

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES VAN ETEN TOWN BOARD  
APRIL 10, 2025**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING  
BEGIN **37-25** THRU **37-25**

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETEN WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:08 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD**

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.  
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON  
PENNY FLORA-COUNCILPERSON-EXC  
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON -EXC  
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

**TOWN OFFICERS**

BOB EASTWOOD-H'WAY SUPT-EXC  
SALLY WHITSON-ASSESSOR-EXC  
DAWN ROSE-TOWN CLERK  
BRANDON DECKER-CODE ENF-EXC  
DENEEN DILLER- TOWN HIST  
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR-EXC  
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND  
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.-EXC  
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK-EXC  
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

OTHERS PRESENT: GEORGE DILLER, MATT FREEZE (MORNING TIMES), FRED SWAYZE, JOE DONOVAN, LIZA MCBRIDE, ALEX MARIACHER, DAVID DURRETT (NEWS CHRONICLE), REBECCA WRIGHT, JANET SAYRE AND PETER SECONDO.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOEMAKER AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW 1 HELD ON MARCH 13, 2025. ALL AYE. CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE READ AND ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK**

- VAN ETEN EARTH DAY APRIL 26 & 27
- VAN ETEN CLEAN UP "DUMPSTER" DAY MAY 10, 8A – 12P VAN ETEN TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

**REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:**

-TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT

- CHECK # 1062 FOR \$1248. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.

-ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED

-BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI-REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF MARCH 2025 BUDGET REPORT AND STILL WORKING ON DETAILS FOR REPORT WITH NEW SOFTWARE.

-TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED

- CHECK FOR \$593.26 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.
- TAX COLLECTION FOR MARCH 2025
  - COLLECTED \$137,214.25
  - PAID TOTAL CHEMUNG COUNTY TREASURER \$125,000

-TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-REPORT FILED

-PARK COMMISSION-NO REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER

-DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

-BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-NO REPORT FILED

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**-BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-**

- BANFIELD SQUARE FLAG WAS REPLACED OVER WEEKEND.

**-CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED**

**-HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED**

**-TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT**

- KETURI IS FRUSTRATED WITH SUPPORT FROM NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE FIRM AND IS WORKING DILIGENTLY TO TRAIN NEW BOOKKEEPER. KETURI NOTED HAD TO CREATE NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR PAYROLL; WAS NEVER INFORMED IN BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.
- KETURI STATED ONE (1) AUD WAS FILED FOR TOWN WITH NYS.
- WORKING ON NEW SOFTWARE AND NEW BUDGET REPORTS WITH WILLIAMSON LAW.
- CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR MARCH 2025.

**-WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED**

**-WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF FEBRUARY 2025 WATER BUDGET REPORT.**

- SHOEMAKER NOTED STILL WORKING ON INSTALLING NEW TAP ON WATER TANK (PER HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION); SCHEDULED WITH DEAN WETZEL FOR NEXT WEEK.
- REPAIR SOUTH HILL VALVE WILL BE REPLACED NEXT WEEK.
- SHOEMAKER RECEIVED QUOTE FROM MOODY'S FOR REPLACEMENT OF SUBMERSIBLE PUMP (#2 WELL) \$4,485 PUMP AND \$2,254 MOTOR. SHOEMAKER RECOMMENDS ORDERING; LONG LEAD TIME AND QUOTE ON FILE.
- SHOEMAKER AND ROSE CONTINUE WORKING WITH K. GRIFFITHS FOR GRANT TO REPLACE DIESEL GENERATOR AT WELL HOUSE WITH DIESEL FUEL GENERATOR.

