

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD
VAN ETTEN TOWN HALL
6 GEE STREET, VAN ETTEN, NY
MAY 8, 2025**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING
BEGIN **43-25** THRU **47-25**

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

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
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: GEORGE DILLER, RODNEY ROSE, JR., REBECCA WRIGHT, MATT FREEZE (MORNING TIMES), HANNAH WILBUR, BENJAMIN WILBUR, TIM GRIPPO, BRENDA QUICK, ROBIN ACKERLEY, SHEILA DICK, KAREN FRICK, FRED SWAYZE, AND JANET SAYRE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOEMAKER AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2025 AND TOWN OF VAN ETTEN WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 30, 2025. ALL AYE. CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE READ AND ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK

- VAN ETTEN CLEAN UP "DUMPSTER" DAY MAY 10, 8A – 12P VAN ETTEN TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.
- PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 24 FROM 6A – 9P.
- PANTHER PAK 2025 SIGN-UP IS MAY 20 FROM 5 – 6:30P AT SVE HIGH SCHOOL GYM LOBBY.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:

-TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT

- CHECK # 1064 FOR \$589. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.

-ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED

-BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI-REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF APRIL 2025 BUDGET REPORT AND STILL WORKING ON DETAILS FOR REPORT WITH NEW SOFTWARE.

-TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED

- CHECK FOR \$225.17 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.
- TAX COLLECTION CHECK #0542 IN AMOUNT OF \$4,110.19 PRESENTED TO SUPERVISOR FOR 2025 TAX COLLECTION PENALTIES.

-TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-REPORT FILED

-PARK COMMISSION-NO REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER

-DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED

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-BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-NO REPORT FILED

-BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-

- LIGHTS HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO LED IN LIBRARY

-CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED

-HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED

- EASTWOOD STATED HAS NOT HAD UPDATE IN REGARD TO CHIPS FUNDING.
- EASTWOOD STATED HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS NOT SURVIVING FROM CHIPS FUNDING.
- EASTWOOD IS WORKING ON SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR HIGHWAY WITH CEMETERY AND WATER.
- EASTWOOD CONTACTED TOWN OF NEWFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND WAS INFORMED THAT TOWN OF NEWFIELD DOES PROVIDE WATER TO EMPLOYEES.

-TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT

- KETURI CONTINUES TO WORK WITH NEW SOFTWARE FROM WILLIAMSON LAW AND TOWN HIRED NEW BOOKKEEPER WITH DECADES EXPERIENCE WITH MUNICIPAL PRACTICES AND WILLIAMSON LAW SOFTWARE.
- WORKING ON NEW SOFTWARE AND NEW BUDGET REPORTS WITH WILLIAMSON LAW.
- CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR APRIL 2025.

-WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED

-WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF APRIL 2025 WATER BUDGET REPORT.

- SHOEMAKER NOTED DEAN WETZEL STILL NOT AVAILABLE.
- SHOEMAKER STATED WILL HAVE ALL METERS REPLACED EXCEPT FOR TWO (2); PLANS IN PROCESS TO REPLACE THOSE TWO (2).
- NEW CELLULAR TRANSMITTERS WILL ALLOW WATER CLERK TO "READ" METERS FROM OFFICE AND NO LONGER DRIVE AROUND WATER DISTRICT FOR READINGS AND ALLOW FOR CLOSER MONITORING OF WATER SYSTEM.

-CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED

- KETURI NOTED LARGE NUMBER OF TREES THAT CONTINUE TO FALL DOWN IN MT HOPE AND CANFIELD CEMETERY AND WE ARE WORKING ON REMOVING.
- CHECK #014071 FROM MILLER FUNER HOME FOR CANFIELD BURIAL OF MR. L. KORPI IN AMOUNT OF \$350.

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LARISON AND SECONDED BY FLORA TO ACCEPT THE OFFICER'S REPORTS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE. CARRIED

AUDIT COMMITTEE-GENERAL-H. SHOEMAKER

A ACCT: \$19,279.94

FIRE: \$

- SWAYZE, JR. NOTED ONE BILL RECEIVED LATE AND NOT INCLUDED IN AMOUNT.
- SHOEMAKER STATED HEALTH INSURANCE WAS INCLUDED IN DA ABSTRACT.

HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER

DA ACCTS: \$15,576.36

FX (WATER): \$4,151.20

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BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

N/A

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- KETURI STATED NO UPDATE ON GIS.
- KETURI NOTED DURING APRIL 30 TOWN BOARD WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MR. GEORGE LAMPILA WAS APPOINTED TO VAN ETTEN BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW VIA RESOLUTION 41-25 AFTER TOWN BOARD ACCEPTED MR. ALAN TREMBLAY'S RESIGNATION FROM BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW VIA RESOLUTION 40-25.
- TOWN BOARD APPROVED \$400 FOR VFW FLAGS AND FLAGS WERE PICKED UP TODAY.
- SHOEMAKER STATED NO UPDATE FOR BROADBAND.
- SHOEMAKER STATED \$10,000 NYSDA GRANT WOULD LIKE TO USE FOR NEW TOWN HALL FRONT DOORS. PREVAILING WAGE WILL BE REQUIRED. WORKING ON GETTING TWO QUOTES.
- KETURI NOTED DATE NEEDS TO BE MADE FOR WORK ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH BUILDING CODE OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE.
- KETURI STATED BOARD NEEDS MORE TIME TO REVIEW LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025-RAZE OR REPAIR UNSAFE BUILDINGS.
- LARISON ORDERED TWO (2) NEW STREETLIGHTS.
- SHOEMAKER NOTED RESIDENT ASKED TO HAVE CHLORINE REMOVAL TIPS ADDED TO WEBSITE AND TOWN BOARD APPROVED. SHOEMAKER STATED DURING WATER COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 30 TOWN BOARD APPOINTED MR. RON DONAHUE (RESOLUTION #40-25 AND VILLAGE OF CANDOR NYS WATER OPERATOR) TO TRAIN VAN ETTEN WATER DISTRICT DEPUTY WATER OPERATOR SCOTT RODMAN TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING NYS WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION AND AMOUNT WAS INCLUDED IN HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT SUBMITTED ON APRIL 30. SHOEMAKER REITERATED WATER DISTRICT HAS EXPLORED OTHER TRAINING OPTIONS FOR DEPUTY WATER OPERATOR AND COST WAS CLOSE TO \$20,000. SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN BOARD DISCUSSED EFFECTIVENESS OF WATER COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND DUE TO LOW ATTENDANCE AND ONLY ONE (1) WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMER SHOWED INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING IN PROPOSED WATER COMMITTEE (PER ADVERTISEMENT REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS ON APRIL 2025 WATER BILLS) AND TOWN BOARD WILL CONTINUE OVERSEEING WATER DISTRICT.
- SHOEMAKER REVIEWED COFFEE AND WATER USE FOR HIGHWAY AND TOWN HALL FOR 2024 AND TOTAL COST WAS \$930; SHOEMAKER STATED HIGHWAY HAS ENOUGH BOTTLED WATER TO LAST UNTIL JULY AND TOWN HALL HAS ENOUGH UNTIL SEPTEMBER AND TOTAL COST FOR 2025 IS ESTIMATED AT \$700. TOWN AND HIGHWAY ARE PURCHASING COFFEE INDEPENDENTLY. SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN OF ITHACA HAS OFFERED COFFEE TO EMPLOYEES IN PAST AND ATTORNEY FEES FROM 2024 IN AMOUNT OF \$6,000 WAS INCUMBERED.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- MS. DECKER EXPRESSED HER DISSATISFACTION WITH POTHOLES ON CLARK AVENUE AND WHERE CLARK AVENUE MEETS LANGFORD STREET. EASTWOOD NOTED HIGHWAY IS WORKING ON GETTING THEM REPAIRED.

