

**TOWN OF COVERT  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
7:00 PM ----- JANUARY 12, 2015**

The organizational and regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover and other interested citizens.

**Call to order:** Supervisor Reynolds called meeting to order at 7:00p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Oath of Office:** Town Clerk Colleen Freese swore in the following official William Bishop.

**ORGANIZATIONAL**

- 1) Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that for the year 2015 the Town Board sets 50 cents per mile reimbursement as mileage allowance for personal vehicles used by Town Officers while performing official duties other than attendance at Town Board Meetings or Town Court Proceedings. Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.
- 2) Bosman moved, seconded by Bishop, to authorize that Community Bank, N.A., Interlaken Branch, be designated the official bank of the Town of Covert and Town Justice Schmidt and the Supervisor be authorized to invest town monies consistent with the requirements of New York State and with appropriate consideration given to elements of safety, liquidity and yield. Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.
- 3) Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to authorize Highway Superintendent MacCheyne to spend up to \$500.00 per purchase to acquire equipment, tools, and implements and \$1,000.00 for repairs during 2015 without prior approval of the Town Board. Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.
- 4) Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to designate the Interlaken Review as the official newspaper of the Town of Covert for the year 2015. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.
- 5) Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to appoint Christopher Bulmahn as Dog Control Officer at the budgeted Salary and \$.50 cents per mile to Beverly Animal Shelter for the year 2015. A \$10.00 per day fee for each dog will be charged to the owner upon redemption of impounded dog from Beverly Animal Shelter. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.
- 6) Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to appoint John Hunt as cleaner to the Town of Covert Municipal Building, at the wage of \$8.75 per hour for the year 2015. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Vann.

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- 7) Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to appoint Ralph E. Jones as cleaner at the Town of Covert Highway Department, at the wage of \$8.75 per hour for the year 2015. Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Vann.
- 8) Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to appoint Charles R. Freese as maintenance person of the Town of Covert Municipal Building, at the wage of \$8.75 per hour for the year 2015. Vote: Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.
- 9) Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to allow Supervisor Reynolds to file his 2014 annual report with the Town Clerk by the same date and in the same matter as Annual Report is required to be filed with the State Comptroller. Such authorization is allowed by Town Law Section 29 (10a). Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Vann.
- 10) Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to appoint Mr. Raymond Zajac Sr. to mow the lawns at the Municipal Building, Town Hall and Covert Cemetery for an amount not to exceed \$2,080.00 for the year 2015. Vote: Aye- Bosman. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.
- 11) Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, that the salaries of all elected and appointed officers shall be the amount indicated by the currently effective resolution or the amount budgeted in the 2015 budget. The Highway Superintendent shall set wages of hourly highway employees with concurrence by the Town Board, within the limits of the Highway Budget. Payment of salaries and wages shall be at times and dates that are legally permissible and mutually acceptable to the Supervisor and the recipients. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Nay-Bosman.
- 12) The Personnel Policy and Procedures Handbook were reviewed with no changes at this time. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman

**APPOINTMENTS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Highway Superintendent MacCheyne appoints Glenn Boyes as Deputy Highway Superintendent for 2015.

Town Clerk appoints Leslie Adams-Compton as Deputy Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics, Tax Collector. Wage shall be \$8.75 per hour.

Town Justice Eileen Schmidt appoints Jennie Ewing as Clerk to the Town Justice. Salary shall be as budgeted.

**Supervisor Reynolds makes the following appointments for 2015:**

Bookkeeper and Secretary to the Supervisor -- Diane Bassette Nelson

Budget Officer -- Michael Reynolds

Deputy Supervisor -- Gary Hunt

Town Assessment Committee -- Michael Reynolds and Bill Bishop

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Historian for the Town-- John Hunt

Highway Committee -- Gary G. Hunt, Chairman and Bill Bishop

Courts, Ordinances & Law Enforcement – Gary Hunt, Chairman and Bill Bishop

Utilities & Insurance – Gary Hunt, Chairman and Jeffrey Vann

Personnel – Charles Bosman, Chairman and Jeffrey Vann.

Planning and Buildings -- Gary G. Hunt, Chairman and Jeffrey Vann

Fire and Ambulance – Chuck Bosman, Chairman, Michael G. Reynolds and Jeffrey Vann.

Planning and Land Management Ordinance - Jeffrey Vann and Chuck Bosman.

Any appointments which may have been overlooked shall continue to be filled by the incumbent subject to review by the appropriate appointing authority.

**RETURN TO THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**Approval of Minutes:** Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, that the minutes from the December 29, 2014 year-end meeting minutes be approved. Vote: Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

**Presenter to the Board:** The following is a letter to the Board from Valerie Bassett.

Thank you, Supervisor Reynolds, and town board members, for allowing me on tonight's agenda. I appreciate the opportunity.

The subject is horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Over the past couple of years, you board members have accepted a significant amount of input, weathered a significant amount of pressure, done a significant amount of study, and made a significant, critical, and informed decision by not passing either a moratorium or a ban on horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Thanks to geology and economics, there is, and has been, little likelihood of horizontal fracking occurring anywhere in or near Covert. What some have failed to understand, or appreciate, was that a decision to enter into a moratorium or a ban would immediately trigger steps that would have divided the community and been costly and rigorous for a small town. Others realized it would simply be a needless action.

And finally, as you board members said repeatedly, New York State would take action and make any such action Covert might take, moot.

While you heard from many who attended meetings, it is also known that many approached you outside of meetings

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to let you know that individual property rights were important. Many of those have lived here and owned their lands for generations.

It's time to move on to the clear and present challenges that are facing you, some of which have been issues for a while. Let's move forward, devoting precious time, group effort, and limited resources to addressing these critical issues.

Thank you, for leading on the fracking issue, for maintaining your belief that the state's decision was forthcoming, for having the wisdom to recognize these things, and, in particular, for possessing the fortitude to act accordingly. Stand Strong!

Thank you.  
Valerie Bassett

Highway Superintendant MacCheyne gave his report and shared that he and Councilman Hunt are working on a ten year plan to improve the highway barn and replace equipment. MacCheyne also shared that the mower on the tractor needs to be replaced, it is 18 years old and broken. It needs to be replaced this year, before May for mowing.

Town Clerk Freese gave her report and shared that as tax collector she has collected \$385,000.00 dollars for taxes and paid Supervisor Reynolds \$250,000.00.

To: Town of Covert Board From: Chuck Bosman  
Ref: funds from Casino project

The County of Seneca is due to receive a large sum of money from the recent awarding of the casino license in the Town of Tyre. This money will come from the casino itself, the additional real property tax and an increase in the sales tax revenue from both the casino operation and additional operations through the county.

Councilman Vann has asked that, in the future, Supervisor Reynolds report to the board each month on items that have come up at the county level. I would ask that for the February meeting, the report include an estimate of additional revenue from the county treasurer. It might be beneficial to have the county treasurer come to one of our future meetings.

I would also urge the Supervisor, as our representative to the county board, to fight for a fair share distribution of the increased funds. I am concerned that the additional casino funds will be wasted on unnecessary projects or on projects that only benefit a part (northern?) of the county.

Many counties share the sales tax revenue they receive with the other governments in their area, schools, towns and villages. I would urge our supervisor to fight for such a distribution in the future.

Another method for the county to help out the towns would be to assume some of the programs that are now paid for by towns. Some examples would be county wide assessment (our cost app \$25,000), the full cost of the board of elections (our cost \$2,900.00) and smaller projects like dog warden and dog pounds.

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I have also noted that Tompkins County is looking at a unified justice system. They feel that this would save money and provide a higher quality of judges.

I can put this in a formal motion if needed, but I think for now we can handle this on an informal level. However, we must make our feelings know, before the money is all spent.

Councilman Bosman shared that the Volunteer Income Tax Program (VITA) is being offered again this year but volunteers are low. Vita offers free tax assistance to people with an income of \$52, 00.00 or below.

Councilman Bosman also shared that he had attended a grant workshop and has learned more about writing grants and has a lot of information on writing grants.

Councilman Hunt shared that there will be a solar meeting at the Edith Ford library in Ovid on February 18, 2015, "we need to look into solar energy".

Councilman Vann asked that another meeting be set up with Cindy Baire from GAR Associates Inc. and Town Assessor Jay Franklin to discuss the revaluation and answer question. Town Attorney Morrell stated he would like to be at the meeting with GAR and the Town Assessor.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the revaluation will cost \$125,000.00 and can be paid for over a three year period. He will see about setting up a meeting with Cindy Baire and Jay Franklin and the Town Board.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that Seneca County is looking for a new County Manager, James P. Smith has resigned as County Manager. Supervisor Reynolds also shared about a program called Land Bank where the Seneca County takes properties that the taxes have not been paid and have been left vacant and contaminated and find ways that the property can be cleaned and used again.

Bosman moved, seconded by Bishop, that Town Attorney Patrick Morrell be allowed to attend the New York State Association of Towns Annual Business Meeting in New York City on February 18,2015. The Town Board appoints Town Attorney Patrick Morrell as a delegate to represent the Town of Covert. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for December 2014. A total of \$557.75 was received and \$384.58 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent report for the month of December 2014. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for December 2014. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to appoint Wilfred J. Millard to the Assessment Review Board. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt

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Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to enter into executive session at 8:30 to discuss proposed litigations regarding the fire in Ovid and the Town of Covert records. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to come out of executive session at 8:50 and return to regular meeting. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, that Highway Fund Vouchers #1-13 in the amount of \$20,600.77 and General Fund Voucher's #1-22 in the amount of \$95,111.38 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF COVERT  
TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
January 29, 2015**

The Town Board of the Town of Covert held a special meeting, January 29, 2015 at 10:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Absent  |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Assessor Jay Franklin, Reporter Aneta Glover, and other interested citizens.

**Call to order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Reynolds introduced Cindy Baire President for GAR associates and Town of Covert Assessor Jay Franklin and Town Attorney Patrick Morrell. This meeting was to hear what the process would be for the revaluation on all properties in the Town of Covert and to answer any questions concerning the revaluation.

There was discussion about the fact that the Town Assessor Franklin would be resigning as Town of Coverts Assessor in July, due to the fact that Tompkins Assessor Group will be short staffed and will not have the employees to continue as the Town of Covert's Assessor.

There was discussion about the revaluation and that the Town needs to move forward now and get it done. It has been over 10 years that a revaluation has been done in the Town of Covert.

Cindy Baire shared that they will do an initial mailing to include announcements of projects and public education programs to help the residents to understand the process of the revaluation. They do a data mailer that will provide property owners an opportunity to review the information the assessor has on file. There are very strict rules and guidelines from the state that have to be followed as assessor. They will work out a payment schedule that will work for the Town of Covert.

Assessor Jay Franklin shared that he had never worked with GAR but has heard very good reports on the work they do. He shared Covert is a 1500 parcel town and one assessor cannot do a revaluation in two years and do it right. It takes a lot of time and effort. GAR can explain and defend how they come up with the valuation of each property.

Councilman Bosman moved, seconded by Councilman Vann to hire GAR to do a complete revaluation on the Town of Covert and the finance for the revaluation will be worked out. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman Aye-Vann Aye Reynolds. Hunt –absent.

Bishop moved, seconded by Vann to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel 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.

A moment of silence was held for Donald Betzler.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, that the organizational meeting and regular meeting minutes from January 12, 2015 and special meeting minutes for January 29, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Councilman Bosman shared that the Village of Interlaken will be holding a public hearing for the Village's Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will be Thursday, February 12, 2015. Town Attorney shared that there are items that will affect the Town of Covert also, and the Town Board should be involved.

**Supervisor Report:** Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Town Justice has been notified that the Town Court will receive \$10,341.40; it will be used for security for the court as applied for in the grant.

