

**Regular Meeting  
Town Board, Town of Glen  
December 12, 2022  
Held at Town of Glen Town Hall**

**In Attendance:**

Councilmember – Rosalie Farina  
Councilmember – Susan Whiteman  
Councilmember - Russ Kelly, Jr.  
Councilmember - Ronald Crewell  
Supervisor - Tim Reilly  
Town Attorney – William Mycek  
Town Clerk – Roxanne Douglass absent due to illness. Minutes recorded by S. Whiteman

Bills were audited and ordered paid as follows:

GENERAL OPERATING FUND – GA	\$ 51,360.45
GENERAL OPERATING FUND – GB	\$ 16,782.96
HIGHWAY OPERATING FUND – DB	\$ 56,290.99
WATER DISTRICT 1 OPERATING FUND	\$ 6,074.07
WATER DISTRICT 2 OPERATING FUND	\$ 5,167.23
SEWER DISTRICT 1 OPERATING FUND	\$ 3,039.95
SEWER DISTRICT 2 OPERATING FUND	\$ 5,273.84

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M by Supervisor Tim Reilly. Members of the board saluted the flag and held a moment of silence.

The first order of business was a call from Supervisor Reilly to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2022. A motion was sponsored by Councilmember Crewell and seconded by Councilmember Kelly – 5 voting aye – so approved.

**Resolution for Approval of Claims** – Sponsored by Councilmember Crewell, seconded by Councilmember Kelly –5 voting aye – so approved.

**Resolution #68** was proposed to schedule an end-of-the-year meeting for Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to close the books for 2022. Motion sponsored by Councilmember Crewell and seconded by Councilmember Kelly. Discussion was held on holding the meeting in the evening at 6:00 or later so the working public could attend. With 3 voting aye for 9:00 a.m. and 2 voting nay, the motion passed for meeting Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**Resolution #69** was proposed to approve Amendment the First (#1) of the Town Board Professional Agreement with Prime Engineering, relating to Riverside Drive Sanitary Sewer upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$14,950.00 and further authorizing the Supervisor to execute and sign said proposal.

Supervisor Reilly read the letter for the record. “Prime has completed the work under the original contract, therefore we propose the following scope of work for the men, and this Amendment Number One, to bring the project to completion. Prime will attend up to two meetings with the town as needed to discuss the preliminary project costs estimate and proposed schedule. Prepare final plans and specifications that will be bound into the project manual. Submit the project manual to the village of Fultonville and the New York State DEC.” (*See contract letter for complete text.*)

Motion sponsored by Councilmember Crewell and seconded by Kelly – 5 voting aye—so approved.

### **Supervisor Report**

1. November 30 -- Conference call with Verizon about communication, phone, and more. This was a cold call on their part as introduction to services offered. Some options seem desirable for the town.
2. December 1—In-office meeting with Metroland Business Machines (MBM). Discussed the postage metering and various types of machine options. We currently have a contract with FP Mailing Solutions. The current postage machine is manual and slow – clearly not time efficient. MBM offers an automatic meter and proposes to buy any contract that is remaining with our current machine at no charge. MBM’s machine would cost about \$90 more per month.
3. New Highway Department employee Nathaniel Collette. MEO -1 MEO-OH pre-employment drug testing was provided and passed.
4. Discussion with Town Assessor Stella Gittle regarding agricultural rollbacks of agriculture-exempt land converted to non-exempt land. It's a very big, complicated project. The owners of land taken out of *Agricultural Exemptions* need to refund the dollar amount of taxes not paid because the land was tax exempt and now is taxable.
5. Attended a workshop to begin the process of reevaluating the town’s Land Use Management Plan. Committee was formed and will meet regularly with Prime Engineering to update Town of Glen land use management and incorporate any new laws and zoning changes.
6. Contacted Fulton County Electric about receiving a quote on a heat-detection system for the Highway Garage. The risk management department of the town’s insurance company recommended that a heat detection system be installed. The detection system would recognize rising temperatures in the building and send an alert to the Sheriff’s Office, then the Sheriff’s Office would make the call to the Fire Department and Highway Department. The Town is currently awaiting estimates for the system from two vendors.

Councilmember Whiteman asked if the Metroland postage meter takes multiple sizes envelope.

Supervisors Reilly: Yes, it does and it will print stamps with adhesive backing. The current postage meter uses the internet, as will the new one.

Councilmember Whiteman asked if the heat-detection system would be in addition to smoke detectors. Councilmember Kelly said that smoke detectors are not effective in the highway garage where there are a lot of exhaust fumes and activities such as welding.

Councilmember Whiteman said that she and Mr. Crewell are on the Land Management committee which will have its phone conference meeting Tuesday, December 20.

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Councilmember Crewell began a discussion about reappointment for appointed position within the town. The Code Enforcer position was specifically mentioned. The board discussed whether all appointed positions should be advertised and request letters of interest.

Councilmember Kelly pointed out that every January the appointed positions are open and new appointments can be considered.

Councilmember Farina suggested that if we solicit a letter of interest, we should do so for all positions, not just one.

Councilmember Whiteman spoke about fact that many people who are appointed do not attend town board meetings. We need to ask people in town positions to attend meetings, communicate, and be available to the public.

Supervisor Reilly said that we have some dedicated people appointed to this town who serve the town well. Soliciting new appointees may discourage current position-holders from continuing to provide the good service to the town that they have done so far.

Supervisor Reilly said that Tom DiCaprio has offered some challenges both to the Planning Board and the Town Board. Mr. DiCaprio has been responsive to requested changes, and he visits the Town Hall twice a week at which time he and Supervisor Reilly review his report. Supervisor Reilly thinks he should attend at least the Planning Board meeting each of year, especially if there's a major project going on.

