

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 10th, 2025

The Public Hearing and regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilwoman Deborah Nottke	Absent
	Councilman Bill Bishop	Present
	Councilman Brayton Foster	Present
	Councilman Todd Wyckoff	Absent

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, Dog Control Officer April Moore, Deputy Clerk Brian Quan, and other interested citizens.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the January 13th Organizational and Regular Town Board meeting minutes. Aye – Bishop, Aye - Reynolds and Aye - Foster.

Public Hearing: Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to open the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM to hear comments on a Variance Request under the Town of Covert’s Land Management Ordinance (LMO) for John Myer, 8451 Bergen Beach Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #06-2-59.1, to construct/replace with a new residential building where set back from side boundary is deficient and where there is a limit of one dwelling structure per parcel as required under the Town of Covert LMO. Reynolds said that Myers is tearing down one cottage over the property line and building a new one 5’ from the property line. The builder, Eric Nobles, explained that the existing building is slightly over the line and that, although the new building will be within the 20’ set back, it would be safer fire-safety wise than the existing building. Also offering his approval, neighbor Steve Long, 8439 Bergen Beach Rd, was in attendance. The Planning Board had recommended approval. Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to close the public hearing at 7:04 PM.

Presenter: Dog Control Officer April Moore spoke concerning a possibility that the Beverly Animal Shelter (BAS) may be closed by the end of the year, and of their unwillingness to accept dogs other than strays. Moore would like for the four southern towns (Romulus, Ovid, Lodi and Covert) to collaboratively open a shelter. She said that BAS will not accept abuse cases or surrenders and she is not legally allowed to hold a dog more than 24 hours. She said that Cornell Veterinary Medicine is willing to help get grants needed for starting a shelter. Moore would like to open a shelter for just dogs. She said people have offered to volunteer, but there are no guarantees with that. She said it would not have to have 24 hour supervision. She would need about 10 kennels. She said there will be new requirements, like size, cleanliness, and isolation room, by the end of the year.

Moore said that Dr. Surman’s business is for sale, but neighbors may not appreciate the noise, etc., if the shelter were to be there. Ideally, she would find donated property.

Reynolds said that Seneca County gives \$50,000 to BAS annually.

Foster said a legal-sized lot would be better (more than ½ acre Surman property). He suggested the proposal be made public and that a shelter should be run as a 501(c)(3) separate from the Towns. Foster

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suggested that Moore should go to the other Town Board meetings for their input, and said he would help with advertising.

Morrell suggested executing caution, as there is nothing official yet, and if all the towns left BAS, it would be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Bishop suggested that the options be explored, because we do have a dog problem.

Moore was asked to return to the March meeting.

Highway: Superintendent MacCheyne was not in attendance due to an injury from slipping on the ice Friday morning. MacCheyne's report included lots of plowing and sanding all Town and Village streets, more mowing with county's boom mower, hauling 1b's for salt mix and mixing salt with 1b's. They modified chute on #7 salt spreader, flipped plow and wing blades on #1 and #3 10-wheelers, worked on forks for new CAT loader, worked on salamander heater and did maintenance on all equipment. Also, they went to Syracuse Milton CAT to pick up parts for the loader.

Supervisor: Reynolds reminded all that we would be hosting ENPM for a Public Revaluation Information Meeting at 6 PM on February 26th. New assessments go out at the end of the month.

Reynolds suggested the Town increase its liability from one to two million for an additional cost of \$715/yr.

Reynolds said that the Judge is requesting a phone allowance for the use of her personal phone rather than a town-supplied phone.

Reynolds mentioned that he and Nottke would be meeting (tomorrow) with MRB Group regarding possible services to do with the salt barn grant. He and MacCheyne will meet with the salt barn company next week.

Attorney: Morrell explained that Kitchen 96 has requested for the Town Board to waive the 30-day notification time period that is required when filing with the NYS Liquor Authority. They are changing from on-premises catering to on-premises restaurant. Foster saw no reason not to allow it.

Morrell led the Town Board through the SEQR process findings and determinations for the Variance Request for John Myer, 8451 Bergen Beach Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #06-2-59.1, to construct/replace with a new residential building where set back from side boundary is deficient and where there is a limit of one dwelling structure per parcel as required under the Town of Covert LMO.

Briefly*, comments as follows: Foster thinks it would improve it. There would be a need for a variance on either side of the property. Because they are looking for a 15' variance, it is substantial. There is no adverse physical or environmental effects. The benefit outweighs the detriment to the community. *Full determination on file with the Town Clerk.

Petitioners: Barry Ford mentioned there may be a possibility of using his property to host a shelter.

Resolutions:

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Covert has reviewed the variance application of John Myer to build a single-family residence at 8451 Bergen Beach Rd., Tax Map 06-2-59.1; and

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Whereas, the SEQR regulations under 6 NYCRR 617 designates "the construction or expansion of a single-family, a two-family or a three-family residence on an approved lot including provision of necessary utility connections as provided in paragraph (13) of this subdivision and the installation, maintenance or upgrade of a drinking water well or a septic system, or both, and conveyances of land in connection therewith" as a Type II action not being subject to SEQR review; and

Whereas, the Town Board finds that this application fits within this exemption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board finds the variance application of John Myer to build a single-family residence at 8451 Bergen Beach Rd., Tax Map 06-2-59.1 to be a Type II action under 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(I I).

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, that the benefit to the applicant outweighs the detriment to the community with no significant adverse effects and hereby grant the Variance Request for John Myer, 8451 Bergen Beach Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #06-2-59.1, to construct/replace with a new residential building where set back from side boundary is deficient and where there is a limit of one dwelling structure per parcel as required under the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance. Aye - Foster, Aye - Bishop and Aye - Reynolds.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to refer Variance Request for Walter Edwards to the Planning Board, meeting on February 27th at 7 PM, and schedule a Public Hearing on March 10th at 7 PM for the Variance Request for Walter Edwards, 9007 Covert Cottages Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #14-1-27, to construct a residential addition where set back from side boundary is deficient as required under the Town of Covert LMO. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to waive NYS Liquor Authority 30-day advance notification requirement for the 2/3/2025 Class Change application for Kitchen 96, 9632 Rte 96, Trumansburg. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve additional one million dollars liability insurance through Eastern Shore for an additional \$715.00 for the year 2025. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to approve additional \$30.00/month phone allowance for Justice Schmidt. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, that the Covert Town Clerk/Tax Collector's records were examined on January 20th, 2025, and found to be in good order. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, that the Covert Town Supervisor records were examined on January 20th, 2025, and found to be in good order. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, that the Covert Town Justice's Court records and dockets were examined on January 20th, 2025, and found to be in good order. Aye-Foster, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's Income and Expenditure report for the month of January 2025. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Foster.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of January 2025. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Foster.

Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to approve Town Clerk/Tax Collector report for the month of January 2025. Town Clerk received a total of \$921.00; \$663.50 was remitted to the Supervisor; Tax Collector received a total of \$2,295,393.50 through January 31,2025. Aye- Bishop, Aye-Reynolds and Aye-Foster.

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Bishop moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of January 2025. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Foster and Aye-Reynolds.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, that Highway Fund Vouchers #15-29 in the amount of \$11,511.59 and General Fund Vouchers #29-47 in the amount of \$414,428.68 be approved for payment. Aye-Bishop, Aye Reynolds and Aye-Foster.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk