

**MINUTES OF THE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Ripley was called to order by Supervisor Bowen at 7:30 p.m., in the Ripley Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Supervisor: Douglas Bowen  
Council: Patricia Hathaway – Absent  
Michael Rowe  
John Trevelline - ZOOM  
Phil Chimera  
Town Clerk: Rebecca Rowe Carvallo

Guests: Dale Davis

As the Town Board continues safe COVID -19 pandemic procedures, this evenings meeting was held with social distancing practices and on “Zoom” for those who would rather participate from home.

Zoom Dept. Heads: Jim Spacht, Highway Superintendent; Vera Husted, Town Justice; Shelly Spacht, Planning Board Chairman

Zoom Guests: Mark Smith, Roy Fisher, Melissa Fisher, Jim Boria, Rob Galbraith, Isaac Phillips, John Hamels, Dorothy Barnes, Lew Barnes, Karen Engstrom, Bob McIntosh, Westfield Republican Newspaper Reporter.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting dated December 10, 2021 were approved. Councilman Rowe moved and Councilman Chimera seconded. This was carried unanimously.

The minutes of the Year End Meeting dated December 29, 2021 were approved, This was moved by Councilman Rowe, seconded by Councilman Chimera. This was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS**

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$53,958.52 drawn on the General Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$5,391.50 drawn on the Highway Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$1,137.02 drawn on the Sewer Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$8,521.77 drawn on the Water Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Councilman Rowe made the following motion: that the Supervisor be directed to draw the checks to cover the warrant as allowed for vouchers numbered 1 through 46. This was seconded by Councilman Chimera and carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\*Supervisor's Office received the monthly Time Warner Cable (Charter Communications) update.

\*Supervisor Bowen read the attached letter from the North East, PA Fire Department.

\*Supervisor Bowen read the attached letter from the Sherman Fire Department.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING ASSESSOR**

**Resolution 52-2021**

**Town of Ripley**

**Appointment Acting Assessor**

WHEREAS, the Town currently employs Jason K. Jones in the office of the Town Assessor, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones has over the past eight months exceeded the expectations of the Town Board in regard to his work performance and wishes to proceed to insure that he will be reachable for appointment as the Town Assessor at the earliest possible point in time,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Jason K. Jones as Acting Assessor for the Town of Ripley on a thirty hour per week basis to be scheduled by the Town Supervisor. The hourly pay rate of \$18.00 shall be effective during the period of his status as Acting Assessor.

The Resolution was introduced by Supervisor Bowen and was seconded by Council Person Chimera and the vote was as follows: ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Trevelline YES, Mr. Rowe YES, and Mr. Bowen YES. Carried.

**WATER/SEWER BILLING SUPPORT OF QUINCY CEMETERY**

**Resolution 53-2021**

**Town of Ripley**

**Holiday/Memorial Support for Quincy Cemetery**

WHEREAS the Town has authority to fund and support patriotic and civic celebrations pursuant to the provisions of the Town Law Sec. 64[12], and

WHEREAS such activities are often held at the Quincy Cemetery within the Town to memorialize the sacrifice and service of deceased Town residents to the Nation as well as their Community on the various National Holidays most notably Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day, and

WHEREAS as a not-for-profit organization Quincy Cemetery is limited in regard to its ability to raise funds, and

WHEREAS the currently exists Ripley Water District service to the cemetery site which is not metered but which is assessed for charging as one unit for a quarterly charge which this Board considers excessive given the fact that the Cemetery provides a venue for Town celebrations as noted above,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Board determines that the Water bill generated for Quincy Cemetery shall hereafter become the responsibility of the Town General Fund Celebrations Account and shall be satisfied from said account.

The Resolution was introduced by Supervisor Bowen and was seconded by Council Person Chimera and the vote was as follows: ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Trevelline YES, Mr. Rowe YES, and Mr. Bowen YES. Carried

## **WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING GRANT**

### **Resolution 54-2021**

#### **Town of Ripley**

#### **Approval to Apply for DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant**

WHEREAS, he Town of Ripley is in need of upgrading an aging sewer infrastructure. In order to secure funding for the needed upgrades the Town needs to develop an Engineering report to identify and prioritize areas of concern.

WHEREAS, the town cannot afford to fund the planning study from its own resources at this time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The town board authorizes the town supervisor to submit an application to the New York State DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board hereby provides signature authority to the town supervisor, deputy supervisor and town clerk for the New York State DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program.

The Resolution was introduced by Council Person Rowe and was seconded by Council Person Chimera and the vote was as follows: ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Trevelline YES, Mr. Rowe YES, and Mr. Bowen YES. Carried

## **SOLOR PROJECT UPDATE**

Supervisor Bowen presented the following statement in regards to an update on the South Ripley Area Solor Project:

Ben Wisniewski, the Town's Attorney for matters related to the South Ripley Solor, has been informed that the ConnectGen will likely be opting-in to the Article 94-c Siting Process, under the newly formed Office of Renewable Energy Siting. Our attorney will brief the Town Board and the public on the likely shift to Article 94-c at the next regularly scheduled Town Board meeting in February.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **WATER/SEWER REPORT**

Supervisor Bowen read the monthly Water/Sewer Superintendent Report as attached.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT**

Supervisor Bowen read the monthly Highway report as presented by Superintendent Spacht.

Superintendent Spacht, reported that the sidewalk on Mechanic Street is in need of attention. He stated it would either need repairs at a big expense or it will need to be removed.

### **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Shelly Spacht, Planning Board Chair reported that the Solor Law is starting to come together and they could be finishing it up at their next work session. They will then continue with their work on the Battery Storage Law.

### **ASSESSOR REPORT**

Councilman Rowe read the monthly Assessor's report as attached.

### **CODE OFFICER**

Councilman Rowe read the monthly Code Officer's report as attached.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Isaac Phillips, ConnectGen stated that there would be a Public Meeting January 28, 2021 held virtually to provide an update as to what to expect in 2021 as it relates to the South Ripley Solar Project. Mr. Phillips reported there would also be a question and answer period.

Superintendent Spacht reminded Mr. Phillips to ask his team to not park along the road sides in the winter months as it causes problems for the snow plows.

Mr. Chimera moved to adjourn. This was seconded by Councilman Rowe and carried unanimously. 8:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Rebecca Rowe Carvallo  
Town Clerk