

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD  
DECEMBER 12 AND 19, 2024**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING  
BEGIN **74-24** THRU **80-24**

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETTEN WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:00PM.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD**

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.  
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON  
PENNY FLORA-COUNCILPERSON (LATE 12/19)  
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON  
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

**TOWN OFFICERS**

BOB EASTWOOD-H'WAY SUPT EXC 12/19  
SALLY WHITSON-ASSESSOR-EXC  
DAWN ROSE-TOWN CLERK  
BRANDON DECKER-CODE ENF-EXC  
DENEEN DILLER- TOWN HIST EXC 12/12  
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR  
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND  
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.-EXC  
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK-EXC  
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

OTHERS PRESENT: 12/12/24- RODNEY ROSE, BEN WILBUR, HANNAH WILBUR, SCOTT RODMAN, TIM GRIPPO, SUE GRIPPO, DOREEN DECKER, PATRICK POMPA, DONALD SALMELA, DONNA SALMELA, GEORGE DILLER, IKE MALLULA, DAVID MALLULA, DENNIE KOSKI, TIM GABLE, REBECCA WRIGHT, JANET SAYRE, MARIA GAUTREAUX, JOE DONOVAN, CINDY CUNDY, LANCE CUNDY, TINA RORICK, ED RORICK, KAREN FRICK AND PETER SECONDO.

12/19/24-RODNEY ROSE, GEORGE LAMPILA, DION ALPERT, DAVID MALLULA, DAN BEST, BECKY BEST, FRED SWAYZE, SR., JOHN BARTON, GEORGE DILLER, SUE GRIPPO, DON SALMELA, DONNA SALMELA, JUANITA THOMPSON, TINA RORICK, DOYLE RORICK, BEN WILBUR, HANNAH WILBUR, TIM GRIPPO, DENNIE KOSKI, SEAN PRESHER, PATRICK POMPA, BRIAN CARMAN, SARA EMERY, NATHAN EMERY, TIM GABLE, HEATHER GABLE, SHEILA DICK, SUSAN RIDER ULACCO, TOBY ULACCO, ADAM BUSH, MARY THORPE AND PETER SECONDO.

**RESOLUTION 70-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN APPOINTS PENNY FLORA TO VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD AS COUNCILPERSON TO COMPLETE UNEXPIRED TERM (C. LECLAIRE). SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LARISON AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2024 AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2024. ALL AYE. CARRIED

- KETURI SWORE IN COUNCILPERSON PENNY FLORA.

**CORRESPONDENCE READ AND ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK**

- N/A

**REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:**

-TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT

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- CHECK # 1058 FOR \$506. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.
- ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED
- BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI- REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF NOVEMBER 2024 BUDGET REPORT.
- TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED
  - CHECK FOR \$976.69 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.
- TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-REPORT FILED
- PARK COMMISSION-VERBAL REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER
  - NEW MUSIC BAND CONTACT INFORMATION PRESENTED FOR FUTURE BANFIELD SQUARE MUSIC (SEE FILE)
- DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED
  - NYS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS INSPECTION REPORT OF SCHUYLER COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PRESENTED.
- BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-NO REPORT FILED
- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-NO VERBAL REPORT
- CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED
- HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED
  - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS EMPLOYING THREE (3) EMPLOYEES (T. WILSON ACCEPTED ANOTHER POSITION) AND WILL NOT BE HIRING ANY FUTURE EMPLOYEES AT THIS TIME.
- TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT
  - PURCHASING NEW WILLIAMSON LAW ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL SOFTWARE TO CONDUCT TOWN BUSINESS. NEW PROGRAM WILL AID IN EASE OF ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL AND BUDGET PROCESS ASSISTING WITH CLEARER BUDGETS.
  - CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2024.
- WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED
- WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF NOVEMBER 2024 WATER BUDGET REPORT.
  - SHOEMAKER REVIEWED SOME HISTORY OF WATER DISTRICT SINCE DISSOLUTION; WATER DISTRICT PAID OFF TWO (2) INTEREST BEARING LOANS EARLY, PURCHASED NEW SUBMERSIBLE PUMP, TESTED MAIN WATER PUMP (NEXT SCHEDULED TESTING DUE 2026), REPLACED APPROXIMATELY 125 WATER METERS WITH CELLULAR TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY AND HAS APPROXIMATELY 75 MORE TO REPLACE IN 2025, HIRED AND TRAINING DEPUTY WATER OPERATOR.
  - SHOEMAKER CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE HAVING WATER DISTRICT GATE VALVES EXERCISED.
- CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE- REPORT FILED

