

REGULAR MEETING
November 13, 2023

DRAFT

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen, County of Lewis and the State of New York was held at the Town Municipal Office Building, 8420 State Rte. 812, New Bremen, New York on the 13th day of November 2023.

Town Officer's Present: Peter J. Keys, Supervisor
Joseph E. Aucter, Councilman
Casandra M. Buell, Councilwoman
Alexis L. Lyndaker, Councilwoman
Thomas J. Schantz, Councilman
Douglas E. Herzig II, Hwy. Superintendent
Elizabeth B. Jones, Clerk

Attended by: Joanne Dicob, Tim Lee – ZBA, Barry Lyndaker, 6 Members of New Bremen Fire Department, Jordan Brandt

Supervisor Keys called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

RESOLUTION NO. 92 OF 2023
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilman Schantz, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, the minutes of the October 9th and 23rd, 2023 meetings are approved.

FLOOR

Supervisor Keys opened the floor to the public.

- Patrick Morse, President of the New Bremen Fire Department asked the board to consider the real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service workers. He and the other members in attendance feel the burden to the town would be minimal and would greatly appreciate the board's support and consideration of the exemption. Discussion followed. Some members of the board feel further details are needed to determine the full impact on the town before considering the exemption. NBFD members thanked the board for their time and left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.
- Jordan Brandt owner of Red Barn Meats presented plans for expansion of his meat cutting business located at 9095 Briot Road. Construction will consist of a 4800 sq. foot addition to the existing building along with demolition of the home located on the property. His previous site plan and zoning permit submitted in June of 2021 for a more significant expansion, expired due to no construction occurring. Therefore, a new site plan and zoning permit application and fee is required. Discussion followed. Clerk Jones gave him a new application for submission to the Town Board for the proposed project. Mr. Brandt thanked the board for their time and left the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2023 entitled "Repealing Local Law No. 2 of 2021 – Solar Energy System Law and Local Law No. 1 of 2001 – Site Plan Review Zoning Law and replacing it with Local Law No. 1 of 2023, to be known as "The Town of New Bremen Zoning Law", was declared open at 6:51 p.m. by Supervisor Keys, with proof of publication in the Journal & Republican noted.

Discussion followed. Clerk Jones sent the referral to the County Planning Board for their November 16th meeting. After receipt of their recommendations the town board will formally adopt said local law at their next regular meeting on December 11th.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

All questions and comments by the public were addressed; the public hearing was hereby closed at 6:59 p.m. by Supervisor Keys.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for 2024 was declared open at 6:59 p.m. with Proof of Publication in the J&R noted.

Supervisor Keys reviewed a list of proposed changes to reflect the \$1.50 per hour rate increase for the highway men as previously discussed. With the proposed changes we will still be under the 2% tax cap.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

There were no questions or concerns from the public. Therefore, the public hearing was hereby closed at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Keys. After discussion, the following resolution was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 93 OF 2023
ADOPTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET**

On a motion by Councilwoman Buell, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen did meet at the time and place as advertised, and now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen does hereby adopt such Preliminary Budget of the Town of New Bremen for fiscal year 2024 with the following line item changes:

- Line 89 – decrease to \$25,000.00 (A9902.9 Transfer to Reserve Account)
- Line 274 – increase to \$167,000.00 (DA5142.1 Personal Services)
- Line 280 - increase to \$19,503.00 (DA9030.8 Social Security)
- Line 312 – increase to \$151,000.00 (DB5110.1 Personal Services)
- Line 318 – increase to \$15,700.00 (DB9030.8 Social Security)
- Total to be raised by taxes - \$1,147,377.00

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall prepare and certify a copy of the annual budget as adopted by the Town Board pursuant to Town Law and within 5 days thereof deliver 1 copy to the Supervisor for submission to the Board of Legislators. Budget to be attached to the proceedings of these minutes.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Aucter reported on the following:

- Apologized for not contacting Assessor Smith for his attendance at this month’s meeting. As previously discussed the board would like a monthly report for their review to help provide oversight of the assessor’s office and to include set office hours. Will ask Assessor Smith to attend the December meeting.
- Town of Croghan’s Green Waste Objectives – discussed and will wait to see if the shared services program is to include the purchase of a drum chipper by the County.

