

**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON  
TOWN BOARD  
December 17, 2024**

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, December 17, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

T. Tokos, Town Clerk  
G. Middleton, Town Attorney  
M. Leighton, Highway  
C. Streno, Youth Commissioner

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. An executive session will be held today.

**APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:**

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

General	Claim No. 1008 - 1037	\$ 10,498.87
Highway	Claim No. 990 - 1007	\$ 15,097.91
Lighting	Claim No. 984	\$ 37.94
Sewer	Claim No. 985	\$ 13.00
Water	Claim No. 985 - 989	\$ 7,601.39
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 33,249.11</b>

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

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

Nays: None      Abstained: None

Declared adopted.      Motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:**

Work Session Minutes of December 3, 2024 - Approved.

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:** Supervisor Rounds opened the floor at 6:02p.m - No one present. the floor closed at 6:02 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Christmas – TOB Municipal Buildings closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas Day.

New Years Day - TOB Municipal Buildings closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of New Years Day.

Highway Department – Christmas tree pick up – January 6 through January 31, 2025

The new hours of the Town Hall effective January 1, 2025 will be Tuesday – Thursday. The Bookkeeper and Code Department will be available by appointment only.

**OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals:**

A Hearing is set on December 30, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. for a resident in need of a variance to complete a garage before the winter weather sets in.

The Next regular scheduled meeting is to be held January 28, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

**Youth Commission** – Chris Streno read his Year in review (attached).

**Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds** – Attorney Middleton updated the Board on the Montrose Ave. Property- There is a surrogate court appearance at the end of December. one person disputing the sale, an appearance has been scheduled for early February.

Dr Miller Property – The Board discussed the idea of a purchase price and the need to assess the property value.

**Highway:** - Vehicle maintenance, Road maintenance i.e. plowing, salting etc. There was discussion of a high-water bill, the water department is looking into the cause and waiting on information that is coming within a day or so.

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

- Town Clerk’s Monthly Report for November 2024
- DCO Monthly Report for November 2024
- Code Enforcement Officer’s Monthly Report for November 2024

**TOB Volunteer Fire Co:** - No one was present for the monthly update.

**Supervisor:** - Supervisor Rounds spoke with John Watson of Binghamton Solar, He provided an update on the progress of the Solar project- they are closing on financing, Solar panels and transformers are ordered, they are looking to start in spring, approximately 6 month turn around, first 3 months will be the mechanical part and the next 3 will be the utility connecting.

The Community Development Grant has been awarded for \$693,000.00 from NYS and the Town of Binghamton will once again participate in the program to assist qualifying residents with home improvements. More information will be available.

The Broome County Association of Towns and Villages next meeting will be January 23, 2025 at Tony's in Endicott at 5:30 P.M. cocktail hour and 6:00 P.M dinner. Jason Garnar will be the speaker.

**Senior Commission:** - Estate planning presentation by Coughlin and Gerhardt took place on December 4<sup>th</sup>, last Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> the book group met. On Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> they held a Holiday luncheon at the Town Hall.

A discussion regarding BINGO took place, we will need a BINGO identification number, only certain organizations can run a BINGO game. We will continue to look into a way to add BINGO to the Senior Commission.

Vickie Conklin read a Year in Review (attached).

**PLEASE NOTE! Most activities take place at the Town Hall from 2p.m.- 4p.m. unless otherwise noted!**

**NOTE: Weather Cancellation policy: if the schools are closed, we will not be meeting.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** - Chris Streno attended Judge school in Albany last week. He went through a lot of training and some mock trial scripts. He completed and passed the course he will be working as the Town Justice at the Town of Binghamton, Town Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Kathy Kiekel will be now become the secretary and the Chairperson of the Planning Board.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Bensley to nominate Kathy Kiekel to become both the Secretary and the Chairperson of the Planning Board, the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Donahue. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

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

Nays: None    Abstained: None

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Continued

Patrick Wagner is interested in filling the seat on the Planning Board as a member.

The Water/Sewer and the Code departments have been on the lookout for new software. The programs are outdated and have an issue or two. We will continue to review programs, their benefits and costs.

A motion was made by Councilperson Conklin to accept the resignation of the Deputy Clerk, Paula Edwards, effective January 9, 2025. The motion was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

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

Motion carried.

We will miss Paula and we wish her the best with her future endeavors.

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:** Supervisor Rounds opened the floor at 7:07 P.M. No one present. The floor closed at 7:07 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Bensley at 7:11 P.M. to go into an executive session and was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Councilperson Donahue made a motion to return to the regular board meeting at 8:00 P.M. Councilperson Nye duly seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Councilperson Conklin made a motion to enter back into the Board Meeting at 8:01 P.M. Councilperson Nye duly seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Councilperson Donahue made a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 8:02 P.M. Deputy Supervisor Bensley duly seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Upcoming:**

*The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a Work Session to be held on Tuesday January 7, 2025 @ 4:00 P.M., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.*

*The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 21, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.*

Respectfully Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by,



Tracy Tokos,  
Town Clerk

## TOB Youth Activities Year in Review 2024

As we usually do, we began the year in the middle of our youth basketball season. Last season we had 40 boys and 30 girls playing competitive basketball in grades 3-6. Currently we have 34 boys and 29 girls playing on 7 teams. We continue our partnership with the SV basketball coaching staff, establishing a good working relationship between the town and school programs. There were several youth clinics held at the school prior to the season as well as a youth coaches' clinic. We are looking forward to youth basketball nights at both girls and boy's SV home games this season. For the second straight season the K-2 Skills & Drills program is being conducted by the SV coaching staff and being held at the SV High School. This year they have added Thursday evenings to the normal Saturday schedule. This has traditionally been a program that each town runs on their own but now the kids in this age group from the entire school district get to participate together and begin build some SV pride at an early age.

Baseball and Softball began practice in March and games began in May. We had 36 kids on 4 teams for our T-Ball program. They spent a few weeks learning various skills and then played some games against each other.

Softball and Baseball continue to have 3 levels of play after T-Ball; coach-pitch, minors and majors. We were not able to field a coach-pitch softball team last year but we were this season. 46 players fielded 1 CP, 2 Minors and 1 Major SB teams. Just 2 less total players than the year before.

The baseball program had 84 players on 2 CP, 2 Minors and 3 Majors' teams; up 11 from 2023. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight season one of our majors BB teams was sponsored by the Binghamton Rumble Ponies. We contracted with them to sell a number of discounted RP game tickets in exchange for official BRP jerseys for our team custom made by the organization with our players' names. With the assistance of the Booster Club there were no costs to the town for this collaboration.

We continue to play in our Tri-Town Baseball & Softball league with the towns of Conklin & Kirkwood. Windsor softball has remained in our league for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight season.

Following up on the inaugural season, we added an age level of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade to the youth lacrosse program in the spring which gave 18 total kids in the K-4 age group the opportunity to play in the Southern Tier Youth Lacrosse League.

Once again, Susquehanna Valley did not support summer teams for either their Modified, JV or Varsity baseball programs this summer and once again, we stepped in to support at least some of these players. We were able to work with some parent/coaches to field a 14U Teener Baseball team made up mostly of the

## TOB Youth Activities Year in Review 2024

SV modified team. The players parents paid for the league and umpire fess. The parents paid for the league and umpire fees as well as the jerseys for this team.

Football & Cheer began in August. We continue to be a member of the Southern Tier Youth Football Conference which consists of 25 teams from 21 programs, ranging from Susquehanna, Pa. in the south, Norwich and Lansing to the north and Elmira, Corning and Horseheads to the east.

2023 brought us the largest number of participants for both Cheer and football in the history of our program. This year the football numbers dropped from 130 to 93 bringing us back to 1 team at each program level; K-Flag, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Flag, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade tackle and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade tackle. However, the registrations for the Cheer program actually increased this year from 70 to 84. Our 5/6 tackle team completed an undefeated season and became the first SV youth football team to play in the Super Bown since 2013.

We continue to play our home games at the SV stadium and continue to have a great working relationship with the school district and the Varsity football coaching staff, who are all extremely supportive of of our programs. At the end of the season, the Cheer program participated in several competitions separate from the football games.

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. They also run independent fundraising activities such as raffle baskets, 50-50 drawings, donut sales and coffee sales to name a few.

Some of the many examples of how they support or kids include; paying the football referees for every home game, this includes the High School kids that we use for our Flag Football games as well as the certified officials for tackle 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.

## TOB Youth Activities Year in Review 2024

I continue to be very appreciative of the support we receive from Nick and Zach. They are always available and responsive to my questions and requests.

Positive improvements continue to be made at Jackson Park. New scoreboards were in place for this season that come with easy-to-use remote controls and new portable pitching mounds are at the park, ready to be installed for next season. The fences are being replaced on the upper fields, the new bathrooms are fully functional, giving much easier access to visitors to the park and some additional paving has been made for a more fan-friendly environment around the concession stand.

I am also thankful for the support of Supervisor Rounds and the entire Board and I continue to be grateful to have this opportunity to serve the town and our youth.

Finally, I would respectfully request to be renewed as the Youth Commissioner for 2025.

Christopher Streno



## Yearend summary 2024 Town of Binghamton Seniors Activities

Book Group has consistently drawn about 8 participants. Books are selected by the group to be read during the month and discussed. There is excellent participation among its members. We had a local author that came and presented to us.

Cards and Board Games We had two sessions, and there seemed to be interest in this group. The third session there were no participants that attended. WE ran it again a fourth time and again no one came. This is on hold until such time as there is interest.

Ice Cream Social was attended by 21 people.

Fall foliage boat and luncheon cruise. Cruise was late October. Originally the planning included a fee for a bus from town hall to Watkins Glenn. We were unable to get a minimum number for the bus. Several participants carpoled. Once onboard we enjoyed a tour of the lake and a sit-down lunch aboard the Captain Bill. Six people participated.

Seminars We have had several guest speakers that have presented on different topics, Estate Planning 10, Office for Aging Medicare Updates, Nursing Home Ombudsman Program.

Crafts We are beginning to explore different craft workshops. In January we will offer several crafts on the same day to encourage participants the opportunity to come and work on their favorite craft. We are looking forward to seeing how this will work.

Holiday Party We are offering a holiday luncheon. Currently there are 21 people signed up to attend.

Tentative goals/plans for 2025

Continue to recruit participants for activities.

Look for ways to advertise activities and our program.

Continue to assess programs to meet the needs of the seniors. Including days of the week and times.

Repeat Medicare Updates

Defensive Driving Course

Exercise Program