

**TOWN OF BALDWIN
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 9, 2021**

THIS REGULAR MEETING of the Town of Baldwin was held at the Town of Baldwin Volunteer Fire Department and called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Purvis. Those present were Councilwoman Purvis, Councilman Conklin, Councilman Sherwood and Councilman Steiner.

Also present were Paul Tillotson, Faith Marmor, Brian Hyland, Sheriff Schrom, Joe Roman (Chemung County IDA and Southern Tier Economic Growth) and many public residents.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hal Sherwood stated that he turned in a complaint to the Code Enforcement Officer about four weeks ago concerning a blue house (did not know the correct address) and issue with a fire a while back. There has been no movement on this being cleaned up at all. There are a lot of rats in the road that are dead and apparently no one is living in the house. It is his understanding that this was supposed to be taken care of last April. After several emails between he and Marty Jerzak, he spoke with him on the phone and at that time Mr. Sherwood asked him to please get it done, it is time, the neighbors have to look at this and it lowers our property values. Stuff is being moved around in different spots but it is not being cleaned up. We need to get Code Enforcement up there and either cite it and get him to clean it up. Supervisor Purvis stated that from what he understands Marty Jerzak is working on it, he is doing what he can, however he will get in contact with Mr. Jerzak regarding same. A gentleman in attendance stated that he was gotten a hold of by the owner and asked if he would mow the property and start cleaning it up. A woman in attendance stated that she sent an email to the Town Clerk in error, was supposed to go to Martin Jerzak, regarding this blue house and that something needs to be done, it has gone on long enough.

Joe Roman from the Chemung County IDA and Southern Tier Economic Growth introduced himself. He tries to get out to Village and Town Board meetings when he can. He left his card and information with the Town Supervisor. If there are ever any development questions related to Chemung County and Economic Development, he would be one of the people that can be talked too.

Robin Rosekrans, in response to Hal Sherwood's comments, stated that we live out here in the country so that we do not have to go by all these laws and regulations in the city. People live in the country to be left alone, we do not want people telling us what we can and cannot do with our property. She does not agree with people saying, "they need to clean that up", it is their property. Supervisor Purvis stated that he could understand her position but this is a different situation and there is a gentleman that stated he is going to be working at it, so let's see how it progresses and we can go from there.

