

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD**

**TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN  
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD,  
STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168  
AUGUST 19, 2024**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by *Supervisor P. Roder* at **7:01 PM** at the Town Hall.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*(X) Supervisor Philip (PJ) Roder*

*(X) Council Diana Clark*

*(X) Council Kyle Kidney*

*(X) Council John E. DeFreest Jr.*

*(X) Council Tammy Madden*

*(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman*

*(X) Alden Goodermote, Highway Superintendent*

*(X) Jennifer Van Deusen, Assessor*

*(X) Owen Cassavaugh, Code Enforcement Officer*

*(X) Chris Langlois, Town Legal Council*

A quorum (X) was ( ) wasn't established.  
6 from the Public were present

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

- Claim #186-24 through #203-24 in the amount of \$19,697.05 to be approved from the **General Account**
- Claim #124-24 through #144-24 in the amount of \$19,819.29 to be approved from the **Highway Account**
- For a **Total of \$39,516.34** audited and approved by the Town Board.

**MOTION BY: MADDEN**

**SECONDED BY: KIDNEY**

**VOTES OF: 5 AYE**

**0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED**

Minutes of the **July 15, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting** were approved by the Town Board as written.

**MOTION BY: MADDEN**

**SECONDED BY: DEFREEST JR.**

**VOTES OF: 5 AYE**

**0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED**

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT:** The Town Clerk turned over the sum of **\$1,100.44** to the Supervisor for the month of **JULY 2024** (with a \$2.50 adjustment to JUNE 2024 Report for online dog licenses for a total of \$1,102.94).

**JUSTICE COURT REPORT:** The Town has not received a statement from the State Comptroller's for this month.

**TRANSFER STATION REPORT:** The Transfer Station deposited a total of **\$9,338.00** for the month of **JULY 2024**.

Bags: **\$6,934**

C&D & Metal: **\$2,265**

Tires: **\$54**

Stickers: **\$80**

Propane Tanks: **\$0**

**ACCOUNT TOTALS:**

**GENERAL \$995,744.08**

**HIGHWAY \$968,007.84**

**GENERAL RESERVE FUND \$912,730.94**

**HIGHWAY RESERVE FUND \$744,652.70**

**BEACON ESCROW \$ 885.19**

**BEACON ESCROW FOR PLANT (BOND) \$5,000 & \$70,000.**

### **MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*Reminders to All Participants who would like to speak: (this meeting is on Live Stream and is being recorded)*

- *Raise your hand prior to speaking*
- *Announce your name and the Town you reside in.*
- *There is a 3-to-5-minute window for each speaker per Resolution 1 of the fiscal year*
- *Any disruptive conduct will be addressed at any meeting if the Town Board is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible. The Chair (Town Supervisor) may recess the meeting or order the person, group or groups of persons willfully disrupting the meeting to leave the meeting or to be removed from the meeting. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board, repetitiously addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board from conducting its business.*

*Longroad Solar Representative and Design Engineer present a Solar Decommissioning Plan for a tentative solar field project "Milk Run Solar, LLC" to the Town Board. Said solar project is planned to be located on agricultural and wooded land located on New York Route 22 in Stephentown. See attached Decommissioning Plan that was provided to the Town Board.*

*Design Engineer provides a summary as to the process in which they are required to following regarding the approval for said solar project. It was explained that the approval of the decommissioning plan is the last step and is out of the Planning Board's purview, due to bonds having to be placed on such project the Town Board's approval of this plan is required. They requested that the Town Board approve the plan or at least accept the plan for Town Legal Counsel to review. The dismantling/decommissioning bond is to protect the Town should the company walk away.*

*T. Dormady (town resident) expressed concerns regarding the economic stability of the company and what would happen should the company file for Chapter 11, as some solar companies have been recently.*

*Longroad Representative reported that no financing would be provided until the contract is guaranteed.*

*Further discussion was made regarding the concerns of the bond amount and whether or not it would be enough should the company back away in 30 years.*

*Legal Counsel mentioned that the Town's contracted engineer for this project reported back today that they were comfortable with the plan and it can be further reviewed by the Board and Legal Counsel at this point, if the Board and Legal Counsel find no further concerns a draft agreement would then be drawn up. Legal Counsel reinsured that the figures provided would be reviewed and inflation will be considered during their review process.*

