

**TOWN OF BALDWIN
TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022**

THIS REGULAR MEETING of the Town of Baldwin was held at the Town of Baldwin Town Hall and called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Purvis. Those present were Councilwoman Purvis, Councilman Conklin, Councilman Collins and Councilman Smith.

Also present were Faith Marmor, Robin Rosekrans, Paul Tillotson, Anna Pirro, Gerald Smith, Lori Smith, Doug Grantier, Joe Donovan, Brenda Grover, Nichole Cervoni, Mike Ewanyk, Nathan Buckland and Mary Buckland.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robin Rosekrans - Inquired as to any updates from Haefele. Supervisor Purvis spoke with Haefele today and with winter setting in and a storm coming, they are working on it. They are also working on putting together a list and estimate of the other residents not covered as the County supposedly has some money. Once Haefele gets that together, we will submit it to the County and see if we can get them to cover it too.

She also inquired as to the Budget and if there were any changes made to the Budget after the public comments. Supervisor Purvis stated that the Board discussed it and there was a reduction that was made, it is still preliminary as they are still working on the finalization of it. She asked when the taxpayers would know what the final outcome is? Supervisor Purvis stated this would be in January at the Organizational Meeting.

Doug Grantier (Norway Road) - Stated that he was under the impression that the guys wanted to get raises and that for the way they work, he does not think it is a bad price they are asking for. They are not just truck drivers, they are laborers, they run equipment, they do their own mechanical work. We may think that we hired just a truck driver, that is what you would get for just a truck driver. As far as for what they do, how they maintain these back roads, they are out there in these snow storms 1:00/2:00 o'clock in the morning making it so everyone can get to work on time and the roads are open, so as far as raising the taxes a little bit if it does, it is something we all have to look for. He has no objection on their raise, wage increase.

He also mentioned Code Enforcement for the town. There are two places on Norway Road that are just dump holes. They just keep hauling in more and more junk. They have it so now there are pallets right to the road, they have four campers in their front yard and they just keep hauling in junk all day long. He believes the one location is 1172 Norway. The one above, he does not know the address. He stated that they need to get 30 days to clean up, if not they will get a big fine, give them another 30 days and then give them another big fine if they do not do anything. It does not need to be just a \$50.00 fine because they did not do this or that. As to taxes, these run down properties, their taxes are lower, they never get raised. Why not penalize people. If they do not do anything, why not penalize them instead of people

that take care of their property. All this does is deplete everyone else's property value that lives on that road. This town has been the worst about enforcing any codes forever, from Larry Lanterman all the way down through. The town can pick up a lot of money from these people that just let their properties go down hill.

Mike Ewanyk - He asked that the Board brush him up a little bit on the wages, what is the wage right now that the guys are making. Paul Tillotson stated that one guy (his second) is making \$20.75 and the other (Gerald Smith) is making \$20.25. He asked what the proposed increase is that they are asking for. Paul Tillotson stated a \$2.00 an hour increase, taking them up to \$22.75 and \$22.25. Mr. Ewanyk asked if anyone has taken a hard look, because as Mr. Grantier outlined what they do, if you go to Elway and ask them what a Heavy Equipment Operator makes you will be shocked. His sons are heavy equipment operators and they start at \$27.00 and that is a rookie starting out, and they go up from there, and the town has guys that have been 10-15 years in this township that know the roads, they know the equipment, he does know they do their own maintenance, they do their own mechanic work. We are not hiring a truck driver, we are hiring a jack of all trades. Target is hiring nights starting at \$17.25 to stock shelves. He used to drive, leave his house at 6:00 in the morning and go all the way to Painted Post for 19 years and he lives over on Wyncoop - it was very rare that Baldwin's roads were not open where he could get there. He agrees that if we have to take a slight increase in taxes to make sure our wives, husbands, kids are on the roads early in the morning and they are safe, that is a very small, small thing to worry about. He watched the County do a road with multiple crew and multiple vehicles. Paul and his crew, a three man crew, one big excavator, two dump trucks, they did the whole road in a week. The town is not only paying for expertise, we are paying for performance. Guys that can work together that well.