SHERIFF BILL SCHROM

Sheriff Schrom introduced himself. He stated that he is at the Town Meeting for two reasons. Back in 2019 when he took over as Acting Sheriff when Chris Moss went to County Exec, he transitioned into his new role as Sheriff and he talked about the importance of their responsibility of getting out more to the towns, rural parts of the county which they are responsible for the doing of enforcement, and of course COVID hit and it really put a lot of things on hold and everything went virtual, and they really did not get a chance to do it, and so they are now trying to make a conscious effort to get back out and connect with everybody. Even though residents may not see them as much as they would like too, they are probably around more than we think. He brought some data information (their role up here and how many complaints they have been handling since 2020 to Date, 224 complaints, date and time, location at and call they were on - does not give details of the calls) and annual report (highlights what they did the year prior and insight and information for the Sheriff's Department). These were left with the Town Clerk should anyone want a copy of same. He explained the difference between a Blotter and a Case. Every single call that they are dispatched to in Chemung County, they do a blotter on it which basically means there is a record that they got called on. What dictates if this goes into a case is the nature of the call itself. There will be a lot more blotters than there will be cases, because not every blotter becomes a case, but every case that they have was once a blotter. The nature in which the Sheriff's office patrols is that they work 24 hours/7 days a week, three different shifts from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. It is important for people to understand that there are times that they might only have three deputies for the entire county. For instance, Chemung County is 412 square miles total, and is big enough for people to patrol but it is small in comparison to some of the other counties. If only have three deputies, they assign one North (use Chemung River as divider) covering Catlin, Beaver Dams, Horseheads, Big Flats, Erin, Breesport and Van Etten, and maybe a few other ones - this is quite a big area for one deputy to control; the other deputy is assigned South which covers Web Mills, Pine City, Southport, Town of Elmira, Wellsburg, Ashland, down to Chemung and parts of Baldwin. There might be one deputy for the entire area, which is a lot of area to cover. The Sheriff's office and the State Police share the same jurisdiction within the county. The Sheriff's department patrols the rural parts of the county. They rely on each other often times for back up, so if a State Trooper has a call basically how it works is if there is a serious incident, it is the first car there as the primary investigating agency, this is how a case is determined to be handled. There are a lot of things going on in the City of Elmira right now, and a lot of their resources are being pulled there. There has been a lot of shootings and a lot of homicides, a rash of kidnappings (a Cartel came up out of NYC and were kidnapping people from here that owed them drug money, they are driving them in to PA and were torturing them, in some cases they killed them, and the ones they tortured they brought back to Elmira). He stated that if there are any concerns with the residents of Baldwin, when in doubt to call the Com Center, if it is an emergency simply call 911 and if something non-pressing to just call the non-emergency number (735-8600). One can call the non-emergency number on anything and they will refer to the proper agency accordingly. If having a problem with neighbor and it is a civil matter, you will be told that and referred accordingly. If it is a Code Enforcement issue, generally this is something that the Sheriff's office or State Police will not handle - this is why most towns have Code Enforcement Officers, this is their duty and responsibility. There are a lot of challenges now, this is his 32nd year in law enforcement. He can say that the changes they have experienced since he started in law enforcement has been unbelievable especially the last two years - the reforms (Bail Reform, Discovery Law Reform,

the Marijuana Legalization and they are coming out with a George Floyd Reform) which will have a lot of impact on law enforcement. There are three new ones, the Police Accountability Act, the Clean Slate Act and the Civil Action of Deprivation of rights - all new laws being proposed in legislation that is going to have a profound impact on law enforcement. A lot of these new laws are geared toward the criminals, they are looking at retroactively wiping a slate clean with a lot of them and it is really more and more putting restrictions on law enforcement. If he had a son or daughter that was interested in this field, he would probably strongly discourage them from getting into law enforcement in this day and age. There are so many challenges that law enforcement is facing - reform is not bad and there are good aspects to it but he thinks they have gone so far over the line that it is really going to have a significant impact to our communities. Michelle Sherwood of Federal Road stated that the biggest issue they have in our area is speeding and requested getting police presence up here. Sheriff Schrom stated that this complaint is one of the most common complaints they receive. One thing to do is get the town involved, post signs, speed bumps, anything to contribute to help. With their manpower, it is so difficult to dedicate their resources to one particular area. One of the things that they do if they receive a lot of complaints in one particular area, is they do a targeted patrol area and do a zero tolerance. Hal Sherwood stated that they have seen this multiple times where they come out of the intersection of Federal Road and North Chemung Road and they will pass someone if they do not like how someone is taking the corner, they will actually pass them on the corner and there is only two lanes there, they are taking up both lanes, and this is not crotch rockets, this is pick up trucks, the whole deal. There is no where to go except in the ditch or in somebody's yard. The speed limit is posted from the stop sign and it is a 30 mph zone. Sheriff Schrom will have the supervisor let the sector cars know, he asked what time of day, and all said evenings. He continued that if residents are having trouble with a particular vehicle in a certain area, walk out and take a picture of them as this may deter them, or can get a plate number as this is most helpful - an officer can go up to their door and let them know they are getting complaints all the time, enough is enough, etc. They have a couple different approaches to take. Brenda Grover stated that she has two crotch rockets/individuals that hang out at a drug house and she does not know if there is anything she can do about it. Sheriff Schrom stated that the biggest thing is to get a description of the bike, description of the rider, photo or plate number, and if know the house she can call and give them the information as they have a Drug Enforcement Unit that works out of Chemung County - they may already have information on the location Ms. Grover is talking about, but this helps them proceed further with their investigation, the more information they have. He stated that the Sheriff's Office is the oldest law enforcement agency in Chemung County, they were established in 1836, and so there is a lot of history with the Sheriff's Office. They carried out capitol punishment in the last 1800's, they did a hanging on three individuals for the crime of murder. There is a lot of history in the Sheriff's Department that people do not know about. Mr. Lewis stated that Joe Green Road is the drug road. He was hit on a tractor last year, hit and run. He has put up surveillance cameras. The town has put up a stop sign and nobody stops at it. He talks to the Sheriffs once a week and they will not come because there is no service there and he asked what kind of service is that for us (the Town of Baldwin). Sheriff Schrom stated that this is very disappointing and he assured Mr. Lewis this would be addressed - he could not promise there will be someone sitting there, but he will make sure this message is received loud and clear. Councilman Sherwood stated that the Town would like a presence up here all the time but realize this is not practical, however they are hoping for the possibility

