

DRAFT COPY

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING BURTON HALL 7:00P.M.

PRESENT: Supervisor Shaw  
Councilwoman Lundberg  
Councilman Moy  
Councilman Brownell  
Councilman Herrick

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sharon Archambeault

OTHERS PRESENT: Highway Superintendent; Rich Fox, Bill Perry, Deputy Town Clerk; Meghan Phalen, Ann and Leith Schafer, Borrego Solar; Lindsey and ReJean

RESOLUTION#89-19

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGUALR MEETING 11/4/2019

RESOLVED on a motion by Councilwoman Lundberg, second by Councilman Herrick to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 11/4/2019 as written.

Adopted 5 Ayes                      Lundberg, Moy, Brownell, Herrick & Shaw

**PRESENTATION:** Borrego Solar; Lindsey informed the board that they have received approval from the Planning Board for the solar project located on State Route 40. Lindsey informed the board in order to obtain a building permit the board must accept the Decommissioning Bond. Councilman Moy asked about paying an attorney everytime something comes up about a solar project. Supervisor Shaw asked the board if they want to require a fee or have the attorney review the Decommissioning Bond. After discussion regarding the Decommissioning Bond the board agreed to have attorney Erica Ryan-Sellers review the Bond. Supervisor Shaw stated that Darby Solar informed him that they could not move forward with their project until the town opts back into the tax exemption. Supervisor Shaw asked Lindsey if this is something they are going to require. Lindsey said she is meeting with Assessor; John Violette tomorrow to discuss what they are going regarding taxing solar.

**COMMUNICATIONS; NONE**

RESOLUTION#90-19

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

RESOLVED on a motion by Councilman Brownell, second by Councilman Herrick to make payment on the following claims with the exception of Prestige and Tractor Supply.

No. 800-866	A FUND	\$
9,148.12		
	B FUND	\$
1,474.82		
	DA FUND	
\$14,155.39		
	DB FUND	
\$19,171.48		
	TOTAL	
\$43,949.81		

Voucher numbers that were not used

823,824,825,829,831,832,833,834,835,836,844,854,855,856,857,858,859,860,861,862,863,864

Adopted 5 Ayes

Lundberg, Moy, Brownell, Herrick & Shaw

**PUBLIC COMMENT-OPEN 7:21P.M.**

Ann Schafer- The Intervale Rd.- Ann stated to the board that her road was not plowed in a timely manner on Monday morning.

Leaves for work at 4:30am.

Highway Superintendent; Rich stated that they go out at 4 a.m. Councilman Moy stated that one of the highway plow trucks was stuck in the ditch on The Intervale Rd. until 1 a.m. It took 4 trucks to get the one out of the ditch. They worked from 7p.m. until 1a.m. to get the truck out. The trucks were out plowing Sunday night.

Ann stated that the truck did not go by house until 7:20am Monday. Left her house Tuesday morning, there was 4-5 inches of snow on the ground. The Intervale and Herrington Hill Rd. was not plowed and did not go by house until 7a.m.

Councilman Moy stated that it takes 3 1/2 to 4 hours to make the rounds.

Ann stated that the trucks need to slow down.

Councilman Herrick asked Rich if they could plow up the hill and then down. Rich stated that is how he has been plowing. Rich said if they start any earlier in the morning plowing, by the time they are done and it is still snowing then the school buses cannot get through.

Supervisor Shaw stated that under Highway Superintendent; Rich and this town board more salt is being used and receiving less complaint calls about the road conditions. The town has spent a lot of money on equipment, trucks and morale at the highway dept.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Supervisor Shaw reported that the building project is hold for now. There is no money in the building fund. Supervisor Shaw stated that he spoke with Assemblyman; Carrie Woerner today and she is going to pledge for another \$125,000.00 for the Town of Easton. It will take 6-8 months. We should have some money left in the fund at the end of this year. We would like to do framing downstairs. Judge Cox can get a JCAP Grant but the framing needs to be done first. Supervisor Shaw stated that we ran out of propane. Bigelow came and filled the tank. The town clerk called to get a price on propane. Main Care cost is \$2.15.9/ per gallon and Bigelow is \$1.49/per gallon. The board agreed to go with Bigelow for propane and gave authorization to the Supervisor if any contract needs to be signed. Supervisor Shaw asked Highway Superintendent; Rich to put the paper on the back of Burton Hall and cover the hole on the North side of the building.

**INSURANCE: NO REPORT**

**TOWN POLICIES: NO REPORT**

**BUILDING & GROUNDS: NO REPORT-** Highway Superintendent; Rich suggested that the town purchase a snowblower for Burton Hall. The board authorized Rich to get 3 quotes for the next meeting.