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWAYZE, JR. AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ACCEPT THE OFFICER’S REPORTS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE. CARRIED

**AUDIT COMMITTEE-GENERAL-H. SHOEMAKER**

A ACCT: \$12,409.94 (12/12) \$17,020.04  
 FIRE: \$1,702.26

**HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER**

DA ACCTS: \$7,910.97 (12/12) 159,654.58 (12/19)  
 FX (WATER): \$5,983.60

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**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

**RESOLUTION 75-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TRANSFERRING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

\$2,900 FROM WATER ADMIN DPT OP PS (FX8310.13) TO WATER ADMIN CE (FX8310.4)

\$3,600 FROM HIGHWAY SNOW REMOVAL CE (DA5142.4) TO HIGHWAY MACHINERY CE (DA5130.4)

\$43,406.73 FROM COUNTY AID (A3003.1) TO HIGHWAY PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT CE (DA5112.4) TO BE REIMBURSED BY CHIPS FUNDING

\$4,442.92 FROM WORKERS COMP (A9040.8) TO FIRE PROTECTION (SF3410.4)

\$4,794.71 FROM MEDICAL INSURANCE (A9060.8) TO FIRE PROTECTION (SF3410.4)

\$16,268.53 FROM CONTINGENCY (A1990.4) TO FIRE PROTECTION (SF3410.4)

SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., FLORA, LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY LARISON AND CARRIED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS RECOMMENDED BY AUDIT COMMITTEE OF SWAYZE, JR., AND SHOEMAKER. ALL AYE. CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- SHOEMAKER STATED HE RECEIVED PART OF NEW PROPOSAL FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FROM MR. LEE HAEFELE VIA AN EMAIL (ON FILE). MR. HAEFELE OUTLINED BACKGROUND OF BROADBAND EXPANSION PLAN WITH VAN ETTEN AND DESCRIBED ROAD BY ROAD PLANS. MR. HAEFELE EXPECTS TO COMPLETE 66 – 100% WITH CURRENT FUNDING (PLUS \$30,000 HAEFELE CONNECT AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE FOR COST OVERRUNS). MR. HAEFELE ALSO NOTED UNANSWERED QUESTIONS STILL EXIST (MOST WITH NYSEG).
- COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOE DONOVAN CONFIRMS PROBLEM STILL EXISTS WITH GIS. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED MR. DONOVAN QUESTIONS REGARDING LEGISLATURE HEALTH INSURANCE.
- KETURI STATED TOWN BOARD SCHEDULED LAST MEETING FOR CHEMUNG COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.
- SWAYZE, JR. THANKED MR. FRANK PATTERSON FOR HIS ASSISTANCE ON SOLAR AND WIND MORATORIUM/LOCAL LAW. SWAYZE, JR. REITERATED TOWN IS TRYING TO PROTECT TOWN RESIDENTS AND DEFINITIONS NEED TO BE CLEARER; SOME CONCERNS WITH SOLAR AND WIND COMPANIES ARE DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS AFTER SOLAR PANELS/WIND TURBINES ARE NO LONGER WORKING; BONDING TOWN ROADS; PERMIT FEES; PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AS EMPLOYEES.
- LARISON NOTED NYSEG IS WORKING ON ADDING FIVE (5) NEW STREETLIGHTS FOR TOWN.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- MR. POMPA INQUIRED ABOUT BRIGGS HILL AND USING OUTSIDE SOURCE; EASTWOOD NOTED TIME CONSTRAINTS WERE AN ISSUE AND WAS PAID USING CHIPS FUNDING.

