*Town of Nichols*

*Regular Meeting*

*September 8, 2020*

*Supervisor Kevin Engelbert brought meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Nichols Elementary School located at 139 Ro-Ki Blvd Nichols NY*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Roll Call;*

*Councilperson Ray Thetga Sr. (absent), Councilperson Bill Middleton (present), Councilperson Esther Woods (present), Councilperson Barbara Crannell (present), Supervisor Kevin Engelbert (present).*

*Others present;*

*Ray Thetga Jr. (Buildings & Grounds), Will Heveland (Highway Superintendent), Brandon Sickler (Highway employee), Catherine Faruola (Tioga Tells), Dan Watson (Lodestar).*

***MINUTES***

*The motion to accept the minutes from the August 11, 2020 board meeting, made by B. Middleton 2nd by E. Woods.*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

***QUESTIONS COMMENTS & CRITICISMS FROM THE PUBLIC***

***NEW BUSINESS***

* *Tioga Tells – Catherine Faruola*

*Americor founded Tioga Tells a year ago, since the founding of Tioga Tells, they have been working on a Quality of Life in Tioga County project, asking residents how they rated the quality of life here in Tioga County and doing studies and facilitating initiative in County to work on the strengths and challenges. Getting feedback from residents on housing, and other programs, and what needs and what benefits*

*Tioga County has. COVID – 19 how the pandemic is affecting the County.*

*Ms. Faruola set up meeting with Barbara Crannell (Town Board Member) and Leslie Pelotte (Village Mayor) to discuss getting Town Board, Village Board and residents’ feedback.*

* *Lodestar – Dan Watson*

*Solar farming in Lounsberry, Mr. Watson passed out paperwork from lodestar to Board members to follow as he was explaining the steps to Lodestars solar energy program.*

*There would be no metering program for billing, it’s based on value of the energy from lodestar, resulting in energy savings. Other then cost reduction Solar energy is a cleaner more efficient energy source, and no changes in billing from NYSEG.*

*The percentage the Town would be saving is 10%, with a 25-year contract. Questions were raised over both the percentage and contract. Board members felt 10% was a low percentile and 25- year contract was too long. Town Board asked if percentages ever went up, Mr. Watson stated that 10% is standard and so is the length of the contract.*

*A discussion ensued about cost and percentage of savings, and length of contract.*

* *Deputy Dog Control Officer – K. Engelbert*

*DCO – Rob Frye has requested a new Deputy Dog Control Officer and has someone that is interested in the position, Board requests that R. Frye have interested party submit a resume for the Boards approval.*

* *Town Clerk position, Board requested an add be put in the Towns official papers for the position of the Town Clerk*

***RESOLUTION # 8 -2020***

*Maintenance of Buck Rd.*

*WHEREAS: Buck Rd is located in Lounsberry near and access to the new Nichols Highway Garage and Fed Ex Building, in the Town of Nichols.*

*and:*

*WHEREAS: Buck Rd. is in the Town of Nichols and is not a County or State Rd. the Town of Nichols will be responsible for plowing and general repairs and maintenance of Buck Rd.*

*Therefore*

*RESOLVED: That the Town of Nichols will be responsible for all maintenance, plowing and all general repairs of Buck Rd.*

*The motion was made to approve Resolution #8 – 2020 by K. Engelbert 2nd by B. Middleton*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

* *2021 Tentative Town Budget was presented to the Town Board by the Town Clerk K. Hunsinger. Supervisor Engelbert went over line items with Town Board.*

*The motion to approve the 2021 Tentative Town Budget, made by B. Crannell 2nd by B. Middleton*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

* *Cancel the September 23, 2020 Board Meeting*

*The motion to cancel the Sept. 23 2020 Board meeting, made by K. Engelbert 2nd by B. Middleton*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

***ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS***

***UPDATE FROM TOWN DEPARTMENTS/PERSONNEL***

*Highway Department – W. Heveland*

*Mower is down again, broken lift arms, W. Heveland stated mower is too big for the tractor, he needs a bigger tractor or a new mower. Can’t pick mower up to drive down road if mower is picked up it breaks mower arms because of weight, and/or will lift front of tractor off ground.*

*Board instructed W. Heveland to get prices for both mower and tractor for next year’s budget.*

*W. Heveland stated that this has been brought to the Town Boards attention for at least the last 10 (ten) year’s*

*The Highway department has been using a mower rated for 100hp on a tractor rated only for 50 hp we are constantly breaking lift parts because of it and it is very dangerous for the operator. We need a bigger tractor.*

*Also, we have been renting a roller the last 3 (three) years at $3,000 a month, times 5 months each year it would be cheaper to own our own.*

*Buildings and Grounds – R. Thetga Jr.*

*Library porch is almost completely finished, railings need to be finished and painted.*

*New part time help for Buildings & Grounds Shawn Robinson part time 6 hours.*

***OLD BUSINESS***

***ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMEBERS***

***ACCEPT REPORTS AND PAY BILLS***

*The motion to accept the Reports and Pay Bills, made by B. Crannell 2nd by B. Middleton*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

***ADJOURN***

*The motion to Adjourn meeting at 8:28 pm, made by B. Middleton 2nd by B. Crannell*

*Roll Vote;*

*B. Middleton (aye), E. Woods (aye), B. Crannell (aye), K. Engelbert (aye).*

*Carried 4 aye-1 absent-0 No-0 abstain*

*Karen Hunsinger*

*Nichols Town Clerk*

*9/15/2020*