**-CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED**

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWAYZE, JR. AND SECONDED BY SHOEMAKER TO ACCEPT THE OFFICER'S REPORTS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE. CARRIED

**AUDIT COMMITTEE-GENERAL-H. SHOEMAKER**

A ACCT: \$58,188.37

FIRE: \$

**HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER**

DA ACCTS: \$34,877.96

FX (WATER): \$8,231.47

- SWAYZE, JR. NOTED LARGE AMOUNT IN GENERAL "A" ACCOUNT WAS FOR TOWN INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL.
- SHOEMAKER LARGE AMOUNT OF WATER IS ALSO INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

**RESOLUTION #37-25**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ET TEN AUTHORIZES TRANSFERRING THE FOLLOWING:

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\$3,033 FROM WATER DISTRICT CHECKBOOK TO SW1910.4 (WATER INSURANCE CONTRACTUAL) FOR YEARLY INSURANCE PREMIUM.

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SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., FLORA (EXCUSED), LARISON (EXCUSED) AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY SWAYZE, JR. AND CARRIED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS RECOMMENDED BY AUDIT COMMITTEE OF SWAYZE, JR., AND SHOEMAKER. ALL AYE. CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- KETURI STATED VAN ETTEN NEED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND WILL BE WORKING WITH BRANDON DECKER TO COMPLETE. NEED TO SCHEDULE WORKSHOP SOON.
- SHOEMAKER SPOKE WITH JEREMY HAEFELE REGARDING BROADBAND STATUS FOR VAN ETTEN. MR. HAEFELE STATED THERE WAS EQUIPMENT ISSUES AND WAITING FOR LEE HAEFELE TO RETURN TO OFFICE BEFORE PROCEEDING.
- TOWN CLERK ROSE INFORMED BOARD OF RECEIPT OF ENERGY STUDY AND ASKED FOR THEIR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS (SEE FILE). SWAYZE, JR. ASKED IF CONTRACTOR NEEDS TO BE PAID WITH PREVAILING WAGE; TOWN CLERK ROSE TO INQUIRE.
- SHOEMAKER STATED ONE (1) RESIDENT IN WATER DISTRICT HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN BEING ON WATER COMMITTEE. NEXT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING IS APRIL 30 AT 7PM.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- MR. DONOVAN UPDATED ON CHEMUNG COUNTY LANDFILL METHANE PROJECT; PIPING TO NUCOR AND SELLING TO VALLEY AREA; NOT COSTING COUNTY ANY MONEY AND COUNTY WILL RECEIVE MINIMUM OF \$75,000 PER YEAR FOR LIFE OF CONTRACT. MR. DONOVAN STATED CASELLA IS SEARCHING FOR CONTRACTOR TO ASSIST WITH TRASH ALONG INTERSTATE. MR. DONOVAN STATED COUNTY INVESTIGATING BUILDINGS FOR BATTERY STORAGE IN WEST HILL AREA OF ELMIRA. MR. DONOVAN STATED LARGE SOLAR FARM IN CHEMUNG MAY BE NULL AND VOID. MR. DONOVAN INFORMED BOARD CASELLA COMMUNITY GRANT MONEY HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED YET HOWEVER, HE WILL LET US KNOW WHEN IT'S AVAILABLE. MR. DONOVAN STATED HE HAS CONTACT INFO FOR NYSEG AND IF ANYONE WANTS TO EMAIL (INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS, NYSEG ACCOUNT NUMBER AND CONTACT INFORMATION) HIM WITH THEIR CONCERNS WITH THEIR NYSEG BILLS, HE CAN FORWARD THEM ON TO APPROPRIATE CONTACT. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED FOR MR. DONOVAN'S EMAIL BE SHARED ([jdonovan@chemungcountyny.gov](mailto:jdonovan@chemungcountyny.gov)). SWAYZE, JR. ASKED FOR STATUS ON WEIGH STATION/REST STOP ON I86 NEAR DUMP AREA AND MR. DONOVAN SAID HE THINKS IT'S NOT HAPPENING.
- KETURI STATED TO MS. WRIGHT HE'S HAPPY SHE IS RUNNING FOR TOWN BOARD. MS. WRIGHT ASKED WHY WATER DISTRICT PAID \$4,410 OF ATTORNEY FEES; SHE NOTED ATTORNEY FEES HAVE NOT BEEN IN THE WATER BUDGET IN PAST. SHOEMAKER EXPLAINED BRIEFLY REGARDING BUILDINGS IN WATER EASEMENT ISSUES AND REQUIRING ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE. SWAYZE, JR. STATED THERE IS MORE DETAIL FOR THIS SITUATION HOWEVER, TOWN PREFERS NOT TO EXPLAIN FURTHER DUE TO ISSUE STILL BEING LEGAL MATTER WITH ATTORNEY. SWAYZE, JR. DID REITERATE HE FEELS THAT TOWN SHOULD SEEK RESTITUTION FOR MONIES SPENT TO REMEDY LEGAL SITUATION. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED HIS CONCERN FOR FUTURE IF TOWN NEEDED ACCESS TO WATER LINE AND BUILDING HINDERS ANY ACCESS.
- MR. CARLING ASKED ABOUT \$330 SPENT FOR COFFEE AND WATER IN FEBRUARY AND \$171 FOR WATER COOLER/WATER. KETURI EXPLAINED SOME WATER FEES ARE FOR COOLER RENTAL AT TOWN

