**Town of Bellmont**

**Regular Meeting**

**July 21 , 2025**

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Bellmont, County of Franklin and State of New York was held at the Owls Head Fire Station on July 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:** Sara Titus Town Supervisor

Gregory Langdon Councilman

Jeff Manley Councilman

Wayne Rogers Councilman

Harley Titus Councilman

Lee Davis Highway Superintendent

Stacey Mailloux Bookkeeper

Lisa Vanier Town Clerk

Candy Charland, Earl Livernois, John Jungbluth, Bruce Burditt, Several Involved Community Members

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting made by Jeff Manley, seconded by Greg Langdon. Motion carried.

**Owls Head Mountain View Community Connections**

Earl Livernois, President of the Owls Head Mountain View Community Connections, presented progress on the Center. This not-for-profit organization was recently approved by the American Red Cross as an official Emergency Shelter, the only one in the Town of Bellmont. They are ADA compliant, and the Community Center can be rented for private functions. They always welcome advisors and volunteers, and are searching out 3 board members. Mr. Livernois requests the Town plow out the parking lot and consideration in next year’s Town budget. Lee Davis, Highway Superintendent, will look into the protocol regarding plowing.

**Mountain View Association**

Bruce Burditt gave an update on ProCella application and weed abatement in Mountain View Lake and Indian Lake.

John Jungbluth, President of the Association, proposed the creation of a new district, the Indian Lake Mountain View Water Quality District. The Association is willing to take on the petition work. The Town needs to pass a resolution before that occurs. A resolution cannot be made before proper research is complete.

**Supervisor’s Financial Report dated June 30, 2025**

Copies of the monthly financial reports were distributed to the board with additional copies available for the public in attendance.

Motion made to accept the Town Supervisor’s Financial Report by Wayne Rogers, seconded by Jeff Manley, motion carried.

**Highway Superintendent’s Report**

* The Town received approximately $240,000.00 in CHIPS money in July

and is slated to receive approximately $200,000.00 in September.

* There were some mechanical issues with the mower. Bellmont Center should be finished in about 4 days, then the mowing will begin again in Owls Head.
* The Gazebo and glass display case at Forge Dam have been vandalized.
* Road signs are being stolen or vandalized.
* There is much trash and litter on the roadside.
* The vandalized tables at the Brainardsville Park have been repaired.

**Town Supervisor’s Report**

* The Town has a $1000.00 deductible, so submitting the vandalism to insurance is futile.
* On July 30, 2025, Supervisor Titus is meeting in Owls Head with Andrea Smith, External Affairs Manager with National Grid regarding the streetlights. Ms. Smith also shared the Streetlight Portal where citizens can report issues with streetlights. That portal is accessible on the Town of Bellmont website.
* Robert Ball, Assessor, was appointed to finish the term of former assessor, Amy Hewitt. This term ends in September.

A motion was made by Jeff Manley to appoint Robert Ball as assessor for a 6-year term. Seconded by Greg Langdon. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Food Pantry:** The Town received a $900.00 grant, and a $100.00 donation from David Stewart.

**Highway:** Both crews are working well and smoothly. The buildings need to be power washed. The Town is awaiting bids on a dehumidifying system and gutters for Bellmont Center Garage.

**Insurance:** Nothing new to report.

**Old Business:**

Supervisor Titus shared the Short Environmental Assessment Form regarding a proposed Beekeeping Local Law. Copies are available upon request from the Town Clerk.

**Resolution #9**

**TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BELLMONT**

**COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, STATE OF NEW YORK**

Resolution Number 9 of 2025

Adopted July 21, 2025

Introduced by Harley Titus

who moved its adoption.

Seconded by Wayne Rogers

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED**

**LOCAL LAW REGULATING BEEKEEPING**

**WHEREAS**,pursuant to Section 10 of Municipal Home Rule Law and the Town Law of the State of New York, the Town Board (the “Town Board”) of the Town of Bellmont (the “Town”) has the authority to adopt local laws to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds and determines that it is necessary and proper for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town to regulate beekeeping in the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been brought to the attention of the Town Board that the unregulated keeping of bees has the potential to negatively impact the safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, a draft local law regulating beekeeping in the Town has been drafted and reviewed by the Town Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of a moratorium constitutes an unlisted action under the State

Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and part 1 if the environmental assessment form has been provided at this meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board wishes to introduce said local law and schedule a public hearing thereon.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby introduces the proposed local law regulating beekeeping in the Town, a copy of which is attached to this resolution; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes delivery of and acceptance of a copy of said Local Law by email to each Town Board member, which email address shall be kept by the Town Clerk as the official email address of such Town Board members and posted by the Town Clerk on the Town Board’s official bulletin board; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing to be held on August 18, 2025 following another Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. at the Owls Head Fire Station, on said proposed local law and directs the Town Clerk to publish notice thereof in the official newspaper of the Town and to post said notice of public hearing no less than five (5) days before said public hearing; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Gregory Langdon Aye

Jeffrey Manley Aye

Wayne Rogers Aye

Harley Titus Aye

Sara Titus Aye

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lisa Vanier – Town Clerk

**Public Comment**

Jerry Hickey expressed concern about derelict property on the Bryant Siding Road.

H. Bruce Russell requested the Town use the Owls Head Mountain View Community Center for the meetings held in Owls Head. The acoustics of the Fire Station make it difficult to hear. He also expressed concerns regarding 2 properties, one is a junkyard and a second has many disabled unregistered vehicles.

Jennifer Okunuk expressed concern about an increase in taxes for the Mountain View Indian Lake Water District. Ms. Okunuk suggested the Town Boat Launch and Beach should be privatized, and perhaps offer season passes for non-residents to use the facilities.

Kelly Spence favors the idea of a gated boat launch and perhaps charging for use to non-residents.

Ellen Wahl wondered why the Town is creating a possible town law regarding Apiaries. Councilman Rogers responded sharing some of the issues with bee hives in the Town.

Barbara Hart believes everyone in the Town should be sharing the tax burden of the water, dam, and light districts in Owls Head and Mountain View because so many outsiders also use these resources.

Kevin Sigourney has unusable water frontage, and believes it is unfair that only waterfront residents pay for the Dam and Water districts.

H. Bruce Russell shared the 1960 Water District was created to address problems of the day and even those in the District that do not live on the lakes would be affected if the water levels were not regulated.

Jerry Hickey opposes gating the boat launch and would like to see a way for non-resident users to contribute financially.

**Town Clerk Report**

Income: Dog Licenses = $36.00 Bingo = $7.41

Disbursements: NYS Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Program = $4.00

The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held at the Owls Head Fire Station on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. The location may change to the Owls Head Mountain View Community Center.

A motion was made to audit and pay vouchers General Fund Abstract #6 Vouchers #133 - 165 in the amount of $110,047.89 and Highway Fund Abstract #6 Vouchers #91 - 119 in the amount of $571,974.99. Motion was made by Jeff Manley, seconded by Greg Langdon, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Harley Titus, seconded by Greg Langdon, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.