of more increased visibility as a sort of deterrent. Sheriff Schrom said that they are pushing the community policing aspect of the job and to get younger people out there stopping at the Town Hall, Volunteer Fire Department, etc. When residents are calling these complaints in, they are not talking to the Sheriff's Office, State Police, they are talking to the Com Center, Police Dispatch. There was a recent issue that just came to light that the Com Center Personnel, especially the veteran ones that have been there a while, really feel comfortable fielding a lot of these calls that are coming in where they really should not be. Sheriff Schrom stated that if anybody ever needs anything, to not hesitate to reach out with any questions, call the Sheriff's Office and ask for him. There was a question about pistol permits to which Sheriff Schrom stated that they have about 500 active applications processed. Since 2006, he oversees the entire pistol permit process. They are actually kicking it in gear now, they are caught up with all the finger prints, back in schedule. The in person classes have now been opened and they are trying to do a couple a week, during the week, nights, weekend, etc. The biggest problem once apply for a pistol permit is the references, if not too quick to get them in will delay the process more than anything else. To get a pistol permit in PA, you can go to Tioga County or Bradford County, PA as long as you have a valid NYS pistol permit, and apply.

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Brian Hyland stated that the Casella Funds Application is now online. There were talks about the playground. Councilman Sherwood stated that he has not put in the application yet because he has not been able to get a number for the fencing and asked if it is necessary to get the application started. Mr. Hyland stated that an estimate is necessary.

Brian Hyland stated that an email with more detail and information regarding the American Relief Fund was sent to the Town. Any questions can be directed to the County Executive or to Brian Hyland.

MINUTES

A Motion was made to accept the May 12, 2021 Town Board Meeting Minutes by Councilman Sherwood, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

TOWN CLERK

The vouchers for the BAR are for \$150.00 each member as the Assessor is requesting this be the regular amount each year (flat fee) for the BAR members and this includes training, Grievance Day, etc.

The Town Clerk will be resuming regular business hours starting in July. This information will be placed on the Town Hall Bulletin Board and the Town website.