Supervisor Reynolds also shared that Seneca County Fire Safety Inspection has been done and the town passed. They have a requirement that the town purchase a Knox-Box for the building.

There was discussion about the Land Bank Program which is for cleaning up contaminated properties so they can be sold.

Councilman Bosman shared that thirty-eight of the fifty-two upstate counties share their sales tax with the towns, villages and schools. The Supervisor needs to propose to Seneca County that they share their sales tax with the towns, villages and schools in their county.

There was discussion about the Town's Municipal Building being used for the STEPS Program meeting. Supervisor Reynolds said he would talk to the insurance company again.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Dog Control Officer's Report for the month of January 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of January 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.



Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for January 2015. A total of \$512.25 was received and \$351.63 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Tax Collector's report for January 2015. A total of \$1,467,000.00 has been collected and \$814,789.58 was remitted to the Town Supervisor and \$500,000.00 to Seneca County Treasurer's Office. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, for the Town Clerk to purchase a Knox-Box for the Town of Covert and to contact Interlaken Fire Department once the box is installed. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, for the Town Clerk to spend up to \$500.00 on rug mats for the Court Room. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to authorize Supervisor Michael Reynolds to expedite the Contract with GAR and to work on the payment plan. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of January 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for January 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:20. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to close the executive session at 8:35 and return to regular meeting. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #15-28 in the amount of \$10,544.41 and General Fund Voucher's #23-41 in the amount of \$203,863.63 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF COVERT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2015**

The Town Board of the Town of Covert held a Special Meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 9:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
| Councilman Bill Bishop                        | Present |
| Councilman Charles Bosman                     | Present |
| Councilman Gary Hunt                          | Present |
| Councilman Jeffery Vann                       | Present |

Others Present: Justice Eileen Schmidt, Bookkeeper Diane Bassette-Nelson and Town Clerk Colleen Freese.

Deputy Supervisor Gary Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m.

The purpose of said meeting was to audit the 2014 town books for the Town Justice, Bookkeeper, Chief Fiscal Officer and Town Clerk.

There was discussion on the process of Court records and the changes that have been implemented in keeping the court records.

There was discussion on petty cash and overage and shortage when tax payments are made. Maybe a resolution should be made to set the amount to be refunded on over payments.

The board talked about record storage and the safety of records and how the town's records are backed up and if the town needs to look into a bigger safe. The Town Board used a checklist provided by the Office of the State Comptroller for the audit.

Councilman Bishop moved, seconded by Councilman Vann, to approve the audit of the 2014 books for the Bookkeeper, Town Justice, Supervisor and Town Clerk.

Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Vann.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel 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:** Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, that the regular meeting minutes from February 9, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Highway Superintendent Jeffery MacCheyne reported that the new overhead door and opener have been installed in the Highway Barn and that they have been busy repairing sander chains on the 2002 Sterling 10 wheeler. The Plow blades and wing blades on 2002 Sterling and 2010 International have been changed. They replaced air valves that were frozen and broken on the 2002 and 2010 ten-wheelers due to the extreme cold.

Councilman Bosman discussed the fact that there were no signs posted on route 89 coming into the Town of Covert stating the Town of Covert requires building permits. Councilman Vann stated we have talked about getting the Building Permit signs up in the past. Councilman Vann offered to contact the DOT and see where the sign can be put up. He also asked Supervisor Reynolds to see if he could get signs made up stating that the Town of Covert requires building permits.

Councilman Bishop asked what the town has for a backup system to protect the data. It's time to look into some backup system for the Town's files. Town clerk shared that she uses a portable hard drive but should look for offsite backup.

Councilman Hunt shared that the Town Board spent four and half hours auditing the Town Court, Town Clerk, Supervisor and Bookkeeper's books. Councilman Hunt and Councilman Bishop shared that the Town books looked good. State Comptroller forms for auditing Town books were used.

Supervisor Reynolds shared about the Resolution that Seneca County has passed for the Finger Lakes Regional Land Banks. The County would like a resolution of support from the Town of Covert. The Land Bank will take vacant and abandoned properties that pose a danger to the health and safety of local residents and clean up these properties so they can be put back on the tax rolls.

**Don Kenyon addressed the Town Board with the Letter below:**

We residents, me included, are often quick to criticize Town operations but slow to compliment. So, to balance that, tonight, I'd like to give credit where credit is due. I'd like to compliment the Covert Highway Dept. One of my activities is to run a private snow plow route in Covert and surrounding Towns. This gives me the chance to

observe a lot of things; some mentionable and some not. Over the past month or so of never ending wind driven snow and bitterly cold temperatures here's what I noticed about Covert's snow operations.

Covert is:

Quick to respond.

Has the right program in place with people, equipment, materials, efficiency and timing to get the job done as soon as possible, whatever it takes to do it.

Of particular note are drifts. You may find them out of control on some roads in Covert but not on Town maintained roads.

Thank you Jeff and crew. You give government a good name.

Don Kenyon

Tony Del Planto shared a little on solar energy. He asked the Town Board if a NYSERDA representative could come to next month's board meeting and give a presentation on solar energy. The Town Board agreed to have a NYSERDA representative come April 13, 2015 and give a presentation.

### **Resolution 1-15**

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, THAT WEAREAS, vacant and abandoned properties are a blight upon communities within Seneca County and may pose a danger to the health and safety of local residents, as well as result in lost revenues to these communities, and discourage further investment therein; and

WHEREAS, New York State enacted legislation Section 16 of the New York State Not-For Profit Corporation Law ("Land Bank Act") for the creation of up to twenty land banks across the State specifically to address this blight and revitalize local communities; and

WHEREAS, land banks are not-for-profit corporations authorized under the Land Bank Act that allow municipalities, such as Seneca County, to acquire, redevelop and improve tax delinquent, vacant or abandoned properties, thereby providing municipalities a mechanism to acquire such properties and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County acts as the sole foreclosing governmental unit for all local governments within the County's borders, thereby making it an ideal candidate for approval of a single County-wide land bank corporation; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County recognizes that neighboring counties at some future date may share an interest in participating in a regional land bank; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County anticipates that ultimately the Land Bank will be self-sufficient, and initially may be funded or supported by grants, seed money, in-kind services, and the like; and

WHEREAS, to form a land bank, Seneca County must file an application and supporting documents, including Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and other materials, with the Empire State Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Land Bank Act, it is necessary to adopt a resolution establishing the land bank on behalf of Seneca County; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was reviewed and approved at the January 27th, 2015 meeting of the Planning, Development, Agriculture & Tourism Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town of Covert Town Board Supports the Seneca County Board of Supervisor in establishes a land bank in Seneca County to be known as the "Finger Lakes Regional Land Bank".

Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Waid and Aye-Bosman.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Justice received the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) grant in the amount of \$10,341.40. It will be used for Items applied for on the grant like more security, equipment, computer software.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Dog Control Officer's Report for the month of February 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of February 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for February 2015. A total of \$257.00 was received and \$220.50 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Tax Collector's report for February 2015. A total of \$1,691,380.95 has been collected and \$814,789.58 was remitted to the Town Supervisor and \$845,000.00 to Seneca County Treasurer's Office. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of February 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for February 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann to send Board Members, Town Clerk, Town Justice, Court Clerk and Town Supervisor to the 19<sup>th</sup> Regional Leadership Conference April 1-2, 2015 for training. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to declare the old outside light fixtures and lights in basement as surplus. The highest bid will receive the lights. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, that the Town of Covert will charge a \$20.00 late fee for each dog that is not licensed after 30 days of receiving dog license renewal notice. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved , seconded by Vann to declare the box on the Highway 1998 ford truck as surplus. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann to approve the \$85.75 for the Court Clerk to be Finger printed as required by the State. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bishop moved, seconded by Hunt, that Highway Fund Vouchers #29-44 in the amount of \$14,956.62 and General Fund Voucher's #43-62 in the amount of \$26,015.94 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Vann, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel 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:** Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, that the regular meeting minutes from March 9, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

**Presenter:**

Supervisor Reynolds introduced Matthew Sousa a representative for NYS Solar Ombudsman. Matthew shared about solar energy and the three different kinds of solar energy: 1. Solar Photovoltaic (PV) 2. Solar Hot water and 3. Concentrated Solar Power. Solar energy has become more affordable in the last few years. There are grants and different incentives programs available to make solar more affordable. Some of the programs are investment tax credits, residential and solar tax credits. There is a trainer's network aimed to show how to lower the installation cost and expand the adoption of Solar PV systems throughout the state. You can go to [training.ny-sun.ny.gov](http://training.ny-sun.ny.gov) for information.

Highway Superintendent Jeffery MacCheyne reported that the Highway Department needs a new air compressor. The one they have is putting oil in the lines and it is 25 years old. Superintendent MacCheyne got a quote from JC Smith, Inc. for \$2,950.00 for a new air compressor.

Councilman Hunt shared that he agreed with the Highway Superintendent that the Highway department does need a new air compressor and requested that he get two more quotes.

Councilman Bosman shared how the house number signs will be up and he plans to have the final report for the Grant by July 1, 2015. He introduced a resolution with an amendment to the Land Management Ordinances that will require that the home owner is responsible to maintain their house number sign and all new construction will be required to have a house number sign. Any resident who does not comply will be charged for cost of material and replacement of signs. The resolution was tabled till the May board meeting.

Councilman Bosman presented a resolution for the Town Board to consider that Seneca County would distribute sales tax revenue that will come from the Seneca County Lago Resort between the Towns in the County.

Councilman Vann is working on getting Land Management Ordinances signs so they can be posted as you enter the Town of Covert. This will help residents to know that building permits are required in the Town of Covert.

Councilman Bishop shared that he went to a training and attended a class on Budgets and Cyber Security which were very interesting.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Town Board and Village Board will meet April 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss shared services. There are tax breaks for shared services.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that Sion & Meg Williams have applied for a variance request application to build an addition which does not meet the required road frontage or one acre lot size as required by the Land Management Ordinances.

#### RESOLUTION 2-15 Justice Grant 2015

**WHEREAS** Justice Schmidt did in 2014 submit a grant application to the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) for Funds for upgrades including a new exterior door for the Justices Offices, personnel security system upgrades, security cage for the record storage room and office supplies and **WHEREAS** that grant was approved and funds totaling \$10,341.40 were received, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Covert accepts this grant and authorize the spending of funds as noted in the grant and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Covert Board Authorizes the following budget amendments to the 2015 budget: Increase A2271 from \$0.00 to \$10,341.40 and Increase A1110.42 Justice Court Grant Contractual to \$10,341.40. Motion: Bosman, Seconded: Bishop Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

#### RESOLUTION 3-15 Seneca Meadows Grant

**WHEREAS** Supervisor Mike Reynolds submitted a grant application to Seneca Meadows for new doors for the Highway Garage, pedestrian crossing sign at the school zone and new Kelvar safety pants for the Highway staff, and **WHEREAS** that grant was approved and funds totaling \$1,993.00 were received **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Covert Board accepts this grant and authorize the spending of the funds as noted in the grant and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Covert Board authorizes the following budget amendments to the 2015 budget: Increase A2270 from \$0.00 to \$1,903.00 and Increase A5132.42 Highway Garage Maintenance from \$ 4,000.00 to \$5,393.00 and Increase A1989.4 Special Items Miscellaneous from \$0.00 to \$510.00 for school crossing sign (377.71) and the balance \$132.29 yet to be designated. Increase DB2770 from \$0.00 to \$90.00 and Increase DB5110.4 from \$13,000.00 to \$13,090.00 for the Kelvar Safety Pants. Motion: Bosman Seconded: Bishop Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