The board decided that further discussion about appointees should be moved to executive session.

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The motion was made to continue the discussion about appointment in executive session by Ron Crewell. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Farina – 5 voting aye—so approved.

A motion to amend the executive session meeting was proposed by Russ Kelly and seconded by Farina, moving the executive session to the end of the meeting after public comment. After the executive session the board will return statement “action taken” or “action not taken” and close the meeting—5 voting aye—so approved.

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### **Planning Board report** by Chairman JD Downing

At the last Planning Board meeting there was some confusion on the part of Western Supreme Buddhist as to why the board could not accept the two-year-old maps. The board sent an email to Western Supreme Buddhist, their engineering firm, and Prime Engineering noting that the Planning Board had changed the monthly meeting to December 22. Western Supreme Buddhist has until December 15 at 5:00 p.m. to provide maps showing their modified construction plans.

The Planning Board will hold a public meeting on December 22 regarding the Montgomery County Economic Development’s pending subdivision of the remaining un-developed portion of the Glen Business Park. The December meeting date was moved so that the County could send letters to all of the Ag District residents or boundaries within 500 feet. The County will keep the two parcels with wells. The remaining parcel (of approximately 200 acres—mostly wetland) is currently being farmed and this is what is being sold.

Sandra Hempstead is stepping down as Secretary after the first of the year. She is staying on the Board for now and will be available for the first quarter to help the incoming Secretary.

A gentleman called from Schenectady who plans to purchase a plot of land on Route 30A. The current landowner had informed him that the Town would construct on the land after eight plots were sold.

After conferring with Bill Beddig of the Town's Highway Department, it seems that no such agreement was made. Supervisor Reilly stated that town would not be interested in either building a road or maintaining a substandard road. The site currently has one and only one State-approved highway entrance. The State in previous years said that the property owner would need more entrances for subdivision development but, due to site line issues, additional entrances would not be approved.

**No Highway Department report** as Bill Beddig is temporarily unavailable.

**Historian Report:** Steve Helmin -- The year 2023 is the bicentennial of the Town of Glen. Helmin has been contacted by the one of our former historians who suggested that he reach out to the County Historian about planning an event. A committee will be created to plan and execute one or more bicentennial events. Summertime or late spring would be considered for the date. Twenty-five years ago a similar celebration was held on Memorial Day. Steve Helmin will take the lead.

**Sewer and Water Report:** Dennis Mihuka – In *District One*, Daim Logistics and the county's new DPW building will be coming online. Water usage will increase in District One.

Supervisor Reilly recapped that in October 2021 there was a meeting with the Department of Health concerning water testing. This past August the town received a letter from the Department of Health stating that we have to start collecting samples on a daily basis for chlorine residue from two different locations in both districts. "We don't add chlorine, we don't do anything to the water other than take meter readings. Everything is done through the village. It takes time and is a daily effort on the technician's part." Once-a-month bacteriological samples have to be provided as well. Dennis does the reading and Tim sends the result to the Department of Health in Herkimer County. We are working with Mr. Deming of the Health Department and hope to eliminate the need for chlorine readings.

**Assessor's Report** – Stella Gittle reported that nine towns in Schoharie County are suing New York State regarding new rules on solar farm taxation. The state had created a model that assessors were supposed to use to value of solar farms. The State of New York asked the courts basically to dismiss the lawsuit for a bunch of different reasons. "The state lost that little argument; they were smacked down; they lost in everything that they tried to fight against." The case is still making its way through the system. "At this point, we still don't have anything telling us how we're supposed to value the solar farm. So it states in the order that we're not supposed to use the model."

**Animal Control Officer** provided a report to the Town Clerk.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** did not meet.

Supervisor Reilly spoke about the fact that the court clerk has eight hours of comp time and some vacation days that will not carry over into 2023. The clerk will take vacation at the end of 2022, leaving 58 hours. The value would be \$2,218.50. The clerk puts in time either working nights for the DA or working extra hours to keep up.

Motion by Ron Crewell and seconded by Rosalie Farina to pay compensation clerk for 58 hours. No other discussion. – 5 ayes. The motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

**Speaker One:** (believe this was David Russo) Noticed that the minutes have not been posted since August.

Supervisor Reilly: I was not aware of that and they should be posted. The town clerk does send them over to the county and the county puts them up. I will check.

**JD Downing:** I hope that the town put some serious consideration into the website information that they were given eleven-and-a-half months ago for the town. The county website just doesn't work. ... We need to get the information posted for the public to know what's going on. ... The only way to educate the public is to inform the public.

In January 2023, I become the president of the volunteer fire department, and I'm putting out a public request to the town board and the public to come to the firehouse as a group and get an A-to-Z tour. ... I want to make sure that going forward, the communication between the fire department and Town Board will absolutely be 110% better.

**Steve Helmin** reports that the Climate Action Council is a week away from voting on the state climate action plan. I went to the meeting last Monday and am willing to share my notes with anyone interested. There's nothing in the plan that talks about a just transition. For example, a just transition is about making sure that gasoline workers and gasoline station workers find jobs. There are lots of other examples of the disruptions they think will occur going from a gasoline- to an electric-powered economy, and there is still no provision or understanding that there will be consequences in agriculture such as in the agriculture-service industry, the equipment dealers and the seed houses. One member of the Climate Action Committee wants to emphasize that the goal is to renounce fossil fuels and immediately prioritize sustainable energy. Ensuring the stability of the electric grid or energy economy are secondary to the fight against climate change. Not all members of the Climate Committee agreed with this.

The board moved to Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

The board returned from Executive Session at 8:47-- No Action Taken

Meeting Adjourned. 8:48 p.m.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Susan Whiteman for Roxanne Douglass 12/27/2022