HIGHWAY

Paul Tillotson reported that they have been grading roads when they can and they have about three-quarters of them done. Dust control is on the ones that they have done. He is having a problem getting that as there is a shortage. They finished hauling in the modified for Norway Road. They hauled about 2,400 tons. A truck from the Town of Chemung and Chemung County helped them. He received the Chips papers back finally - went up to \$117,427.92 just in Chips. There is a rollover of \$66,532.88. Paving NY went up from around \$21,000.00 to \$30,892.65. Extreme Weather went up about \$13,000.00, so that is up to \$27,201.40. Total on this is \$302,054.85 that can be spent this year on road projects. The backhoe payment was \$31,000.00, this leaves approximately \$270,000.00 left. The Norway project is going to run about \$110,000.00. They have talked about amending the budget for more money to be able to do another project this year. He would like to see if we can amend the budget. He is looking for about another \$100,000.00. He would not mind starting in half of Elston Hollow Road this year, grinding it and getting ready for stone and oil next year. Right now in this account he has about \$150,000.00. Supervisor Purvis asked what account has the other money? Paul Tillotson stated that it would be our savings account. The backhoe payment was just sent in and we should get that \$31,000.00 back here in July, so we could actually put that back in there. Just to grind, oil, modify is close to \$65,000.00. Supervisor Purvis stated that we could put this matter on for discussion for next month's meeting. After a brief discussion, Paul Tillotson will get a hold of Barb Harding to see if there are accounts available where money can be pulled from and whether or not the budget would need to be amended if no accounts can be used, and if the budget needs to be amended to let Faith Marmor know to schedule a Public Hearing to amend the budget before the July 2021 Town Board Meeting.

PUBLIC WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report at this time.

BANNER PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Supervisor Purvis stated that the banners are up and they are looking for suggestions of some sort of patriotic banners to be placed up after the Hero Banners come down in the Fall.

INTERNET PROGRESS COMMITTEE

Councilman Sherwood stated that in talking with Mr. Haefele last week, the last communication was per mile of putting it in a minimum of \$30,000.00, does not account for any extra poles, hiccups, etc. The last fund round for grant applications, the bulk went to Star Light. Councilman Sherwood stated that he does not know if we can put together a proposal for the county when the monies come through. He thinks there is probably 4 to 4 ½ miles throughout the town that still have not been served. The deadline for suggestions is July 10th and to be emailed to the County Executive and copied to Brian Hyland.

ANIMAL CONTROL

No report was given.

ASSESSOR

No report was given.

TOWN OF BALDWIN
INCOME AND EXPENITURES

MAY 2021

INCOME:

GENERAL FUND	\$29,940.03
HIGHWAY FUND	<u>\$ 7,655.43</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 37,595.46</u>

EXPENDITURES:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 12,464.03
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 31,415.24
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>\$ 1,007.81</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 44,887.08</u>

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF BALDWIN, NEW YORK

MAY, 2021

TO THE SUPERVISOR:

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Pursuant to Section 27, Subd 1 of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and moneys received by me in connection with my office during the month stated above, excepting only such fees and moneys the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by Law:

A2544	<u>8</u>	DOG LICENSES	<u>69.00</u>	
		TOTAL A2544		69.00
A2555	<u>1</u>	BUILDING PERMITS	<u>20.00</u>	
		TOTAL A2555		20.00
				\$89.00

May Monthly Report 2021

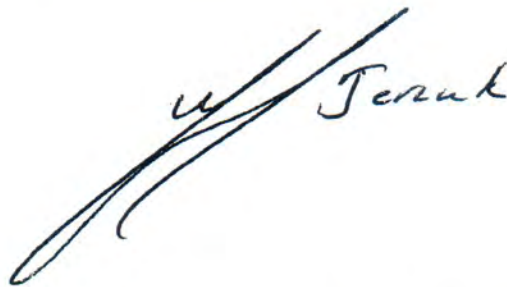
May 8/21 Demo permit

May 19/21 Shed E Pad

New Code Books are In.

Certifications Almost complete need one more course.

Checking Emails at least once a week.

 Jeruk

Note: Could not open monthly reports on comp.
Had to hand write.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be heard.

NEW BUSINESS

PAYMENT OF BILLS - A Motion was made to pay the bills by Councilman Sherwood, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

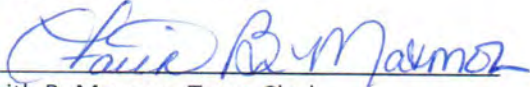
The Board did not go into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Sherwood, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

THE NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN OF BALDWIN TOWN HALL ON JULY 14, 2021 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Faith B. Marmor, Town Clerk