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- MR. DANIELS ASKED ABOUT CREEK BEHIND HIS HOUSE ON HIXON STREET; EASTWOOD IS WORKING WITH FEMA ON REMEDY.
- MS. DANIELS EXPRESSED HER CONCERN WITH MOTORISTS NOT SLOWING DOWN OR STOPPING AT CROSSWALK ON NYS ROUTE 34 IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL. EASTWOOD IS WORKING WITH COUNTY TO ASK FOR INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROL AND WILL CONTACT NYS DOT FOR MORE SIGNAGE.
- MS. WRIGHT SUGGESTED TOWN BOARD ESTABLISH ETHICS COMMITTEE TO ASSIST WITH TRANSPARENCY, FOLLOW PROCUREMENT POLICY AND TRUST; ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IS VOTED ON BY RESIDENTS. MS. WRIGHT ASKED WHO WAS AWARDED GRAVEL BID AND ALL GRAVEL BIDS WERE ACCEPTED (EXCEPT AUSTIN'S DUE TO FAILURE OF SUBMITTING NON COLLUSION FORM). MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF TOWN WOULD REACH OUT TO EDGER TO SEE IF THEY WILL HONOR ANGELO'S 2025 BID; EDGER IS BUYING ANGELO'S. EASTWOOD WILL CONTACT EDGER. MS. WRIGHT ASKED STATUS OF GATE VALVE EXERCISING; SHOEMAKER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH VILLAGE OF HORSEHEADS, BIG FLATS AND ELMIRA WATER BOARD FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING SOME OF THE GATE VALVES AND SHOULD HAVE MORE INFORMATION BY NEXT BOARD MEETING. MS. WRIGHT ASKED IF GRANT MONEY TOWN RECEIVED FOR BROADBAND PROJECT HAS BEEN PAID TO HAEFELE; KETURI ANSWERED NO; WILL PAY WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETE. MS. WRIGHT ASKED WHY TOWN BOUGHT MORE FROM AUSTIN'S THAN ANGELO'S; EASTWOOD RESPONDED AUSTIN'S WAS BETTER PRODUCT AND AUSTIN'S LOWERED BID PRICE. SHOEMAKER STATED MATERIAL FROM ANGELO'S LEFT MUD/DUST ON OIL AND STONE ROADS. MS. WRIGHT ASKED ABOUT 284 AGREEMENT AND EASTWOOD HAS NOT COMPLETED TO DATE-WAITING FOR TOTAL OF CHIPS ALLOWANCE. MS. WRIGHT ASKED WHY TOWN PURCHASED 14,338.96T OF GRAVEL IN 2020 AND 3,000T IN 2024; EASTWOOD STATED TOWN HAD GOOD INVENTORY WHEN HE CAME INTO OFFICE AND HE WILL LOOK INTO IT AND GET BACK TO MS. WRIGHT. MS. WRIGHT ASKED BOARD WHAT STIPULATES RAISE FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES, I.E., SALLY WHITSON, TOWN ASSESSOR. SHOEMAKER STATED WHITSON IS COMPLETING IN-HOUSE REVALUATION; KETURI NOTED TOWN HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO REVALUATION SINCE APPROXIMATELY 2021 AND TOWN WAS "QUOTED" PRICE CLOSE TO \$80,000 FROM OUTSIDE SOURCE.
- MS. ACKERLEY ASKED MS. WRIGHT TO HAVE HER TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.
- MS. WRIGHT NOTED INCONSISTENCY WITH RAISES IN PAST; SWAYZE, JR. STATED ASSESSOR'S RATE OF PAY WAS JUSTIFIED BY LARGE SAVINGS TO TOWN. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED MS. WRIGHT TO SEND EMAIL WITH LIST OF QUESTIONS SO TOWN BOARD CAN REVIEW AND HAVE ANSWERS AT NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING.
- MS. FRICK ASKED IF COMMENT SECTION ON WATER BILLS CAN BE LARGER; ROSE WILL ASK WATER CLERK IF THIS IS POSSIBLE. MS. FRICK SUGGESTED USING BRITA FILTERS AND TAKING DONATIONS FOR COFFEE. MS. FRICK ASKED ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; SWAYZE, JR. STATED TOWN HAS SAMPLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FROM TOWN OF ASHLAND AND TOWN BOARD WILL INCLUDE BUILDING CODE OFFICER DECKER AND MEET TO START CREATING. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HAS TO BE IN PLACE FOR SOLAR AND WIND FARMS (CURRENTLY HAVE MORATORIUM). MS. FRICK WILL INVESTIGATE FOR COPY OF VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. SWAYZE, JR. AND SHOEMAKER ATTENDED TOWN OF ERIN MEETING FOR SOLAR LAW; ERIN PAID APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 TO REVISE THEIR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (VAN ETTEN WILL INVESTIGATE GRANT FUNDING). DECKER STATED ERIN SOLAR FARM COMPANY ASKED CHEMUNG COUNTY IDA FOR