#### RESOLUTION 4 -15 Independent Auditing Account Spending and Transfers

**WHEREAS** circumstances have caused an overage in the Independent Auditing contractual funds (A1320.4) for the fiscal year 2015 such that the fund will be over spent by \$1105.00 and **WHEREAS** no further purchases are planned from Independent Auditing Equipment Fund ( A1320.2) which has a current available balance \$1,000.00, and **WHEREAS** good municipal accounting practices advise that account balances should be reviewed and balanced as needed, now therefore be it **RESOLVED** that the Independent Auditing contractual funds (A1320.4) be increased \$1,000.00 and that the total balanced note in the Auditing Equipment Fund (A1320.2) be transferred to provide necessary funds. Motion: Hunt Seconded: Vann Vote: Aye- Bishop, Aye- Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

#### RESOLUTION 5-15 Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Covert hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report THE OFFICIALS TO THE New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities;

**Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution  
for Elected and Appointed Officials Continuation Form  
RS 2417-A**

| Title                      | Standard Work Day<br>(Hrs/day)<br>Min. 6 hrs<br>Max. 8 hrs | Name<br>(First and Last) | Social Security Number (Last 4 digits) | Registration Number | Tier 1 (Check only if member is in Tier 1) | Current Term Begin & End Dates<br>(mm/dd/yy-mm/dd/yy) | Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System<br>(Yes/No-If Yes, do not complete the last two columns) | Record of Activities Result | Not Submitted (Check only if official did not submit their Record of Activities) |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Elected Officials</b>   |  |                          |  |                     |  |   |   |                             |  |
| Supervisor                 | 6  | Michael Reynolds         |  |                     |  | 1/112012-1213112015                                   | No  | 10.53                       | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Town Justice               | 6  | Eileen Schmidt           |  |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                   | 11112015-12131/2015                                   | No  | 15.42                       |  |
| H-Superintendent           | 8  | Jeffrey MacCheyne        |  |                     |  | 111/2012-1213112015                                   | No  | 39,091667                   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Appointed Officials</b> |  |                          |  |                     |  |   |   |                             |  |
|                            |  |                          |  |                     |  |   |   |                             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM ON REVERSE SIDE**

COLLEEN R FREESE, secretary/clerk of the governing board of the TOWN OF COVERT of the State of New York do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board at a legally convened meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2015 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

I IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and the seal of the TOWN OF COVERT on this 13<sup>th</sup> day April, 2015.  
Colleen Freese, Town Clerk.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Affidavit of Posting:</b> COLLEEN R FREESE being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the | (seal) |
| Resolution began on  |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer's website at   |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Official sign board at<br>8469 South Main Street<br>Interlaken, NY              |        |

Main entrance Town Clerk's office at 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken NY 14847  
1 Page of 2 (for additional rows, attach

Office of the New York State Comptroller  
New York State and Local Retirement  
System Employees' Retirement  
System

**Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution  
for Elected and Appointed Officials Continuation Form  
RS 2417-B**

(Rev. 3/14)

| Title                    | Standard Work Day<br>(Hrs/day)<br>Min. 6 hrs,<br>Max. 8 hrs | Name           | Social Security Number | Registration Number | Tier 1 (Check only if member is in Tier 1) | Current Term Begin & End Dates<br>(mm/dd/yy-mm/dd/yy) | Employer's Participates Keeping System Time (Yes/No-If Yes, do | Record of Activities Result* | Not Submitted (Check only if official did not submit their Record of Activities) |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Elected Officials</b> |   |                |                        |                     |  |   |  |                              |  |
| TOWN CLERK               | 7   | Colleen Freese |                        |                     |  | 1/1/12-12/31/15                                       | no   | 23,178572                    | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Town Board               | 6   | Jeffrey Vann   |                        |                     |  | 1/1/12-12/31/15                                       | NO   | 1.39                         | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|                          |   |                |                        |                     |  |   |  |                              |  |
|                          |   |                |                        |                     |  |   |  |                              |  |

Motion: Bosman Seconded: Vann Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to authorize the Town Clerk to order a knox box as required by Seneca County Code Inspection. The cost for the knox box is not to exceed \$330.00. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.



Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that the variance request application #5-15 for Sion & Megan Williams, 4609 East Seneca Road, Trumansburg does not meet the required road frontage or one acre lot size as required by the Land Management Ordinances, it will be referred to the Planning Board. The Public Hearing will be held May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Dog Control Officer's Report for the month of March 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of March 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for March 2015. A total of \$590.25 was received and \$480.53 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Town Tax Collector's 2015 tax report. A total of \$1,780,005.38 has been collected and final payment was remitted to the Town Supervisor for interest and Seneca County Treasurer's Office. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of March 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for March 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers # 45- 65 in the amount of \$15,109.25 and General Fund Voucher's #63-81 in the amount of \$19,021.30 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Vann, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
MAY 11, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Dog Control Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel 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.

Supervisor Reynolds shared how Richard Bauer a veteran came and asked for a Veterans Memorial, where he and others could go in memory of all who have served their Country. That is how the Veterans Memorial on the front lawn of the Municipal Building started in the summer of 2010. The Veterans Memorial has stones with names of different veterans who have served their country.

**Public Hearing:** Supervisor Reynolds opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Purpose of Public Hearing was for a variance request under the Land Management Ordinances for application #5-15 for Sion & Megan Williams, 4609 East Seneca Road, and Trumansburg that does not meet the required road frontage or one acre lot size as required by the Land Management Ordinances. Megan Williams read a letter of approval from her neighbor to the Town Board.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular meeting minutes from April 13, and special meeting minutes for April 27, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

**Presenter:** Stephen Churchill is from Seneca Falls and he sits on the Seneca County Board of Supervisors for Seneca County and is the Chairman of Environmental Affairs Committee and a lifelong resident of the Finger Lakes. Mr. Churchill shared that he has come to represent Seneca Lake and he asked for our help. On the south shores of Seneca Lake, three miles north of Watkins Glen, Crestwood, a Texas based company, has proposed to construct a LPG storage facility for the Northeast as well as Canada. "The risk to our water, environment and economy, our way of life, this is unacceptable. We have asked the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Governor to deny the permit for the LPG storage on Seneca Lake."

Crestwood wants to store fuel in the salt caverns. These are unlined salt caverns and they want to store fuel there. There has not been fuel storage in these caverns since 1984. Mr. Churchill shared some facts on the chloride and sodium in Seneca Lake. Three hundred and thirty six businesses have passed a resolution against the storage of LPG.

Mr. Churchill stated that these unlined salt caverns were never designed to store LPG. He asked us to join the other twenty-four Municipalities that passed a resolution asking the DEC to work with Crestwood to find another place for LPG storage. Mr. Churchill stated he is not against storage for these fuels, but by Seneca Lake is not the right place to store LPG.

Michele Stillion shared that the Stillion family, business owners of Pine Tree Farms support Mr. Churchill's resolution opposing propane storage on Seneca Lake.

**Presenter:** Charles Bosman shared that a group has been discussing a proposal based on the fact that the Town Supervisor gave a report to the Town Board on the benefits cost analysis of the Logo Resort and Casino project. Mr. Bosman stated that he found it very interesting that forty-two of the fifty-two upstate counties in New York State distribute sales tax revenue to towns, cities and villages. They take part of the sales tax and distribute some of the revenue because they have expenses.

They have come up with a plan and what they would like to see Seneca County do is set 2014 as the base year. Any excess in subsequent years of sales tax revenue over the base year amount will be considered the new tax revenue. Beginning in 2016, Seneca County will retain 100% of the year's amount and 50% of any new sales tax revenue will be distributed. Then ten towns of Seneca County will receive 25% and 15% would be distributed to the School districts and 10% would be distributed to the four villages of Seneca County based on population as shown by the United States Census.

Mr. Bosman stated that he is asking the Public to support this and the Town of Covert Board to support this tax proposal.

Supervisor Reynolds said that a pilot program has been given to Wilmot so they don't have to pay some taxes. Mr. Churchill stated this was a good proposal and it should be county wide. Mr. Kenyon asked how long the pilot program was for. Supervisor Reynolds shared that the pilot program is a gradual pilot.

Councilman Vann requested that Supervisor Reynolds would write a letter of release to Document Reprocessors stating that if Anna Morgan assessor pays the Town of Covert's bill for the work she authorized in full to Document Reprocessors then the Town of Covert Assessment Documents can be released to Anna Morgan.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Department of Transportation responded to the request to lower the speed limit in the Hamlet of Covert on route 96. The Department of Transportation review indicated that the existing roadside development, highway characteristics, and prevailing traffic speeds justify retaining the existing speed limit. But upgrades to the curve warning signs, and speed advisory signs would be appropriate.

Supervisor Reynolds shared about the meeting with Molly Hadley, the towns' insurance carrier about the public use of the Town of Covert Municipal Building. It is because of liability that the town has to make sure when the building is used by the public they provide a certificate of liability insurance naming the Town of Covert. Ms. Hadley suggested that the liability coverage be raised to \$300,000.00.

Supervisor Reynolds also shared that there was a meeting between the Village of Interlaken Board and the Town of Covert's Board to discuss shared services. There are grants available for shared services that we are looking into. The Village Board is interested in working with the Town Board to get more information on what grants are available and what it would cost to consolidate.

### **Resolution 6-15- Solar Power**

WHEREAS: the Town Board of Covert, New York Supports Solar Power in the Town of Covert, Lodi, Ovid and Romulus and

Whereas: the Town Board of Town of Covert hereby supports the development of solar power in the Town of Covert and

WHEREAS: residents, businesses and farmers of the Covert, Lodi, Ovid and Romulus communities, in association with the STEPS program, can be members of Solar Seneca and

WHEREAS: Solar Seneca will bring vetted solar contractors together with all interested in solar power installation and

WHEREAS: meetings and events will take place in convenient locations in the towns of Covert, Lodi, Ovid and Romulus and

WHEREAS: all meetings and informational events are free. No fees or charges for participation in these meetings & events and

WHEREAS: Solar Seneca is applying for a Community Solar grant from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) which will cover the costs of administering a solarize program in the Towns of Covert, Lodi, Ovid & Romulus. An authorized STEPS representative will manage the grant and Romulus to sit on the board of directors of Solar Seneca NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Town of Covert, Town Board hereby supports the development of solar power in the Town of Covert.

Motion: Hunt , Seconded By: Bosman Vote: Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Nay-Vann.

Vann moved, Seconded by Bosman, that Supervisor Reynolds would write a letter to the Four Town Assessor Anna Morgan that the Town of Coverts records that were damaged in the Ovid Fire and have been restored as much as possible, these records may be released to Assessor Morgan providing she pays the bill for the cleaning of the Town Of Covert records. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt and Vann-Aye.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that the amount of liability insurance on the Town of Covert Municipal Building, facility use application be raised from \$100,000.00 to \$300,000.00 as recommended by the town insurance company. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann and Nay-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for April 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of April 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for April 2015. A total of \$1,034.75 was received and \$780.59 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Tax Collector's final report for April 2015. A total of \$1,999,675.83 has been collected and final payment of \$2,476.60 in interest was remitted to the Town Supervisor and final payment of \$47,739.20 to Seneca County Treasurer's Office. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of April 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Dog Control Officer's Report for the month of April 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve variance request application #5-15 for Sion & Megan Williams, 4609 East Seneca Road, Trumansburg to build a 12'x16' addition as recommended by the Planning Board. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop to approve Justice Schmidt to attend training on May 12, 2015 and the town will reimburse her for mileage and lunch cost. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Bosman – abstained.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Joint Services Agreement for Appraisal Services, Exemption Services and Assessment Services by the County of Tompkins starting July 1, 2015 – July 1, 2018. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Supervisor Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Vann, to enter into executive session to discuss two personnel matters. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

The Town Board entered into executive session at 9:15 .

