

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON
TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2020

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020, 7:00 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Rounds.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

E. Rounds, Supervisor	Present	M. Leighton, Councilperson	Present
M. Bensley, Councilperson	Present	D. Nye, Councilperson	Present
V. Xlander, Deputy Supervisor	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT:

V. Conklin, Town Clerk	M. Donahue, Highway Superintendent
A. Pope, Town Attorney	J. Emmons, TOB Fire Chief
N. Pappas, Code Enforcement/Bldgs. & Grounds	0 Guests

A motion may be made to go into an executive session to discuss a legal matter and/or a personnel matter regarding a particular employee after the meeting is convened.

There was discussion regarding the quarterly financial statements that were given Board members.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

Councilperson Xlander made the motion to adopt a Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

2020

Lighting	Claim No. 280	\$ 31.18
Sewer	Claim No. 281-282	\$ 102,564.20
Water	Claim No. 282-285	\$ 1,238.78
Highway	Claim No. 286-291	\$ 99,323.36
General	Claim No. 292-305	\$ 8,546.51

The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Xlander, Bensley, Leighton, Nye Absent: None

Nays: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:

There were no corrections made to the April 7, 2020 Work Session minutes.

VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:

Supervisor Rounds opened the floor at 7:14 p.m.

There being no presentations to be brought before the Board, the floor was declared closed at 7:14 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no communications and announcements.

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board – A joint meeting was held with the Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, April 13, 2020 via Zoom. A legal corner was held by Town Attorney Pope and Deputy Town Attorney Pope. The topic of the legal corner was COVID-19 and Executive Orders. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals - A joint meeting was held with the Planning Board on Monday, April 13, 2020 via Zoom. A legal corner was held by Town Attorney Pope and Deputy Town Attorney Pope. The topic of the legal corner was COVID-19 and Executive Orders. There were no cases to be heard.

Youth Commission – A meeting was held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 via Zoom. There is still hope that there may be a short baseball season. There are a couple of payments for Youth Programs from residents that may have to be refunded or carried over. Supervisor Rounds will speak with Youth Activities Director Streno regarding the payments. There was discussion at the meeting regarding the upcoming football season in the Fall.

Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Pappas has not heard any updates regarding the DWI Tournament. Letters have been sent out to some residents on Jackson Road asking them to begin cleaning up their property.

Highway Department – The Kubota Excavator and Kubota Tractor have been put on Auctions International. Town Engineer Martin has filed the quarterly report for Parkwood with the DEC. There is \$85,000 to \$88,000 in revenues coming in for water/sewer, but the bill from the Sewage Treatment Plant is approximately \$101,000. The bid specs have gone out, and been advertised for the Hamton Road sanitary pipe lining project. A storm drain project has been started on Franklin Street. A pavement project will begin on Cheshire. Highway Superintendent Donahue

will participate in a conference call tomorrow with the NYS Association of Towns and Villages, and Highway Superintendents regarding CHIPS funding.

Receipt of Reports – The Town Board is in receipt of the following reports:

Town Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2020 & March 2020

DCO's Monthly Report for February 2020 & March 2020

Hon. Lawrence Brinker – Unified Court System of NYS – Certificate of Completion 2020 Continuing Judicial Education Program

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. – TOB Chief Emmons thanked Highway Superintendent Donahue and Mr. Pappas for their assistance with the concrete floor at the Park Avenue Fire Station. Chief Emmons reported year to date there has been double the calls than they had this time last year. There has been many storm damage calls. They are assisting the Susquehanna Valley School District with the delivery of food to the children that are home. There was a stand-by for the WBNG tower antenna swap, which was performed via a helicopter. The TOB Volunteer Fire Company received their final IC3 approval, which allows them to apply for more grants. They have already submitted one grant, and are currently searching for other grant opportunities. There has been a lot of calls on Park Ave. for a house fire, brush fire, car fire and tree wires. The Government has put another \$100,000,000 in the AFG, which is the grant they signed up for a couple of months ago. This grant is for firefighting gear and equipment due to the COVID-19. Chief Emmons is hopeful that they will be awarded the grant as they are in need of gear and equipment.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Coronavirus - Update – Supervisor Rounds reported that the Town has to provide face masks for employees. Twenty-four face masks were made by Mary Talucci and donated to the Town for employees. Dale Miller and her daughter also made face masks and donated them to the Town for employees. Superintendent Donahue found a couple of cases of the disposable masks at the Highway Garage. Feet markers will be placed at the Town Clerk's window, and possibly Becky Smith's window to help remind residents about the six feet social distancing requirement. The County has also offered more face masks. Supervisor Rounds was on a conference call today with the County, and municipal leaders. There are 154 active cases of COVID-19 in Broome County. Fifty to 60 of those cases are in nursing homes. The Broome County Executive's office has stressed to the Governor's office the importance of regional re-opening in order to get businesses up and running possibly within the next couple of weeks. The Town is in receipt of their first quarter sales tax check in the amount of \$327,000 today. The Town can expect the next quarterly sales tax check to be possibly two-thirds less due to the closure of businesses. The Town Court will be closed until May 30, 2020. Town Attorney Pope has provided Supervisor Rounds with an Executive Order regarding needing more time for the assessment grievance procedure. Assessor Cook will be doing assessment grievances on May 26, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. via Zoom. This information will be posted for the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Clean Up Days 2020 – Update – Clean Up Days 2020 will be held on May 14 and 15, 2020. The BC Landfill will not accept freon or electronics products at this time. The freon and electronics collection will have to be held on another date. There will be two dumpsters at the Town Hall, and two dumpsters at the Highway Department. Postcards will be sent to residents with information about items that will be accepted. The Town will be accepting tires. The Town will be dropping off the collected items at the BC Landfill on May 19, 2020.

Hickory Common School District – Use of Town Hall May 12, 2020 & May 19, 2020 – Postponed – The Hickory Common School District has postponed their budget meeting scheduled for May 12, 2020, and their voting meeting scheduled for May 19, 2020.

There was no further unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

TOB Website – Analytical Update – There is new signage in the front lawn of the Town Hall directing residents to visit the Town's website that says: “visit our website townofbinghamton.com”. The TOB website statistics sheet is appended hereto for reference. The graphs show use on an every day basis. New users are from individual unique IP addresses, not users going to the website five times in one day, and being counted as five hits to the website. Users are all users. Those users are, for example, Becky Smith, going to the website five times a day to make changes, etc. Those are not necessary unique users. The Sessions by Browser shows the number of sessions by browser, i.e., Chrome, Safari, Edge, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Samsung Internet. The Sessions graph reflects 1,858 visitors to the website during the time frame shown on the graph. The Session graph reflects the amount of time that users are on the website. Bounce rate reflects that 50% of the visitors go to one page and stay there. The other 50% of the visitors go to multiple pages on the website. There was discussion about tracking what information visitors are searching for, and need. The Youth Commission has mostly been using Facebook, and has not been driving visitors to the TOB website. Supervisor Rounds spoke with Youth Activities Director Streno, and the Youth Commission will drive visitors to their Facebook page to the Town's website for information.

CDBG – Applicant Approval Requests – Phelan & Miller – Supervisor Rounds attended a webinar regarding alternative use of CDBG funds. Unspent CDBG funds can be used to assist low income tenants (who have to meet all of the requirements), in paying their rent. To date, there has not been any of those requests. There currently is \$77,000 in CDBG funds that have not been allocated. That amount could be split between two or three people. There are three people on the waiting list, and two people behind them waiting to be reconsidered. It was agreed to spend the funds going forward as they have been spent. Some of the projects have been stopped due to the Governor's Executive Orders. The projects will be finished once the pause by the Governor is over. Supervisor Rounds spoke with Rich Cunningham from Thoma Development, who believes the Town is on track, and the work will be finalized by January 21, 2021. The CDBG has not indicated that extensions will be granted. The funds have to be allocated by January 21, 2021. Resident John Phelan has been prequalified for the CDBG funds for roofing, masonry, windows and doors, flooring and interior carpentry for property located at

