Town of Yates February Board Meeting
8 S. Main St., Lyndonville, NY 14098
February 8, 2024, 7:00PM

Present:	Jim Simon, Supervisor		
	John Riggi, Councilman		
	Susan Hrovat, Councilman		
	Terry Chaffee, Jr., Councilman		
	Michele Harling, Town Clerk		
	Trisha Laszewski, Town Assessor		
Excused:	Harold Suhr, Councilman		
	Roger Wolfe, Highway Superintendent		
	David Reese, Code Enforcement Officer		
Others:	Larry Wolfe	Paul Lauricella	Steve Colon
	William Jurinich	David D'Annaballe	Georgette Stockman

Supervisor Simon called the February Board Meeting to order at 7:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR REMARKS

No remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE

Michele Harling read a card that was brought in by Robin Boyle from the children that attend the Rise and Shine Program at the Lyndonville Public Library. They thanked the Town for all they do to keep the community safe.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No comments.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2/24

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the January 1, 2024 Organizational and Regular Board Meeting as presented to each Board Member.

Offered by Councilman Chaffee, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Hrovat

3 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain (Riggi) 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2/24

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

WHEREAS, the bills have been reviewed by the Town Board, be it

RESOLVED to pay the bills as follows:

Fund A (General – Townwide)-	$ 82,255.58
Fund B (General – Outside Village)-	$ 2,100.77
Fund DA (Highway – Townwide)-	$ 23,956.47
Fund DB (Highway – Outside Village)-	$ 7,622.76
Water 4-	$ 10,695.95
H- (REDI Town Park Project)-	$
Water 2-	$
Youth-	$
Fire-	$
TOTAL	$126,631.53

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Riggi

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No comments.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Trisha Laszewski, Town Assessor, said that she is continuing to work on the reassessment project. Exemption renewals are coming in nicely. She's been spending about 2 ½ days a week in the office to work on the update project.

Supervisor Simon said this is crunch time. He asked if she expects to have the notices in the mail by the end of March-early April. He thanked Trisha for her input for the newsletter.

Councilman Riggi said that he noticed that there was a decision at the State level by the Governor to start to float working papers to illegal immigrants to work within the government. He said he is all for another look at our immigration laws because he thinks they've been this way for decades. Nobody seems to be doing anything about it and it needs to improve. As Town Board members, we are required to look out for our constituents and make sure that they're taken care of. He is concerned that this is a very slippery slope that the State is starting down and he knows as we all know, that there is a heavy lobbying effort at the State and

National level by the industrial farming organizations to float working papers to everyone that's here. As we know, most of those folks are great but there is a significant, as you can see from the crime rates in the cities, portion of those people that come over that are not vetted and are causing crime issues. I lose sleep at night when I think that these folks are going to get working papers and come into every little town given the fact that the industrial farming conglomerates are for this, I'm afraid that the H2A and H2B programs are going to get gutted and we're going to have to be dealing with the criminal element in every little town. What I'm telling the board right now is that we have to be very, very vocal on this issue of giving working papers to anyone who has not been vetted to reside in this country.

Supervisor Simon said that what he has noticed is ultimately the decision could be made at the Federal level by either executive order; I doubt congress would pass it because of the house being republican; or the State level. Hochul's decision was challenged in particular by the minorities in the Senate and the Assembly. Senator Ortt's outspokenness on it; his comments at the legislative luncheon at the White Birch recently, were very, very adamant, it's one thing to increase the numbers of legal migrants either through H2A, H2B or the other processes but this is a flood of undocumented illegal immigrants that are un-vetted, have no processing and we know very little about them, for them to all of a sudden be at these different locations. This is a concern. I know that Senator Ortt is very pro-farmer and is right to farm, as are we, but he has spoken very strongly against temporary working papers for the people that have come through in this wave of asylum seekers. Even asylum seekers are valid if you can prove that you are really truly seeking asylum.

He said that we have a number of local laws that we'll be looking at redoing. We are in the process of forming committees of various sizes and constituencies and will start to kick off in March so that we can hopefully meet the 6-month moratorium.

We also have a newsletter that is printed and will be made available on the website, if you're interested. There's some good information in the Town Newsletter about the free eyeglass clinic, the food pantry, as well as some other news so please take a look at it. We also posted the Biodigester Feasibility Study on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilman Riggi, Whereas there is no new business to be brought before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:08PM.
Seconded by Councilman Hrovat

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted
Michele L. Harling
Yates Town Clerk