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman that the executive session be closed at 9:40 p.m. and returned to Regular Town Board meeting. No action was taken.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #66-75 in the amount of \$49,389.63 and General Fund Vouchers #82-102 in the amount of \$11,172.56 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Reporter Aneta Glover, Dog Control Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel, Bill Overbaugh, Barry moon 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.

Councilman Bosman shared that Louie Rudin was a well know man, for the work he did as a Young Life Director and a Counselor at South Seneca School. Louie touched countless lives over the last forty years. He will be greatly missed for all he has done in this community and others. There was a moment of silence in his honor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt that the regular meeting minutes from May 11, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

**Presenter:** Bill Overbaugh, the general manager and one of the owners of Ehrhart Energy, shared about the concept of storing LPG in underground salt caverns; this is not new. These caverns in Watkins Glen were used in 1964-1984 to store LPG. Mr. Overbaugh shared that Crestwood is working now to re-open the cavern. He shared there are literally dozens of these caverns within 50 miles of us.

Mr. Overbaugh shared about the propane storage this past winter and how having these caverns to store LPG would help to keep the prices down. He said, I can't tell you that the Finger Lakes LPG Facility is an answer to all of these infrastructure problems, but he stated that, unequivocally, it would contribute to security of supply and lowering pricing. It is important to Ehrhart and all of the propane dealers who supply Seneca County.

There were questions asked and answered. One of the main concerns is the safety for the Finger Lakes region. It is a tourism area and the community is concerned about the safety of this area and protecting our lakes in the Finger Lakes area.

Barry Moon, a director from Crestwood shared that US Salt has been mining brine and manufacturing salt along Seneca Lake since the 1890's. There were a lot of concerns brought up on the caverns and their safety. Crestwood has been replacing pipe lines and putting in double liners in the ponds to make it safer. The required DEC testing is being done as required to make sure the caverns are safe for storage. The systems are being upgraded. Crestwood is doing everything they can to be sure these caverns are safe for LPG storage.

There were many concerned about the safety of the lake and the risk of having spills and what it would do to this area. Why should we take the risk in this area to have our lake ruined? We want to protect the area we live in!

Wrexsie Bardaglio shared that she is concerned about the issues of the brine ponds. Crestwood has had major spills before and it was divesting. How can you be sure this won't happen again? There are no guaranties. Ms. Bardaglio shared much information and it is on file for view at the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer Chris Bulmahn shared that there have been a couple of complaints about dogs on the Black Diamond Trail, being off leashes and going after other dogs and trespassing on people's properties. The Town of Covert's Dog Law does not have a leash law so we cannot enforce that dogs be on a leash. He asked the Board to consider making an amendment to the Dog Law to enforce if your dog is off your property it must be on a leash. Councilman Hunt asked the board to table the discussion of a leash law for now so they could think about what could be done.

Town Clerk Colleen Freese shared that Chris Vann and Will Millard have received their certificate of attendance for the Assessment Review Board Training. This training is required to be on the Assessment Review Board.

Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne requested that the highway department get a new mower. He got a state bid for an Alamo 88"SHD Flail mower with 8.5" offset and a coarse cut 30z knife. The state bid cost for the mower is \$6,928.65. The mower the Highway barn has now is 20 years old and worn out.

Councilman Bosman shared that the House Sign Project is coming to an end. He wrote a letter to the Greater Rochester Health Grant to request that any funds remaining may be divided between Interlaken and Trumansburg Fire Departments for overseeing that the house signs remain up and new houses get signs.

Town Attorney Morrell stated that there needs to be in writing an agreement with the Interlaken and Trumansburg Fire Departments and the Town of Covert regarding what will be done to maintain the house signs for the money to be given to each fire department.

Councilman Bosman also stated that a public hearing needs to be held next month so the Land Management Ordinance can be amended to replace the current, section two-c premises address numbers signs with the new amendment that will state that all residences in the Town of Covert will be required to have a fire department sign conforming with their 911 numbers.

Councilman Vann shared about the Land Management Ordinance and that he would like to delete section 3 line #8, "All permanent housing units shall have a minimum of 940 square feet of floor area. Buildings two stories high shall have a minimum of 600 square feet on the first floor," and replace it with, "all new permanent housing shall meet the minimum square footages of floor area and habitable space as required by the NYS Building Code and enforced thru the Seneca County Department of Building and Fire Code Enforcement and have a minimum width of 24 feet."

Councilman Bosman shared that he has been working on a website to see what is available out there and that the cost is very low. Councilman Bishop said we need to have clear goals for what needs to be on the Town website. A committee was formed of Councilman Bosman, Councilman Hunt and Town Clerk Colleen Freese to work together on a plan for the website.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the tax break for shared services has been submitted to the State, the Town qualified for this with shared services with Tompkins Assessors and Trumansburg School. He also shared that he met with the State auditors and they shared that the Town needs to have a policy for online banking, data breach and a few other thing. Now it's waiting to hear back from the auditors if they are done or do their superiors want to do more auditing.

Town Attorney Morr1ell reported that the Historical Society and Library agreements are approved, and the assessor agreement with the change that each party has six months' notice to cancel the agreement allowing the town time to find a replacement.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for May 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of May 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for May 2015. A total of \$721.00 was received and \$460.94 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of May 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Dog Control Officer's Report for the month of May 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Joint Services Agreement for Appraisal Services, Exemption Services and Assessment Services by the County of Tompkins. The cost of providing this service shall be: \$5,000.00 for July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 and \$7.50 / parcel for January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 (based upon the total parcel count of the presiding assessment roll). For the 2017 Assessment year, the cost will be \$15.30/parcel. For the 2018 Assessment year, the cost will be \$15.61 per parcel. For the 2019 Assessment year, the cost will be \$15.92 per parcel. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to set two public hearings under the Town of Covert's Land Management Ordinance on July 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of first hearing is to hear the regulations for house number signs. The purpose of the second one is for house sizes according to New York State regulations. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

#### **RESOLUTION 7 - 15 House Number Grant Amendments**

WHEREAS The Town of Covert received a grant through the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for funds to complete the House Numbering Project OUTSIDE THE Village of Interlaken, and

WHEREAS at the time the 2015 budget was created and passed it appeared there would be approximately \$7,000.00 left in the grant fund budget line, that figure was used for both income (fund balance) and expense lines in the 2015 budget and

WHEREAS the actual fund balance on December 31, 2014 was \$2,410.28, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board does hereby amend the 2015 General Fund B budget to change the appropriated fund balance/grant funding lines to \$2,410.28, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board does again thank Councilman Bosman for his efforts on the house numbering project for the safety of all the Town Residents.

Moved by: Hunt Seconded by: Bosman Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

#### **RESOLUTION 8 -15 Seneca Meadow Grant Budget Line Amendments**

WHEREAS Supervisor Mike Reynolds submitted a secondary grant application to Seneca Meadows for a second pedestrian crossing sign at the school zone and

WHEREAS that grant was approved and funds totaling \$245.00 were received,

NOW THERE FORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Board accept this grant and authorize the spending of the funds noted in the grant and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Board authorizes the following budget amendments to the 2015 budget: Increase A2270 from \$1,903.00 to \$2,148.00 Increase A1989.4 Special Items miscellaneous from \$510.00 to \$755.00 for the school crossing signs, \$377.71 for the first sign with the balance of the original grant plus the new funds to complete payment on a second sign. Moved by: Bosman Seconded By: Hunt Vote: Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Americana Vineyards & Winery fireworks permit for July 4, 2015, the rain date is July 5, 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve Justice Schmidt and Court Clerk Jennie Ewing to attend continuing Education Program for Justice and Court Clerks at Sunny Potsdam on July 22 & 23, 2015 to include cost of hotel room, meals not covered by the training, and mileage. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent MacCheyne to order from State Bid an Alamo 88" SDH Flail Mower with 8.5 offset and course cut 30z knives for the amount of \$6,928.65. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, that the Town of Covert Town Board supports the County Finance Committee, to look into sharing the Tax revenue from Logo Resort and Casino. There are 52 counties outside of New York city, in New York State and 42 share their sales tax receipts in one form or another. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman. Nay-Vann

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Town Clerk to order the Business Automation Services as the Backup system for the Town Clerk records and to order the vitals modules add-on for birth, death and Burial records for a total amount of \$765.00. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman. Nay-Vann

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the 2015 Interlaken Public Library agreement for the amount of \$1,400.00. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the 2015 Historical Society agreement for the amount of \$1,400.00. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, that Highway Fund Vouchers #76-85 in the amount of \$3,850.18 and General Fund Vouchers #103-121 in the amount of \$38,348.10 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Bosman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JULY 13, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Code Enforcement Officer John Poludniak, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel, Reporter Glynis Hart, Melissa Taylor, Bill Clark and other interested citizens.

Councilman Bosman was present until 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hunt moved, seconded by Vann that the regular meeting minutes from June 8, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Presenter:** Melissa Taylor and Bill Clark from Seneca County Emergency Services shared on the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan and the federal funding priorities focus on identifying improvements related to natural hazards, including flooding, drainage, erosion and development. Mr. Clark shared that the town should consider suggestions for other hazards as well. There was discussion on the Frontenac Bridge and would there be grant money for a bridge. Mr. Clark said there needs to be an updated plan for the Frontenac Bridge. He also wants to get together to go over ideas for applying for funding and see what other grant programs may be available to help the Town of Covert.

Melissa shared about the updated list of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and that completion of this plan will provide the county and participating municipalities with a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy that increases protection from hazards, reduces disaster costs and makes municipalities eligible for grants to fund local projects that eliminate hazards. Highway Superintendent MacCheyne will meet with Ms. Taylor and Mr. Clark to discuss a plan for Frontenac Bridge and see if the Town of Covert is eligible to apply for a grant.

**Public Hearing:**

Supervisor Reynolds opened the first Public Hearing at 7:03 for the Land Management Ordinance ( LMO) on the required house number signs.

Councilman Vann shared some discussion on the house number signs and some people do not want the sign on their property. What does the Town do with repeated offenders who take their house number signs down? Mr. Vann said that there are some things missing from the LMO that need to be fixed before it's passed and filed as a local law.

Barry Ford stated, He understand that the fire companies want everyone to have a 911 sign that makes sense. But, why do all house signs have to be green? If a fire company can't find a home, it's not the town's fault, it's the peoples' fault for not having a sign. Why should a fine be imposed, or jail time, if you don't have a sign. As far as I'm concerned this is a government agency overstepping its boundaries.

Councilman Bishop shared that he doesn't like the idea of having a fine if you don't have a house number sign. If someone had a nice landscaped house and wanted to put up a nice big house number sign to go with their landscaping, he understands that. Supervisor Reynolds stated that the Fire Department wants the green reflective signs. It is easier to find the houses if they all have the same sign and are reflective.

Supervisor Reynolds closed the first Public Hearing at 7: 25

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to open the second Public Hearing on LMO for house sizes. Motion carried.

The Land Management Ordinance (LMO) section 8 requires 950 square feet for a home. The new proposal for the LMO is that all new permanent housing shall meet the minimum square footage of floor area and habitable spaces as required by the NYS Building Code and as enforced through the Seneca County Department of Building and Fire Code.

Councilman Hunt asked where the 24' width came from and what about yurts? Councilman Vann stated that 24' width is standard. You can build a yurt to standard building code. There was discussion and many supported the New York State Building Code but did not agree with the 24' width. The majority of the Town Board agreed to do away with the 24' width. The Public also was in favor of houses being built by state code and not having a 24' width requirement.

Councilman Hunt made motion, seconded by Bishop, to close the public hearing at 8:40 and returned to regular meeting.

Councilman Hunt shared that the committee for the website and George Hunt the owner of Graphic Designer met to discuss the Town of Covert website. There was discussion on the website, what needs to be done and the cost. They talked about a Facebook page for the Town of Covert. The Town Attorney told Councilman Hunt that a lot of towns are using Facebook.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Village of Interlaken is interested in having shared services and are coming July 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to look at the Town Municipal Building to see what the possibility for village offices here at the Town Municipal Building are.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for June 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of June 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for June 2015. A total of \$981.00 was received and \$640.88 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the Month of June 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that variance request application #19-15 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg, north side property line does not meet the required 20 ft setback required by the Land Management Ordinances. It will be referred to the Planning Board. The Public Hearing will be held August 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann.

Bishop moved, seconded by Vann, that due to the increase of storage fees from Iron Mountain, the Town Clerk Freese is to request the Town of Covert records from Iron Mountain to be returned. If the records need to be stored offsite, they could be stored at the Community Bank in a safe deposit box. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop to use George Hunt of Graphic Designer to set up and maintain the Town of Covert website for \$700.00 the first year. Contract would be from August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Reynolds, Hunt-abstained.

RESOLUTION: 9-15 Modify the Land Management Ordinance Pertaining to House Size

WHEREAS: The Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance Section Three #8 has required all permanent housing units shall have a minimum of 940 square feet of floor area. Building two stories high shall have a minimum of 600 square feet of floor area on the first floor and,

WHEREAS: the Town of Covert Town Board has decided to amend The Land Management Ordinance and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that Section Three number 8 of the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance will be replaced with; all new permanent housing shall meet the minimum square footages of floor area and habitable spaces as required by the NYS Building Code and as enforced thru the Seneca County Department of Building and Fire Code Enforcement.

Motion: Hunt, Seconded: Bishop Vote: Hunt-Aye, Vann-Nay, Bishop-Aye, Supervisor Reynolds-Aye, Absent-Bosman.

The house number signs discussion was tabled until the Land Management Ordinance is completed and ready to be approved by the town board.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, that Highway Fund Vouchers #86-100 in the amount of \$20,435.69 and General Fund Vouchers #122-143 in the amount of \$26,511.07 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, August 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey Mac Cheyne, Code Enforcement Officer John Poludniak, Planning Board Member Robert Schoffel, Reporter Aneta Glover, John C. King 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.

**Public Hearing:** Supervisor Reynolds opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 to hear comments on the variance request under the Land Management Ordinances for variance request application #19 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg; the north side property line does not meet the required 20ft setback required by the Land Management Ordinances.

Mr. Battistella stated that he did not have very much space and the plan for the garage is less than the twenty foot set back from property line as required by The Land Management Ordinances. Councilman Hunt shared that the Planning Board met and did not have enough members for a quorum and could not make a recommendation to the Town Board. Code Enforcement Officer shared that he had visited the Battistella property, and there is a steep hill to the north and 10 feet that you can't do anything with. Code Enforcement Officer made a recommendation to issue the variance request to Mr. Battistella. Planning Board member Rob Schoffel visited the property and he stated, "that to build the garage so close to the gorge is dangerous and I do not recommend building that close to the gorge."

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to close the public hearing at 7:20 and return to the regular meeting. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, that the regular meeting minutes from July 10, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

**Presenter:** Tony Del Plato introduced John C. King from Halco Energy. Mr. King shared that Halco started thirty-one years ago originally with a plumbing and heating contractor. Halco employs about two hundred and thirty-one employees. Halco does energy saving for water heat, wind solar, heat pumps and more. Halco is part of the solar campaign to help save energy by working with businesses and residents to save them money. Halco does guarantee their workmanship and parts. Mr. King would like to perform an analysis and estimate for solar for the Town of Covert.

**Highway Superintendent:** Superintendent MacCheyne reported that he has been working on getting the missing rail replaced on Burdick road. He shared that he has been getting prices of material to replace pipe and barriers for Burdick road. The highway crew has been busy hauling crusher run, covering an open well on Kelly's Corners Road, cold patching and doing regular maintenance on equipment.

**Town Clerk Report:** Town Clerk Freese reported that the American Legion filed their quarterly report. There was discussion on Iron Mountain and the amount they were charging the Town to close out their account. Town Clerk asked the Town Attorney to look into this matter with Iron Mountain.

Code Enforcement Officer shared on some changes to the Land Management Ordinance (LMO). He shared about the definition of the house sign and the request for them to be up within two weeks. After much discussion the Town Board did not want to set a public hearing at this time for the LMO. The town board Committee for Planning and LMO, which is Councilman Hunt and Councilman Vann will work on the LMO to make any changes that are needed and present it to the town board.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to allow John C. King from Halco Energy to have access to the Town of Covert's POD number so he can access two years of electric bills. Mr. King will do an energy audit to see what solar would cost the town and what it will save the town. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bishop.

### **SUPPORTING THE LAGO RESORT & CASINO, LLC IN THE TOWN OF TYRE, SENECA COUNTY Resolution # 10-15**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Legislature passed the Upstate New York Gaming Act in the Fall of 2013 ("2013 Gaming Act") and by statewide voter referendum on November 5, 2013, the electorate approved a constitutional amendment to permit "class 3", or what is considered full casino gaming operations; and **WHEREAS**, the 2013 Gaming Act called for establishing "four destination resort casinos in upstate New York" through a competitive process whereby up to four (4) gaming licenses will be awarded in what was identified as Region 1 (Catskill Region — Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties), Region 2 (Capital Region — Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie and Washington Counties), and Region 5 (Upstate Region — Broome, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins Counties and portions of Chemung, Schuyler and Wayne east of State Route 14); and **WHEREAS**, the Tyre Town Board on June 12, 2014 and the Seneca County Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2014 unanimously approved the Lago Resort & Casino project and the Gaming Facility Location Board on December 17, 2014 unanimously recommended Lago Resort & Casino for a gaming license in Region 5; and **WHEREAS**, Lago Resort & Casino, LLC ("Lago") has commenced construction activities and there could be employment of 1800 construction workers during the summer 2015 if the Gaming Commission acts soon; and, **WHEREAS**, under the 2013 Gaming Act, Eighty percent (80%) of the tax on the new gaming operations will be distributed state-wide to the school districts such that commencement of operations by Lago will lead to more funding for Seneca County schools; and **WHEREAS**, based on the attached summary of projected payments to be received by those counties in Region 5 (See Exhibit A), every month delay in the license announcement delays receipts by all Region 5 Counties and all Region 5 school of funding as contemplated under the 2013 Gaming Act; and **WHEREAS**, the Legislature desires to show support for the Lago Casino & Resort Project by calling for the Gaming Commission to issue the license to Lago as soon as possible and to express a spirit of cooperation by supporting award of a 4<sup>th</sup> Gaming License in either Tioga or Broome County such that distributions to all Region 5 tax jurisdictions are maximized.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF COVERT OF THE COUNTY OF SENECA, NEW YORK HEREBY RESOLVES, AS FOLLOWS: RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Covert Board supports the proposed development of the Lago Resort & Casino project in the Town of Tyre, Seneca County; **RESOLVED**, that each member of the New York State Legislature, the Governor of New York, all tax jurisdictions in Region 5 and the Seneca County federal delegation are called upon and urged to join the Town of Covert Town Board in UNITED SUPPORT FOR:

- (i) The issuance of the Lago gaming license by the Gaming Commission as soon as possible;
- (ii) The Gaming counties to maximize revenues for all tax jurisdictions in Region 5 (see Exhibit B);
- (iii) The State of New York establish exclusivity zones in the ninety (90) mile region around the Lago Resort & Casino and around the 4<sup>th</sup> gaming license site in either Tioga or Broome County, such that their respective consent is required to site a Class III Gaming Facility within the respective zones, so as to provide protections to the respective casino business plans in a form similar to the protections afforded non-taxpaying Indian Gaming Facilities, as the contemplated gaming taxes payable to the tax jurisdictions of Region 5 need to be protected for fiscal certainty.

This resolution shall take effect immediately. Motion: Councilman Hunt, Seconded: Councilman Bosman. Vote: Councilman Bishop-Aye, Hunt-Aye, Bosman-Aye, Supervisor Reynolds-Aye, Councilman Vann-Nay.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for July 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of July 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for July 2015. A total of \$1,422.25 was received and \$1,011.92 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of July 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Reynolds moved, seconded by Hunt, that variance request application #19 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg, where the north side property line does not meet the required 20ft setback as required by the Land Management Ordinances, be approved. The vote was Aye-Hunt, Aye-Reynolds, Nay-Bishop, Nay-Vann and Nay-Bosman. The variance request was denied.

Hunt, moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of July 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Reynolds that the maintenance agreement between the Interlaken Fire Department and the Town of Covert shall run for a period of five Years. The Interlaken Fire Department agrees to survey the Town of Covert area for which they have a fire contract with the Town of Covert on a regular basis to insure compliance with the LMO section dealing with the display and maintenance of the house number signs placed with funds from GRHF grant.

Upon noting noncompliance of any household in their area, the Fire Department will provide written notification to the Town Clerk and the Code Enforcement Officer. For their services, Interlaken Fire Department shall be paid a one-time payment of one thousand dollars. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Reynolds and Nay-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Reynolds that the maintenance agreement between Trumansburg Fire Company (TFC) Inc. and the Town of Covert shall run for a period of five (5) years. The TFC to survey the Town of Covert area for which they provide a fire contract with the Town of Covert on a regular basis to insure compliance with the LMO section dealing with the display and maintenance of the "house number signs" placed there with funds from the GRHF.

Upon noting their services the Trumansburg fire company will provide written notification to the Covert Town Clerk and the Code Enforcement Officer of such non-compliance. For their services the Trumansburg Fire Company will receive a one-time payment in the sum of One thousand dollars. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Reynolds.

#### **RESOLUTION #11-15 Court Justice Contractual Account Spending and Transfers**

**WHEREAS** circumstance will cause an overage in the Justice Contractual fund (A1110.4) for the fiscal year 2015 **WHEREAS** no further purchases are planned for the Town Justice Equipment fund (A1110.2) which has \$500.00, and **WHEREAS** good municipal accounting practices advise that accounts should be reviewed and adjustments made as needed, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Justice contractual fund (A1110.4) be increased \$500.00 and that the balanced note in the Justice Equipment fund (A1110.2) be transferred to provide necessary funds. Motion: Bosman Seconded by Hunt. Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt to declare the Town Court items listed as surplus: 1-Vetch Phone system, 2-Cassette recorders, 1-answering machine, 1- AT&T answering machine, 1- Old Tape recorder and 1-Panasonic recorder. Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #101-112 in the amount of \$43,575.21 and General Fund Vouchers #144-159 in the amount of \$11,481.20 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk



TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Reporter Aneta Glover, Daniel Ungleich 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.

The Town Board received two sealed bids for the 2016 Lawn Maintenance Contract. The first bid was from Mitchell R. Perry (Cayuga Lawns) in the amount of \$2,600.00. The second bid was from Raymond Zajac Sr. (Grease Lightning) for \$2,210.00.

**Presenter:** Daniel Ungleich of 9420 Route 96, Trumansburg, addressed the Town Board about the fact that Verizon wants to put a cell tower up right across the road, in front of his house. They have been in their home since 1987 and have enjoyed the view. Some of the neighbors around him really don't want to see this cell tower go up either. If the cell tower goes up, the value of their home will be about twenty percent less than other homes because of the cell tower view. He believes this is an issue that the town board needs to be looking at and should have an ordinance with some guidelines as to where these cell towers can go, how high and how far set back from properties.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular meeting minutes from August 10, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

**Highway Superintendent:** Superintendent MacCheyne reported that they have been working on Burdick Road, put up new guide rails and now they need to get some road signs for the bridge. He shared that he has been getting prices of material to replace pipe and barriers for Burdick Road.

