

A TOWN BOARD MEETING was held on August 12th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The location was the Blue Mountain Lake Fire Hall, in Blue Mountain, County of Hamilton, State of New York.

Supervisor Wells brought the meeting to order. All said the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wells called for the Roll with the following Board Members answering:

Roll Call:

- Councilman Mahoney Here
- Councilwoman Eldridge Here
- Councilwoman Howard Here
- Councilman Rathbun Here
- Supervisor Wells Here

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Mahoney made a motion to approve the Minutes of 7/08/2024 as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Howard.

Department Head Reports/Additions:

Councilman Mahoney asked Department Head Patrick Mahoney how the new hire in the water department is doing and the word used was “awesome”. None of the Department heads had anything for the board. Bill Laprairie, Patrick Mahoney, Tom Atwell and Christine Pouch introduced themselves as per the request of Paul Paddock, a resident of Blue Mountain Lake.

Bill Laprarie – Parks and Rec

Patrick Mahoney – Water and Sewer

Tom Atwell – Highway

Christine Pouch – Economic Development/Marketing/Events

Public Comments/Concerns:

Andy Coney thanked Bill Laprairie and his team for their help with the Blue Mountain Sizzler on August 11th, 2024. He also shared a few hats with Bill to pass to those who helped as well. Supervisor Wells thanked Andy Coney for a card he dropped off earlier that day.

Andy Coney asked about the talks of the new water plant and maybe an update on that. Supervisor Wells informed him that Cedarwood/Blue Mountain Water Project is at the top of the agenda and we’ll have more updates then but shared it will be on Water Plant Road between Maple Lodge Road and the brook.

Anne Paddock was next to speak and asked about the school budget and her concerns. Also, she was questioning the ambulance service, how it’s set up and how the budget is set up for EMS trucks and firetrucks. She stated she was asked a few years back for donations towards an ambulance in Blue Mountain and why that was, Andy Coney replied it was to help Blue Mountain and residents in an ambulance matter working with ILVAC. Through talks regarding the budget for the Fire District, it was explained that those decisions are made up by the elected officials of the Fire District and not decided by the Town Board.

Sue Blakeney, summer resident in Blue Mountain Lake, asked those in attendance if anyone was informed on the invasive species called oriental bittersweet. She stated she noticed on the upper Eddison Road, and a few spots on Route 28 that have some in the area and seems to be progressing. Sue explains the effects of oriental bittersweet and how it can run up trees and tear them down. Offers to do a presentation at 10am on Upper Eddison Road to show you the plant and how to pull it up to get rid of the root. Supervisor Wells spoke and said he hasn’t heard of oriental bittersweet yet but directed it over to Caitlin Stewart, District Manager - Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation, who is in attendance. Caitlin Stewart joined by saying there are two certified

applicators on staff who have been through rigorous training through the DEC, and they have the expertise to treat invasive terrestrial plants. Oriental bittersweet has been on their radar because they're unaware of how many occurrences they have up here in Hamilton County. Caitlin asked Sue to speak after so she can add those sites stated prior to their list.

Supervisor Wells passed it off to Caitlin Stewart who asked to do a brief presentation at the board meeting this month on what's been going on in the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation plans. With Caitlin was also Katie Whitkovits, certified technician, while also introducing two other members who were not in attendance, Lenny Croote and Marj Remias. Some of their main programs include invasive species, sediment erosion control, water quality and conservation education program. Annual reports were passed out to the Board and talks of events in 2024 such as Conservation Field Day, Hamilton County Envirothon, Arbor Day Poetry contest and more on their website. Katie next spoke about the stem injector rental program that is used for Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species, and how that would work if you wanted to obtain one yourself.

Jeff Vandermolen, seasonal resident, member of the Fire Department in Blue Mountain, and business owner was next to speak. He had questions about possibly having a firework show in Blue Mountain for the 4th of July. Supervisor Wells stated, with his answer not being 'no', that when a show was done in the past there was some serious backlash about the debris the fireworks left in the lake. Also, the barge that was used for that set up is now no longer there by the owner.

Bronna Romanoff, 35-year seasonal resident in Blue Mountain Lake, also a member of the Indian Lake Equality Injustice Committee was next to speak. Coming back to the area this summer she was surprised to see the "All Are Welcome" banners were replaced by Veteran Tribute Banners, our own hometown heroes. She understands the other banners are being stored in a safe place but feels as if both banners can be up and properly displayed. She suggested next year putting both banners up, paying tribute to our hometown heroes while also relaying the message that Indian Lake is a welcoming place for all people. Supervisor Wells explained he just recently had a meeting regarding that same issue and it's in plans to come up with more poles and spots for all banners, also time limits on banners set in place.

Mary Alice O'Connor, Executive Director of Indian Lake Theater wanted to share a few thanks with the Parks and Rec department and the town. The help that they received through events, weather issues, and more she wanted to express her gratitude and shared upcoming events.

Davanna Marks, at Chimney Mountain, also expresses gratitude to the men who came to help clean up from the storm. They had multiple trees down with powerlines down and they really took the time to inform everyone at Chimney Mountain and keep all guests safe.

Cedarwood Engineering – Blue Mountain Lake Water Project Update:

Supervisor Wells offered Resolution #4, attached herein. Seconded by Councilman Rathbun.

Superintendent Water and Sewer Pat Mahoney explained to a resident who had a few questions, that this will be the newest technology with minimal chemicals, 2 being citric acid and chlorine.

Beaches Closing:

Indian Lake and Blue Mountain beaches will be closing August 20th, 2024, for the season. There have been a few issues regarding guests following rules but overall, it was a good season. The girls did an outstanding job with 2 saves this year. Thank you, Andrea Puterko and Lena Giordano.