Robin Rosekrans stated that she was looking at the wage increases from the County and State salaries, are just about the same. If the highway guys were to leave here to go to the State or the County they start at the bottom.

Paul Tillotson stated that the guys have 10 years experience at this town and he asked them what their (County) 10 year person get and it was \$30.00 per hour for a truck driver alone, \$34.00 an hour for an operator and his position (he is a boss, they are foreman) \$37.00 per hour.

Gerald Smith stated that this is not turning wrenches, no tires, no blades, no nothing. He asked what he was doing at the town if he can go to the State/County and make \$34.00 an hour just to drive a truck. He stated that they have been there 10 years, 15 years some of us and we are only getting \$20.00 an hour. He stated that the town has not raised taxes in 30 years and they are gonna be held hostage because the County goes crazy with their taxes. Someone talked about having to work 2-3 jobs, he works 3 jobs right now. To set the record straight, he understands what Robin Rosekrans said about the \$18.00 an hour, if he went there that is where he would start. However, this does not negate the fact that he has been here x amount of years and if he was there that amount of years, those guys are making a ton more money then he is. He asked why certain people in this town having a heart attack over them getting a \$2.00 an hour raise and mind you (speaking to Robin Rosekrans) that the town has not raised taxes in he does not know how many years.

Nathan Buckland (Oak Hill Road) - He asked if the Highway guys raises are paid through our taxes. Supervisor Purvis stated yes. Mr. Buckland said that when Paul and his crew took over before that, we used to push 10" of snow just to try to get to work, may times. They have done a bang up job since they took over. There were lots of times we would basically be stuck at home or we would have equipment failures days on ends and would not even get plowed out. They do a good job, they do respond. The thing he is worried about is, if they can go somewhere else to get competitive or better wages then what they do, then what we are going to get is a new crew taking over. The new crew is not going to understand our roads, they will not understand where the ice is crossing over, etc., we are going to end up having equipment damage that will cost us plus down time. We can get someone else to sit in that seat, but you might have turnovers, someone for one season or they quit in the middle of winter.

Mary Buckland - From 2018 she was able to find on a government salary wage site for all of NYS, which could be drilled down to County, Town or Village, and it just seemed as like our town is low paying for the work that these gentlemen do. For comparison, for the Town of Erin in 2018 their supervisor was getting \$49,472.00, four years prior. Chris Doane, Town of Chemung supervisor, and yes the Town of Chemung vs. the Town of Baldwin or the Town of Erin there are all different intricacies that play into it besides the size of the crew, in 2018 he was making \$84,500.00. She asked for clarification as to whether the raises were just for the crew or for Paul Tillotson as well. She asked if they went to the State would they have a lot better benefit package then what the town provides and the County. She asked if the guys had 401K. Do they have paid time off. How many days. She stated that when she started at her job at Travelers, granted it was corporate, she had 20 days paid time off when she walked through the door. She had 401K matching, pension and she did quality control. She had to have some knowledge and know what she was doing with a computer system, but her job you could train a monkey to do, and they did and they off-shored us. She cannot off-shore Paul, she cannot off-shore the other gentlemen that work for his crew. Before they were in charge, she had three flat tires one summer alone because the person that was in charge decided it would be great to put creek stone down on her road, creek stone has rough edges, she had three flat tires. She has not had a single flat tire since Paul took over and his crew. He came out on Super Bowl Sunday to take care of a tree that came down in front of our house from the neighbors property. All the time that they were working on the Cross Over we had a lot of traffic coming down our road and crossing over from Roberts Hollow, no pot holes, it was graded, ditches done - she just cannot see not giving them a reasonable wage to do the job especially since they do not have a lot of these other benefits that some of us may have had in our work career. She is willing, when she looks at her property tax and the bulk of it has gone to the County of Chemung, the Library, the Community College, our town is not even "32%" for the Town of Baldwin and the Fire Department. She thinks they are well worth their weight in gold for what they do and how they do it. She stated that she thought she read that the DPW for the County is getting a 2.5% raise. She asked how many people the County DPW employs and what is their average salary. Overall, making a comparison of the 2.5% raise when there is a lot of other things going on behind the scenes, the number of employees, what their average salary is and what other types of benefits they get, she just think in one sense it is apples to oranges comparing that type of raise vs. what Paul is thinking he and his guys need so maybe they do not have to work multiple jobs, maybe they can afford groceries, electric etc. These guys work hard hours, long hours, and to think that they should have to work 2 to 3 jobs to make ends meat and then put their own lives in danger, to her it is a no brainer to give them a raise.