Superintendent MacCheyne shared that twenty-five years ago a clothing stipend was set for \$275.00 and with the cost of clothing increase, it does not buy much for the Highway guys. "I would like to have the clothing allowance go to at least \$375.00 annually for the Highway guys."

Superintendent MacCheyne also shared that he got state bid prices on a new 2016 Ford F250 pickup truck with western plow at \$35,489.18. Roy Teitsworth, Inc. has set a minimum price at auction for the 2014 pickup truck with blade to sell for \$27,000.00 and anything over \$27,00.00 will be split 50/50. The Town Board has a two year plan to replace the pick-up truck, to get a good return on the truck and save the town money.

**Town Clerk Report:** Town Clerk Freese shared about the Usherwood copier and a plan for a new

copier from Usherwood, it is a Samsung, the cost is \$1,250.00 and comes with a contract for \$255.60 a year. The contract covers all parts, labor, drums, toner, and unlimited services calls.

Town Clerk shared information from other towns on credit card usage. Most towns do not use credit cards because of the fee to use them.

Councilman Bosman shared that the final paper work for the Greater Rochester Health Grant which was used for the House signs has been filed and the grant is completed.

Councilman Hunt shared that the Town of Covert website is being worked on and will take a little time to get everything up to date.

Supervisor Reynolds shared about Cohen Law Group. They are a group that works with towns to get a better franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable Company. Cohen Law will work for the Town of Covert to negotiate a new agreement to increase the amount of money the town will receive from the cable franchise.

Supervisor Reynolds set up Budget Workshops for October 5, 2015 at 6:00 and October 21, 2015 at 6:00 at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, NY 14847. The public is invited to attend.

There was much discussion on charging for Building Permits. Councilman Vann suggested if you need a variance request, you pay more money than just for a regular building permit. Barry Ford shared that if you had one set price for all building permits, wouldn't that be better to recoup the money spent on ads and help with the Code Enforcement Officer's expenses? The Board agreed they want to set fees for building permits and will work on what the fees will be.

Town Attorney Patrick Morrell shared he would draft up an amendment for the October board meeting allowing a fee for building permits in the Land Management Ordinance. The Town Board was in agreement.

Town Attorney Patrick Morrell also shared that he is still working with Iron Mountain over the bill they have sent the Town for record storage.

There was much discussion on the Interlaken Fire Department Agreement and the Trumansburg Fire and Ambulance Agreement. The Town Attorney advised the Town Board that there should be two joint public hearing for these agreements, one with Ovid and the Town of Covert and one with Trumansburg and the Town of Covert.

### **Petitioners:**

Dick Westbrook who has been trying to get his ditch cleaned out asked what the status on the ditch was. Superintendent MacCheyne responded that specimens were taken of the weed in the ditch and taken to Cornell to see what they are.

Fran Macguire was concerned about the eroding at the end of South Frontenac Road and asked who is responsible for taking care of it. Superintendent MacCheyne agreed to check a property map and check into the matter.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for August 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of August 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for August 2015. A total of \$1,656.75 was received and \$673.08 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of August 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, that variance request application #23 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg, to construct a 20'x13' garage be referred to the Planning Board. The north side property line does not meet the required 20ft setback as required by the Land Management Ordinances. The variance request is to be sent to the Planning Board and a public hearing will be held October 12, 2015 at 7:00. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann to reappoint George Richardson to the Planning Board for a seven year term to expire September 30, 2022. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt, moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of August 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to increase the Highway employee's annual stipend clothing allowance from \$275.00 to \$375.00 starting in the 2016 budget year. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, that the 2014 Ford F250 pickup truck and plow be declared surplus and placed on the internet auction to accept at least \$27,000.00. If the sale price offer is lower than \$27,000.00 it will be denied and sold at the Roy Teitworth, Inc. auction in October, 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Bosman

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to accept Raymond Zajac's bid for \$2210.00 for the lawn maintenance contract for the budget year of 2016, for the following properties: Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, and Old Covert Town hall, 9273 State Route 96 and Covert Cemetery, 9219 County Road 144. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop to declare the Town Clerk's Cannon Dii243 copier as surplus and be disposed of. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman to approve the Town Clerk to order a new Samsung SCX-5935NX at the full purchase price of \$1,250.00 with the yearly services contract for \$255.60 plus 18,000 black & white images per year any overages will be billed yearly. Also see if company will remove old copier. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to have Cohen Law Group negotiate a new agreement with Time Warner Cable Company. The cost will be \$6,900 with the following payment schedule: the first

installment in October, 2015, the second installment in February, 2016, and the third installment in May, 2016. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, that Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne order from Van Bortel on state bid a 2016 Ford F-250XL Super Cab 4x4 6.75' box with western plow for \$35,489.18. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, that Highway Fund Vouchers #111-126 in the amount of \$67,970.04 and General Fund Vouchers #160-177 in the amount of \$27,127.26 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bishop moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Reporter Aneta Glover 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.

Supervisor Reynolds called for a moment of silence for Arthur C. Poulsen a former Town of Covert resident, who also served as a Town Supervisor.

**Public Hearing:** Supervisor Reynolds opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 to hear comments under the Land Management Ordinances for variance request application #28 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg; the north side property line does not meet the required 20ft setback required by the Land Management Ordinances. Mr. Battistella was asked if he could set the garage back two more feet. Mr. Battistella agreed that he could set it back two more feet. Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to close the public hearing at 7:15. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman that the regular meeting minutes from September 14, 2015 be approved. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

**Highway Superintendent:** Superintendent MacCheyne reported that they have been working on Burdick Road, put up new guide rails and now they need to get some road signs for the bridge. He shared that he has been getting prices of material to replace pipe and barriers for Burdick Road. There was discussion on what the minimum amount was that the Town Board would take for the 2014, F250 pickup on the online auction.

Superintendent MacCheyne shared that the 2016 Ford F250 pickup truck with western plow has been ordered from Van Bortle Ford. He also shared that Seneca County Soil and Water District had looked at the ditch on Halls Corner Road & County Road 142 and sent a letter to Supervisor Reynolds that the best option for the bank would be to seed and mow it, not to put rock riprap in the ditch as the landowner has requested.

**Town Clerk Report:** Town Clerk Freese shared that Justice Schmidt has finished her required training for 2015 and Rob Schoffel, member of planning board, took training on subdivisions. She also shared that the American Legion filed their quarterly report.

Councilman Vann shared that he is working on the Code Enforcement Officer job description.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that Verizon wants to put a cell tower in Covert near the rock piles in the Hamlet of Covert. Supervisor Reynolds stated he would like the board's approval to move forward with the cell tower.

Councilman Vann stated I'm sure there are some good reasons for the town to have the cell tower and they do have ones that look nice like trees now. But maybe we need not move so fast and do some research on how it will affect that area. Councilman Vann moved, to table the proposed cell tower at this time.

Councilman Bosman asked, do we have any control over cell tower being put up on private property? Supervisor Reynolds stated, we can't stop people from putting a cell tower up on their own land. Bosman stated there is nothing in the Land Management Ordinance to stop them from putting up a cell tower. The cell tower would also give the Town of Covert some income to help keep the town taxes lower.

Betsy Salm shared that the Hamlet of Covert is in the Historic District and there are 22 properties that are registered with the New York Historical Society. The residents can file a notice of rejection with the FCC. They have to legally respond to letters of rejection, and the wireless carrier and the FCC have to share all information. These houses are being restored and residents are working hard to keep this area nice.

Carl Mount shared that the residents have been working hard to clean up the neighborhood and improve their properties. There were other residents that shared about how their assessment values will go down, and the bed and breakfast and Cayuga Wine Trail guests will go down because they will go to other towns, so the County loses tax revenue. Mount didn't believe that residents would see the profits of the cell tower reducing their taxes and did not think the profits would justify the means.

Tom Salm also shared that the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance says "to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of its residents." The Right to Farm Law says "intent of this Law is to maintain and preserve the rural traditions and character of the Town." "Generally speaking modern cell towers are not consistent with these goals." (Tom's Letter is on file at the Town Clerks Office)

Councilman Vann stated there is a motion on the floor to table the proposed cell tower so more information on health implications and the environmental impact could be acquired. Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to table the cell tower to do some research on how the cell tower will impact the environment and the health of the community. Aye-Hunt, Aye Vann, Aye-Bishop and Nay-Bosman, Nay-Reynolds.

There was discussion that the town had passed a resolution to set up a reserve account for snow equipment. The Town Board requested that the Town Clerk look to see if there is any information in the minutes on reserve accounts for the Highway.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for September 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of September 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for September 2015. A total of \$4,774.00 was received and \$888.97 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of September 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Bishop moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of September 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the variance request application #28 for Roger & Nancy Battistella, 9523 Old Orchard Beach Rd, Trumansburg, to construct a 20'x13' garage with the extra 2 foot setback on the north side of the property as recommend by the Planning Board.  
Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Bosman.

#### RESOLUTION NO.12-15

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, **WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of Covert has reviewed the 2016 Tentative Budget for the Town of Covert, The Trumansburg and Interlaken Fire Protection contract and the Trumansburg Ambulance contract. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is duly authorized to file said budget for public inspection. Said budget shall be filed at the Town Clerks Office at 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York. The Town of Covert Board set forth: A public hearing for the Town of Covert's 2016 Preliminary Budget, including General Funds, Highway Funds, Assessment Program Funds, Trumansburg and Interlaken Fire Protection and Trumansburg Ambulance Contract on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.  
Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Waid.

#### RESOLUTION No. 13-15

Vann moved, Seconded by Bishop, **WHEREAS** the Town Board of Town of Covert approved working with Cohen Law Group in an effort, to lower the cost of the Town of Covert Cable and to increase the Cable Revenue, and **WHEREAS** no budget line exists for payment in the 2015 budget, **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the attorney contractual line A120.41 be increased by \$2,300.00 for 2015 budget, and **WHEREAS** the New York State retirement payment, was budgeted at a higher amount than what the town was billed for in 2015, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED THAT** the amount of \$2,300.00 in account A9010.8 be moved to the attorney account A120.41 Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Waid.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to set a minimum of \$30,000.00 for the 2014 Ford F250 pickup truck and plow to be sold on the online auction. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to go into executive session at 7:50 to discuss a personnel matter. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to close the executive session and return to Regular meeting at 8:05 no action was taken.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, that Highway Fund Vouchers #127-135 in the amount of \$25,118.62 and General Fund Vouchers #178-197 in the amount of \$20,938.61 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF COVERT  
PUBLIC HEARING, TOWN BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Colleen Freese, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Reporter Aneta Glover, interested citizens.

**Call to order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Hearing:** Supervisor Reynolds opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

The purpose of the Public hearing was to hear comments on the Cable franchise renewal for the Town of Covert. The town's current franchise agreement with Time Warner has expired and Cohen Law Group has begun the process of negotiations. There was discussion about the south end and the other north end cable services and why some people still can't get cable. Town Attorney Morrell said the Town of Covert doesn't have many options because of where the town is located. Councilman Hunt shared that the library gets free cable now, but it doesn't work well when they have too many computers running. He asked Supervisor Reynolds to try and negotiate an upgrade for the library.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 and return to Regular Meeting. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

Hunt, moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular minutes from October 12, 2015 be approved. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, Seconded by Vann, that the special meeting minutes from October 26, 2015 be approved. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

**Highway Report:** Highway Superintendent MacCheyne gave his monthly report and asked the board to consider renewing the John Deere Comprehensive Warranty and the J D Link Data Message Services Subscription in the amount of \$2,295.00. He stated that one repair for the pay loader could cost more than the warranty. The old 260 John Deer broke down and he's going to see if he can borrow a county tractor to finish up the mowing for the year.



