

Minutes from Town of Caton Board Meeting

April 14, 2021 – Caton Town Hall

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PRESENT

Don Haussener, Deputy Supervisor
Hank Bentley, Councilman
Jeff Wheaton, Councilman
Tim Scott, Councilman
Ed Rose, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Ferratella, Legislator
Scott VanEtten, Legislator
Maggie Costello, Town Planner
Avonne Dickerson, Town Clerk

Richard Nurse, Park Mower
Tony Handley, Maintenance
Peggy MacNaughton, Park Ch.
Several attendees

At 6 pm Deputy Supervisor Haussener brought the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag and offered a moment of silence for the untimely death of Supervisor Paul Michaloski.

RESIGNATION

On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Bentley the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to accept the resignation of Erin Mosher as Town Assessor.

TEMPORARY ASSESSOR

On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Bentley the following resolution ADOPTED ROLL CALL VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to approve the appointment of Katherine Deal Gabriel as Town of Caton Temporary Assessor at a rate of \$30/hour.

EXECUTIVE SESSION *(see attached minutes)

At 6:02 pm and on motion of Councilman Bentley seconded by Councilman Scott the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to temporarily close the Regular Town Board Meeting and enter into Executive Session, to discuss the hiring of an Assessor and the appointment of a Supervisor; and to invite Town Clerk Dickerson and Assessor candidate Valary Muscarella to attend the Executive Session.

RE-OPEN REGULAR MEETING

At 6:25 pm and on motion of Councilman Rose seconded by Councilman Scott the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to enter back into the Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting.

ASSESSOR APPOINTMENT

On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Wheaton the following resolution ADOPTED ROLL CALL VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to appoint candidate Valary Muscarella as the Town of Caton Assessor, starting on May 3, 2021, expiring on September 30, 2025, at a salary of \$11k for the remainder of 2021 and a yearly salary of \$16,500 beginning January 1, 2022.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Bentley the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to approve minutes from the March 10, 2021 Town Board Meeting as presented.

BILLS

On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Wheaton the following resolution ADOPTED ROLL CALL VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to approve paying the monthly bills as follows:

General Fund-vouchers # 0401 to 0425-\$16,079.71

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Highway Fund-vouchers # 0401 to 0424-\$96,231.38

Street Lighting-voucher # 0004-\$105.69

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Carol Ferratella, County Legislator-
Roadside Cleanup Day for Towns and Villages will be coming up very soon. A letter will be sent from Steuben County DPW with more instructions.
On May 15, 2021 a shredding day will be held at the Erwin Landfill and a \$1 tire day is being planned, date to be determined.
- Scott VanEtten, County Legislator-
Mentioned an approximate 1-million-dollar ARC Grant that STCRPDB has applied for to receive internet connectivity through wi-fi for Towns of Lindley, Caton and Hornby. This is a 50 + 50 grant and will cost each town \$30k. Steuben County has been asked to put in \$200k and the Corning Foundation is also putting in money as well.
- Maggie Costello, STC Planner-
Previously, Maggie Costello and Supervisor Michaloski were working on the above grant that Legislator VanEtten brought up. She explained that a study was done of the unserved broadband areas in the region; which include Caton, Lindley and Hornby. The Appalachian Regional Commission is accepting applications for the POWER Grant Program and Town of Caton is considering participation. Supervisor Michaloski had put many, many hours of work reaching out to get better internet and cell phone service into the Town of Caton.

After discussion and on motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Bentley the following resolution ADOPTED ROLL CALL VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to approve Town of Caton to apply for a Federal Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission Power Grant for the development of wireless broadband in the towns of Lindley and Caton while making Town of Caton Lead Applicant and to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Supervisor to sign the application at a cost of \$30,000, contingent on the Town of Caton receiving their stimulus funding.

Highway Superintendent Ray Riesbeck-reviewed and filed. Included a bid for a new excavator.

Councilman Rose-stated that if the Town chooses to go to an appointed Highway Superintendent vs. an elected, it is legal to reverse that action if so desired. He also mentioned that he had discussed Law 284 with Superintendent Riesbeck which pertains to submitting a yearly road plan to the Town Board. This also affects highway expenditures out of certain accounts that are not to be paid unless this road plan is submitted and approved by the Town Board. Board discussion-would like to physically talk to Superintendent Riesbeck before considering purchasing any equipment.