Paul Tillotson replied that he is included in the raises as well. Right now he makes \$52,500.00 and he asked for a \$5,000 raise, bringing him to \$57,500.00. The Town of Erin right now will be making

\$58,000.00 plus, so he will be making close to \$58,800.00 and the Town of Chemung is at \$84,000.00. The Town of Van Etten is at \$62,000.00. The Town of Veteran is at \$60,000.00 and he foregoes his insurance for which the town is paying him an additional \$10,000.00 for insurance, therefore he is making \$70,000.00. The highway guys do not have a 401K. They do have paid time off and it depends on every year. Paul Tillotson stated that most of the County guys that are up at the towns right now, if they can get into a town job they want too. The town taxes this year will not be raised even with the Highway increase. The cost of living was up 12%. We are here to discuss our wages for the town and not the County.

Robin Rosekrans stated that the guys have a better health plan here then she has at the County. The DPW for the County is going to get a 2.5% raise. The County DPW is quite a big crew. She honestly does not know what the County DPW salary is. She is going by what they start out if they went to the County, if they left here, they would not go in with all their years experience, with a Union they go in at the low man on the totem pole. She understands Gerald Smith but it has always been there are different tiers, tiers are lower for the towns than for the County and for the County than for the State. The taxes not being raised even with the Highway increase will all depend on what we see next year if we come into the red. She stated that the cost of living was up 8.7%. The County is not getting a \$2.00 an hour raise. The town does not take care of her roads, the County does.

Supervisor Purvis stated that they did a percentage as to what the Town keeps, what percentage goes to the County, the Assessor broke it down, and the town if he remembers right was only like 20% that they got out of the property taxes, everything else went to the County, the Fire District, the School District. Last year we were in the black, we were good, and he is expecting the same for this year. He thinks there is one thing that a lot are failing to realize and that is our crew does a lot of the maintenance on their trucks and if you hire out maintenance you are talking over \$100.00 an hour in most shops. He understands the benefit of having guys that can do repairs, a lot of truck drivers cannot do any repairs.

Brenda Grover (Grover Road) - She feels our town boys do need a raise. It is a fair raise. It is not even a question, they should get it. There has been a few times where the Fire Department has needed them to come and push snow out of the way, put cinders down, and they have always been there for us. They are local guys, they are here when we need them, they are fast, they are really good and I hope we keep them and they get their raise.

Joe Donovan (Legislature by default) - The Town of Chemung workers has been given a contract close to \$27, it is a little different, but if the Town of Baldwin had to train 2 or 3 guys, first of all you would not get anyone to come to work for \$20.00 an hour, it is not going to happen, then you have to train them. These guys know where every pothole is, where every mailbox is, they know where everything is at, they do not have to look for it. The State Highway Department he thinks is paying \$17.50 max to start plowing snow on the highway. He would be scared to travel the Highway with the people behind those plows that never drove before and they are taking everyone they can get. He hopes the town can come up with something. He knows everyone's belts are getting tighter, there is no getting around it. Subway is paying \$16.50 an hour for putting subs together. He is not paying the taxes in this town. There are more back roads in this town, different little places they go, that it is hard to replace the knowledge let along the knowledge to repair the vehicles, the driving, everyone said a piece of that. He can help out as much as he can and see what he can do, but \$80.00 a week is not a lot to give a raise. You cannot go to dinner, you cannot go to McDonalds with a family of 4 for \$80.00 anymore, let alone go for a sit down.