1838 Peckham Road in the amount of \$25,800. A motion was made by Councilperson Leighton to adopt a Resolution to approve the allocation of funds for the Phelan property located at 1838 Peckham Road, Binghamton, New York, in the amount of \$25,800, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. There was some discussion. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Xlander, Bensley, Leighton, Nye Absent: None

Nays: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

Resident Dale Miller has been prequalified for the CDBG funds for roofing, electric, windows and doors, flooring, and interior and exterior carpentry for property located at 469 Morgan Road in the amount of \$25,810. A motion was made by Councilperson Xlander to adopt a Resolution to approve the allocation of funds for the Miller property located at 469 Morgan Road, Binghamton, New York, in the amount of \$25,810, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Xlander, Bensley, Leighton, Nye Absent: None

Nays: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

The Town will be applying for another CDBG grant. Supervisor Rounds stated that it would be helpful if the Town already had applicants before applying for the CDBG grant.

There was no further new business.

VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:

Supervisor Rounds opened the floor to the public at 8:02 p.m.

There being no presentations, the floor was declared closed at 8:02 p.m.

There was discussion about when regional re-openings of the State would start to take place. Councilperson Nye reported that Governor Cuomo has alluded that he may consider Upstate New York different than Downstate for re-openings.

Town Attorney Pope will consult with Deputy Town Attorney Pope to see what actions the Town of Cooperstown took to prohibit massive wind turbine farms. Councilperson Xlander

reported that the Energy Committee has the final draft of solar, and are waiting on Deputy Town Attorney Pope's approval of the wording, and then they will submit that to the Board. The next topic the Energy Committee will be working on is wind turbine farms.

Supervisor Rounds inquired about Deputy Town Attorney Pope presenting the Parkland Alienation to Donna Lupardo. Town Attorney Pope will check with Deputy Town Attorney Pope regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m., and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Leighton. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a Work Session to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickie A. Conklin".

Vickie A. Conklin
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION

At a regularly scheduled work session of the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, duly called and held at the Town Office Building, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York, on the 21st day of April, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. of said day, the following were:

PRESENT: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander
Councilperson Michael Bensley
Councilperson Dean Nye
Councilperson Mark Leighton

ABSENT: None

The Resolution set forth below was duly offered by Councilperson Xlander, who moved its adoption, and was seconded by Councilperson Nye.

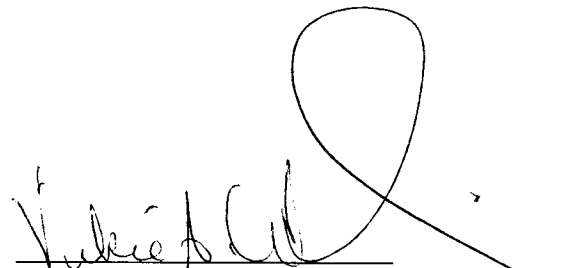
A roll call vote was then taken upon the Motion for the adoption of said Resolution, which resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander
Councilperson Michael Bensley
Councilperson Dean Nye
Councilperson Mark Leighton

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was then declared adopted.



Vickie Conklin,
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, by motion Councilperson Xlander has recommended that the Town Board approve claim numbers 280; 281-282; 282-285; 286-291 and 292-305 as audited, and

WHEREAS, the specific audited claims are as set forth in the attachment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that claim numbers 280; 281-282; 282-285; 286-291 and 292-305 as audited are hereby adopted and approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and such other Town officials are authorized to take such additional and further action as is necessary to implement this Resolution.

RESOLUTION

At a regularly scheduled Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, duly called and held at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York, on the 21st day of April, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. of said day, the following were:

PRESENT: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander
Councilperson Mark Leighton
Councilperson Michael Bensley
Councilperson Dean Nye

ABSENT: None

The Resolution set forth below was duly offered by Councilperson Leighton, who moved its adoption, and was seconded by Councilperson Nye.

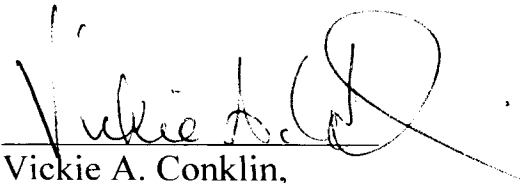
A roll call vote was then taken upon the Motion for the adoption of said Resolution, which resulted as follows:

AYES: All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was then declared adopted.