The Lake Store/Indian Lake Museum:

Going back to talks of the donation made by Alan Pierce to possibly use the old Lake Store as a new location for the Indian Lake Museum. Supervisor Wells again reiterates the status of the Museum now how the building is severely damaged due to pipes that burst last winter in the basement and

concerned the items inside may become compromised if no action is taken. It was stated that a decision must be made on this offer. Supervisor Wells made a motion to accept the Lake Store as a gift for a new museum and asked for a second for a discussion. Seconded by Councilman Mahoney for discussion. Councilwoman Howard shares some research she has done on certain costs towards updating the Lake Store to be a proper new home for the Museum. Also, after speaking to some organizations Councilwoman Howard thinks location is an issue as well, possibly having different ideas but will express that after it's discussed with the Board. Councilwoman Eldrige had questioned if it would be opened year-round or seasonal and Supervisor Wells replied with the museum, if moved, most likely a seasonal opening while work needs to be done. Councilman Mahoney was next to speak in the discussion, first mentioning he wanted to thank Alan Pierce for the donation of the Lake Store, as many fond memories have been shared there over the years. His concerns are that both buildings need work and if we were to start making repairs on the Lake Store it could become very costly. Councilman Rathbun, after looking at both buildings and talking to those about the switch, he also agrees it can be a costly decision either way. He thanks Alan Pierce for the generous donation as well but thinks a new construction would be a better route. Supervisor Wells called for a vote.

Roll Call:

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|------------------------|-----|
| o Councilwoman Howard | Nay |
| o Councilman Rathbun | Nay |
| o Councilwoman Eldrige | Nay |
| o Councilman Mahoney | Nay |
| o Supervisor Wells | Aye |

Press Releases – Bears/Butterflies:

DEC has been in communication with Supervisor Wells regarding a bear/garbage issue in the Town of Indian Lake. In talks of possibly changing some dumpsters to Bear Proof, that would have to be decided on and talked with who's contracted to pick up the garbage being that it would be a new process with opening each individual dumpster. Also, the Monarch and Milkweed challenge has officially started. Catching, raising, and releasing Monarch butterflies from a group of a few buildings' town.

Section 284 – Highway Department:

Supervisor Wells brings up Section 284 and the work that was put into it by Tom Atwell. All members of the board signed the agreement, and it was passed to the Town Clerk to sign and seal.

Frontier/Landline Issues:

Supervisor Wells goes over a call he received the other day regarding a resident in Indian Lake who had spoken with Frontier, while they explained to her, they're removing the copper wiring on her road leaving her without a landline. She has been unable to get any answers about what she should do next regarding a landline in case of an emergency. Supervisor Wells asks all in attendance if they experience any issues regarding the same matter to please contact him.

Supervisor Comments:

Next was brought to attention was an SIB status report in the board packet. Supervisor Wells also thanks Andy Coney for dropping off a nice card for him earlier that day and is happy to hear the events are going well and becoming bigger.

Other Town Business:

Green Meadow Correctional Facility in Fort Anne has been brought to Supervisor Wells' attention receiving two resolutions regarding the closure of the facility. Supervisor Wells stated possibly coming up with a resolution in support of staying open but said it has come to its final decision and is officially closing. Supervisor Wells next brings up hopefully coming to a decision soon about purchasing a generator for the Town Hall. With the recent storm surges and power outages, not only does the Town Hall need to be open for residents regarding help or a safe place, but it has also really seemed to mess with computers and phones if out for an extended period. Ballpark prices were mentioned, also was mentioned certain grants could be filed including with the Town Court since it is a shared building. Also, mentioned at the BML Association Meeting, the garage has been looked at to do an inspection and possibly treating asbestos.

Bills and Abstracts

General, Highway, Water 1&2, Sewer, Library and Landfill

39707 to 39749 – 213,305.11

39757 to 39778 – 6,179.82

39779 to 39938 – 125,565.34

Supervisor Wells made a motion to pay the bills and abstracts as presented.
Seconded by Councilman Mahoney.

Executive Session:

Supervisor Wells made a motion to enter the Executive Session at 8:35. Seconded by Councilwoman Eldrige. The Town Clerk was asked to stay for the Executive Session.

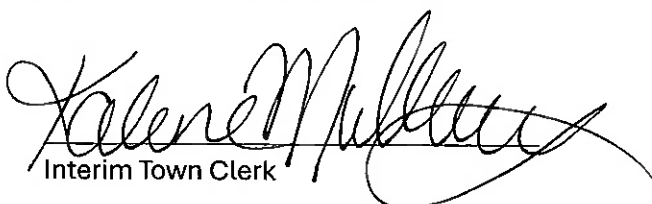
The Town Clerk left Executive Session at 8:46.

Councilman Mahoney left meeting at 9:01.

Councilwoman Howard made a motion to exit the Executive Session at 9:05. Seconded by Councilman Rathbun. No action taken.

Councilwoman Eldrige made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Seconded by Councilwoman Howard.

Respectfully submitted by,


Interim Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE:

DATE OF MEETING: 8/12/24

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>TITLE:</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>
1. Marti Waneff	—	Blue
2. Pat Mahoney		Ih.
3. Doranna Marks		IL.
4. Paul & Anne Paddick		IL
5. Bronna & Norm Romanoff		BML
6. Leslie Tondreau		BML
7. Jeff Vander Molen		IL
8. Mary Alice O'Connor		IL
9. Cally Stanton		IL
10. John Sleckman		
11. Bernice Cummins		BML
12. Susan Blakeney		BML
13. Tim & Mary Leach		BML
14. Andy Cooney		Blue
15. David Myers		Blue
16. Belinda Black		Blue
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