aye-Councilman Vann, Aye-Councilman Hunt, Aye-Councilman Bishop and Aye-Councilman Anderson

Resolution 7-16 "Think Differently" Initiative to Assist Individuals with Special Needs and Their Families

WHEREAS, the "Think Differently" initiative is about promoting awareness and acceptance of all people, and advocating for the inclusion of all individuals living on the Autism Spectrum and with special needs; and WHEREAS, our state and communities are stronger because of our diversity and differences; and WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 55 million people, or approximately 19% of Americans, have a type of disability or special need; and WHEREAS, for some people with special needs, the very things that make them unique can also keep them on the sidelines, separate from those who might not understand their differences or uniqueness; and WHEREAS, it is important to promote and provide guidance to those with special needs on how to access publically supported services available to them in the community; and WHEREAS, it is important to encourage and educate the community and businesses on ways they can make facilities and services more accessible and on how to train staff to welcome and support special needs customers and co-workers; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this initiative is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families; and WHEREAS, adopting the "Think Differently" initiative is an important statement that our Town officials, business owners

and residents can make to show their support for the differently-abled children and adults with special needs, and their families. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Covert residents and business owners to adopt the "Think Differently" initiative so that all are better prepared to communicate with, provide for, and support those living on the Autism Spectrum and with special needs.

Motion: Councilman Anderson, Seconded by Councilman Hunt: Aye-Councilman Bishop, Aye-Councilman Hunt, Aye-Councilman Vann and Aye-Councilman Anderson.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to place an ad to seek bids for the repair work that needs to be done on the Town Highway Barns. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Vann.

Anderson moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for July 2016. Aye-Anderson, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of July 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Bishop.

Anderson moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for July 2016. A total of \$1,471.00 was received and \$866.79 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of July 2016. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Bishop moved, seconded by Vann, to approve Dog Control Officer's report for July 2016. Aye-Anderson, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

Hunt moved, seconded by Anderson, to put up a plaque to honor Charles Schrier with the correct spelling of "Schrier" on Schier Road.

Nay-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson, Aye-Hunt and Nay-Reynolds.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #100-118 in the amount of \$53,380.25 and General Fund Vouchers #127-142 in the amount of \$11,036.56 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Anderson.

Anderson moved, seconded by Hunt, to go into executive session at 8:30 to discuss a personnel matter for Court. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Anderson.

Hunt moved, Seconded by Vann, to come out of executive session at 9:40. No action was taken. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk