

TOWN OF BETHANY

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

08 SEPTEMBER 2008

Supervisor Gayton opened the September 8, 2008 Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:28 p.m. with a Moment of Silence followed by Councilman Wenhold leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Officials in Attendance were:

Louis Gayton, Supervisor	William Gick, Councilman (8:13 p.m.)	Walter
Wenhold, Councilman	Susan Neer, Councilwoman	
Edward Pietrzykowski, Councilman	Debbie Douglas, Town Clerk	Deborah Conti,
Assessor	Paul Fleming, Highway Superintendent	
Lee Hendershott, Town Historian		

Attendees to the Meeting were:

Jim Phillips	Pat Pietrzykowski
John Szymkowiak	Ramon Cipriano

Finances

Supervisor Gayton presented the finances for the Month of August 2008 as follows:

General Savings	\$629,152.35	
WCB Savings	\$ 18,207.10	
Highway Savings	\$ 87,789.00	
Capital Project Highway	\$ 29,923.97	
AP/PR Account	\$ 2,800.63	
T/A Account	\$ 373.32	
Petty Cash	\$ 250.00	
Highway Fund Misc. Savings	\$ 2,972.77	
Total		\$771,469.14

Revenues Received

Town Clerk Fees	\$ 2,002.84	
US Gypsum Co.	\$ 27.83	
Roy Hersee	\$ 419.37	
NYS Dept. of Taxation	\$ 395.49	
Norma Bower	\$ 12.31	
NYS Dept of Taxation	\$ 2,490.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 5,347.84
Total Revenue and Interest		\$ 6,063.74

Town Clerk Report - Debbie Douglas
Presented Minutes of the August 11, 2008 Regular Town Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Pietrzykowski and seconded by Councilman Wenhold to approve the August 11, 2008 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed with All In Favor.

Primary voting is tomorrow from Noon until 9 p.m.. Will be the first time that the new machine is used.

Bethany is hosting the September GAM meeting on the 18th. Fire Department is preparing dinner and cost will be \$10. Please RSVP.

Assessor Report – Deborah Conti

Major revaluation completed this year.

28 informal hearings

22 grievances were heard by the Assessment Review Board

1 small claims case. Decision to come within one month.

The Town will be receiving \$5 per parcel for completing the revaluation.

Property photos now on file are 10 years old. Will be asking for \$1 per parcel for shooting new photos in the 2009 Budget. Cost should be between \$500 and \$600.

Assessor has been attending grant study meetings at the county. The CAP #1 (Bethany, Darien, Pembroke) is being used as an example as it is working very well. When the study is complete, a presentation will be made to GAM in November or December with a presentation to the County Legislature to follow in January or February.

Addition of Section 495 to the Real Property Tax Law requires that an exemption report be attached to the tentative/preliminary budgets. County Real Property will be supplying this information which will also show the tax dollars lost due to exemptions. An analysis will also be performed showing what program has the most exemptions in each town.

Highway Superintendent Report – Paul Fleming

All of the salt ordered has been delivered (2005 tons).

Buckman Road has been patched with help from the Towns of Pavilion and Middlebury.

Working on mowing shoulders along with shoulder work on Brown and Cacner Roads.

Calls have been received concerning trouble spots with ditches in certain areas. Work has started to correct these problems.

Highway crew is attending an OSHA safety course at the Genesee County Fire Training Center on September 10th and 11th. This is a 16 hour course.

Board Committee Reports

Walter Wenhold, Councilman

Senior Meals are going well.

No Zoning Board of Appeals meeting this month.

Pavilion Public Library held a summer reading program in which 45 adults, 75 youth and 19-20 senior high students participated. This is the first time that adults have participated in the program.

Ed Pietrzykowski, Councilman

Things going well at Fire Department. First Breakfast will be held on September 14.

Representatives from the Fire Department spoke to the Board concerning an increase in funding from the Town. Will need to replace air packs as they will be obsolete at the end of the year.

Anticipating that an increase of 15 – 18% will be needed. Have applied for grants and have been turned down. Supervisor Gayton advised them to have a written proposal turned in to the Town Clerk approximately 2 weeks prior to the next Town Board meeting (week of September 22).

OLD BUSINESS

Old Town Hall Update

Paperwork has been completed and sent to Albany for the member item grant from Senator Mary Lou Rath.

Referendum – Old Town Hall

The roof repairs alone (estimated at \$67,000) would place an additional \$.83 per \$1,000 on the Town Tax.

This does not take into account any future repairs and the cost of normal upkeep.

A motion was made by Councilman Pietrzykowski and seconded by Councilwoman Neer to have a public meeting and then hold a referendum in November to see if the taxpayers are in favor of this tax increase. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes	Councilman Gick – Absent
Councilman Wenhold – Yes	Councilwoman Neer – Yes
Councilman Pietrzykowski - Yes	

Recycling Update

Recommendations were received from JC Fibers prior to last months meeting.

The Pavilion Town Board has been approached concerning a possible joint venture however, no response has been received.

Still looking for a used baler.

Resolution #9-2008 – Allowing Awarded Grant Funding for the Old Town Hall to be Spent for Engineering Services – Removal from the Table

Resolution #9-2008 was tabled at the August 11, 2008 Regular Town Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Pietrzykowski to bring Resolution \$9-2008 off the table.

Resolution #9-2008 - Allowing Awarded Grant Funding for the Old Town Hall to be Spent for Engineering Services – Defeat of

A motion was made by Councilman Wenhold and seconded by Councilwoman Neer to defeat Resolution #9-2008. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes	Councilman Gick – Absent
Councilman Wenhold – Yes	Councilwoman Neer – Yes
Councilman Pietrzykowski – Yes	

NEW BUSINESS

H.R. 6603 – The Local Officials Tax Relief Act

A request was received from the Association of Towns and Townships to encourage local representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 6603 The Local Officials Tax Relief Act.

This would exempt small payments to public officials (\$1,300 or less) from FICA tax withholding and reporting requirements.

These employees would still receive 1099 tax forms and would still be required to report this income for federal tax purposes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Neer and seconded by Councilman Wenhold to support H.R. 6603 H.R. 6603 The Local Officials Tax Relief Act and encourage Congressman Tom Reynolds and Senator Mary Lou Rath to co-sponsor this act. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes	Councilman Gick – Absent
Councilman Wenhold – Yes	Councilwoman Neer – Yes
Councilman Pietrzykowski – Yes	

Resolution #10-2008 – Requesting Funds from the 2008 Justice Court Assistance Grant Program Application

A motion was made by Councilwoman Neer and seconded by Councilman Pietrzykowski to approve Resolution #10-2008 Requesting Funds from the 2008 Justice Court Assistance Grant Program Application. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes Councilman Gick – Absent
 Councilman Wenhold – Yes Councilwoman Neer – Yes
 Councilman Pietrzykowski – Yes

Real Property Tax Exemption – Cold War Veterans

The Town Clerk will obtain a copy of the proposed law from the Town of Stafford.

A motion was made by Councilman Pietrzykowski and seconded by Councilman Wenhold to further investigate the possibility of a tax exemption for Cold War Veterans. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes Councilman Gick – Yes
 Councilman Wenhold – Yes Councilwoman Neer – Yes
 Councilman Pietrzykowski – Yes

Town Finances

Town finances were discussed noting that utility and fuel costs are a burden.

Supervisor Gayton projects that this years budget will be approximately \$154,000 short.

Warrant

The Town Board approved payment of the following bills:

	Prepaid	Total
General Fund	\$2,057.78	\$ 4,441.94
Highway Fund	\$3,796.88	\$102,644.06

Suspension of Reading of the Minutes

A motion was made by Councilwoman Neer and seconded by Councilman Gick to suspend the reading of the minutes. The motion passed with the following Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Gayton – Yes Councilman Gick – Yes
 Councilman Wenhold – Yes Councilwoman Neer – Yes
 Councilman Pietrzykowski – Yes

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Pietrzykowski and seconded by Councilman Wenhold to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion passed with the All In Favor.

BY ORDER OF THE
 BETHANY TOWN BOARD
 DATED: September 11, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,
 Debbie L. Douglas
 Bethany Town Clerk