Councilwoman Buell reported on the following:

- Shared Services Plan – waiting on responses from town supervisor’s and mayor’s concerning the proposed shared services plan which consists of ideas such as: septic waste cleaning, green waste drum chipper purchase, shared mechanics, street sweeper, assessor and data collector.
- NationalGrid – been brought to our attention that NationalGrid is working to upgrade and rebuild the electric transmission lines near property of certain town residents, called the Smart Path Connect Project. Landowners affected by the project were sent notices. Many seem to be quite concerned due to the proposed location of the new transmission lines being so close to their homes. Joanne Dicob is one of those very concerned and voiced her disapproval of the project. An email was forwarded to the town board for our awareness of the project.
- Solar/Wind Lawsuit – meeting was held at the Town of Lowville on October 24, 2023 pertaining with RPTL §575.B which created the model to value solar & wind projects in the state. Several towns and counties across the state are banding together to fight NYS challenging said law as it will vastly reflect assessments of solar & wind projects. Lewis County stated they will set aside \$10,000 to assist with the suit.
- Planning Board – still looking for one member to have a full board.

Supervisor Keys would like to start the process for obtaining RFP's for a new roof for the garage/municipal office building. Councilman Aueter agreed to work on it.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96 OF 2023
JUSTICES MONTHLY REPORTS**

On a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilman Schantz, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aueter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, the Justices monthly reports are approved as submitted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 97 OF 2023
DCO MONTHLY REPORT**

On a motion of Councilwoman Buell, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aueter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, the Dog Control Officer's monthly report is approved as submitted.

SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Keys – reported on the following correspondence:

- Croghan Free Library - submitted their annual report, to be filed in the Town Clerk's office.
- Senator Walczyk – sent a letter stating his opposition to bill S139-B which would require judges in town and village courts be licensed to practice law. Said bill did not make it to the Assembly floor for a vote, and therefore will not become law this year.
- BFWD – discussed the \$10,000 ARPA funds the town designated for their water line improvement project. No funds will be distributed until receipt of required documentation of completion of the project by the BFWD.
- Renew Contracts – need to set public hearings to renew contracts with Lewis County Search and Rescue for 2024 for ambulance services, along with the New Bremen Fire Protection Contract. After review, the following resolutions were presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 98 OF 2023
NEW BREMEN FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT**

On a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aueter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held on December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building for the purpose of renewing a contract with the Croghan Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for fire protection under the New Bremen Fire Protection District with compensation to be set at \$17,088.00 per year. Notice of the Public Hearing is to be published for 1 week in the Journal & Republican and on linkinglewiscounty.com.

**RESOLUTION NO. 99 OF 2023
AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT - LCSR**

On a motion of Councilwoman Buell, seconded by Councilwoman Lyndaker, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aueter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held on December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building for the purpose of renewing a 1-year contract with Lewis County Search and Rescue, Inc. for Ambulance Service for the residents of the Town of New Bremen for 2024 with compensation to be set at \$6,899.71. Notice of the Public Hearing is to be published for 1 week in the Journal & Republican and on linkinglewiscounty.com.

**RESOLUTION NO. 100 OF 2023
SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

On a motion of Councilwoman Lyndaker, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aueter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, the Supervisor's monthly financial report is approved as submitted.



**RESOLUTION NO. 101 OF 2023
AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

On a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilwoman Buell, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Aucter, Buell, Lyndaker, Schantz, Keys Nays 0

RESOLVED, that the bills contained on Abstract #11 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts. The report of prior to audit payments for insurance, utilities and comptroller fees for justice court was also reviewed and approved.

General	Voucher #120 thru #134	\$6,434.64
Highway T-Wide	Voucher #96 thru #104	\$7,042.64
Highway T-Outside	Voucher #34 thru #37	\$12,921.56
Insurance - \$9,672.68	Utilities - \$1,705.95	Comptroller - \$1,092.00

The next meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen will be held on December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Office Building.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilman Aucter, seconded by Councilman Schantz, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Elizabeth B. Jones, RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector