

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD
JANUARY 9, 2025**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING
BEGIN **17-25** THRU **21-25**

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETTEN WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:17PM.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON
PENNY FLORA-COUNCILPERSON
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

TOWN OFFICERS

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

OTHERS PRESENT: DONNA SALMELA, DON SALMELA, DOREEN DECKER, SARA EMERY, JOHN BARTON, NATHAN EMERY, BEN WILBUR, HANNAH WILBUR, REBECCA WRIGHT, TIM GRIPPO, KERMIT BOSSARD, DAVID J. MALLULA, SHEILA DICK, ADAM BUSH, DENNIE KOSKI, JANET SAYRE, TINA RORICK, ED RORICK, SUSAN RIDER-ULACCO , TOBY ULACCO AND PETER SECONDO.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOEMAKER AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2024 AND RECONVENED ON DECEMBER 19, 2024. ALL AYE. CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE READ AND ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK

- ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS ANNUAL MEETING IN NYC FEBRUARY 16-19
- CHEMUNG COUNTY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY JANUARY 21 & 23-PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:

- TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT
 - CHECK # 1059 FOR \$1589. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.
- ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED
- BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI- REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF DECEMBER 2024 BUDGET REPORT.
- TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED
 - CHECK FOR \$619.76 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.
 - ROSE PRESENTED 2024 ANNUAL REPORT.
- TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-NO REPORT FILED
- PARK COMMISSION-NO REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER
- DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED
- BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-NO REPORT FILED
- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-NO VERBAL REPORT

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-CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED

-HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED

- EASTWOOD PRESENTED 2025 284 AGREEMENT
- PRESENTED TOWN BOARD WITH CHECK (#3587) FROM LIGHT ON THE HILL IN AMOUNT OF \$1,000 FOR APPRECIATION OF ROAD WORK ON BLAKE HILL.

-TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT

- PURCHASED NEW WILLIAMSON LAW ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL SOFTWARE TO CONDUCT TOWN BUSINESS. CURRENTLY CONDUCTING TRAINING.
- CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024.

-WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED

-WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF DECEMBER 2024 WATER BUDGET REPORT.

- SHOEMAKER STATED NEW CELLULAR METER DETECTED LARGE LEAK (APPROXIMATELY 40,000 – 50,000 GALLONS) AND NOTIFIED CUSTOMER AND LEAK WAS REPAIRED QUICKLY.
- SHOEMAKER NOTED OLDER “RADIO” METERS HAVE TEN (10) YEAR BATTERY LIFE AND WATER DISTRICT HAS APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY-FIVE (75) RADIO METERS TO REPLACE WITH NEW CELLULAR WATER METERS. SHOEMAKER STATED FUNDS FOR REMAINING CELLULAR WATER METERS WILL BE FROM WATER FUND BALANCE.
- SHOEMAKER WAS INFORMED OF POSSIBLE LEAK BY WATER OPERATOR AND IT WAS DETERMINED NOT TO BE RESIDENTIAL. SHOEMAKER STATED APPEARS TO BE TECHNICAL ISSUE WITH SENSOR AT WATER TANK.

-CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE- REPORT FILED

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.

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

AUDIT COMMITTEE-GENERAL-H. SHOEMAKER

A ACCT: \$40,336.01
FIRE: \$1,702.26

HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER

DA ACCTS: \$19,785.41
FX (WATER): \$19,965.96

- SWAYZE, JR. NOTED LARGE AMOUNT OF GENERAL “A” FUND AMOUNT WAS FOR PURCHASING NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE
- SHOEMAKER LARGE AMOUNT OF HIGHWAY “DA” ACCOUNT WAS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE AND LARGE AMOUNT OF WATER (“FX”) ACCOUNT WAS FOR ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

RESOLUTION 17-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TRANSFERRING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

\$10,000 FROM WATER RESERVES TO FX8310.4 (WATER ADMINISTRATION CONTRACTUAL) FOR WATER DISTRICT PORTION OF NEW WILLIAMSON LAW ACCOUNTING/PAYROLL PROGRAM.

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\$5,000 FROM WATER RESERVES TO FX8310.4 (WATER ADMINISTRATION CONTRACTUAL) FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION PAYMENT.

\$2,000 FROM DA5142.1 (HIGHWAY SNOW REMOVAL PERSONNEL) TO A3510.4 (DOG CONTROL CONTRACTUAL) FOR 2025 SCHUYLER COUNTY HUMANE DOG SHELTER CONTRACT.

