

**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON**  
**TOWN BOARD**  
**April 18, 2023**

Page	2	Executive Session 5:00 p.m. – Adjourned 5:59 p.m. Public Hearings.
Page	3	Public Hearings (Continued) Approval of Audited Claims
Page	4	Recognition of Minutes Voice of Public
Page	5	Voice of the Public (continued). Communications and Announcements Officials and Committee Reports Planning Board Zoning Board of Appeals Youth Commission Code Enforcement/Buildings & Grounds Highway Department
Page	6	Officials and Committee Reports (Continued) Highway Department (Continued) Receipt of Reports TOB Volunteer Fire Co. Supervisor Unfinished Business
Page	7	Unfinished Business (Continued) New Business
Page	8	New Business (Continued) Voice of the Public Adjournment.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023, 6:00 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to go into a special executive session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss a legal/ and or personnel matter regarding a particular employee prior to the start of the Town Board regular meeting. Motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Donahue. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Councilperson Nye made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 5:59 p.m. proceed with the regular Town Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:02 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

E. Rounds, Supervisor	Present	T. Tokos, Town Clerk	Present
M. Donahue, Dep. Supervisor	Present	G. Middleton Town Attorney	Present
D. Nye, Councilperson	Present	M. Bensley, Councilperson	Present
V. Conklin, Councilperson	Present	K. Olds, TOB Vol. Fire Dept.	Present
N. Pappas, Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds			Present
Z. Soboleski, Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds			Present
M. Leighton, Highway Superintendent			Present

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**1. T.O.B Local Law of the year 2023 – Authorizing real property tax exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service Workers**

A short discussion was held by both Supervisor Rounds and Attorney Middleton, on qualifications, years of service, requirements, and changes to wording of law. Councilperson Bensley made a motion to adopt a resolution to pass the local law Authorizing real property tax exemptions for emergency service workers. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. All those present voted in favor. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Nye, Bensley, Donahue, Conklin  
Abstain: None  
Declared Adopted.

Nays: None

(Resolution Appended)



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, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

### **RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:**

There were no corrections made to the April 4, 2023 Work Session minutes.

### **VOICE OF THE PUBLIC: Opened at 6:15 p.m.**

#### 1. Jason Garner – State of the County Address –

Garner spoke in detail about the local economy/fiscal government status which is doing well. Unemployment at lowest since 1990, a large sales tax growth in the last two years. Positive upgrading for bond rating. Comptroller gave best fiscal rating ever from last year. The county is in the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year of cutting property taxes. Good economic development projects in the area, i.e., Amazon, FedEx, and the Oakdale Mall project. Numerous businesses have already occupied space in the mall, and the largest Dicks store in the World will soon open as well. There was information addressed on the former IBM complex future plans. WIFI/broadband study has been done of Broome County. Affordable housing is needed when new jobs come to this community. All county park various upgrades will be taking place. New emergency network being created. Over 4000 auto violations recorded from school bus cameras in the past 18 months. Crime in the county has gone down in the last six years. BC Airport has new flight carrier-Avelo, flights are reasonably priced. New additional airlines may be added in the next few years. There was a discussion following the Address regarding cell phone service (and lack thereof) in the Town of Binghamton, possible lowering of County sales tax, and also recycling by Councilperson Bensley.

#### 2. Elizabeth Tarbox – 3276 Jackson Road re: 25 Powers Road

Ms. Tarbox informed the Board of interest in purchasing the home/ property at 25 Powers Road and wanted to make sure that their plans are correct at this time. Attorney Middleton explained dilemma of current owner and ongoing litigation. The town has spent a tremendous amount of money on this situation at this point and the home is in deplorable condition and should be gutted. Current owner is not responding properly and the Town Board is not prepared to make a decision at this time, as the process of demolition or paying of fines has been stalled.

Attorney Middleton has proposed a conference call with herself, Mr. Pappas, Board members, the current property owner as to coming to an agreement with very specific stipulations regarding the property at that time. Some discussion was held as how to proceed with the situation at this time.

**Supervisor Rounds closed the voice of the Public 7:10 p.m.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Town Clean Up Days will be held on Friday May 19, & Saturday May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Electronics may be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> only.**

## **OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### Planning Board

- Meeting to be held on April 25, 2023 with Binghamton Solar.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

- Joint meeting to be held with the Planning Board on April 25, 2023

### Youth Commission

- Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Time to be determined. Lacrosse equipment has been purchased.

### Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds

- Busy week. Supervisor Rounds returned call to resident who has reported that a business is possibly being ran out of a neighbors' West Hamton garage. Code Enforcement officer N. Pappas informed the board that there is nothing wrong going on at the location. Resident was informed that suspicions would need evidence, and that it's not up to the Town to catch anyone in the 'act'. Code Enforcement officer Z. Soboleski has completed his inspections of CDBG recipient properties and has a list of residences that are not in compliance with the terms of the CDBG mortgage. Attorney Middleton will be drafting a letter to be sent to these property owners.

### Highway Department

- Sanitary sewer line project has been started. All lines have been viewed with a camera and cleaned out. There is possibly one spot that needs repair. Brush pick up has started and calls have been coming in. The County will be hydro seeding on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. June 29<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for stoning and oiling the roads.
- The heater in the first bay of the garage needs replacing. 3 Quotes were submitted to the Town Board. There was some discussion between Deputy Supervisor Donahue and

Highway Superintendent Leighton regarding existing lines as there has been problems with said existing lines burning fuel, and various quotes that include warranties.

- A traffic study was done on Foland Rd. to determine the amount of traffic. Seems that the majority of the traffic does maintain the speed limit. The daily volume of the traffic was surprisingly higher than anticipated.
- Jackson Park water system was started. A small repair to a line was needed but the water is hooked up and flowing.
- Fire extinguishers are being tested by Action Fire & Safety, Inc and replaced as needed.
- Summer hours will be starting after Memorial Day. There was talk of maybe starting them sooner if all were in agreement. The hours will be 10-hour days, Tuesday-Friday.
- There is a list of surplus equipment at the garage that will be up for sale. Councilperson Nye made a motion to adopt a resolution deeming the equipment list as surplus and able to be sold on auction. The motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Donahue. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

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

Town Clerk’s Monthly Report for March 2023

DCO Monthly Report for March 2023

Code Enforcement Officer’s Monthly Report for March 2023

TOB Volunteer Fire Co.

- 21 calls to TOB V.F.C. – 4 trees down, 9 house fires, 4 wires down, 4 brush fires.

Supervisor

- The County is offering a CPR class, open to all employees and board members for \$20.00 per person. A date and time will be decided and scheduled.
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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A Public Hearing will be set for June 6, 2023 for 4:01 p.m. for 1978 Montrose Ave. Councilperson Conklin made a motion to adopt a Resolution to approve and schedule the Public Hearing at a regular scheduled work session of the Town of Binghamton Town Board in connection with the unsafe structure located at 1978 Montrose Ave.

Binghamton, NY 13903 authorizing issuance of an order regarding the same. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

- A Public Hearing will be set for June 6, 2023 for 4:02 p.m. for 330 Park Ave. Councilperson Conklin made a motion to adopt a Resolution to approve and schedule the Public Hearing at a regular scheduled work session of the Town of Binghamton Town Board in connection with the unsafe structure located at 330 Park Ave. Binghamton, NY 13903 authorizing issuance of an order regarding the same. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Common School District has requested to use the Town Hall for a budget meeting on May 2, 2023, and again for a budget vote on May 16, 2023.
- A Motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Donahue to approve the use of the Town hall. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.
- Lights at Jackson Park have to be removed due to an extension falling off of one of the poles and crashing to the ground. We received 2 quotes to take the poles down to 10' leaving the electrical wiring for future light installation. The removal will be done before the baseball season starts for safety reasons. There will be no evening games scheduled this season. The cost to put in new lights at the field is approx. \$300,000.00 at this time it is not in the budget.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Donahue to pass a resolution to approve the removal of the lights at Jackson Park accepting the quote of \$3,800.00 by Triple E Power & Light, LLC. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

- New scoreboards will be installed at the Town Park. Daktronics had the higher bid and was chosen to do the installation due to the time constraint of 4 weeks as opposed to the others being 12 weeks so being that, their quote was accepted at best value. They will provide the scoreboards. The wiring will be additional.

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to adopt a Resolution for the approval of 2 scoreboards for Jackson Park with Daktronics for the amount of \$11,475.00 who had the most expensive price but the most value for lead time, quality and customer service. The motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Donahue. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin                      Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

Motion carried.

(Resolution Appended)

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:**    Open 8:08 - Closed 8:09 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. 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 2, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.*

Transcribed by,

*Paula J. Edwards*

Paula J. Edwards  
Deputy Town Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Tokos, Town Clerk

Town Clerk

*Tracy Tokos*