Town Board Member’s Present: Roger Reep, Mike Crandall, Crystal McCannon, Bill Deming and Garrett Dupree

Absent:

Public Attendance: Callie Perry, Kevin Putman, Lynda Reep, James Bixby, Linda Swan, Brad Drake, Richard Biggio, Mike Perry, Jennifer Baker, & Bob Nichols

7:00 pm: Roger Reep called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports Submitted:

Town Clerk, Code Enforcement, Highway, Supervisor, Historian, Court & Dog Control.

Announcement:

Rabies Clinic – Approximately sixty (60) dogs and twenty (20) cats were vaccinated. Two dogs named Buck and Patty were found running free around the Highway Department. Both of their owners were found.

Minutes:

July, August, September and October were reviewed.

**Motion by Mike Crandall**

To approve the minutes for July – October.

**Seconded by Bill Deming**

**All in favor.**

Business:

Brad Drake submitted a letter declining the tax exemption offered to firefighters.

Bob Nichols is in attendance to give updates on the 2025 County Budget. Increase of 1.76%, totaling $259,696,215. Taxes were raised by $53,750,393. State and Federal Aide sales tax and money from DMV estimated at $205,945,821. Salary increases higher than normal. Approximately 8-10%. Vacant positions are always funded because they are eventually filled. To keep under the 2% tax cap, they only funded six (6) months instead of the usual twelve (12) months. Office of the Aging was a 4.98% increase. Education was 11.71%, which includes special children’s services, education costs, college tuition. Steuben County pays half the college tuition for Steuben County residents going to a Community College within the County. Sales tax is even. No increase. Social service and Veteran’s increase was 4.98%. Governor Hochul has just raised what is paid for college fees, but not room and board. Transportation is down 8% with a budget of $11 million.

Linda Swan asked if these were standard for all Counties or just Steuben and Bob said it is State-wide. She also asked who received the 8-10% pay increase. Bob advised that they hired a firm to evaluate salaries within Steuben County and compare them to surrounding counties. There is a grid that they follow comparing education, how long you’ve been in your position, etc. When the funding was cut for vacant positions, we applied that to the raise increases. The County is short on people who have CDL’s since the pandemic. They are starting a program to help obtain your CDL. Town’s can participate in the program. Illegals are not showing up at the welfare office. Homeless numbers are increasing. Social Services and aging is up $1,807,793., from last year. Hotel rates are $85 per night. Situations that are long-term are housed in monthly rental units. Spending on housing is $300,000 per month.

Bill Deming asked what the County is doing to correct the problem. Bob stated they have to do what New York State tells them to do. If temperatures drop to 32 degrees, they have to house them. It is a State Law. The County can make them go to training for employment and find them a job, but they can’t make them take the job. State reimburses 45%.

Richard Biggio suggested they find a different cost of living. Our military live in barracks all year long. They need to be made to live in barracks because our military do, not private $85 per night rooms. Bob said they can’t live together in barracks because some of the people are sex offenders, and you can’t place them with children.

Bill Deming stated that the County and the State need to work together and start doing something about this.

Public Hearing Open: Timber Harvest

The Code Enforcement Officer submitted a proposal for an amendment to the current Timber Harvest law. The Board did not agree with all of the regulations. They want to keep the current law and add verbiage regarding the landing. When stipulations are added, it gets pushed to the Planning Board and every situation is different. The Highway Superintendent will review and decide what is acceptable. The landing should state they have to load from the road with a 25-foot right-of-way. If Superintendent has an issue with the logging, then he will hand it over to the Town Supervisor who will then meet with the Code Enforcement Officer. The Contract of Indemnity is to be approved by the Town or its representative leaving the amount open to each individual situation. The Board agrees the current law needs revisions. Once completed, it will come before the Town Board for approval.

Public Hearing – Junk & Refuse

There are major issues in Town with garbage and junk all over properties. It devalues the neighboring properties. The Town Supervisor would like to have a separate meeting regarding this law.

**Motion by: Mike Crandall**

To close Public Hearings.

**Seconded by: Crystal McCannon**

**All in favor.**

The Town Supervisor met with the Planning Board Chairman, and they agreed that the Zoning Law needs to be updated. The Solar Law is in its rough draft stage and is due by the next meeting in December.

The 2025 Budget was adopted and was increased by five (5) percent. Everyone did a great job working together to get it done and to the County on time.

The final union contract was received and reviewed. It needs to be signed and sent back.

**Motion by: Mike Crandall**

To approve payment for the General account’s bills in the amount of $69,074.79.

**Seconded by: Crystal McCannon**

**All in favor.**

**Motion by: Garrett Dupree**

To approve payment for the Highway account’s bills in the amount of $53,303.12.

**Seconded by: Mike Crandall**

**All in favor.**

The Town Supervisor would like the Board members to complete a minimum of four (4) hours training pertaining to their positions. The Planning Board is currently required to complete four (4) hours of training. The Bookkeeper is to complete training as well. Certificates of completion should be filed with the Town Clerk.

Sexual harassment training is required by NYS and is offered by NYMIR.

Solar Law – all Attorney fees are to be paid by the Developer and/or landowner. This should be included on the cover page of the application.

Mike Crandall asked that they have an executive session.

**Motion by: Garrett Dupree**

To adjourn.

**Seconded by: Mike Crandall**

**All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted.

Callie Perry

Lindley Town Clerk