Vickie A. Conklin,
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that the Town Board approve the allocation of CDBG funds to John Phelan for his property located at 1838 Peckham Road, Binghamton, New York, in the amount of \$25,800 in accordance with the recommendation of and administration by Thoma Development;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the allocation of CDBG funds to John Phelan for his property located at 1838 Peckham Road, Binghamton, New York in the amount of \$25,800; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and such other Town officials are authorized to take such additional and further action as is necessary to implement this Resolution.

RESOLUTION

At a regularly scheduled Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, duly called and held at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York, on the 21st day of April, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. of said day, the following were:

PRESENT: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander
Councilperson Mark Leighton
Councilperson Michael Bensley
Councilperson Dean Nye

ABSENT: None

The Resolution set forth below was duly offered by Councilperson Xlander, who moved its adoption, and was seconded by Councilperson Bensley.

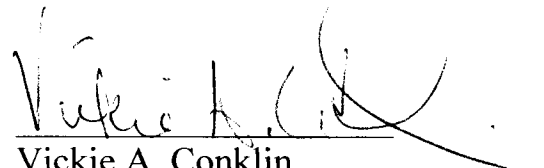
A roll call vote was then taken upon the Motion for the adoption of said Resolution, which resulted as follows:

AYES: All

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was then declared adopted.


Vickie A. Conklin,
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that the Town Board approve the allocation of CDBG funds to Dale Miller for his property located at 469 Morgan Road, Binghamton, New York, in the amount of \$25,810 in accordance with the recommendation of and administration by Thoma Development;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the allocation of CDBG funds to Dale Miller for his property located at 469 Morgan Road, Binghamton, New York in the amount of \$25,810; and it is further

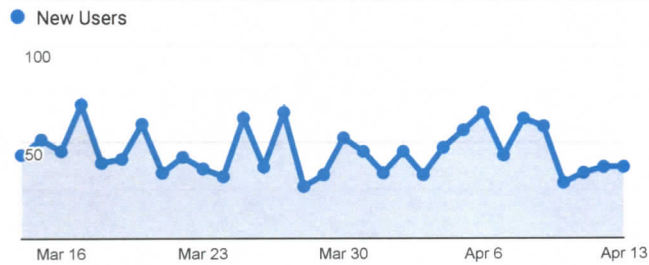
RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and such other Town officials are authorized to take such additional and further action as is necessary to implement this Resolution.

TOB Website Statistics

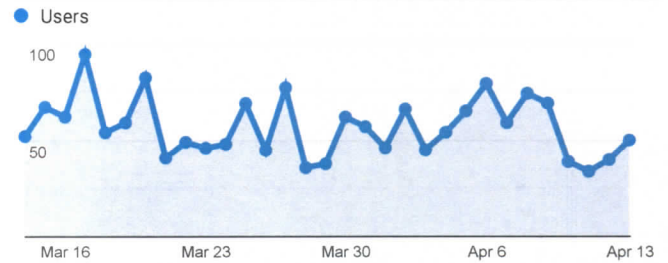
Mar 14, 2020 - Apr 13, 2020

All Users
100.00% Sessions

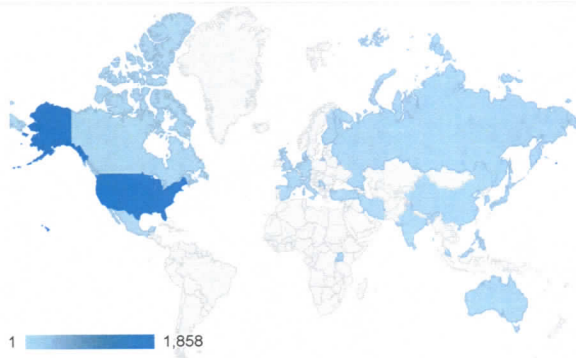
New Users



Users



Sessions



Sessions by Browser

Browser	Sessions
Chrome	907
Safari	674
Edge	104
Internet Explorer	62
Firefox	60
Samsung Internet	55

Avg. Session Duration and Pages / Session



Bounce Rate

