**Town of Bellmont**

**Regular Meeting**

**April 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 Bellmont Town Offices on Monday, April 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

 Lisa Vanier Town Clerk

 Candy Charland, David Stewart, Anne Waling and David Hejl from TerraGen

**Absent**: Lee Davis, Highway Superintendent, Stacie Maillloux, bookkeeper

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

Motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2025 Regular Meeting made by Jeff Manley, seconded by Wayne Rogers. Motion carried.

**Anne Waling of Terra Gen Wind shared progress on the North Country Wind Project.**

Tentatively permits will be in place by the end of the year. The federal government is not currently reviewing new wind projects.) There will be 64 to 87 new turbines each producing 297 to 360 megawatts. Three towers will be in the town of Bellmont, 2 at 588 feet and 1 at 697 feet. A sound study is in progress. The towers produce less than 45 decibels of sound, less than the 50 decibels in the Town’s wind law. Engineering is almost complete. Wetland cleanup is complete. FAA requests have been met. The layout will be presented to the public in June.

**Supervisor’s Financial Report dated March 31, 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 Jeff Manley, seconded by Harley Titus, motion carried.

**Highway Superintendent’s Report**

* Absent

**Town Supervisor’s Report**

* The rate of pay for the Data Collector has been established as $20.00 per hour for base pay, with a higher rate of pay based on experience. The job will be posted again in the Malone Telegram.
* Janet Collier form the Department of Agriculture reached out regarding the need for the Town to contract with a dog shelter to shelter dogs collected by Jim McHugh, Town of Bellmont Animal Control Officer.

Motion to contract with the Town of Bangor to shelter dogs collected by the Animal Control Officer made by Wayne Rogers, Seconded by Jeff Manley. Motion carried.

The Town Supervisor will sign a contract with Town of Bangor.

* The Association of Towns contacted the Town Supervisor regarding a town logo. The Supervisor shared some ideas for a logo.
* The Town Supervisor will be on vacation from 5/3/25 to 5/12/25. She will bring the town computer and can be reached on cell phone. The Bookkeeper will collect the mail for the Town.
* The intersection project for State Route 374, County Route 24, and State Route 190 has an anticipated start time of the end of May.
* County Route 24 is being paved.
* State Route 374 may be on the list of repaired roads also.
* Adam King is contracted for mowing in the Town. The current contract pays $990 per month for the months of Juns, July, August, and September. He is asking to extend the contract to include May with added pay for that month. The Board wishes to maintain a four month span of time, starting the last week of May and ending the third week of September.
* The Town now has an Amazon Business Prime account. The $1300.00 fees have been waved. A tax exempt letter has been submitted.
* The Association of Towns has partnered with SUNY Potsdam to offer courses leading to a certification for working in town governments.
* There is a new state regulation requiring municipal websites to have .gov. The Town Supervisor and Town Clerk will collaborate to make this happen.

**Committee Reports**

**Food Pantry:**

 Families are getting fewer groceries. The Federal government has halted $500,000,000 that had been allocated to food banks, and $12 billion allotted to school breakfast and lunch programs. Councilman Wayne Rogers will contact Elyse Stefanic regarding the detrimental effect this is having on our food pantry.

There is a new system in place for placing orders.

There are several new families receiving services.

**Highway:**

There is a new hire for the Owl’s Head road crew. Another possible candidate for the second position is being interviewed. This candidate already holds a CDL license.

1st quarter fuel logs have been filed with the Town Clerk.

**Insurance:**

The Town Supervisor is working on getting logins for the Cyber Security training.

**Old Business**

The Town Supervisor shared a list of requirements to include in a local law regarding apiaries. She will share it with the Town Attorney, Matt Fuller, and he will draft a local law.

**New Business**

The Frontier Harvest Fund is offering grants to local farmers.

The Town received correspondence from the DEC rating the Forge Dam as “Unsound – Fair”. The Town Supervisor is reaching out to Steve Rose at the DEC for information on the Annual Certification and information for an engineer who will assist in developing an emergency preparedness plan. The Water Level Control Board consists of 3 towns: Bellmont, Chateaugay, and Ellenburg, and is chaired by Don Bilow. The Supervisor and Councilman Jeff Manley will reach out to inform the Chair.

**Public Comment**

David Stewart shared concerns about the Owls Head light district. Many of the lights are not working. One light that was reported to National Grid has been repaired, but 5 reported lights on Beach Road have yet to be repaired. A contract has been signed to have the bulbs changed, but no action has taken place. There has been dramatic increase in the bills, but a lack of service.

Mr. Stewart also reports that the Mountain View Lake Association is proceeding with the Procella application and Chateaugay Lake Association just applied for its 2nd application of Procella.

**Town Clerk Report**

Income: Dog Licenses = $72.00, Genealogy = $32.00

Disbursements: NYS Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Program = $8.00

The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held at the Bellmont Town Hall on Monday, May 19 , 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 #3 Vouchers #60 - 90 in the amount of $31,455.28 and Highway Fund Abstract #3 Vouchers #37 - 58 in the amount of $55,026.96. Motion was made by Jeff Manley, seconded by Harley Titus, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Wayne Rogers, seconded by Greg Langdon, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.