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- MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF TOWN WAS ENDING YEAR IN BLACK OR RED; KETURI STATED WORKING EARLY ON 2024 BUDGET AND USED INCORRECT HIGHWAY UNEXPENDED FUND BALANCE THAT LEAD TO BUDGET ERROR. SWAYZE, JR. THANKED MS. WRIGHT ON HER EMAIL REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM AND BOARD IS REVIEWING. SWAYZE, JR. STATED HE IS NOT IN FAVOR OF LESSENING TOWN EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.
- MR. RODMAN ASKED ABOUT NEW EQUIPMENT; SHOEMAKER STATED 2025/2026 APPROXIMATELY \$36,000 FOR CURRENT 10-WHEELER AND PAYMENT FOR HIGHWAY PICKUP TRUCK (PAID FOR IN 2026); IF DELIVERY OF NEW TRUCK ON ORDER IS NEXT YEAR, 2026 WILL HAVE FIVE (5) YEAR BOND. MR. RODMAN ASKED IF TOWN HAS BUYING FREEZE AND YES THEY DO.
- MS. SALMELA ASKED WHAT HAPPENS TO SOLAR PANELS WHEN THEY ARE DECOMMISSIONED; KETURI STATED TOWN IS ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE IN LOCAL LAW; SWAYZE, JR. EXPLAINED RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
- ATTENDEE (COULD NOT IDENTIFY) INQUIRED ABOUT PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN TAX RATE PER THOUSAND AND VAN ETTEN HAS HIGHEST TAX RATE PER THOUSAND IN COUNTY; WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN SEVEN (7) YEARS; MR. DONOVAN NOTED TAX RATE PER THOUSAND IN TOWN OF CHEMUNG IS HIGHEST IT'S BEEN IN TWENTY FIVE (25) YEARS. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BUDGET ON WEBSITE.
- MR. CUNDY ASKED IF CHIPS REIMBURSEMENT IS GOING INTO GENERAL FUND AND KETURI SAID YES.
- MR. MALLULA NOTED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EXPLANATION OF ACCOUNTS ON AGENDAS, I.E., BUDGET TRANSFERS STATING ACCOUNT NAME AND NOT ONLY ACCOUNT NUMBER.
- MS. FRICK NOTED HER PAST CONCERNS WITH BRINGING MORE BUSINESSES TO VAN ETTEN.
- MS. SAYRE REQUESTED CLARIFICATION ON ACCOUNT NUMBERS ALSO.
- MS. GABLE ASKED EASTWOOD FOR TOTAL COST OF DIESEL FUEL INCIDENT AT WELL HOUSE; HE WILL GET INVOICE PREPARED.
- MS. RORICK ASKED FOR WATER FUND BALANCES.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 76-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN STATES SEASONAL ROADS FOR 2024-2025; ALBEE HILL, G. SWARTWOOD ROAD, FOX (SEELEY) ROAD, HUGG HOLLOW, M. ELSTON, COY AND BLAKE HILL . SPONSOR-SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED-SHOEMAKER. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 77-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR PART TIME WATER TECHNICIAN AND APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 13, 2025. SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-FLORA. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

- KETURI WILL SIGN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF ELMIRA ANIMAL CONTROL.

**RESOLUTION 78-24**

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TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF 2025 TAX WARRANT. SPONSOR-FLORA. SECONDED-LARISON. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

- SHOEMAKER STATED LARGE AMOUNT OF YEARS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SERVING TOWN AND COMMUNITY; DEPRESSING WHEN INTEGRITY AND DEVOTION TO TOWN IS QUESTIONED. HE REITERATED EVENTS CREATED TO AID IN HELPING COMMUNITY SUCH AS DUMPSTER DAY, EARTH DAY CLEAN UP, ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY, TIRE DISPOSAL. SHOEMAKER APPRECIATES ALL ATTENDEES AND HELP.
- SWAYZE, JR. HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SPORTS ETC. AND RAN FOR TOWN BOARD TO SERVE COMMUNITY. SWAYZE, JR. EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH INCREASED ANXIETY AND PEOPLE TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK PAGE (APPRECIATES RIGHTS FOR FREE SPEECH) SOME COMMENTS AREN'T ACCURATE AND SOMEONE TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND USING VIOLENCE AGAINST TOWN OFFICIALS IS VERY CONCERNING-RECENT EVENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL TAKING MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS WITH HEALTH INSURANCE CEO AND SWAYZE, JR IS CONCERNED WITH SILENT INDIVIDUAL READING FACEBOOK COMMENTS TAKING DANGEROUS MEASURES TOWARD TOWN OFFICIALS. SWAYZE, JR. IS CONCERNED WITH FACEBOOK PAGE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED PROCEDURES AND POLICIES. SWAYZE, JR. THANKED ALL ATTENDEES.
- MR. MIKE ASKED ABOUT LIGHT ON THE HILL AND IF TOWN COULD SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE SOME TYPE OF PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES WITH THEM. SWAYZE, JR. HAS ATTEMPTED IN PAST TO NO AVAIL.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOEMAKER AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT, BOB EASTWOOD AND TOWN CLERK, DAWN ROSE AT 8:23 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:57 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