**HIGHWAY: NO REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**SUPERVISOR:** Supervisor Shaw stated that we are going back to the first Monday of the month for the regular meetings. The Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Bill Perry asked Supervisor Shaw about framing the basement. Supervisor Shaw said we would not be doing anything until the first of the year.

**TOWN CLERK:** Sharon Archambeault reported that she collected \$823.75 for the month of November. A check for \$9.00 was submitted to NYS Ag. & Markets for the spay/neuter program. The balance of \$814.75 was submitted to the Supervisor. Supervisor Shaw stated that there will be a retirement party for the town clerk. The new town clerk; Meghan Phalen asked the board what date would be good for them. It could be on Saturday, January 11 or 18.

**HIGHWAY:** Councilman Moy reported that everything is quiet. Supervisor Shaw asked what is the status on the Grader. Highway Superintendent; Rich stated that the town does not owe on the rental of the grader. The new grader is being assembled now. Supervisor Shaw said the specs have rewritten for insulating the Highway Garage. It has been advertised to receive bids for the January 6, 2020 meeting.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Jim Merryman was absent. Jim submitted his report for the month of November. He collected \$160.00 for building permits. Councilman Brownell suggested that they should have a workshop meeting with the Building Inspector in January to discuss the new rates and the changes to be made on the building permit applications.

#### **PLANNING BOARD: NO REPORT**

Councilman Brownell reported that he went to the meeting regarding Solar Farms. Councilman Brownell stated that Solar Farms are not in the Town of Easton's Comprehensive Plan, but the Planning Board still agree to them. Supervisor Shaw said he thought they were only approving the sub-divisions. Supervisor Shaw asked Councilman Brownell how should we approach the issue. Councilman Brownell said we should have a joint meeting and the Comprehensive Plan needs to be revised.

Councilman Herrick asked if the Comprehensive Plan can be revised because Solar was not included when the Comprehensive Plan was written. Supervisor Shaw stated that Assessor; John Violette said the town should opt back into the tax exemption. John said the County should also opt back in. Supervisor Shaw suggested that John should start with the county. John stated that the solar project cannot go forward unless the town opts back into the tax exemption. John said stated that the town could get more money out of the Pilot Program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS, PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATIVE, & BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The Town Clerk reported that no letters of interest have been received for these vacancies. Supervisor Shaw asked the board how they want to proceed with these vacancies. Supervisor Shaw said the board needs to make a decision to go with sole assessor or continue with 3. NYS law states that it does not have to go to vote from the residents. The board can choose to go with appointed or elected. The town will have to make a decision within the next 3 months. The board agreed to keep looking for applicants to fill the vacancies.

##### **BATTENKILL COUNTRY CLUB- ARTICLE 7**

Supervisor Shaw received the Stipulation of Settlement for the Battenkill Country Club. The assessment and fair market value of the property for the years 2018-2019 shall be amended and reduced as follows; Tax Map No. 228.-5-8.8

14,000	Assessed Value (2.12% EQ	\$
	Equalized Market Value	
\$660,377	New Assessed Value	\$
7,007	Reduction Assessed Value	\$
6,993	New Market Value	\$
330,500		

The rolls forward for 2020,2021, and 2022 pursuant to Section 727 of the Real Property Tax Law.

**RESOLUTION#91-19**

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND ORDER**

RESOLVED on a motion by Councilman Brownell, second by Councilwoman Lundberg to authorize Supervisor Shaw to sign the Stipulation of Settlement and Order relative to the Article 7 Tax assessment proceeding brought on by Battenkill Country Club, Inc.

**Roll Call**

Councilwoman Lundberg	Aye
Councilman Moy	Aye
Councilman Brownell	Aye
Councilman Herrick	Aye
Supervisor Shaw	Aye

Adopted 5 Ayes

**RESOLUTION#92-19**

**ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR PAVE NY & CHIPS**

RESOLVED on a motion by Councilman Herrick second by Councilwoman Lundberg to accept \$47,576.56 from the state for PAVE NY and \$208,271.54 for the CHIPS Fund.

Adopted 5 Ayes  
Lundberg, Moy, Brownell, Herrick & Shaw

**RESOLUTION#93-19**

**CREATE PETTY CASH FOR TAX COLLECTOR**

RESOLVED on a motion by Councilwoman Lundberg, second by Councilman Brownell to create a petty cash for the tax collector.

Adopted 5 Ayes  
Lundberg, Moy, Brownell, Herrick & Shaw

**PUBLIC COMMENT- OPEN 8:24 P.M. NONE CLOSED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**YEAR END MEETING, RETIREMENT PARTY & CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The board agreed to hold the Year End Meeting on Tuesday, December 24, at 11:00am followed by the Christmas Party at noon. The retirement party for the town clerk will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Meghan asked the board to consider letting the town clerk have a face book page. The board agreed to let the town clerk set up a face book page.

Supervisor Shaw adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Sharon Archambeault

Easton Town Clerk