

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

**PRESENT:** Town Board Members Gary Holcomb, Supervisor  
David Gunster, Councilman  
Michael Husar, Councilman (phone/video conference)  
Thomas Moss, Deputy Supervisor  
Richard Pray, Councilman  
Town Attorney Albert Millus, Jr. (video conference)  
Town Clerk Melodie Bowersox  
Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper Mark Hillman

**ABSENT:** Highway Superintendent Randy Ritter

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Building Inspector Matt Banks, Building Inspector Clerk Cheryl Mammano, Deputy Highway Superintendent John Medinosky, one member of the General Public

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review Abstract #5, 2024** – The Abstract was emailed to the Town Board Members prior to the meeting for review.

- Mr. Holcomb noted that on the first page of the Abstract, the NYSEG Vouchers show a check number and issue date of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is because the due dates of the bills have not been matching the Town's payment dates, thus, causing periodic late charges. The decision was made to prepay these Vouchers. Moving forward we will audit other utility bills so we will not be charged late fees.
- General Fund: Elan Financial Services - Frances Aud/Video Firmware Update New Processor - Voucher #230 - \$1,330.00 – Mr. Moss asked if this was the extra bill that was expected. Mr. Holcomb said yes and that the original bill was for \$2,660.00 but that Bill agreed to split the cost with the Town.
- General Fund: Elan Financial Services - NEC Phones Purchase/Install/Monthly Service - Voucher #230 - \$1,931.60 – Mr. Pray asked if this was for the new phone system and Bookkeeper Mark Hillman confirmed it was for the new phones. It also includes installation and the first payment.
- **Mr. Gunster made a motion to approve Abstract #5, 2024**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Councilman Mr. Gunster aye  
Councilman Mr. Husar aye  
Councilman Mr. Moss aye  
Councilman Mr. Pray aye

Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Mr. Gunster made a comment on Voucher #252 under General Fund: ICS Industries, INC - 22844/Clean Up Day Electronics - \$3,046.50 that it is approximately the same cost as it was last year. Mark gave a breakdown of the electronics that were dropped off:

2,375 television CRTs	1,517 small electronics
866 desktop, laptops	398 computer peripherals (non-CRT-LCD's)
1,959 television non-CRTs	

**Highway Department CDL Licensing** – This past year the Highway Department hired four new Employees. Two of the Employees, upon hire, had just obtained their CDLs. The other two did not have their CDLs, which is a requirement for the position. As of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, New York State is now requiring that anyone obtaining a CDL must complete Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) before taking the CDL road test. This must be done with a certified truck training program. Sage is our local provider. The cost of the program is \$3,165.00. (In the past it cost \$5.00 to get a permit and \$40.00 to take the test.) Mr. Gunster recommended that these four recent hirees be provided the finances for the program and that provision be made for future hiring of Employees that may need to obtain their CDLs. The Town Board discussed the matter.

- two Employees hired without their licenses:
  - hired at 75% of the hourly base pay at the time; suggestion is that once they receive their licenses, which the Town is asking to be completed within the year, they will be increased to 100%
  - prepay for their training program for a Class B CDL
- two Employees hired with their licenses:
  - on their one year anniversary date, they be reimbursed for the CDL program attended
- future Employees who do not have CDL:
  - hire at 75% of the hourly base pay until the CDL is obtained
  - prepay for their training program for a Class B CDL
- should a contract be signed in the event that the Employee leaves the position shortly after obtaining his/her CDL? the Town Board decided not to do this

After the discussion, **Mr. Gunster made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-04:**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Highway Department requires Highway Employees to obtain and hold Class B CDL, and

**WHEREAS**, it is now required by the State for a person to attend an ELDT 40-hour course at the cost of \$3,165.00 in order to obtain a Class B CDL,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town will prepay \$3,165.00 to the approved ELDT School to allow new Highway Employees without a Class B CDL to attend the required course to obtain the said license,

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town will reimburse two Highway Employees who were hired in 2023 and took the ELDT course to obtain their Class B CDL the cost of the course in the amount of \$3,165.00 on their one year anniversary date of hire,

Seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Councilman Mr. Gunster aye  
Councilman Mr. Husar aye  
Councilman Mr. Moss aye  
Councilman Mr. Pray aye  
Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

**Annual NYS Harassment and Discrimination Training** – Mr. Gunster sent an email to those who still need to attend the Annual NYS Harassment and Discrimination Training. June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM it will be offered at the Town Hall, and additional classes will be offered later in the year. You can also do it online or do it at your place of employment. Certificates from attending the training may be turned into Mr. Gunster.