- KETURI STATED PERSONNEL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED.
- KETURI NOTED HAZARD MITIGATION MEETING WITH CHIEF DAVE LANNING WILL BE DECEMBER 19 AT 6:00PM AND DECEMBER TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL RECONVENE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 7:00PM.

RECONVENE REGULAR TOWN BOARD ON DECEMBER 19, 2024, AT 7:00 PM.

RECESSED AT 8:58 PM MOTION BY LARISON. SECONDED BY FLORA. ALL AYE. CARRIED.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETTEN RECONVENED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:00PM ON DECEMBER 19, 2024

ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.  
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON

TOWN OFFICERS

BOB EASTWOOD-H'WAY SUPT EXC  
SALLY WHITSON-ASSESSOR-EXC

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PENNY FLORA-COUNCILPERSON  
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON  
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

DAWN ROSE-TOWN CLERK  
BRANDON DECKER-CODE ENF-EXC  
DENEEN DILLER- TOWN HISTORIAN  
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR  
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND  
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.-EXC  
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK-EXC  
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

**RESOLUTION 79-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ACCEPTS FINAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TO PRESENT TO CHEMUNG COUNTY. SPONSOR-LARISON. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA (EXCUSED) AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 80-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN SUPERVISOR KETURI TO SIGN 2025 COMMUNITY FIRE AND RESCUE CONTRACT IN AMOUNT OF \$160,000. SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA (EXCUSED) AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- MR. GRIPPO ASKED IF NEW TRUCK IS STILL ON ORDER-KETURI SAID YES AND DELIVERY IS 2026.
- MR. MALLULA NOTED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EXPLANATION OF ACCOUNTS ON AGENDAS, I.E., BUDGET TRANSFERS STATING ACCOUNT NAME AND NOT ONLY ACCOUNT NUMBER.
- MS. WRIGHT EXPRESSED HER CONCERN WITH OVERSPENDING, BOARD MEMBERS NOT BEING PREPARED, TRANSPARENCY. MS. WRIGHT STATED AGENDAS BY LAW ARE TO BE POSTED FIVE (5) DAYS IN ADVANCE AND FOIL REQUEST DATES NEED TO BE SPECIFIC. MS. WRIGHT REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING WATER LIAISON POSITION FOR PAYMENT DETAILS. MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF PROCUREMENT POLICY WAS UPDATED TO REFLECT RESULTS OF TOWNS 2019 AUDIT.
- SWAZYE, JR. REITERATED HIS RESPONSE REGARDING FACEBOOK. SWAYZE, JR. STATED TRAINING IN HIS JOB REGARDING FACEBOOK POSTS CONCERNS HIM; TRAINING STRESSED SOME INDIVIDUALS READING SOME FACEBOOK POSTS MAY BECOME HIGHLY AGITATED AND TAKE DANGEROUS ACTIONS. SWAYZE, JR. WANTS TO ENSURE CHECKS AND BALANCES ARE IN PLACE.
- MR. CARMAN BELIEVES MISINFORMATION IS FUELED BY NOT BEING TRANSPARENT. MR. CARMAN ASKED WHAT MISTAKE HAPPENED TO 2024 BUDGET; KETURI STATED WORKING ON BUDGET STARTS EARLY FALL AND BOARD ATTEMPTS TO ESTIMATE ON WHAT WILL BE LEFT OVER AT END OF YEAR; HISTORICALLY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS LARGE AMOUNT OF MONIES LEFT OVER AND HIGHER ESTIMATED AMOUNT WAS USED TO CREATE BUDGET HOWEVER, AMOUNT OF ESTIMATED HIGHWAY MONIES WAS NOT AVAILABLE AND BOARD DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL FEBRUARY 2024. KETURI NOTED BUDGET REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED EVERY MONTH AT TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR REVIEW. MR. CARMAN ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TOWN WEBSITE. SWAYZE, JR. UNDERSTANDS FRUSTRATION AND APPRECIATES PATIENCE.

