**Town of Bellmont**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 17, 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 Bellmont Town Offices on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:** Sara Titus Town Supervisor

 Jeff Manley Councilman

 Wayne Rogers Councilman

 Harley Titus Councilman

 Lee Davis Highway Superintendent

 Stacey Mailloux Bookkeeper

 Lisa Vanier Town Clerk

 Candy Charland, David Stewart, Pat Maguire, Jessica Burditt, Maitland Robinson

**Absent**: Gregory Langdon, Councilman

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

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Regular Meeting made by Wayne Rogers, seconded by Jeffrey Manley. Motion carried.

**Insurance**

Pat Maguire and Jessica Burditt from One Group (formerly Sid G. Spear) presented the NYMIR Insurance Renewal. The premiums increased 9.31%, from $38,953.14 in 2024 to $42,581.48 in 2025. Part of the increase is due to the new infrastructure for the Brainardsville Sewer Project.

**AES Wind Presentation**

Maitland Robinson from AES Wind Repowering Project shared information and answered questions of the Board. The plan is to decommission the existing towers and rebuild taller towers, replacing 3 old towers with 1 new tower. They have sited 4 towers in the Town of Bellmont, but may only build 1. The ultimate goal is to replace 200 current towers in all the local wind power projects with 70 larger, more efficient towers. The host towns receive $1.00 per megawatt produced. Eric Gustafson, of Pease & Gustafson LLP, is working on the Host Agreement on the Town’s behalf. AES Wind will submit the necessary permits in May, with possible construction beginning toward the end of 2026.

The Highway Supervisor expressed concern about damage to local roads and highways. The Cooper Road may be the only affected road. Typically there is an escrow account created within the host agreement negotiations to cover the costs of any damage. This will be addressed by Attorney Eric Gufstafson.

**Supervisor’s Financial Report dated February 28 , 2025**

* The Brainardsville Sewer Project is paid to date. The Town is waiting for Fiacco to complete the project, plumb the water line, and go on-line.

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 Jeffrey Manley, seconded by Harley Titius, motion carried.

**Highway Superintendent’s Report**

* The Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment webinars were completed by the employees.
* The insurance claim for the 2023 Western Star plow truck in Owls Head is in the works. The replacement equipment is on order.
* The John Deere tractor is still at United Ag & Turf. Because of the nature of the repair United Ag & Turf had to bring in different expert technicians. The original quote for repairs was $3,000.00. The final bill was $21,000.00. The Highway Superintendent is working with Corporate to get them to honor the quoted repair estimate.
* Hyde Stone Mechanical Contractors are preparing a bid for the air exchange system for the Bellmont Center Garage.
* Highway Superintendent Lee Davis attended the Advocacy Day for Local Roads CHIPS Program in Albany on March 5.
* Mountain View Bridge has been closed due to an impact from a motor vehicle. The repairs are the responsibility of the County.
* Three 8-foot pick-up beds from F350 trucks are available for sale. The Town of Constable requested 1. If both Towns submit Shared Services to NY State, the Town can receive reimbursement.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Manley for shared services with the Town of Constable for 1 F350 pick-up bed. Seconded by Harley Titus. Motion carried.

**Town Supervisor’s Report**

* A motion was made by Wayne Rogers for the Town Supervisor to fill out and submit the 2025 Polling Site Agreement. Seconded by Harley Titus. Motion carried.
* NYSLRS needs the Town to submit a new standard work day resolution. An original due date of May 31, 2025 was issued however the town officials listed in the request have not submitted a record of activities (ROA) and therefore an extension was requested and granted. Town officials named in the request will need to submit a 3 month log of time spent on town matters, which will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's office.
* All department heads (Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Tax Collector, Assessor, Town Clerk) need to complete a cyber training webinar at least once per quarter. These are offered freely through our insurance provider, NYMIR, via webinars. Once completed, a certificate of completion, or a print out of which webinar was attended, should be given to the Town Supervisor to keep on file. Participating in ongoing cyber training aids the towns efforts in obtaining cyber insurance with each year's renewal policy.
* The town's website has been updated and is now being continually maintained by our Town Clerk. As the Town will be embarking on a reevaluation imminently it is recommended to put information on the website educating residents on how equalization rates are calculated, their effect on tax rates, etc., as all town officials will most likely get phone calls from residents with questions.
* Town Justice Glenda King has reached out to Lee Mulverhill to assist in the role of Court Clerk. Leigh Mulverhill is making sure there is no conflict of interest.

Jeffrey Manley made a motion to pay the Temporary Court Clerk contractually at a rate of $20 per hour for a maximum of 5 hours per month. Seconded by Wayne Rogers. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Food Pantry:** Nothing new to report

**Highway:** Nothing new to report

**Insurance:** See Insurance Renewal above

**Old Business**

The Town is researching the potential to create a Local Law regarding apiaries. As Bellmont does not have zoning, the Town may be limited in the scope of conditions placed within a law regulating apiaries. Beekeepers are currently required to register their hives with New York State on an annual basis and compliance is monitored by the code enforcement officer. Guidance will be sought from Town Attorney Matt Fuller on what can be drafted into law given there is no existing language in the Building Code Law of 2006.

**New Business**

Resolution: Employment and Hiring within Town / Home Rule Law

Tabled.

**Public Comment**

David Stewart informed the Board that the APA has sent notification to homeowners in Mountain View so the application of Procella can proceed.

**Town Clerk Report**

Income: Dog Licenses = $95.00

 Bingo = $525.00

 Certified Copies = $20.00

Disbursements: NYS Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Program = $10.00

 NY State Comptroller = $315.00

The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held at the Bellmont Town Hall on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bellmont Town Hall in Brainardsville.

A motion was made to audit and pay vouchers General Fund Abstract #2 Vouchers #36 - 59 in the amount of $119,237.14 and Highway Fund Abstract #2 Vouchers #21 - 36 in the amount of $714,803.24. Motion was made by Jeffrey Manley, seconded by Harely Titus, motion carried.

Motion to move into Executive Session made by Jeffrey Manley, seconded by Wayne Rogers. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session made by Wayne Rogers, seconded by Harley Titus. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting made by Jeffrey Manley, seconded by Harley Titus, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.