

**TOWN OF COVERT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 9, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, May 9, 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 Jeffrey Vann	Present
	Councilman Gary Hunt	Present
	Councilman William Bishop	Present
	Councilperson Deborah Nottke	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Reporter Aneta Glover 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.

Councilman Vann shared about the interviews of applicants for the Town Council position, that they interviewed four applicants and in the interest of bipartisanship our recommendation is for Deborah Nottke to fill the present councilperson position.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to appoint Deborah Nottke to fill the Town Councilperson position. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Town Clerk Colleen Freese swore in Deborah Nottke as Town Councilperson.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the minutes from April 9, 2016, April 11, 2016 and April 16, 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt, Recuse-Nottke.

Presenter: Meg Jastran shared that Interlaken Olde Home Day is June 11, 2016. She was able to apply for a grant through the Greater Rochester Health Foundation and receives \$400.00 to advertise for Olde Home Day. They are looking to have some new activities, possibly a movie on Friday night and activities for the children.

Meg also shared that she is part of a welcome committee and they have taken baskets to new people moving into the Village of Interlaken and want to include the Town of Covert. If anyone knows of new residents, please call Meg Jastran at 607-844-4572 or Gina Negro at 607-294-4013.

Highway Superintendent MacCheyne reported that the new John Deer tractor should be delivered next month.

Deb Nottke introduced herself to the public and stated that she wanted to be available to the public. She has served on the Trumansburg Village Board and is now a Town of Covert resident.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that next year is the 200 year anniversary for the Town of Covert and wants the Board to think about what they should do to celebrate. Councilperson Nottke suggested they get a committee to work with the Historical Society. Councilman Hunt stated he would be on the committee.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that he attended the annual meeting at Cayuga Medical Center and that the Hospital has merged with Roswell in Rochester and Schuyler. This gives the public a better pool of Doctors and specialists to choose from.

The New York State Department of Transportation received the letter from the Town Board requesting to lower the speed limit on Route 96A. They will conduct a formal investigation on the requested location of 96A and, upon completion, they will notify the Town of the result and their determination.

There was discussion about the bids for the Town Hall electric repairs that are needed in the basement and on the sign outside. The bids were from Hubbard's for \$1,966.84 and from Parish Electric for \$1,200.00.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that he received a letter from Jessica Schrier about the history of Schier Road and that it is spelled wrong. She is requesting that the road signs be changed to its original spelling "Schrier" Road. There was discussion that a petition should be done to see if the residents on this road want to have it changed, as they would have to change all their legal documents to recognize the different spelling. One end of the Road is the Town of Covert's and the other end is State road, so this will also involve getting the State to change the road sign.

Charles Bosman asked if anything more had been done about the Village of Interlaken and the Town of Covert combining offices. Supervisor Reynolds said he would talk with the Village again and see what they are thinking, because it is almost time to apply for grants if they are going to move forward.

May 9, 2016 from Emily Aman

Questions: 1. How much of the 31' sq miles of the Town of Covert is farm land?

2. How many bids for revaluation did you look at'?

3. How much was GAR paid for the revaluation?

4. Because much of the land in Covert is farm land, did the contract specified that an appraiser must be certified to assess farm Land?

5. How much investigating of the appraiser's claim of other projects, did the board do?

6. If he did farm land, were the farmers satisfied?

7. Where did the figures of \$4,500 and \$4,000 come from when he specifically said that they were using recent sales? The assessors hand book says an assessor may use from the last three years or the recent sixteen months. There has been no sales in the town of Covert so we submitted proof from Lodi and Ovid where most sales were under \$3000, We also submitted proof of three sale of large parcels of farm land in the town of Ulysses that were under \$3,000 an acre. Apparently he decided to ignore them. I understand that GAR has a very good computer program so it seems that the figures could easily be changed to \$3,000

Statements;

8. We went to grievance March 18th with the proofs but Barnett did not forward the final Assessments until April 22'. Over a month to review 188 petitions Mr. Franklin had just a few days, I think April 26 or 29th after that to submit the tentative roll to the county, we have read that the assessor cannot change the data after that time. We did not receive from GAR, our changes or no changes, in time take advantage of that short window time. I believe that GAR intentionally waited to the last minute to send the final report and notification to us. We still have not received an Inventory Report or the \$ figures placed on each item.

9. We can still go to our own grievance committee in June but my belief is that they shouldn't have to correct an unfair assessments on residential or farm land .The town of Covert has already paid for what they believed would be an honest and fair revaluation. This can be continued pass the June hearing, with a Lawyer, to the Supreme Court with someone with more Legal knowledge then I have.

Just as an afterthought, I can't wait to see how or if this revaluation affects our school taxes. Especially, when rumor is that Como wants to rescind Star from your tax bill and let you use the credit on your income taxes. How about the ones who own their own homes but do not have an income that requires a reporting? New York State giveth and taketh away, even if it is a school tax star program or an agricultural exemption.

Councilman Vann shared that he has a drawing and scope of services for the Highway Barn electrical work that needs to be done, so all bids can have the same scope to bid on.

Councilman Vann also shared that he has a new draft of the job description for the duties of the Code Enforcement Officer. He hand it out to board members and asked for their input.

There was some discussion about the Black Diamond Trail and dogs not being on leashes, but running free. This is private property and the Town Council agreed they don't want a leash law for dogs. It is up to dog owners to keep their dog under control.

Councilman Hunt shared, that a dinner was held to raise money to take care of the cemetery. They raised around \$1,800.00 to pay for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's income and expenditure report for April, 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Nottke and Aye-Hunt.

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

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report April, 2016. A total of \$758.50 was received and \$500.59 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Nottke.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of April, 2016. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Nottke.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of April, 2016. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Nottke.

Hunt moved, Seconded by Nottke, to accept Parish Electric's bid to do the electric work on the Town Hall in the amount of \$1,200.00. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Nottke.

Nottke moved, seconded by Hunt, that Highway Fund Vouchers #51-70 in the amount of \$11,163.25 and General Fund Vouchers #82-96 in the amount of \$13,095.18 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Nottke.

Nottke moved, Seconded by Vann, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese Town Clerk