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TWENTY (20) YEAR TAX BREAK AND RECEIVED IT. DECKER NOTED HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLERS WILL NEED TO BE HIRED FOR DECOMMISSIONING ANY SOLAR FARMS. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED TOWN IS PROTECTING RESIDENTS FUTURE; SOLAR FARMS HAVE ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR DECOMMISSIONING HOWEVER, PRICE OF ESCROW IS ESTABLISHED AT TIME OF INSTALLING FARM, NOT CONSIDERING INFLATION FOR TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WHEN DECOMMISSIONING IS BEING COMPLETED. DECKER NOTED BATTERY STORAGE FOR SOLAR FARMS ON SITE ARE SIZE OF TRACTOR TRAILER AND IF THEY CATCH ON FIRE IT TAKES FIVE (5) DAYS TO EXTINGUISH.

- MS. DICK ASKED ABOUT ZOOM MEETINGS. KETURI IS NOT IN FAVOR. MS. DICK STATED IT'S EASY TO SET UP. SWAYZE, JR. WILL ASK MEMBER OF TOWN OF ERIN ABOUT ZOOM MEETINGS. MS. FRICK RECOMMENDED ASKING SCHOOL FOR ASSISTANCE. SHOEMAKER ENCOURAGED MORE IN PERSON ATTENDANCE TO TOWN BOARD MEETINGS.
- MS. WILBUR ASKED TOWN BOARD IF THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR MEETING NIGHT BECAUSE IT CONFLICTS WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED IF ANYONE HAS APPROACHED SCHOOL BOARD REGARDING CHANGING THEIR MEETING NIGHT.
- MS. QUICK ASKED WHAT COST OF TIRES ARE FOR MAY 10 VAN ETTEN DUMPSTER DAY. \$3.25 PER TIRE AND IT'S LOCATED AT VAN ETTEN HIGHWAY GARAGE.
- MS. DECKER INFORMED TOWN BOARD OF ABANDONED HOUSE ON HIXON STREET IS INFESTED WITH RACOONS AND FERAL CATS. MS. DECKER SPOKE WITH BRANDON DECKER AND LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025 WILL ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 43-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON JUNE 5, 2025 AT 7PM AT VAN ETTEN TOWN HALL. SPONSOR-SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED-FLORA ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION 44-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN CLERK TO UTILIZE OWEGO PENNYSAVER AS NEEDED FOR ADVERTISEMENT. SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-LARISON ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

- SHOEMAKER STATED MS. SINSABAUGH HAS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AND IS CURRENTLY BOOKKEEPER FOR TOWN OF TIOGA, TOWN OF CHEMUNG AND TOWN OF BARTON. SHOEMAKER STATED MS. SINSABAUGH COMPARED VAN ETTEN TO TIOGA AND MS. SINSABAUGH ASKED \$17,000 PER YEAR.

RESOLUTION 45-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN APPOINTS MELANIE SINSABAUGH AS TOWN OF VAN ETTEN BOOKKEEPER FOR \$17,000 (ONLY 8 MONTHS REMAINING IN 2025). SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-FLORA ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

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RESOLUTION 46-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETEN ESTABLISHES NEW YORK STATE RETIREMENT STANDARD WORKDAY (RS 2418). SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

RESOLUTION 47-25

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETEN HAS REVIEWED JUSTICE LEON TUTTLE'S 2024 TOWN OF VAN ETEN COURT RECORDS. SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

- SHOEMAKER ADDRESSED MS. WRIGHT AND REITERATED REQUEST FOR QUESTIONS TO BE EMAILED TO TOWN CLERK AHEAD OF TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2025, AT 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNED AT 8:26 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.