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- MR. BEST ASKED ABOUT FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING; SWAYZE, JR. STATED NEW YORK STATE BUDGET IS APRIL 1 AND FUNDING SUCH AS CHIPS, PAVENY IS BASED FROM BUDGET. MR. BEST ASKED ABOUT HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT PURCHASING PROCEDURE AND IF IT'S PUT OUT TO PUBLIC AND KETURI STATED ITS BOARD DECISION. LARISON NOTED THAT ALL PURCHASE EQUIPMENT IS DONE DURING BOARD MEETINGS AND IS OPEN TO PUBLIC. LARISON STATED IF CHEMUNG COUNTY SALES TAX FLUCTUATES ALSO. SHOEMAKER STATED UNFORESEEN REPAIRS ARE ALSO TROUBLESOME FOR BUDGET PLANNING.
- MR. SWAYZE STATED HIS SUPPORT OF TOWN BOARD MEMBERS AND HIS APPRECIATION OF WHAT THEY DO.
- MR. POMPA ASKED HOW MUCH MECHANICAL WORK IS DONE AT HIGHWAY. SHOEMAKER STATED THEY DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN; HE BELIEVES SOME GOES TO COUNTY AND CHANGING OIL AND SUCH IS DONE AT HIGHWAY GARAGE. TOWN DOESN'T OWN DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS NEEDED. MR. POMPA STATED SENDING OUT WORK COSTS MORE MONEY. MR. POMPA DOESN'T FEEL THAT TOWN SHOULD HAVE CONTRACTOR DOING ROADWORK. SWAYZE, JR. STATED FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM CHIPS AND GAVE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MORE TIME AND RESOURCES TO DO MORE PROJECTS.
- MS. DILLER AGREED WITH MR. SWAYZE AND IS ENJOYING TOWN HISTORIAN POSITION.
- MR. DILLER AGREED WITH MR. SWAYZE AND ENJOYS VAN ETTEN COMMUNITY. MR. DILLER ENJOYED ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AND APPRECIATED TOWN HAVING ELECTRIC ISSUES REPAIRED IN BANFIELD SQUARE.
- MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT BOOKKEEPER AND KETURI STATED HE WILL BE DOING IT IN INTERIM WITH NEW WILLIAMSON LAW SOFTWARE. MR. CARLING STATED TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER. MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT TOWN CLERK REVENUES ON 2025 BUDGET; IN 2024 IT WAS \$110 AND 2025 BUDGET IT IS \$2,900. KETURI STATED 2024 AMOUNT WAS ERROR AND 2025 IS CORRECT. MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT MORE COVERAGE WITH CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF AND ASKING THEM TO COVER TOWN BOARD MEETINGS. LARISON STATED HE SPOKE TO PREVIOUS SHERIFF MOSS AND REQUESTED MORE COVERAGE-SHERIFF MOSS GAVE TOWN PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL COST. SWAYZE, JR. WILL ASK SHERIFF SCHROM TO ATTEND A MEETING SOON. MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTUAL WENT FROM \$10,000 IN 2024 TO \$9,000; OFFICE SUPPLIES, CELL PHONE, SOFTWARE LICENSING FEES, ETC. MR. CARLING ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE BUDGET GOING UP; SHOEMAKER STATED 11.5%. MR. CARLING ASKED FOR SEASONAL SIGN TO BE MOVED AND EASTWOOD DID; HE WANTED TO THANK THEM. HE DROVE AROUND VAN ETTEN AND COMPLIMENTED ROADS.
- MS. THORPE STATED WEBSITE IS BEAUTIFUL.
- MS. RORICK ASKED ABOUT FUND BALANCES; KETURI STATED AS OF NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL A IS \$750,752.53; HIGHWAY DA FUND IS -\$463,930.92; FIRE SF FUND IS -\$23,000; WATER FX FUND IS \$157,261.62.
- MS. CARLING EXPRESSED HER DISSATISFACTION WITH SOME BOARD MEMBERS.
- MS. THOMPSON HAS PHONED NEW YORK STATE POLICE IN PAST WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING PROTECTING HER PROPERTY.
- MS. GRIPPO ASKED ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CEMETERY CURATOR; KETURI STATED CLEANS BRUSH, MAINTAINS ROAD, SELLS PLOTS, STORM CLEAN UP, REPAIRS HEADSTONES, OVERSEES MOWING, PREPARES CREMAINS FINAL RESTING AREA, PREPARES PLOTS FOR FUNERALS, ASSIST IN DANGEROUS TREE REMOVAL . SWAYZE, JR. STATED ROSE IS DOING GREAT JOB AND PUTS HEART AND