Everyone's prices went up, electric, fuel, gas. To pay for knowledge, you do not have to train those guys.

MINUTES

A Motion was made to accept the November 2, 2022 Public Hearing Minutes by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

A Motion was made to accept the November 2, 2022 Town Board Meeting Minutes by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

TOWN CLERK

The SAM renewal is complete.

HIGHWAY

The Highway Department helped the Town of Elmira for a couple days hauling leaves and the City of Elmira for a week. They had to fix the plate on the back of the 2006 Volvo and installed a new one with the help from Chemung County. They have done some ditching on Perry Lane road. They hauled in some more sand and getting plows around for the year. The town had a couple little snow storms that they had to go out on. The fence company gave him a call today and if everything goes good they will be starting the fence at the park next week, Monday.

PUBLIC WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report at this time.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR COMMITTEE

Nothing to report at this time.

ANIMAL CONTROL

No report was given.

ASSESSOR

No report was given.

SHERIFF

No report was given.

TOWN OF BALDWIN
INCOME AND EXPENITURES
NOVEMBER 2022

INCOME:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 38,578.67
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ <u>3.39</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 38,582.06</u>

EXPENDITURES:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 9,596.24
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 27,208.45
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>\$ 1,034.10</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 37,838.79</u>

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF BALDWIN, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER, 2022

TO THE SUPERVISOR:

PAGE 1

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:

A1255	<u>1</u>	CERTIFIED COPIES	<u>10.00</u>	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES				<u>10.00</u>
A2544	<u>4</u>	DOG LICENSES	<u>52.00</u>	
TOTAL A2544				<u>52.00</u>
A2555	<u>2</u>	BUILDING PERMITS	<u>150.00</u>	
TOTAL A2555				<u>150.00</u>

\$ 212.00

TOWN OF BALDWIN
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE
622 BRESSPORT, N CHEMUNG RD.
LOWMAN, N.Y. 14861
MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2022

PERMITS ISSUED: 2

PERMITS DENIED: 0

FEEES RECEIVED: \$ 150.00

COMPLAINTS: 1

FOLLOW UP ON COMPLAINTS : 1

VIOLATIONS ISSUED: 2

TICKETS ISSUED: 0

CERTIFICATION OF OCCUPANCY / COMPLETION : 2

INSPECTIONS : 4

911 ADDRESSES ISSUED : 0

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Martin Jerzak



OLD BUSINESS

IMPLEMENTING OF A TOWN LAW RE: ACCESSING OF TOWN ROADS TO ATVS/UTVS - Supervisor Purvis stated that this matter is still in the lawyer's hands, proposed Town Law being drawn up.

NEW BUSINESS

SPRAGUE INSURANCE - Nichole Cervoni handed out the insurance proposal for 2023 and renewal application. An invoice was given to Faith Marmor. The insurance proposal/renewal application was gone over with the Board.

2023 CITY OF ELMIRA/COUNTY OF CHEMUNG/TOWN OF BALDWIN - ARTICLE 7 ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT - A Motion was made in the form of a **Resolution No. 31-2022 (12R-2022)** to agree to accept the 2023 Intermunicipal Agreement for Animal Control Services (Article 7) between the City of Elmira and the Town of Baldwin, noting a typo at page 3, paragraph 9 as to the written dollar amount of "Two Thousand and Six Hundred Fifty Dollars", accepting the agreement knowing that the annual amount as reflected at page 3, paragraph 9 of (\$2,750.00) is correct, by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session by Supervisor Purvis.

A Motion was made to go out of Executive Session by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Conklin, All Ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

THE NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN OF BALDWIN TOWN HALL ON JANUARY 11, 2023 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Faith B. Marmor, Town Clerk