Councilman Hunt stated that he talked to the webmaster who has made a home page on the website and made some other changes. Please take a look at it and give us your feedback.

**Supervisor Report:** Supervisor Reynolds shared that Justice Schmidt and himself met with the state Comptroller to go over the findings of the audit. They have 30 days to accept the findings and ninety days to write a corrective action plan.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that there were changes made to the 2016 budget as listed in the resolution below and that we stayed under the tax cap.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Village of Interlaken will have shared services with the Town of Covert for the Dog Control Officer starting January 2016.

There was discussion about amending the Personnel Policy so if a full time employee elected not to have insurance, they could get a stipend for 15% of the cost of insurance for them. Town Attorney Patrick Morrell shared it is an encouragement for them to get the insurance elsewhere if they can and it will save the town money, also.

Supervisor Reynolds shared that the Town is no longer considering the cell tower. Verizon has pulled the tower from the town and are looking at individual properties.

Tom Salam thanked the Town Board for listening to the citizens of the Hamlet of Covert and making a change in the budget that does not include income from the cell tower.

Barry Ford asked the Town Board where the issue of the cell tower stands; has a contract been signed by Ziefle to have the tower on their property? What about the Ungleich's who came to the board and don't want the cell tower across from them. He suggested the board could stop this by putting a moratorium in place until something else can be done.

Don Kenyon stated that people have property rights. They have a right to do what they want on their own land. It's not right to tell people what they can and cannot do on their own property. He encouraged the Town Board to defend property rights.

### **Resolution No. 14-15                      2016 Budget**

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, that the 2016 Preliminary Budget be adopted as the final budget for 2016 and **WHEREAS**, this Town Board met November 9,2015 at the time and place specified in the notices of the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** Town Board of the Town of Covert hereby adopts such Preliminary Budget, as originally compiled with modifications and amendments , to budget line items A1620.44 Town Hall Improvement funds reduced to \$1,000.00 A5132.43-Highway garage fuel reduced \$900.00, A5132.41 Highway Utilities reduced \$500.00 and A3510.1 added \$800.00Dog Control Officer, a new line A2268 for \$800.00 reimbursement from the Village of Interlaken for Dog Control Officer. Highway fund DB Increased the appropriated fund balance to \$14,400.00 as the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January1,2015 and that such budget, as adopted, be entered in detail into the minutes of the proceeding of the Town Board, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Town Clerk of the Town of Covert shall prepare and

certify in duplicate copies of said annual budget, as adopted pursuant to section 202, Subd.2 of the Town Law, and deliver on copy thereof to Supervisor of this Town to be presented by him to the Board of Supervisors of this county. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye- Hunt.

### **Resolution#15-15 Village Agreement with Town of Covert for Dog Control Services**

**Whereas** it will benefit the Village of Interlaken Residents to have a local Dog Control Officer, and **Whereas** the current Town of Covert Dog Control Officer lives in the Village, and **Whereas** this Shared Service will benefit both the Village and the Town, **NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that as of December 31, 2015 the position of Dog Control Officer will be abolished within the Village of Interlaken, with a final payment for 2015 lease payment of \$300 be made to the current Dog Control officer per the budget and the duties will be taken over by the Town of Covert Dog Control Officer, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that on January 1st, 2016 the Village of Interlaken will pay to the Town of Covert \$400 for the first half of 2016 Dog Control Services; and a second payment of \$400 will be due in July 2016; additionally beginning January 1, 2016 mileage costs will be billed from the Town of Covert to the Village of Interlaken as shown in the Dog Control Officer's monthly report. Motion by Councilman Hunt, Seconded by Councilman Vann. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bosman

### **Resolution #16-15 Long-Term Financial Plan**

The Board needs to adopt long-term financial plans to effectively manage the Town's finances. The Board has adopted budgets that have relied heavily on appropriated fund balance that cannot be maintained into the future. For example, the town-wide (TW) general and highway funds available fund balance for emergencies and unforeseen expenditures has declined to \$23,880 (5 percent) and \$20,831 (8 percent) of the 2015 appropriations, at December 31, 2014. Fund balance will not be able to continue to finance nonrecurring expenditures or operating deficits and will require a long-term plans to be able to fund future needs. In addition, the Town-outside-village (TOV) highway fund has a negative cash balance of \$41,628 at the end of 2014. This occurred because all funds are comingled in one bank account and appropriate accounting entries were not made to record a cash advance from the TW fund.

Recommendations The Board should: 1. Ensure that budgets are structurally balanced by developing long-term financial and capital plans that project operating and capital needs and financing sources for a three- to five-year period. These plans should be monitored and updated on an ongoing basis.

**WHERE AS** the recent audit by the New York State Comptroller's office has recommended that the Town of Covert develop a Five Year Long Term Financial Plan, and

**WHEREAS** there are suggested long-term plans available, now therefore be it **RESOLVED** that Town of Covert Supervisor Michael Reynolds will work with these recommended Five Year Plans and develop such a plan for the Town of Covert, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the noted plan shall be ready for review by the Town Board no later than the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting, with the intent that modifications and final adoption of the plan be done on or before the February 8, 2016 meeting.

2. Adopt a fund balance policy to provide guidance on how fund balance will be used. 3. Maintain fund balances that are sufficient to cover cash flow needs until revenues are available. In the event that interfund advances are necessary, ensure prior approval is granted, the loan is recorded, and the advance is repaid within the same year (with interest, if between different tax bases).

**WHEREAS** the recent audit by the New York State Comptroller's office has recommended that a fund balance policy be adopted to provide guidance on how fund balance will be accumulated and used, and **WHEREAS** the Town of Covert has had an un-official un-written policy which is used in planning the budget, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Covert Supervisor will develop a written policy on the fund balance guidelines, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the draft of this policy will be available at the December 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting, with final adoption of the policy on or before the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.

3. Maintain fund balances that are sufficient to cover cash flow needs until revenues are available. In the event that interfund advances are necessary, ensure prior approval is granted, the loan is recorded, and the advance is repaid within the same year (with interest, if between different tax bases).

**WHEREAS** the recent audit by the New York State Comptroller's office has recommended that the Town of Covert maintain fund balance that are sufficient to cover cash flow needs, and that inter fund advances have the approval of the Supervisor and Town Board, with proper written documentation, and **WHEREAS** the Town of Covert had a cash flow shortage at year-end 2014 due to late submission of certain state reimbursement reports, and all funds were maintained in one general savings fund, and **WHEREAS** beginning in 2015 two separate savings accounts were instituted for keeping General Fund and Highway Fund savings separate, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Covert Supervisor will develop a written policy on the guidelines for inter fund transfers, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the draft of this policy will be available at the December 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting, with final adoption of the policy on or before the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.

Motion: Bosman, Seconded by Vann, to approve the resolutions as recommend by the State Comptroller's Office. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye Bosman and Aye-Supervisor Reynolds.

### **Resolution #17-15 Justice Court accurate accounting**

The Justice Court must maintain complete and accurate accounting records and safeguard all moneys collected by the Court.

Recommendations The Justice Court should: 1. Ensure that duplicate receipts are numbered, issued sequentially and retained where no other evidence of moneys received is available.

**WHERE AS** a recent audit by the New York State Comptroller's office recommended the Town of Covert Court ensure that duplicate receipts are numbered, issued sequentially and retained where no other evidence of moneys received is available, and

**WHERE AS** on June 15, 2015, a Memorandum was written and acknowledged by Court personnel initially addressing the avoidance of, and handling of voided receipts, and

**WHERE AS** the Court recognizes that beyond guidelines set by General Municipal Law, the New York State Comptroller's office, and The Office of Court Administration, a Fiscal Procedural manual should be established for the Town of Covert Court, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the final Fiscal Procedural Manual be presented to the Town of Covert Board on or before February 8, 2016.

Motion: Hunt, Seconded by Vann, to approve the state comptrollers' report and Town Justices Corrective Action Plan as required by the Office of the State Comptroller Office . Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Reynolds.

### **Resolution #18-15 Reserve Fund For Highway Equipment**

**WHERE AS** The Town of Covert has planned to establish a reserve fund for the Highway Equipment and **WHERE AS** Highway Equipment Funds have been allocated in this year's 2015 budget and have not been used, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the supervisor is authorized to establish a savings account to be labeled Highway Equipment and deposit remaining balance from each year's budget to be drawn from DA130.2 Machinery Equipment **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the budget line # for Highway Equipment Reserve Fund be established in the 2016 Budget and funded. Motion Hunt, Seconded by Vann, Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann to hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 to hear any comments on the 2016 Fire agreements between Town of Covert and the Village of Trumansburg and the Town of Covert and Town of Ovid. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve Highway Superintendent MacCheyne to renew the John Deere Model 624K Loader Comprehensive Warranty for \$2,395.00 and the JD Link message service subscription for John Deere for \$600.00 for a total of \$2,995.00. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt.

**Resolution #19-15      Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution  
for Elected and Appointed Officials**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Covert, hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities:

| Title                      | Standard Work Day<br><br>(Hrs/day)<br>Min. 6 hrs<br>Max. 8 hrs | Name<br><br>(First and Last) | Social Security Number<br>(Last 4 digits) | Registration Number | Tier 1<br>(Check only if member is in Tier 1) | Current Term Begin & End Dates<br><br>(mm/dd/yy-mm/dd/yy) | Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System<br><br>(Yes/No-If Yes, do not complete the last two columns) | Record of Activities Result* | Not Submitted (Check only if official did not submit their Record of Activities) |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Elected Officials</b>   |  |                              |   |                     |   |   |   |                              |  |
|                            |  |                              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      |   |   |                              |  |
|                            |  |                              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      |   |   |                              |  |
|                            |  |                              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      |   |   |                              |  |
| <b>Appointed Officials</b> |  |                              |   |                     |   |   |   |                              |  |
| Town Attorney              | 6 hrs.   | Patrick Morrell              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | 1/2015  | no  | 2.68                         |  |
|                            |  |                              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      |   |   |                              |  |
|                            |  |                              |   |                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      |   |   |                              |  |

I, Colleen Freese, Town Clerk of the governing board of the Town of Covert, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Covert on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

Colleen R. Freese

(Signature of the secretary or clerk)

**Affidavit of Posting:** I, Colleen R. Freese, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the Resolution began on November 9, 2015 and continued for at least 30 days. That the Resolution was available to the public on the Official Sign Board at 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, NY 14847.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann to approve the standard work day reporting for town attorney Patrick Morrell as required by the State Retirement System. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop. Abstained-Hunt.

Vann moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve John Hunt to put trim up and paint the kitchen for cost of labor at \$125.00 and materials at around \$100.00. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Supervisor's revenue and expenditure report for October 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of October 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for October 2015. A total of \$1,251.00 was received and \$632.72 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of October 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of October 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Town Board entered into executive session at 8:10.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to come out of executive session at 8:55 and return to Regular Town Board Meeting. No action was taken.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #136-150 in the amount of \$34,830.24 and General Fund Vouchers #198-219 in the amount of \$32,707.67 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen R. Freese, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF COVERT  
PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman William Bishop   | Present |

**Others Present:** Deputy Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Reporter Aneta Glover, Ulysses Town Clerk Carissa Parlato, Ulysses Supervisor Elizabeth Thomas, Ovid Councilman John Hubbard, Ovid Councilman Mark Beardsley, Village of Interlaken Trustee/Interlaken Fire Dept. Rep. Keith Jay, Councilman-Elect Leon Anderson and other interested citizens.

**Call to order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Hearing:** Supervisor Reynolds opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. The purpose of the Public hearing was to hear comments on the Fire Contract between the Village of Trumansburg and the Town of Covert.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to close the Public Hearing for Fire Contract at 7:04. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

**Public Hearing:** Vann moved, Seconded by Bishop to open public hearing at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of the Public hearing was to hear comments on the Ambulance Contract between the Village of Trumansburg and the Town of Covert.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, to close the Public Hearing for Ambulance Contract at 7:07 p.m.