- **Code Enforcer** Al Buckland-reviewed and filed.
- **Constable** Mike Smith-none available.
- **Dog Control Officer** Bruce Akins Jr-available at previous request of Supervisor Michaloski.
- **Court Justice** Russell Diederich-available to Supervisor only.
- **Assessor**-none available.
- **Deputy Supervisor** Don Haussener-as follows-Deputy Supervisor stated that as of current, he remains as Deputy Supervisor until a Supervisor is actually appointed.

<i>Account</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Capital Reserves</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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General Imma	\$594,097	Highway Equipment	\$315,724
Highway Imma	\$726,637	Highway Repair	\$112,180
General Checking	\$ 7,722.97	General Building	\$ 18,623
Highway Checking	\$ 7,122.84	General Office	\$ 2,347
Payroll Checking	\$ 1,652.11	General Park	\$ 6,690
Light District	\$ 2,694.74	General Insurance	\$ 30,000
Capital Project	Closed	General Retirement	\$ 0

- **Park Caretaker** Richard Nurse-submitted a yearly contract at a total cost of \$2,950. for park mowing. On motion of Councilman Scott seconded by Councilman Wheaton the following resolution ADOPTED ROLL CALL VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to accept Mr. Nurse’s mowing proposal as presented to Board members.

Mr. Nurse stated that he is interested in creating a 900’ senior walking trail on the lower level of the Caton Park. If approved he would like the Town to dedicate the trail in honor of Supervisor Michaloski. He would not charge the Town for this work and is requesting to use the Town’s Park tractor for construction.

Also, he has been using a spare 5-horse wood chipper of his own at the Park for wood chipping and he is willing to sell the chipper to the Town at a cost of \$225.00. After discussion and on motion of Councilman Bentley seconded by Councilman Wheaton the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to approve Mr. Nurse’s request to create a senior walking trail as suggested in honor of Paul Michaloski. Purchase of the chipper will be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Town/Park Maintenance** Tony Handley-presented a list of projects that need to get done at the Hall, Highway building and Park. He has already completed many projects that have improved the town maintenance. He will also look into setting up a service call to fix the furnace in the highway building as to how it is supposed to work.
- **Park Chair** Peggy Ann MacNaughton-there will be a Park Work Bee on Saturday, April 17th at 9am until? Please bring tools, rakes and other items.
- **Planning Board Co-chair** Don MacNaughton-stated that the Solar Law and the Comprehensive Plan are almost completed and possibly draft editions will be ready to present at the next Town Board meeting. Next PB meeting is on April 22, at 6 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Don MacNaughton – the vote passed to take out a loan for construction of a new fire station. Bids have gone out and construction time frame is approximately 1-year.
- Councilman Scott – inquired as to how the highway worker that is out with COVID is being paid.
- Peter Gordon – thank you for the gesture of the park trail in the name of Paul Michaloski.

Deputy Supervisor Haussener closed the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Caton Town Clerk, Avonne Dickerson

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Town Board Present

Hank Bentley, Councilman
Ed Rose, Councilman
Tim Scott, Councilman
Jeff Wheaton, Councilman

Others Present

Don Haussener, Deputy Supervisor
Valary Muscarella, Assessor candidate
Avonne Dickerson, Town Clerk

OPEN MEETING

At 6:02 pm motion by Councilman Rose seconded by Councilman Scott the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to open the Executive Session Meeting to discuss the hiring of an Assessor and the appointment of a Supervisor; and to invite Town Clerk Dickerson and Assessor candidate Valary Muscarella to attend the Executive Session.

No items were voted on.

CLOSE MEETING

At 6:23 pm motion by Councilman Rose seconded by Councilman Scott the following resolution ADOPTED VOICE VOTE-AYES 4 (Scott, Bentley, Rose, Wheaton) NAYS-0 to close the Executive Session Meeting.

Avonne M Dickerson,
Caton Town Clerk