**Naming of New Route 79 Bridge** – Mr. Holcomb received a call from the Town Supervisor of Greene regarding the naming of the new Route 79 bridge that connects the Town of Fenton with the Town of Greene. They have proposed, along with Senator Oberacker, through a New York State Law to designate the "bridge on State Route 79, crossing over the Chenango River and connecting the Town of Greene, County of Chenango, with the Town of Fenton, County of Broome, as the 'SP4 Herman Emil Anders, Jr. Memorial Bridge.'" A justification statement explains his performance in the Vietnam War where he served as a Team Leader on a combat operation, and he received numerous medals for his heroism in connection with military operations.

**Appointment of Don Snow to Planning Board** – Tim Brown, Chairman of the Planning Board, has been working on recruiting Planning Board Members. He has been particularly good at finding individuals with different skill sets and knowledge bases. Recently Tim and Mr. Holcomb met with Don Snow, who owns Don's Tree Service and has a degree in Forestry. **Mr. Pray made a motion to confirm the appointment of Don Snow to the Planning Board effective in May of 2024**, seconded by Mr. Husar. **Motion carried.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Councilman Mr. Gunster aye  
Councilman Mr. Husar aye  
Councilman Mr. Moss aye

Councilman Mr. Pray aye  
Supervisor Mr. Holcomb aye

Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Mr. Husar noted that Planning Board Member positions should be posted. Building Inspector Clerk Cheryl Mammano, who posts to the Town of Fenton Website, said she believes it is currently on the Website. Town Clerk Melodie Bowersox also said there is a flier that is posted in the lobby near her office that advertises openings on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC).

**New Playground Equipment** – Mr. Gunster said that the new playground equipment (Miracle Ten Spin) is almost ready to be installed. He had to reorder the hardware (it had been stored in the shed and was accidentally taken by the garbage company) which has arrived. The mulch still needs to be ordered. The County, who we are receiving a Grant from for the playground equipment, requested a Certificate of Insurance that the Town provided to them.

**Binghamton Precast on Service Road** – Mr. Husar said that the dust coming off of the Binghamton Precast business on the Service Road is making visibility difficult on the adjoining roads/highway. He suggested that a tree line might make a difference and that the Town should keep an eye on this. Mr. Holcomb said that the Site Plan from the previous project can be reviewed.

**Weathermaster Roofing Company, Inc.** – Mr. Holcomb commented that Weathermaster Roofing Company, Inc. on the West Service Road is expanding their business. At the Planning Board Meeting last night, the Planning Board approved a two-story addition to Weathermaster's current building for office space.

**Brother Brown Flowers** – Mr. Moss noted that Brother Brown Flowers, who had approached the Town about moving their business from Front Street in the Town of Chenango to 89 NYS Route 369, has relocated to Sidney.

**Miscellaneous Generator Information:**

- **Preventive Maintenance Meeting** – Mr. Moss said that the Generator Preventive Maintenance Meeting is scheduled for this Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Renewal of the Maintenance Agreement** – Mr. Moss reached out to Anne Marie regarding the Maintenance Agreement which expired on Friday. He is expecting a proposal by tomorrow.

**Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** – A Public Hearing will be held at the Town Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7 PM. The initial Grant is to have an Engineering Study conducted (in 2024) for the Porter Hollow Sewer District in anticipation of upgrading the system. Another Grant would be applied for in 2024 – 2025 for the upgrading of the system, with construction hopefully to follow in 2026. Mr. Holcomb sent a

letter to the Residents who would be affected by this, providing them with a background of the Porter Hollow Sewer District and information of when the Public Hearing will be held.

**At 6:58 PM, Mr. Gunster made a motion to adjourn the meeting,** seconded by Mr. Moss.  
**Motion carried.**

**VOTE:** Ayes 5 Gunster, Holcomb, Husar, Moss, Pray  
Nays 0  
Absent 0

Melodie A Bowersox, Town Clerk