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HALL AND HIGHWAY. MR. CARLING IS CONCERNED WITH MONIES USED FOR COFFEE AND WATER AND IT ADDS UP QUICKLY. MR. CARLING STATED HE HAS ALWAYS HAD TO PROVIDE HIS OWN COFFEE AT HIS PREVIOUS JOBS. MR. CARLING FEELS THAT WITH CURRENT MONEY CONCERNS, COFFEE AND WATER EXPENSES AREN'T NECESSARY. SHOEMAKER STATED HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES WORKING LONG HOURS; TOWN SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE COFFEE. MR. CARLING STATED TOWN IS BROKE AND SHOEMAKER REPLIED TOWN IS SOLVENT. MR. CARLING STATED TOWN OF NEWFIELD DOES NOT PROVIDE COFFEE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES. SHOEMAKER STATED ALL OF THESE CONCERNS WILL BE DISCUSSED AMONGST BOARD MEMBERS AND WILL REPORT BACK TO PUBLIC SHORTLY. MR. CARLING ASKED IF NYS COMPTROLLER FINES AND FEES PAYMENT ARE FOR COURT AND YES, THEY ARE.

- MS. MCBRIDE ASKED ABOUT LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025. SHOEMAKER RESPONDED LAW IS IN REFERENCE TO UNSAFE STRUCTURES IN TOWN. MS. MCBRIDE STATED HER ANGER AT CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER NOT RESPONDING TO HER CALLS. MS. MCBRIDE TOLD TOWN BOARD HER HOUSE IS FULL OF BLACK MOLD AND ALL OF TOWN KNOWS IT. MS. MCBRIDE NOTED TOWN CLERK ROSE'S AUNT BOUGHT HOME, FLIPPED IT AND PAID OFF NEW OWNERS AND STATED ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS OF BEING RELATED. MS. MCBRIDE STATED SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT CURRENT CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HAD PROPER TRAINING AND IF LOCAL LAW 2 IS PASSED WILL CAUSE LAWSUITS; SHE STATED 75% OF ALL HOMES IN VAN ETTEN HAVE BLACK MOLD. MS. MCBRIDE STATED TOWN HAS HAD ISSUES WITH CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR YEARS AND ALL RECORDS HAVE BEEN LOST AND THEY HAD TO CREATE NEW PAPER TRAIL. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO TEAR DOWN HOUSE AND SHE SAID YES HER HOUSE WILL BE TORN DOWN, AND THERE WILL BE LAWSUIT AND ANYONE INVOLVED WILL GO TO PRISON. SWAYZE, JR. ASKED HOW ANY TOWN BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SALE OF THEIR HOUSE; MS. MCBRIDE STATED TOWN CLERK'S AUNT, BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN 2022 AND 2019 AND TOWN CLERK HAS LOST ALL PAPERWORK. TOWN CLERK ROSE STATED SHE DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH BUILDING ENFORCEMENT PAPERWORK AND MS. MCBRIDE NOTED THAT TOWN CLERK WILL BE GOING TO PRISON FOR DESTROYING LEGAL DOCUMENTS. SWAYZE, JR. STATED BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER BRANDON DECKER, IS SECOND IN COMMAND FOR CITY OF ELMIRA AND STATED HE'S QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION. MS. MCBRIDE ASKED WHO WAS BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THAT