

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING  
BEGIN **70-24** THRU **73-24**

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  
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 HISTORIAN  
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR  
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND  
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.  
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK-EXC  
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

OTHERS PRESENT: GEORGE LAMPILA, DION ALPERT, FRED SWAYZE, DEANNA EASTWOOD, RICH ROSE, JEFF STONE, PENNY FLORA, SCOTT RODMAN, KIM STROSARL, BILL STROSARL, KATIE SECONDO, FRED MAKI III, DAN KRAFTON, BRIAN CARMAN, AARON SHOEMAKER, TERESA SILVERNAIL, PAT POMPA, FRANK PATTERSON, TINA DEPPE, TINA RORICK, DOYLE RORICK JR., FRANK PATTERSON, JOE DONOVAN, SEAN PRESHER, JANET SAYRE, REBECCA WRIGHT, DENEEN DILLER AND GEORGE DILLER.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOEMAKER AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR LL 2 OF 2024 HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 204 AND 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2024. ALL AYE. CARRIED

- KETURI STATED TOWN BOARD RECEIVED RESIGNATION FROM CATHY LECLAIRE.

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

- ASSOC. OF TOWNS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING FEB. 16-19, 2025 NYC.

**REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:**

-TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT

- CHECK # 1057 FOR \$933. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.

-ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED

-BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI- REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF OCTOBER 2024 BUDGET REPORT.

-TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED

- CHECK FOR \$943.25 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.

-TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-REPORT FILED

-PARK COMMISSION-VERBAL REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER

-DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED

-BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-REPORT FILED

-BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-VERBAL REPORT

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- ALL TOWN RELATED MOWING HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
- CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED
- HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED
  - CURRENTLY PREPARING ALL SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT.
- TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT
  - WORKING ON 2025 BUDGET.
  - CHECK #2711198 FROM QUILL FOR CREDIT IN AMOUNT OF \$218.89.
  - CHECK #99339 FROM TOWN OF GUILDERLAND FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR CANCELLATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL CONFERENCE IN AMOUNT OF \$100.
  - CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2024.
- WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED
- WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF SEPTEMBER 2024 WATER BUDGET REPORT.
  - SHOEMAKER CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE HAVING WATER DISTRICT GATE VALVES EXERCISED.
- CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE-VERBAL REPORT
  - DUSTIN ROSE STATED AMOUNT OF PLOTS BEING SOLD ARE CONTINUING TO DROP AS PEOPLE ARE OPTING FOR CREMAIN BURIALS ON TOP OF CURRENT PLOTS; SHOEMAKER STATED MAY HAVE TO REVIEW PLOT PRICING.

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.  
A MOTION WAS MADE BY LARISON AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ACCEPT THE OFFICER’S REPORTS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE. CARRIED

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

A ACCT: \$23,164.69  
FIRE: \$

**HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER**

DA ACCTS: \$4,311.58.  
FX (WATER): \$1,616.16

- SWAYZE, JR. STATED HIGHER THAN NORMAL AMOUNT IN GENERAL ACCOUNT WAS FOR REMOVAL OF TREES IN MT. HOPE AND CANFIELD CEMETERY.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

N/A

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 MR. LEE HAEFELE IS PREPARING NEW PROPOSAL FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION. SWAYZE, JR. REQUESTED MR. HAEFELE PREPARE DOCUMENT WITH CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS OF VAN ETTEN BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT AND HE CAN PRESENT TO ASSEMBLYMEMBER PALMESANO.
- COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOE DONOVAN CONFIRMS PROBLEM STILL EXISTS WITH GIS.