SPONSOR-LARISON. SECONDED-SHOEMAKER. 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 HAEFELE COMPLETED CRAMER HOLLOW AND IS WORKING ON SOUTH HILL AND BLAKE HILL.
- SWAYZE, JR. TOWN CONTINUES WORKING ON SOLAR MORATORIUM AND CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON OTHER MUNICIPALITIES LOCAL LAWS. SWAYZE, JR. AND SHOEMAKER ATTENDED TOWN OF ERINS LOCAL LAW MEETING LAST NIGHT. SWAYZE, JR. INDICATED TOWN NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND B. DECKER WILL ASSIST.
- SWAYZE, JR. STATED TOWN CLERK ROSE INFORMED TOWN BOARD THAT SHE IS SEEKING OTHER EMPLOYMENT; IF ANY RESIDENT IS INTERESTED IN TOWN CLERK POSITION, THEY MUST BE RESIDENT OF VAN ETTEN AND WILLING TO RUN IN NEXT ELECTION.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- MR. BOSSARD GAVE TOWN BOARD 2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND TOWN BOARD THANKED ALL OF THE STAFF FOR THEIR CONTINUED WORK AT SVE COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD.
- MS. DECKER ASKED ABOUT BOOKKEEPER POSITION; KETURI PURCHASED NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE TO CONTINUE CONDUCTING TOWN BUSINESS AND HE WILL ASK FOR \$3,000 FOR HIS TIME. SWAYZE, JR. PRAISED KETURI FOR HIS EFFORTS IN HELPING WITH BOOKKEEPING AND BELIEVES TOWN WILL NEED TO ADVERTISE FOR THIS POSITION AND THANKED KETURI FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN KEEPING TOWN BUSINESS MOVING FORWARD.
- MS. RIDER-ULACCO ASKED WHY TOWN SPENT \$30,000 ON NEW SOFTWARE; SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED PREVIOUS BOOKKEEPER HAD HER OWN SOFTWARE AND TOWN NEEDED NEW SOFTWARE TO CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS AND WILLIAMSON LAW WAS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. TOWN BOARD DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THEY HAD ANOTHER CHOICE AT THIS TIME.
- MR. ULACCO FEELS TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER.
- MR. GRIPPO FEELS TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER.
- MS. WRIGHT STATED TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER AND IT'S AGAINST NY LAW FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR TO BE CONDUCTING BOOKKEEPER WORK. MS. WRIGHT STATED WILLIAMSON LAW IS GOOD SOFTWARE PROGRAM.
- MR. SALMELA NOTED KETURI STATED PREVIOUSLY HE WOULDN'T TAKE ANY MONEY FOR BOOKKEEPING POSITION AND NOW HE'S RECEIVING \$3,000.
- MS. BEST REACHED OUT TO ACCOUNTING COMPANY IN ELMIRA AND ASKED KETURI TO FOLLOW UP.
- MR. CARLING STATED TOWN NEEDS PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER.

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- MS. EMERY STATED TOWN SHOULD HAVE ADVERTISED FOR BOOKKEEPER BEFORE PURCHASING NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE.
- MR. I. MALLULA NOTED TOWN HAVING IN-HOUSE SOFTWARE IS BEST FOR TOWN.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 18-25

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

RESOLUTION 19-25

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

- SHOEMAKER STATED BID FROM FRANK'S DISPOSAL WILL REMAIN WITH SAME RATES AS LAST YEAR; SHOEMAKER STATED CHEMUNG COUNTY IS NO LONGER RECYCLING AND NO LONGER NEED TO SEPARATE. SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED FRANK'S DISPOSAL IS PAID WITH CETC FUNDING TOWN RECEIVED EVERY YEAR FOR VILLAGE DISSOLUTION.
- SHOEMAKER NOTED CEMETERY HAS SEVERAL LARGE DANGEROUS TREES THAT NEED TO BE REMOVED AND TOWN MAY NEED TO USE SOME OF CETC FUNDING TO HAVE TREES PROFESSIONALLY AND SAFELY REMOVED.

RESOLUTION 20-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN SUPERVISOR KETURI TO SIGN 2025 ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT WITH CITY OF ELMIRA. SPONSOR-SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED-FLORA. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION 21-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ACCEPTS HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT EASTWOODS 2025 284 GENERAL AGREEMENT IN AMOUNT OF \$85,000. SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-FLORA. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025, AT 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNED AT 8:33 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.