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SOUL IN HIS POSITION. MS. GRIPPO ASKED ABOUT BRIGGS HILL AND WHAT DETERMINES WHETHER ROAD GETS PAVED OR NOT. SHOEMAKER SAID PAVED AREA OF BRIGGS WAS OIL AND STONED AND IT WAS DETERIORATING, OVERLAY WAS PUT ON. MS. GRIPPO ASKED WHAT COST WAS AND IT COST \$118,000 OF CHIPS FUNDS.

- MS. DECKER ASKED FOR COPIES TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC. MS. DECKER STATED PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
- MR. EMERY ASKED IF TOWN COULD CANCEL ORDER FOR NEW TRUCK TO BE DELIVERED IN 2026; KETURI STATED NO.
- MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF TOWN PUTS MONEY IN RESERVES TO PURCHASE LARGE EQUIPMENT AND SHOEMAKER RESPONDED TOWN BONDS.
- MS. SAYRE ASKED WHO BALANCES BOOKS; BOOKKEEPER DOES AND INFORMED BOARD OF ERROR.
- MS. RIDER ULACCO ASKED HOW THIS ERROR OCCURRED. MS RIDER ULACCO ASKED IF BILLS CAN BE PUT ON WEBSITE. MR. CARMAN EXPLAINED ERROR ON BUDGET WAS DUE TO NOT HAVING ADEQUATE FUND BALANCE IN HIGHWAY (2024 BUDGET SHOWED TOWN HAD MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE AND IN 2023 TOWN BOARD DIDN'T TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION HIGHWAY FUND WAS BEING UTILIZED TO PAY BALANCE OF BILLS IN 2023 AND FUNDS WERE NOT THERE TO "ROLLOVER" FOR 2024).
- MS. DICK LOOKING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND FEELS TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER AND WILL SUPERVISOR DOING THIS JOB MAY BE CONFLICT OF INTEREST.
- SHOEMAKER ASKED FOR PATIENCE AND TOWN IS WORKING HARD TO REMEDY ERROR; TOWN IS WORKING ON TRANSPARENCY. SWAYZE, JR. EXPLAINED TOWN BOARD MEMBERS, SUPERVISOR, DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT, TOWN CLERK AND CEMETERY CURATOR TOOK PAY CUTS.
- MR. ULACCO ASKED WHY TAXES ARE GOING SO HIGH NEXT YEAR AND VAN ETTEN IS HIGHEST IN COUNTY. SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED PREVIOUS TAXES:
  - 2019 \$5.39/THOUSAND
  - 2020 \$5.29/THOUSAND
  - 2021 \$5.36/THOUSAND
  - 2022 \$5.23/THOUSAND
  - 2023 \$5.87/THOUSAND
  - 2024 \$6.42/THOUSAND
  - 2025 \$7.31/THOUSAND
- SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED AFTER 2019 VILLAGE OF VAN ETTEN DISSOLUTION TOWN TRIED TO HOLD TAXES AND PERHAPS, TOWN SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
- MR. ULACCO ASKED ABOUT REASSESSMENT IN 2025 AND GOOD CHANCE TAXES WILL INCREASE. KETURI STATED TOWN IS NOT AT 100% WHERE IT SHOULD BE AND CURRENTLY AT 72%. SHOEMAKER DOESN'T KNOW WHAT PROPERTIES WILL GO UP IN ASSESSMENT AND WHICH ONES WILL GO DOWN. SHOEMAKER FEELS THAT TAX RATE PER THOUSAND MAY GO DOWN WITH AN INCREASE IN TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE.
- MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF ASSESSMENT HAS TO BE COMPLETED AND SHOEMAKER SAID YES AND GRIEVANCE DAY IS IN MAY

ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2025, AT 7:00 PM.



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES VAN ETEN TOWN BOARD  
DECEMBER 12 AND 19, 2024**

ADJOURNED AT 8:38 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.

DRAFT