*Council DeFreest Jr. expresses several concerns regarding the decommissioning plan, specifically what is going to be left and removed and the amount of the bond. The plan specifically reads that equipment and materials will be left in the ground. Council DeFreest explains the environmental issues and problems this causes. His expressed little confidence in recycling solar panels in 30 years considering the world has still yet to figure out a way to get rid of plastic bottles. He reported that the bond amount is not enough to remove a field and contents in the ground. He suggested that the interest rate should have been pulled from the last 50 years not the last 30 years. The interest rate for the last 30 years (which includes the Great Recession), at 2.5% would make the bond short by approximately \$30,000. Council DeFreest suggested that the bond be relooked at and adjusted.*

*Design Engineer reported that this would be a business decision for Longroad.*

*Longroad Representative stated that she would look into it.*

*Supervisor Roder expressed concerns regarding the itemized list of the decommissioning plan, and asked if prevailing wages were considered when the figures were drawn up, as the Town would have to hire someone per NYS at prevailing wages.*

*Design Engineer reported that this is not the most extreme plan but they have never decommissioned a solar field to date.*

Supervisor Roder reported that the inflation rate today is higher than 2.5%. All valid concerns and need to be looked at further before the Board will consider.

Legal Counsel is in agreement and after resolving the issues discussed including the removal of all ground materials and changing the bond values and considering prevailing wages, it will go back to the Town Engineer for further review and can move forward once approved.

Longroad Representative reported that this solar field would be used for Community Solar programs and that they were hoping to begin the construction by the end of the year, possibly spring.

Code Enforcement Officer reported that the Planning Board would still need to review everything including the Decommissioning Plan after the Town Board's approval.

Youth Commission:

K. Roppolo, Library Director - reported that the Summer program was a great experience this year being held at the Fire Hall Pavilion, although the air conditioning was missed on the hot days and the connection with the Library. Attendance was the highest since COVID. The Director and Assistant Director pay will need to be looked at if you want to keep people.

Library update - numbers have been increasing. There will be an Ice Cream Sundae party this coming weekend, Blood Drive is full and scheduled for tomorrow, there will be FREE Emergency Supply Bags given out at the Fire Hall in November approximately 40 to 50 bags. J. Peabody will be providing FREE CPR classes to folks as well.

Fire Department:

J. Peabody also agreed that the location was great for the summer program, and mentioned the temporary fence that was put up could come down. (Highway Superintendent Goodermote reported that they would be over to remove the fence). 9/14 is Water Polo and will be held at the Fire Hall.

<b>Fire Department Report for July 2024</b>	
EMS with Transport:	18
EMS without Transport:	2
Motor Vehicle with Injury - Transport:	0
Motor Vehicle no injury:	1
Mutual Aid Given EMS:	1 and 1 call
Structure Fire:	0
EMS Unable to Respond:	0
Outdoor Fire:	1
Carbon Monoxide	1
False Alarm - system malfunction:	1
Mutual Aid Given Fire: (not included in total)	0
Special Incident - other: Weather Wires	14
Monthly Total:	41
YTD:	231

**RESOLUTION # 34 - 24**

**ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE TOWN COURT FINANCIALS**

WHEREAS: the State of New York Unified Court System requires that the Town Court financials be audited annually, and

WHEREAS: the Stephentown Town Board completed this audit for the Fiscal year 2023 on July 24th, 2024, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED: that the Stephentown Town Board accepts the audit for the fiscal year 2023 of the Stephentown Town Court as complete.

**MOTION BY: DeFreest Jr.**

**SECONDED BY: Clark**

**VOTES OF: 5 AYE**

**0 NAY**

**RESOLUTION #35 - 24**

**ADVERTISE FOR BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW POSITION**

**WHEREAS:** the Town Board would like to advertise for a Board of Review position that is due to expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and

**WHEREAS:** the Town board would like to request letters of interest and resumes for the 5-year term which is due to expire September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2029, now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board request the Town Clerk to advertise for said position, letters and resumes are to be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 7:00pm on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**MOTION BY: Clark**

**SECONDED BY: DeFreest Jr.**

**VOTES OF: 5 AYE**

**0 NAY**

*J. VanDeusen, Assessor – asked who's term was up.*

*S. Hoffman, Town Clerk – reported Frank May.*

*Supervisor Roder asked about the Town Hall door.*

*Council Kidney and Town Clerk provided an update that the insurance company has issued a check to cover the replacement of the door and that the door company has not scheduled a time yet to complete the work.*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:19 PM**

**MOTION BY: RODER**

**SECONDED BY: DEFREEST JR.**

**VOTES OF: 5 AYE**

**0 NAY**

\*\*The next **Workshop Meeting** will be held on **Monday, September 9, 2024** at 7:00PM at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168. **THIS MEETING WAS CANCELLED.**

\*\*The next **Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, September 16, 2024** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168.

*Stephanie M. Hoffman*

**Town Clerk**