WAS DISMISSED FROM EMPLOYMENT WITH TOWN OF VAN ETTEN AND SWAYZE, JR. STATED IT WAS TJ SWARTOUT AND HE DEFRAUDED VAN ETTEN TAXPAYERS. MS. MCBRIDE TOLD BOARD TO INVESTIGATE ALL OF HIS WORK AND KETURI STATED TOWN DID INVESTIGATE PER ALBANY'S REQUEST. MS. MCBRIDE STATED TOWN RESIDENT PASSED AWAY FROM BLACK MOLD AND HOME HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED; SWAYZE, JR. ASKED IF BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT IS EXPECTED TO GO INTO ALL HOMES IN VAN ETTEN TO INVESTIGATE FOR BLACK MOLD AND HE'S SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR ISSUE IN THEIR HOME. MS. MCBRIDE STATED LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025 IS ATTEMPT TO "COVER UP" ISSUES AND IF IT'S PASSED WILL CAUSE TROUBLE AND BANKRUPT TOWN. SWAYZE, JR. RECOMMENDED DISCUSSING WITH BRANDON DECKER AND MOVING FORWARD. SHOEMAKER ASKED IF HER CONCERNS WERE JUST RECENT; MS. MCBRIDE SAID NO, IT GOES BACK SEVERAL YEARS. SHOEMAKER STATED SWARTOUT DID NOT MAINTAIN HIS CERTIFICATION FOR BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND TOWN HIRED DEPUTY BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO ASSIST WITH REVIEWING ALL BUILDING PERMITS THAT WERE ISSUED DURING TIME OF SWARTOUT'S TENURE WITHOUT PROPER NYS CREDENTIALS; MS. MCBRIDE STATED SWARTOUT RECEIVED "PAYOUTS". MS. MCBRIDE STATED BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN 2022 IS QUILTY BECAUSE MOST OF WORK WAS DONE TO HER HOME DURING THAT TIME.

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MS. MCBRIDE REITERATED HOUSE IS FULL OF BLACK MOLD AND ALL ELECTRICAL OUTLETS ARE "HOT". SWAYZE, JR. ASKED WHO THEY PURCHASED HOUSE FROM AND MS. MCBRIDE SAID BAMFORTH'S AND PREVIOUS OWNER PAID THEM OFF. SWAYZE, JR. INDICATED BAMFORTH WAS APPRENTICE CARPENTER AND MS. MCBRIDE STATED HE SHOULD LOSE HIS LICENSE AND SHOULD NEVER BE WORKING IN CARPENTRY AGAIN. SWAYZE, JR. STATED TJ SWARTOUT WAS PREVIOUS BUILDING CODE OFFICER AND MISLED TOWN BOARD HE WAS CERTIFIED; ALBANY HAD TOWN AUDITED; MR. SWARTOUT WAS INVESTIGATED BY NYSP AND NO CHARGES WERE FOUND. SWAYZE, JR. WENT ON TO EXPLAIN RICH LECLAIRE WAS NEXT CODE OFFICER, TOWN HAD TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT WITH MR. SWARTOUT FOR HIS ACTIONS.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- KETURI STATED BOARD NEEDS TO REVIEW LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025 – RAZE OR REPAIR OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS
- SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR 2025 PANTHER PRIDE DAY ON JULY 26 FROM 11A-2P

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON MAY 8, 2025, AT 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNED AT 7:55 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY SHOEMAKER. ALL AYE. CARRIED.