

*Nichols Town Regular Board Meeting  
January 28, 2025  
6:00PM*

*Board Members Present:* Supervisor Esther Woods, Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte, Councilperson LeeAnn Tinney; Councilperson Rose Cole, and Councilperson J. Ladd Yost

*Board Members Absent*

*Others Present:* Erica Deretz, Robert Nugent, Ray Thetga, Jr. Jeff Blow, Ray Thetga, Sr., and Marcy Hill, Town Clerk.

*The meeting was called to order by Supervisor by Esther Woods at 6:00pm*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve as amended the December 17<sup>th</sup> & January 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes by, Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by B. Fay-Pelotte*

*Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*Acceptance of Financial Reports: A motion to accept the December 204 financial reports by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 1-astain, 0 absent*

*Public Comments – None*

*Departments- \*Note full reports have been given to the board and are on file in the clerk's office.*

*Highway* – Interim highway superintendent, Jeff Blow presented his report to the board. Things have been running smooth. Jeff did present the board with quotes for various items to be purchased.

*A motion to approve the T&C Stone and Gravel quote for \$31,899.00 for gravel crushing by Supervisor E. Woods; seconded by Councilperson R. Cole*

*Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*A motion to approve the purchase of a hot water pressure washer from JC Smith NTE \$4225.00 by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte; seconded by Supervisor E. Woods*

*Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*A motion to approve the purchase of a wood chipper from Tracey Rd. Equipment NTE \$51,110.37 by Councilperson R. Cole; seconded by Supervisor E. Woods*

*Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*Building & Grounds* – Ray stated he continued to work on his “to-do” list.

*Dishwasher – works but doesn't heat the water. It does need a cleaning and descaling from hard water. Ray will work on quotes to see what repairs would cost to fix it.*

*Antenna – Tri-Cities Communications will come out to look at what we need.*

*Ray is going to look into mower quotes*

*Sewer/Water* – Report on file. Bob stated at a sewer pump that was purchased in 2022 has quit working and

is out of warranty. He shared a quote from W20 quote with KSB parts for repair. Bob will send to W20 for repair.

A motion to approve the cost of a new motor for repair of sewer pump, NTE \$5000.00 by Supervisor E. Woods; seconded by Councilperson R. Cole

Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent

A motion to approve the purchase of check valves NTE \$4000.00 from FW Webb by Supervisor E. Woods; seconded by Councilperson L. Yost

Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent

A motion to approve the purchase of safety equipment for the Sewer & Water plant NTE \$8,000 by Councilperson R. Cole; seconded by Supervisor E. Woods

Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent

New York Alert –Bob has been trained on the use of it. The town has not received training yet. Supervisor Woods will email them again for training/access.

Code Enforcement – Report on file. Set of plans for Babcock Rd tower just submitted. Town of Nichols is the first of four towers going up in the county. The code officer will be reviewing the plan submission.

Library – Erica stated she is working with the accountants on year end reporting. The upstairs historical display is coming together. A “soft-opening” will held in February. There will be an estate planning seminar held in February as well. There are several yearbooks that have been donated and the donors do not wish them returned. These will be placed in the next library book sale. Erica stated that the library has received grants and is working on a summer reading program. Also, the 1000 Books before Kindergarten challenge will be kicking off soon.

#### New Business:

- A. Class A Cleaning Contract – Councilperson R. Cole shared the new contract with Class A Cleaning. There was discussion about areas that need a little more attention from the cleaners and Councilperson Cole will reach out to them to discuss.

A motion to approve the updated contract with Class A Cleaning for 2025 by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded Councilperson L. Tinney

Vote: - 4 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 1 absent (L. Yost)

- B. Library Budget Transfer

A motion to approve the transfer to the Library Fund in the amount of \$50,000 from the general fund by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte; seconded by Supervisor E. Woods

Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent

- C. New Local Laws – Supervisor Woods shared that the town would like to introduce two new local laws pertaining to the highway supervisor and town clerk positions. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting. If the town was to move forward with this, a special election would be held within 60 days.