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- SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN BOARD WILL SCHEDULE TIME TO COMPLETE HAZARD MITIGATION.
- LARISON STATED HE WILL CONTACT NYSEG FOR UPDATE.
- TOWN CLERK ROSE WORKING ON 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS. SWAYZE, JR. STATED APRIL 19, 2025 FROM 8A-12P IS VE EARTH DAY CLEANUP AND MAY 10, 2025 IS VE CLEANUP/DUMPSTER DAY.
- MR. FRANK PATTERSON REVIEWED ATTORNEY UPDATES TO SOLAR MORATORIUM AND HE HAS MORE QUESTIONS; WHAT IS TOWN TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH SOLAR AND WIND LAW; SWAYZE, JR. NOTED TOWN IS TRYING TO PROTECT TOWN RESIDENTS AND DEFINITIONS NEED TO BE CLEARER; TOWN IS CONCERNED WITH SOLAR COMPANY DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS AFTER SOLAR PANELS ARE NO LONGER WORKING.
- SWAYZE, JR. INVESTIGATED SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS AND NOTED IT IS TOWN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HIRE; PAY SCALE IS \$14-\$40 PER HOUR; SWAYZE, JR. SPOKE WITH MR. STROPE (VE PRINCIPAL) AND HE SHARES SAME CONCERNS; TOWN HIRES SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD COULD COST TAXPAYERS MINIMUM OF \$30,000/YEAR. SWAYZE, JR. HAS SCHOOL CROSSING SAFETY CHECKLIST HE WILL POST OF VAN ETTEN WEBSITE.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- MR. JOE DONOVAN STATED COUNTY HAS 2.5% TAX INCREASE FOR 2025. SALES ARE DOWN HOWEVER; HE FEELS SALES TAX SHOULD REMAIN AROUND SAME. MR. DONOVAN UNDERSTANDS FRUSTRATION WITH ONGOING GIS ISSUES.
- MR BRIAN CARMAN STATED CONCERNS WITH TRANSPARENCY WITH TOWN; TOWN HAS NO DATA ON OPENBOOK.GOV SINCE 2019; HE INFORMED TOWN ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM AND ASKED TOWN TO UTILIZE STATE BIDS/PIGGYBACKING.
- MS. REBECCA WRIGHT REQUESTED CLEARER BUDGET DESIGNATIONS AND BUDGET IS VERY DIFFICULT TO READ.
- MS. TERESA SILVERNAIL ASKED KETURI FOR FOLLOWING AMOUNTS AS OF OCTOBER 31; GENERAL FUND \$774,460; HIGHWAY FUND -\$452,000; CEMETERY \$31,000; FIRE -\$23,803 AND TOTAL IS \$297,000. MS. SILVERNAIL ASKED FOR AMOUNT OF CHIPS REFUND; ~\$317,000. KETURI STATED MISTAKE WAS MADE ON 2024 BUDGET AND IT'S BEING CORRECTED.
- MR. JEFF STONE ASKED ABOUT AMOUNT OF BUDGET INCREASE; \$.73/THOUSAND INCREASE; 2024 RATE WAS \$6.42/THOUSAND AND 2025 IS \$7.165/THOUSAND. MR. STONE IS CONCERNED WITH 2025 ASSESSMENT INCREASE.
- MR. ROY CARLING ASKED WHY BUILDING CODE OFFICER SALARY WAS \$30,000 FOR 2024 AND FOR 2024 IS \$10,000-WHY COULDN'T TOWN DO BUILDING CODE OFFICER SALARY FOR \$10,000 IN 2024; SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED MR. RICH LECLAIRE WAS BUILDING CODE OFFICER IN 2024 AND \$30,000 WAS HIS SALARY; NOW MR. BRANDON DECKER IS TOWN BUILDING CODE OFFICER AND HE'S PAID HOURLY. MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT RESIDENTS PAYING FOR CULVERT PIPE AND EASTWOOD STATES HE PURCHASES PIPE FOR RESIDENTS AT TOWN COST TO HELP TAXPAYERS SAVE MONEY.
- MR. SEAN PRESHER ASKED WHY EASTWOOD DRIVES GREATER DISTANCE TO DUMP DITCHING MATERIAL AND EASTWOOD STATED TOWN SUPERVISOR REQUESTED DUMPING AT DIFFERENT LOCATION. MR. PRESHER ASKED HOW TOWN ATTORNEY GETS PAID; KETURI STATED HOURLY AND TOWN USES ATTORNEY AS NEEDED.
- MS. HEATHER GABLE ASKED ABOUT \$2,500 WATER LIAISON AMOUNT ON 2025 BUDGET; SHOEMAKER STATED IT WAS FOR HIS SERVICES TO WATER DISTRICT AND WILL NOT BE UTILIZED IN 2025 AND IT WAS INCORRECT. MS. GABLE INQUIRED ABOUT AIM FUNDING VAN ETTEN WAS SUPPOSE TO GET

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\$7,398; WHY IS VAN ETTEN LOWEST IN 2025. MS. GABLE FOILED FOR WATER PERMITS IN WATER DISTRICT AND WAS UNSATISFIED WITH RESPONSE; SHE FEELS WATER DISTRICT IS NOT GETTING PROPER WATER PERMIT FEES (\$75).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 70-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ADOPTS 2025 TOWN BUDGET. SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-SHOEMAKER. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 71-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ADOPTS 2025 VAN ETTEN WATER DISTRICT BUDGET. SPONSOR-SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED-KETURI. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 72-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN SUPERVISOR KETURI TO SIGN TEAMSTER CONTRACT. SPONSOR-SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED-KETURI. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 73-24**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ACCEPTS RESIGNATION FROM CATHY LECLAIRE, WITH REGRETS. SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-LARISON. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWAYZE, JR. AND SECONDED BY SHOEMAKER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH BUILDING CODE OFFICER, BRANDON DECKER AND TOWN CLERK, DAWN ROSE AT 8:21 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:45 PM. ALL AYE. CARRIED

- KETURI STATED LEGAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2024, AT 7:00 PM.  
ADJOURNED AT 8:45 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.