

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilman Gary Hunt	Present
	Councilman Jeffrey Vann	Present
	Councilman Leon Anderson	Present
	Councilman William Bishop	Present

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Deputy Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Reporter Aneta Glover, Planning Board Member Rob Schoffel, Ovid Town Supervisor Walt Prouty and other interested citizens.

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Hearing:** Vann made the motion, seconded by Anderson, to open the joint hearing of Interlaken, Ovid & Covert for the Interlaken Fire Contract. Supervisor Reynolds explained the reasons for the hearing and what areas the contract covers (Bergen Beach – north, Interlaken, Covert). He also stated that it had gone up about \$3000.00 from the previous year, but this was the first increase in 2 years.

Reynolds expressed concern for the decrease in Fire and Rescue manpower due to mandates.

A townspeople asked who is to be called for an emergency. It was stated that they should call 911 & they would alert everyone in the local districts.

Town of Ovid Supervisor Walt Prouty said they agreed with Fire Contract as written.  
Hunt moved to close the public hearing for the Interlaken Fire Contract, Anderson seconded.

**Presenter:** Town of Covert Historian John Hunt thanked the Town for their support of the Interlaken Historical Society and explained that monies pay for insurance, property, events, etc. He also shared that individual membership is encouraged and the member will receive a newsletter. He explained that trustees meet monthly and there are four public meetings in a year; previous topics were Lehigh Valley Railroad, Gardening, Apples and Hops. He mentioned that the new release “Covert Memories” is for sale at the library. He encouraged local writers to write. He reminded all that Plowing Day is Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 with a parade at noon, and said there would be free transportation from the elementary school to the John T. Wells Barn. Also, Dr. Madison will share about dairy animals and there will be horses, oxen, plows and a drawing for a gift basket.

Hunt mentioned that next year is the town’s bicentennial. The Historical Society April 2017 meeting will be on how the area was settled, the Summer Social will be in July, September's theme will be 200 Years of Transportation, and, in October, there will be music and dance at the Brook Farm. Volunteers and funding are needed. Other possible activities for the Bicentennial are fireworks and the participation of the Doug’s Fishfry truck. For more information, they are on Facebook at TLC200.

**Highway Superintendent:** Superintendent MacCheyne read his monthly report. He added that he had worked with Seneca County on Cayuga Street. MacCheyne also reported that they had mowed the back

slopes once and when they get the tractor back they will finish.

Councilman Bishop expressed the Dog Control Officer's need for a magnetic mount light on top of his car and also a flashlight or floodlight was needed. These items must be added to the Dog Control Officer's inventory list.

Councilman Hunt reported on the up-coming Bi-Centennial celebration in 2017. Anderson said the Kids' Night Out would cost about \$1200 and he would be on a Radio sub-committee. There will be an art contest for middle school, high school & adults with money prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in each age group and a people's choice award; contest ends Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both Hunt and Anderson would volunteer for a dunking booth.

Tony from Solar Seneca reported on the NYSEDA release of funds for the "Silver" initiative. Meetings will be held Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned they should be receiving funding for low and moderate income communities by the end of the month.

Letters of interest are needed from the local municipalities. They will need involvement from Highway Departments, libraries, etc., then individuals. Krys Cail will share more at the October Town Board Meeting.

Chuck Bosman shared that the Community Action Group will not be printing a calendar this year. Volunteers would be needed for the work of collecting materials and sponsors in order for the calendar to continue.

Councilman Vann shared on the need for electrical work on the Town buildings and that the Town could save money by having the Highway department employees laying out the conduits on the off-season.

Vann also shared that he and Supervisor Reynolds attended a meeting regarding the planning of a new addition on the back of the firehouse. The cost was estimated at \$1.4 million and The Town of Covert would share 25% of the cost, paid over 20-25 years.

Councilman Anderson shared that the Budget Meeting is September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00p.m. and, also, that Rich Richardson would like to be part of the Bi-Centennial planning.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that there will be a Core B training for Justices on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 that Judge Schmidt would like to attend.

Reynolds stated that he is working on a 5-year plan for the Town of Covert. He shared that most of the expense is in the Highway Dept. He has begun the process of laying out a plan for the various Highway vehicle and equipment replacements over the next few years including tractor, electric, pickups, 10-wheelers, roller, etc. Hunt mentioned the building will need a lot of work. MacCheyne said they need to cut down the draft in the Town Barn. The judge has been looking into grants for a jury room, as the kitchen is inadequate for that purpose. It was also mentioned that the driveway needs work, central air is needed, and the copier and the electronic sign will need replacing. Supervisor said he will send out a working plan for everyone's input. They will need the plan for the November budget meeting.

Reynolds also shared that the budget is in a rough draft, the Trumansburg Fire amount is needed and then he will work on the tax cap with Diane. He believes that the budget should stay flat or below.

Reynolds explained that the new billing from George Hunt for the Town website will coincide with the

fiscal year now.

The Town Board received one sealed bid for the 2017 Lawn Maintenance Contract. This bid contained a \$300.00 savings for a 3-year contract. If the bid were rejected and re-advertised for a three year contract, then the Board can consider the bid for a 3-year contract.

**Petitioners:** Tim MacGuire stated that the bottom of South Frontenac Road still needs to be smoothed. Highway Superintendent MacCheyne said he is waiting for NYSEG or the phone company to trim trees around lines.

Jessica Schrier thanked Councilman Vann for talking to her neighbors about changing the signs on their street to reflect the corrected spelling of "Schrier" for Schier Road. Four neighbors were against the change, thirteen were indifferent. Ms. Schrier did not appreciate that the placque placed there said it was formerly "Schrier Road", but said that it was never "Schrier Road". There was a discussion with a Seneca County Assessment office employee of the name being changed at the County level. The employee did not believe that the name had been changed. Schrier stated that a resolution is needed by the Town or County in order to officially change the name. It was stated that Schier Road is a County Road.

It was suggested that the family should send a petition around in order to get the name officially changed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bishop moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular meeting minutes from August 8, 2016 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

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

Hunt moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for August 2016. A total of \$2,394.50 was received and \$907.14 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Anderson.

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

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

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to authorize the spending of up to \$100.00 for the purchase of a vehicle flashing light and flashlight for Dog Control Officer. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Anderson and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Interlaken Fire Contract for the year 2017. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Anderson, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Anderson moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Website Agreement with George Hunt for September through December, 2016, \$150.00 and, for the year 2017, \$450.00 to be divided into three payments, ending May, August and December. Aye-Anderson, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, and Hunt-recused.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the audit on the Justice books for 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Reynolds.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, that variance request application #22-16 for Joe Seamon, 3745-3768 County Rd. 150, to construct a residential building that does not meet a full acre as required by the Land Management Ordinances, be referred to the Planning Board. The variance request is to be sent to the Planning Board and a public hearing will be held October 10, 2016 at 7:00. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Anderson.

Hunt moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve monies for mileage and lunch for the Town Justice for Training on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Geneva. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Anderson.

Hunt moved, seconded by Anderson, to reject Grease Lightning's bid for the lawn maintenance contract for the year of 2017, and re-advertise for a three-year contract . Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Anderson.

Vann moved, seconded by Anderson, that Highway Fund Vouchers #119-131 in the amount of \$82,341.21, and General Fund Vouchers #143-159 in the amount of \$8,365.54 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Anderson.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Deputy Town Clerk