**Public Hearing:** Vann moved, Seconded by Hunt to open public hearing at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of the Public hearing was to hear comments on the Fire Contract between the Village of Interlaken and the Town of Covert regarding shared services with the Town of Ovid for the Interlaken Fire Department.

Ovid Trustee John Hubbard asked why the Town of Ovid was invited to the hearing. Attorney Morrell explained that it is State Law for there to be a joint Public Hearing when

there are shared services and the Interlaken Fire Department would be sharing services between the Town of Ovid and the Town of Covert.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to close the Public Hearing for Fire Contract at 7:07 p.m. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular minutes from November 9, 2015 be approved with the change of adding a comma in heading. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Vann and Aye-Bishop.

**Highway Report:** Highway Superintendent MacCheyne gave his monthly report. The old 260 John Deer that broke down was repaired and will be put up for auction in the spring. The new pickup should be ready with plow put on this week.

Supervisor Reynolds reminded all of the End of Year Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m..

Councilman Vann reported that the creek on Frontenac Road keeps filling up and washing out and that some trees have started falling down, but the DEC can't do anything about it. He said it would be either Camp Barton or the Town that would obtain the proper DEC permits for any future work.

**Supervisor Report:** Supervisor Reynolds opened discussion regarding the Town charging a fee for building permits to offset the cost of having code enforcement and the ads in the newspaper. He shared that he had looked at fee schedules for Waterloo, Seneca Falls, and Romulus. Councilman Vann liked the fee schedule for Waterloo, but would like it to include roofing. He also suggested that an inspection should be made twice a year on every road in the town to insure compliance for all residents and that there should be an additional fee for a variance.

Roofing fee was discussed, but the county is now charging for this.

Councilman Vann recommended it be required to attach a copy of a complete un-processed or processed Seneca County building permit application with any future Town of Covert Development applications.

Councilmen Bishop and Hunt agreed that keeping it simple would be better, otherwise it may deter people from building or people will find ways to get around the law. Hunt suggested that a flat fee of \$25.00 per permit for 2016 would give a starting point. Discussion was tabled until the meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Reynolds opened discussion about amending the Personnel Policy with the Health Insurance Buyout Plan, so if a full time employee elected not to have insurance, they could get a stipend for 15% of the cost of insurance for themselves.

Councilman Bosman reminded them that the Personnel Policy must be kept current.



Supervisor Reynolds shared that Seneca County has a new County Manager who plans to visit the Town of Covert sometime soon.

Reynolds also shared that there will be a training for newly elected officials in Rochester on January 6-8. Mileage may be submitted and hotel room paid.

Hunt asked if Health Insurance had been decided. Reynolds replied that employee can choose the old or a new plan and the budget will not have to be amended.

**Petitioners:** Dick Westbrook extended a thank you to the Town for cleaning his ditch. Highway Superintendent MacCheyne stated that it would be better if he hadn't sprayed roundup in it.

Town residents said that there were questions at the Village of Interlaken Board Meeting regarding a possible conflict of interest of Police Chief Anderson and his newly elected position as Town Council, and asked if the Town had concerns as well. Supervisor Reynolds said they welcome Anderson to the Board.

Attorney Morrell said that the board has an obligation to uphold the operations of the Court System and that a situation created itself when Anderson was elected to the Town Board, and there have been other similar situations; such as, a 1990 Attorney General Ruling in the Village of Silver Creek. Reporter Anita Glover said there was also a similar situation with a board member/sheriff in the Town of Varick. The Board said it was a personnel issue and should be discussed in executive session.

Interlaken Police Chief Anderson stated that he would abstain from Court related votes and did not have any say in the already-passed 2016 Budget. He vowed to continue to be ethical in his conduct.

Councilman Bosman read a final presentation to the Board. He outlined accomplishments of the Board of the past 14 years, including the Conifer Project, House Number Signs, hiring a professional assessor's group for fair reassessment, rewriting of Personnel Policy and Procedures Handbook, insulating Town Hall, securing the Town with a new EMT service, and many other improvements due to the Town's conscientious staff. Bosman suggested the most significant issue for the new board should be financial planning and long term plans that will promote local business. He thanked all for letting him serve. (letter on file with Town Clerk)

#### **Resolution No. 20-15**

#### **Health Insurance Buyout Plan**

WHEREAS the Town of Covert saves funds when Employees have their health insurance through family members, and

WHEREAS it is becoming an acceptable practice for employers to acknowledge this savings, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Covert does hereby adopt the Health Insurance Buyout Plan allowing a stipend for 15% of the cost of insurance for eligible employees who opt out of the Town Health Plan as presented by Supervisor Reynolds.

Motion by Vann Second by Hunt Vote: Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt

**Resolution No. 21-15 Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector Assists**

WHEREAS Town Clerk/Tax Collector Colleen Freese will be on an extended leave of absence from the Town offices for December 2015 and into early 2016, and

WHEREAS the duties of the Town Clerk will be carried out by the Deputy Town clerk during that time, and

WHEREAS the duties of the Tax Collector will be carried out by the Deputy Clerk and others as appointed by the Supervisor, and

WHEREAS there may not be sufficient funds in the Town Clerk Deputy Clerk budget line A1410.11(?) or the Tax Collector Contractual (A\_\_\_\_.4) line, and

WHEREAS the Assessor's budget line A\_\_\_\_\_ does have an excess of funds, Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk shall be authorized to work as needed to complete duties for the months of December 2015 and January 2016, and be it further

RESOLVED that in recognition of these increased responsibilities she shall, beginning on December 1, 2015 receive the increase to \$10.00 per hour that had been planned for the 2016 fiscal year, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Supervisor shall select experienced community members to assist with the tasks of Tax Collector including the sorting and mailing of the tax bills and the collection, recording, receipt generation, and depositing of funds for December 2015 and January 2016, and that such assistants shall track their hours and upon submission of vouchers be paid at a rate of \$9.00 per hour for up to 12 hours per week from December 21st to January 31st, and be it further

RESOLVED that in order to provide the needed funds for the Deputy Clerk and Tax Collector assistants that the necessary funds for fiscal year 2015 be transferred from the excess funds in the Tax Assessors accounts, and the budgetary funds for fiscal year 2016 will be determined and if needed made available from the budgeted fund balance account.

Motion Hunt, seconded by Vann. Vote: Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Supervisor's income and expenditure report for November 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of November 2015. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bishop moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Town Clerk's monthly report for November 2015. A total of \$1057.25 was received and \$375.48 was remitted to the Town Supervisor. Aye-Vann, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt and Aye-Bosman.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report for the month of November 2015. Aye-Bishop, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Hunt.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to approve the Dog Control Officer's report for the month of November 2015. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Vann moved, seconded by Bosman, to approve Trumansburg Fire and Ambulance Agreements and Interlaken Fire Agreement (Contracts on file with Town of Covert Clerk). Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Bishop.

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #151-164 in the amount of \$3,767.71 and General Fund Vouchers #220-238 in the amount of \$12,862.30 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bosman, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Vann.

Town Board entered into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to come out of executive session at 9:05. No action was taken, however the Town Board will work to ensure the integrity of Town Board actions and the integrity of Town Court operations.

Vann moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Deputy Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT  
SENECA COUNTY  
TOWN BOARD YEAREND MEETING  
December 28, 2015

The yearend meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, December 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

|                   |                             |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
|                   | Councilman Gary Hunt        | Present |
|                   | Councilman Jeffrey Vann     | Present |
|                   | Councilman Charles Bosman   | Present |
|                   | Councilman Bill Bishop      | Present |

**Others Present:** Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Deputy Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Dog Control Officer Chris Buhlman and Reporter Aneta Glover.

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hunt moved, seconded by Vann, that the regular meeting minutes from December 14, 2015 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Reynolds shared regarding budget transfers. Phone & cable service were over budget a little bit, but a new Time-Warner agreement is in the works. Overage may be due to late fees, but the auditors have said that, neither prepayment, or EFT's are acceptable; there must be a paper trail. Hunt suggested that the Supervisor contact Mr. Kaiser, Town of Romulus, for comparison of rates.

Hunt shared that Halco said it would be \$250,000 to put solar on the roof. It was recommended that other companies be contacted.

Reynolds said that he locked in the rate of 5.9¢ for electricity from Energy East for five years with the option to change if the rate drops. The Town currently pays 7.2¢.

Reynolds reopened discussion on charging a fee for Building Permits.

Vann presented the board with a mock-up of the current Application for Development Permit with some additions, changing "Cost" to read "Cost Estimate, "Attach a site plan" replaced with "Attach a site plan or survey", addition of the lines: "Application must be completed in its entirety to be accepted" and "Any changes after application approval require it to be resubmitted." It would also state "Fee - \$25.00 All Applications".

Vann said most, including the county, require a survey plan and take a photo. Vann wanted to make sure the applications are complete and that plans are not altered between approval and project completion. He stated that with the public notice in the paper, the clerk's processing, and the Planning Board meeting, the cost for a variance is up to \$75.00.

Bishop stated that the cost for a variance is more important to collect than the building permit; it costs more for everyone and an additional fee would eliminate those not serious about the variance. Hunt thought people may find ways to skirt the additional fee. Reynolds thought \$50.00 would be enough when everyone pays the \$25.00 initially. Bosman said it should cost more for each subsequent variance. Glover suggested the variance fee should be at the bottom of the Application for Development Permit. If an application was denied, Code Enforcement would offer suggestions that would comply and if the resident chose to make changes, and not go to variance, there would be no additional fee. And, in regards to a subsequent variance fee, the Planning Board does offer residents suggestions for reasonable changes.

Reynolds presented the board with a request for support of the resolution adopted by the Seneca County Board of Supervisors to oppose Seneca Meadows landfill's plan to contract with NYC for more garbage for the next 20 to 30 years. There was much discussion about the stench and the possible increase of trash brought in. Hunt made the motion to support the Seneca County resolution against the Seneca Meadows' "Trash Train". No action was taken at this time.

### **Resolution # 22-15**

WHEREAS several accounts in the General Fund A have been overspent in 2015, and

WHEREAS the Assessor's contractual fund (A1355.4) has excess funds, and

WHEREAS good accounting practices require that all funds be zero or positive at year-end, Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following shortages in the General Fund A be cleared by moving funds from the Assessor's contractual account

A1410.11 Town Clerk Deputy \$118.58 \*

A9030.8 Social Security \$125.70

A1330.4 Tax collector contractual \$38.42 \*

A1650.4 Central Communication System \$881.83

A5010.4 Highway Superintendent \$750.79

Total overages \$1,915.32 to be taken from the Assessor's contractual account.

\*this is part of the resolution from early this month

NOTE: Per the resolution establishing the highway equipment reserve account after the bills for the year were paid the balance in the Equipment fund was to be transferred to the reserve account. At year-end there is just over \$7,800 in the highway equipment line, the \$7,800 will be transferred to the Reserve account.

Motion: Bosman, Seconded by Vann. Vote: Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Bosman and Aye-Vann.

Hunt moved, seconded by Bishop, that effective January 1, 2016, Vann's changes to Application for Development Permit be approved with \$25.00 fee, with the addition of "Variance Application fee-additional \$50.00, subsequent request \$100.00." Aye-Bishop, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Vann, Aye-Bosman

Bosman moved, seconded by Vann, that Highway Fund Vouchers #165-166 in the amount of \$358.55 and General Fund Vouchers #239-242 in the amount of \$902.31 be approved for payment. Aye-Vann, Aye-Hunt, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Bosman.

Bosman moved, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Deputy Town Clerk