

**TOWN OF BERNE
ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

7:00PM Regular Town Board Meeting

OPEN TOWN BOARD MEETING & ROLL CALL

Deputy Supervisor Doolin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance and took attendance, Deputy Supervisor Doolin, Councilmembers Duncan, Councilmember Miller, Highway Superintendent Stempel, Town Attorney McHugh Town Clerk De Oliveira & Deputy Town Clerk Herrera were all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Miller seconded by Councilmember Duncan to accept and approve the meeting minutes of the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, laCour, and Miller all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Heigel An ex-employee raised concerns regarding retirement reporting errors that may have affected multiple Town employees. The individual stated they received a notice from New York State Taxation and Finance assessing additional taxes and penalties due to discrepancies in retirement contribution reporting and believes the issue resulted from Town payroll reporting errors rather than employee actions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway Department Highway Superintendent Allen Stempel thanked Highway Clerk Patty Boice for her hard work in securing \$1000 in grant funds for tools from the Bank of Greene County. He also spoke of generating \$10,000 of revenue for the highway fund from scrapping some old material to do a clean up.

Transfer Station- Councilmember Bunzey discussed his commitment to the transfer station but did state that due to some recent injuries and personal mishaps he would be on hold with the business of conducting however the plan moving forward with the established Transfer Station Committee is to reduce fees, recycle

Library Director Kathy Stempel was not present but requested Town Clerk De Oliveira to remind the public of the upcoming event on June 13 at 2PM the Lost Radio Rounders who would be sharing Revolution stories.

Planning Board Chairman Steve Khoury said the Planning Board had been discussing the upcoming readoption of the comprehensive plan and reviewing any changes they may suggest to the Town Board.

Parks & Recreation Parks and Recreation Chair Mary Claire Ansbro added that the park pavilion would now be locked unless rented to ensure cleanliness, and safety for those at the Town Park, she reiterated that there was another covered table area with a grill that can be utilized. She was happy to share that the Town Park water had been tested and was in fact drinkable and signs had been taken down.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept Resignations of Two Full Time Employees

A motion was made by Councilmember Bunzey, seconded by Councilmember Miller, to accept the resignation of Patrick Hannan Full Time Highway Equipment Operator and Dennis Ryan Buildings and Maintenance Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

CEO Applicant and Job Opening for the Town of Berne

Discussion was led by Councilmember Miller who interviewed Jarrett Carroll earlier in the week, who currently serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals. motion was made by Councilmember Duncan seconded by Councilmember Miller to table, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

The opportunity for public comment was given by Michael Vincent, long time active member of the Town of Berne and the Planning Board told he was disappointed to hear the news and the loss of two good employees. He also said that the role of a CEO is not an easy job and that it is not always what you say rather how you say it.

James Bushnell previous Town Building inspector complimented the Town Board on their professionalism and spoke of his submitted application and resume and confirmed that it was received.

Retainer Agreement with Town Attorney & Engineer Extension

A motion was made by Councilmember laCour seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to extend the agreements with both Town Engineer Lamont and Town Attorney George McHugh for one month to be addressed at the next Town Board meeting, Councilmember Miller to table, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

Motion Advertise for Seasonal Part Time Parks & Recreation Hire

Councilmember laCour made a motion seconded by Councilmember Duncan to authorize Town Clerk De Oliveira to advertise for a part time hire up to 10 hours a week to run through October for mowing and weekend availability at the Town Park to clean up between pavilion rentals at a rate of \$20.50 Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

Approve Highway Purchase Order Increase for William Larned & Sons

A motion was made by Councilmember Duncan, seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to increase Purchase Order No. 26-00406 for William Larned & Sons to \$10,000 from account DA-15-5110-0000-044999, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

Accept Bank of Green County Grant Funds of \$1000

Councilmember laCour made a motion to accept \$1000 from The Bank of Grene County in an amount of \$1000 for machinery for the highway department seconded by Councilmember Miller, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

Motion to Hire Full Time Equipment Operator for the Highway

A motion was made by Councilmember laCour by Councilmember Bunzey , to Hire Larry Page as a full-time Highway Department employee a full-time Union employee for the Highway department at \$26.79 (effective 06/10/2026),40 hours a week with accruals, healthcare benefits FLSA nonexempt, civil service exempt employee (probationary period over effective today and accruals will start today) Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

APPROVAL / DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Councilmember Duncan made a motion seconded by Councilmember Miller, to accept the following monthly financial reports including- Supervisor's Financial Report, Town Clerk's Report, Building & Zoning Report as presented, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Abstract 12 – Vouchers 359-398 – \$11,677.93
Abstract 13 – Vouchers 399-420 – \$23,820.84
Abstract 14 – Vouchers 421-472 – \$93,653.36
Abstract 15 – Vouchers 473-501 – \$18,536.00
Total Abstracts: \$147,688.13

A motion was made by Councilmember Miller and seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to approve payment of the abstracts as presented, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye. Councilmember Bunzey made a motion to pay bills seconded by Councilmember Miller, Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye

June 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Miller seconded by Councilmember Duncan to adjourn the meeting- Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miler all voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira
Town Clerk, Town of Berne