A motion by Councilperson Tinney to adopt Local Law #1-2024(Town Clerk) seconded by Councilperson L. Yost for the Town Clerk position.

*Councilperson R. Cole questioned does the appointee report to the board or supervisor. The appointee reports to board. If there are issues is there any recourse? No.*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0-absent*

*A motion to set public hearing for \A LOCAL LAW ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF AN ELECTED TOWN CLERK AND CREATING AN APPOINTED TOWN CLERK POSITION for February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0-absent*

*A motion by Councilperson L. Yost to adopt Local Law #2-2024(Highway Superintendent) seconded by Councilperson L. Yost for the Highway Superintendent position.*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0-absent*

*A motion to set public hearing for A LOCAL LAW ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF AN ELECTED HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT AND CREATING AN APPOINTED HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT for February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:05 pm by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0-absent*

- D. Public Works Contractors – New York State now requires all public works contractors to be registered. There is an annual \$250 fee to be on the registry. Every contractor we use will need to be on the registry.*
- E. Emergency Shelter – There are still a few items we need to get. We have \$10,000.00 allocated for t for this project. Esther and Ray will look compare prices on the items still needed to be purchased. Are we interested in buying MRE's to have to support our efforts until the Red Cross can get to us? Also, we should look into doubling the amount of water. We will reach out to TC Emergency Services for assistance in what is needed to get us started. Also, a deep clean of the kitchen should be initiated and done at least every 6 months. All supplies will be moved into Room 11.*
- F. Emergency Plan Update – The main portion of the plan was presented to the board tonight. Proposed changes are minimal and listed on page 5. Councilperson Cole will update and present at the next meeting. Emergency Plan will be updated and added to the website once approved. The work on the annexes will be next.*
- G. Design Connect Grant – This is a grant run by Cornell students. The cost is minimal. The college students would do design for the project and complete the work. The fishing access and the carriage house were to places that we discussed at looking at. There needs to be a decision made on which project and get the application submitted. It was noted that Waverly's design connect project is starting this year. The students are wonderful – they will hold an information meeting, look for public committee members and do what is needed for the planning. There was also money available through DEC to complete the projects. It was decided that the fishing access on East River road would be a nice piece of property to showcase. Councilperson Tinney will start working on the process.*
- H. Verizon – NY Connect All Program. Verizon is looking to install fiber in all unserved areas... Nichols has no unserved areas at this time. Southern Tier Network is finishing phase 2 of their project.*

*Councilperson Tinney will reach out to our representative at STN to discuss what is being planned for the upcoming phase.*

*I. Excellus Insurance*

*There is a great deal of discussion regarding health care costs and employee participation.*

*A decision to hold a workshop was agreed upon. This workshop meeting will be advertised and held on Tuesday, Feb 11 @6PM.*

*Committee Reports*

*REAP meeting – Ladd attend the meeting via zoom in January. There was not a quorum, therefore, no actions taken.*

*Old Business:*

- 1. Signage for Town Hall & Library – Work is ongoing- will be done soon and placed in the spring.*
- 2. Library Front Porch – waiting for handrails. Everything else has been completed. – waiting for warmer weather to complete the installation.*
- 2. Depot Road Reimbursement – Awaiting closeout.*
- 3. FEMA Properties – Waiting for closeout. Budget modification and reimbursements we submitted.*

*A motion to approve vouchers and pay bills by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson L. Yost.*

*Vote: 5-Ayes, 0-No, 0-abstain*

*General Fund: \$*

*Highway \$*

*Library \$*

*Sewer/Water \$*

*A motion to move into Executive Session at 8:15 by Councilperson B. Fay-Pelotte, seconded by Councilperson R. Cole*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*A motion to reconvene into regular session by Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney*

*Vote: - 5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent*

*A motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm by Supervisor Esther Woods, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte.*

*All in favor*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Marcy Hill*

*1/28/25*