

**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON  
TOWN BOARD  
November 21, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023, 6:00 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Supervisor Rounds.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

E. Rounds, Supervisor	Present	D. Nye, Councilperson	Present
M. Bensley, Councilperson	Present	V. Conklin, Councilperson	Present
M. Donahue, Deputy Supervisor	Present		

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

T. Tokos, Town Clerk  
G. Middleton, Town Attorney  
N. Pappas, Code Enforcement Officer/Building and Grounds  
M. Leighton, Highway Superintendent  
K. Olds, TOB Volunteer Fire Co.  
C. Streno -- Youth Commission

**Supervisor Rounds stated: 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 will be an executive session.**

**Continuation of Public Hearing to consider input on the proposed Local Law Repealing and replacing Local Law No. 1. 0 1981, NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code at 6:02p.m. – 6:03p.m.** Town Clerk Tokos forwarded a letter to resident Lisa Young, from Attorney Middleton regarding questions that Ms. Young had, explaining the changes to the local law. Supervisor Rounds closed the Public Hearing brought the meeting back to the board and a motion was made to take a roll call vote to accept the changes to the Local Law. All those present voted in favor of the changes. Motion carried.

Ayes: Nye, Bensley, Donahue, Conklin, and Rounds

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Declared Adopted.

**APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:**

Voucher #954 in the amount of \$3,931.70 pulled from Burr Trucking for missing tarp system on a truck received for Highway Department. Superintendent Leighton will contact Burr Truck on missing system. Attorney Middleton will review the original bid specifications on this system, as Burr did not notify the highway department on the deviation of the bid specification.

Lighting	Claim No. 940	\$	32.86
Sewer	Claim No. 941 - 943	\$	7,179.39
Water	Claim No. 944 - 946	\$	6,861.56
Highway	Claim No. 947 - 959	\$	65,814.46
General	Claim No. 960 - 980	\$	<u>56,134.55</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>136,016.32</b>

A motion was made by Councilperson Nye for the approval of the Audited Claims with removal of claim #954 in the amount of \$3,931.70 until it is reconciled. The motion duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin 4 of those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Nye, Bensley, and Conklin                      Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstained: Donahue

Motion Carried

**RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:**

There were no corrections made to the November 9, 2023 Work Session minutes.

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:**

Supervisor Rounds opened the floor to the public for comments at 6:09 p.m.

Brett Pritchard who resides at 57 Timber Buff Court.

Mr. Pritchard is in the preliminary stage of a residential development at the former Vestal Hills Country Club property that he is now the owner of. He was here to discuss the property and to be sure that the Town of Binghamton is in support of him should this project go into the development stage. He did reiterate that it is still very early in the stages. The board members did make him aware that the TOB is definitely behind him and would welcome more residential properties to the Town.

## VOICE OF THE PUBLIC: (CONTINUED)

David Pultz who resides at 3636 Carmen Rd.

Mr. Pultz came to discuss the property on Carmen Road that has been purchased recently with the possibility of a Sports park coming to the area. He stated that several neighbors have expressed concern to him regarding the Sports park. Supervisor Rounds expressed that the Board was approached by a gentleman several months ago with the idea in mind and it was still in the very early stages of the project and we have not heard anything from him since then. She assured Mr. Pultz that if and when the time comes, the residents will definitely be notified and be welcomed to come in front of the Board and express their concerns.

floor was declared closed at 6:15 p.m.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thanksgiving- TOB Municipal Buildings - Closed on Thursday November 23 and Friday November 24, 2023 in observance of Thanksgiving.

There will be a Christmas luncheon at the Town Hall for all Town and Highway employees on December 19, 2023 at 12:00 pm. The Park bench at 100 Park Ave. Binghamton will cater the luncheon.

## OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Planning Board:

- A special meeting will be scheduled in December for the future Golden Valley Project. The date is TBD.

### Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Theresa Taro accepted the role of Chairperson.
- Bob Strick is a new member.

### Youth Commission:

- Chris Streno presented his year in review of the TOB sports programs. (Attached).

### Code Enforcement/ Building and Grounds –

- The garage addition building is all set, the new garage door will be here in December, Near Christmas, then they will start putting the metal on the exterior walls, and working on the interior.

- The papers are signed and filed for 330 Park Avenue with Supreme Court action to allow the Town to get in to the property and demolish the structure, if need be.
- The papers are on hold for Montrose Ave. due to the passing of Mr. Mapes, The family is working on appointing an executor and when that is established they will be in touch and hopefully at that point we can move forward in the proper direction.

Highway Department:

- Leaf pick-up is passed; however, they will plan one more pass around to pick up any that may be remaining to prevent them from collecting in the ditches and culverts.
- All trucks are ready for the winter. Sand and salt have been delivered to the garage.
- Highway Superintendent Leighton has presented 3 quotes for the pump and motor for the Felters Rd. pump house. The decision was made to scale down from two new pumps and motors to one, this being so the new pump can go in and the existing pump can be refurbished. Deputy Supervisor Donahue advised Highway Superintendent Leighton that he will need to follow a certain procedure i.e., talk to an engineer, write a letter to the county with the intentions, Write a set of specs, etc.. Mark will follow the procedures. The money is in the budget for next year so it will be ready for the purchase at that time.
- The water / sewer department will be purchasing a new meter reading device. The current device is no longer working properly. The order will be placed on January 2, 2023. The Board will vote on and approve this at the January 2, 2023 Work session meeting.

Receipt of Reports –

- The Town Board is in receipt of the following reports:  
     Town Clerk's Monthly Report for October 2023  
     DCO Monthly Report for October 2023  
     Code Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report for September and October 2023

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. :

- There were 13 calls in the last month.

Supervisor Report :

- Supervisor Rounds spoke with NYSEG regarding the poles on Campus Dr. in order to purchase them we would have to purchase all the poles in the Town of Binghamton. It was decided that we will just continue to lease these 16 poles at \$21.47 each per month for the pole and \$4.32 for the lights. That totals \$412.64 per month. These poles are strictly street light poles.

- Superintendent Leighton was approached by a resident requesting a lamp be put on the pole at the corner of Park Ave and Parkway St. The gentleman had concerns for the parents and the children who wait there for the school bus in the dark.

Councilperson Conklin made a motion to adopt a Resolution to add a light to the pole at the corner of Park Ave and Parkway St. 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: Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin, Rounds.                      Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Supervisor Rounds made adjustments to the Town of Binghamton Fire Co.

Councilperson Conklin made a motion for preliminary agreement by the Board to accept the modified language for review by the Town of Binghamton Fire Company for the changes to the 2024 contract. The motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Donahue. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Board review of the Procurement Policy.

Method of Competition to be used for NON-Bid Procurements

Councilperson Nye made a motion to adopt a Resolution to modify the Procurement Policy for:

- Items up to \$1,499.00 – No Purchase order.
- Items \$1,500.00 - \$5,000.00 – Subject to Purchase order, Dept Head secures three written quotes, approved by Bookkeeper and Supervisor prior to purchase. The Town Board will review and approve the invoice during the voucher approval process at the Town Board Meeting.
- Items \$5,001.00 - \$35,000.00 -- Subject to Purchase order, three written or fax quotes, approved by Supervisor and Town Board prior to purchase.

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: Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin, Rounds.                      Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

- Supervisor Rounds Town of Binghamton Employee Handbook

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mike Donahue will be stepping down as Deputy Supervisor. With the acceptance of that, The Board appoints Mike Bensley as Deputy Supervisor until December 31, 2023.
- Supervisor Rounds sat down with Jeff from Public sector after she met with the Board and went over the changes that were made and agreed upon, She and Jeff went through the changes, discussed some, and updated it. There was discussion on several topics.

A Motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Bensley to adopt a Resolution accepting the modifications presented to Public Sector for revamping of the 2013 Town of Binghamton Employee Handbook to include Yellow meaning changes and eliminations and Red meaning additions, with a ? under Green. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Donahue, Nye, Bensley, Conklin, Rounds.                      Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:**

Supervisor Rounds opened the Floor at 7:53 p.m., with no one being present the floor was closed at 7:54 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilperson Nye to go into an Executive Session 7:54 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and the motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Councilperson Donahue to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Bensley to reconvene the Board Meeting at 8:22 p.m. the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Bensley to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. 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 December 5, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.*

*The Next Town Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.*

Respectfully transcribed and submitted  
by,

  
Paula J. Edwards  
Deputy Town Clerk

  
Tracy L. Tokos  
Town Clerk



## TOB Youth Activities Year in Review 2023

Baseball and Softball began in May. Our T-Ball numbers more than doubled to 39 kids. As a result, we had 4 teams with some great volunteer coaches. They spent a few weeks learning various skills and then played some games against each other.

Softball and Baseball traditionally have 3 levels of play; coach-pitch, minors and majors. Softball could not support a coach-pitch level this year but still had 48 players for minors and majors, down just 4 from 2022. The baseball program had 73 players over the 3 levels; up 7 from 2022. We continue to play in our Tri-Town Baseball & Softball league with the towns of Conklin & Kirkwood. Windsor softball joined our league last year and came back again this season as well.

We began a youth lacrosse program in the spring which gave a dozen kids in the K-2 age group the opportunity to play in the Southern Tier Youth Lacrosse League. We expect to possibly expand this program for grades 3-4 in 2024.

Susquehanna Valley did not support summer teams for either their Modified or JV baseball this summer so we stepped in and supported those players, providing them with the opportunity to play 14U and 16U Teener Baseball. We were able to convince both the Modified and JV coaches to stay with their school teams. The parents paid the league and umpire fees for the 16U team and a combination of fundraising and a business sponsor covered the 14u team. We also convinced the school to allow the players to use their respective Modified and JV uniforms for the league. As a result of all that, these kids were able to play baseball as a team with the coaches they just had during the school season and the sponsoring of these teams came with no expense to the town. Without our assistance these two group of kids would not have had an opportunity to play summer baseball together.

Football & Cheer began in August. We remain a part of the Southern Tier Youth Football Conference which has grown to 21 programs with 26 teams from Susquehanna, Pa. to Corning participating this season. We had the largest number of participants for both Cheer and football this season in history of our program. So much so that we split every level of play from Kindergarten Flag through 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade tackle into two teams. 70 cheerleaders ranging from grades K-6 and an impressive number of 130 football players participated in grades K-6.

We continue to play our home games at the SV stadium and continue to have a great working relationship with the school district, who are extremely supportive of all of our programs. Once again, we live-streamed all of our home games on the SV Athletics YouTube page. At the end of the season, the Cheer program participated in several competitions separate from the football games.

## TOB Youth Activities Year in Review 2023

The Booster Club is an independent organization that supports all of our programs. They run the Concession Stand at Jackson Park during baseball & softball games, football and cheer practices and the Concession Stand at SVHS for our football games. A few of the many examples of their support include; paying the football referees for every home game, this includes the High School kids that we use for our Flag Football games. They also provide the referees and Press Box volunteers with a meal during these games. They pay for Softball and Baseball All-Star Tournaments, Cheer Competitions and Basketball Tournaments, they organize end-of-season banquets, providing gifts for players and when the need arises they assist families in need financially to ensure no one is left out because of a registration fee.

Although they are independent, they are required to provide me with an annual audit of their finances which I then share with the town's Bookkeeper for review. They are currently a very healthy and successful organization.

Our youth basketball season is currently underway with practices being held at Brookside Elementary and the SV Middle School.

Currently we have 40 boys and 30 girls playing competitive basketball in grades 3-6. We have partnered with the new SV basketball coaching staff to establish a relationship between the town and school programs. There have already been youth clinics held at the school and we are looking forward to youth basketball nights at both girls and boy's SV home games.

We continue to have a great working relationship with the town parks employees and I would like to personally thank Nick Pappas and Zach Soboleski for their communication and responsiveness to any issues I bring them. Improvements continue to be made at Jackson Park. New scoreboards and pitching mounds are at the park, ready to be installed for next season

I appreciate the support I receive from Supervisor Rounds and the rest of the Town Board members as well as all of the staff at Town Hall.

Finally, I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the town and our youth and I respectfully request to be renewed as the Youth Commissioner for 2024.

Christopher Streno