

**State of New York
Albany County**

Regular Town Board Meeting

Town Supervisor Palow led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with the following roll call attendance: Councilmembers Doolin, Giebelhaus and Palow were present, also in attendance Town Clerk De Oliveira and Highway Superintendent Bashwinger.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to accept the draft meeting minutes from June 11, 2025, Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Giebelhaus & Doolin voting aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

July 4th Fireworks

Supervisor Palow allowed Parks & Recreation Chair Mary Claire Ansbro to speak and she stated that the event was highly successful with 300-400 attendees. Activities included free pony rides, cotton candy, ice cream, glow sticks, and bubbles for kids. Supervisor Palow also added there were food trucks (e.g., Smoking Pig and the Cookie House).

MVP Update

Supervisor Palow stated the equipment had delivered and stored thank you to Highway Superintendent Bashwinger who unloaded the tractor trailer delivery. Construction is to begin the third week of July, and drainage has already started. Supervisor Palow anticipates the meeting at the town park in September with the new workout area

Kenneth's Army

Mary Claire Ansbro spoke on half of the Annual Kenneth's Ride and said despite poor weather, the turnout was decent and activities included DJ trivia, activities, prizes. The fundraiser was able to raise \$3000 which will allow Kenneth's Army to adopt a student as they do annually. She also presented a \$250 donation to the town park.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway- Superintendent Randy Bashwinger gave a shout out to Highway Clerk Patty Boice for her hard work and securing a \$2000 grant for safety equipment for the Town of Berne from Bank of Greene County.

Library- Director Kathy Stempel stated summer reading signs are continuing with about 60 kids so far, reminded residents of music in the park every Wednesday at 6:30PM. July 26 author and illustrator Matt McElligott will be at the library at 3PM.

Parks & Recreation- Parks and Recreation Chair Ansbro said the Town Park was looking great and thanked the Highway and Parks and Recreation department for all of their hard work

Planning Board- Chairman Steve Khoury discussed about new site visit for a potential liquor store in East Berne. Discussion was had regarding a cannabis dispensary regarding revenue concerns and unauthorized cannabis sales.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Chairman Donald Bauer had emailed a report prior to the meeting discussing two pending variances that will be addressed at the next meeting.

Transfer Station

Highway Superintendent discussed concerns around the increasing landfill tipping fees as well as trash management concerns. Various suggestions were debated in alleviating budgetary costs as well as patrolling who is using the transfer station, ideas included hang-tag systems, proof of residency checks using ID, punch cards with set usage limits. No final resolution; discussion to continue.

OLD BUISNESS

QUOTES FOR PAVILION DOORS

Supervisor Palow discussed the conversation from last year with regard to doors for the back of the pavilion that could be utilized to completely enclose it. He requested Highway Superintendent get quotes for possible door options.

ASSESSOR APPLICANTS

Supervisor Palow discussed the applicants for the Office of the Assessor. He asked the Town Board to please review their resumes and letters of intent and call them to conduct phone interviews before the next meeting.

DISCUSS/APPROVE ZBA VACANCY

Supervisor Palow also pointed out that with Donald Bauer becoming chairman recently for the Zoning Board of Appeals there was now an open seat for a board member. He asked that the Town Board consider applicants and be prepared to vote next month.

NEW BUSINESS

PAY STEEL SALES FOR CULVERTS \$5,492.28

Supervisor Palow discussed two invoices from Steel Sales for the purchase of culvert pipes totaling \$5,492.28 and made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve for payment,

APPROVE 284 FORMS

Highway Superintendent Bashwinger discussed CHIPS Funding for the fiscal year and the plan to allocate money to pave Sawmill Road and Irish Hill where they left off last year. Since 2014 the Highway Department has been able to use 2.6 million dollars paving roads since 2014. Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the 284 Forms for Irish Hill in an amount not to exceed \$58,000 and Sawmill Road in an amount not to exceed \$118,000 with a total of \$176,000 allocated, Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin, Giebelhaus, and laCour all voting aye. Town Highway Superintendent Bashwinger as well as the Councilmembers signed the 284 Forms to be filled with the Town Clerk.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Reports from June 2025 seconded by Councilmember Doolin including: • Packet A – Abstracts • Packet B- Budget to Actual Reports Supervisors' reports for revenue per fund, Supervisor's reports for expenditures per fund and budget transfers report if required. • Packet C – Bank Reconciliations and bank statements for June • Packet D - Cash balance report and Balance sheet Report motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin and Giebelhaus all voting aye.

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's Financial Report from June 2025 seconded by Councilmember Doolin motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin and Councilmember Giebelhaus voting aye.

July 9, 2025

Supervisor Palow made a motion to accept the Building and Zoning's Financial Report from June 2025 seconded by Councilmember Doolin, motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin and Giebelhaus voting aye.

APPROVING ABSTRACTS AND PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

After discussion, Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to approve the following abstracts and payment of bills:

Abstract #19 (332-335 & 348) \$17, 817.74 Regular Abstracts
Abstract #20 (336 & 346) \$70,713.24 Prepaid Electronic Payment
Abstract #21 (347 & 372) \$13,347.52 Regular Abstracts for Board Approval
Abstract #22 (373 & 387) \$11,315.51 Regular Abstract for Board Approval
Total Abstracts \$111,000.75

Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmember Doolin and Councilmember Giebelhaus voting aye.

GENERAL FUND, HIGHWAY FUND, SEWER, UTILITIES WITHHOLDINGS FOR 2025

Supervisor Palow a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to authorize payment of bills -motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin and Giebelhaus all voting aye.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Town Supervisor Palow thanked the Town Board and Town Clerk for their hard work and made the motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow and Councilmembers Doolin and Giebelhaus all voting aye. The meeting adjourned at **7:41PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk

July 9, 2025