

**TOWN OF CONESVILLE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
AGENDA
Conesville Town Hall
January 10, 2022 7:30 PM**

Roll Call:

- a. Council Persons:** Bill Federice -Present, Carl Fancher - Present, Laurel Mattice - Present, Robert Proudman -Absent, Kelly Smith -Present
- b. Officials:** Carrie Sutton -Present, Richard Irwin -Absent, Marie Stuber -Absent, Diane Williams -Present, David Porter -Present, Town Attorney Michael West – Present, Cathy Riedl – Present.

- 2. People in Attendance-** Madeline Losito, Frank Losito, Susanne Mullan, Sean Mullan, Mary Keenan, Ben Keenan, Matt Avitabile, Michael West, Brenda Weaver, Sean Best, Philip Berger, Cathy Riedl, John Riedl, Vanessa Nahas, Luc Nahas, Martha Young, Josh Ray, Martita Abril, There were also two members of the Schoharie County Sheriff's Department present for a portion of the meeting, however they did not sign in.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Privilege of the Floor

- a.** Fred Ruckel – Live Stream of Town Meeting
- b.** Prior to Mr. Ruckel being granted privilege of the floor Supervisor Federice addressed Mr. Ruckel regarding his notifying the town that he would be livestreaming the town meeting. He stated that he had asked Mr. Ruckel to postpone the live stream by one month in order for the town to establish and post guidelines in accordance with New York State's Open Meeting Laws. Supervisor Federice asked Town Attorney Michael West to weigh in on the matter as well. Mr. West said that in his opinion he did not believe that the Board was being unreasonable in asking for a one-month deferment.
- c.** Mr. Ruckel's privilege commenced at 7:46 P.M. at which point stated that he had in fact provided notice via email of his intent to live stream meetings dating back a year and that the Board was violating the Open Meeting Laws by prohibiting his live stream. He spoke of his intent to provide the livestream feature for those in town who would rather

remain home in order to reduce risk of contracting COVID-19, and those who winter out of State. Mr. Ruckel was seated at 7:48 P.M. when he relinquished the floor.

5. Minutes: December 13, 2021

- a. The minutes from the 13 December 2021 Town Meeting were reviewed and several minor changes were suggested including the corrected spelling of the interim Code Enforcement Officer's name from Erwin to Irwin.
- b. Carl Fancher made a motion to accept the minutes, Laurel Mattice seconded the motion, passed and carried.

6. Assessor's Report

- a. **Marie Stuber** -Provided a written report on the agricultural exemptions she had mailed out. She also provided an update on the STAR exemptions and a request for the board to pass a resolution to approve the waiver, or to notify her that it was not passed so she could proceed with sending out notifications.
- b. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

7. Code Enforcement Officer's Report

- a. **Final Report - Ronald Barry** -Written report provided indicating 15 inspections had been conducted, 9 final inspections, 6 certificates of occupancy had been issued, 12 certificates of compliance, 2 new permits, and 6 permit extensions.
- b. Laurel Mattice made a motion to accept the report, Kelly Smith seconded the motion, passed and carried.

8. Town Clerk's Report

- a. **Carrie Sutton** – There were \$310.00 of disbursements paid to the general fund. Funds received consisted of \$310.00 from building permits, and \$900.00 in Sewer System payments.

- b. Laurel Mattice made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

9. Sewer District Operator's Report

- a. **Dave Whitbeck** -Submitted a written report stating that the average daily flow for the month was 4904 gallons per day. The generator transfer switch is still not working and the replacement part has been ordered and is expected to arrive mid-February. Pump #1 has had two pump failures due to grease buildup (which Supervisor Federice said was currently being investigated to determine the source). Spare pumps have been ordered as replacements. David Cairns, the LVDV Operator has assumed responsibility for day to day operations at the West Conesville Plant.
- b. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

10. Highway Superintendent's Report

- a. **David Porter** – Provided a written report stating that this month the Highway Department had conducted ditching and shoulder repairs as well as many hours keeping roads passable in the snow, wind and freezing rain that we have experienced. They also removed the flags from the light poles in town and due to the wind damage had to dispose of them. There was an update on several of the current town vehicles as well as installation updates. No trucks currently have wings on as the shoulders are still too soft. The plow on Truck 201 dug in on both Cook and South Mountain Road badly enough to require temporary repairs to the road and some repairs to the plows as well. Permanent repairs to the roads will be conducted in the spring.
- b. The Highway Superintendent also readdressed the concerns he had raised in his report from the December meeting relating to pay raises for those full-time employees that hold CDLs. Additionally, he raised the question of the health insurance buyout option to those over age 65, there was a lengthy discussion about eligibility for the program. The

Highway Superintendent also provided a list of items found during an inventory which he believed were purchased wrongfully. The board thanked him for his report, and his diligence in compiling the list and stated that it was a matter they needed to look at further.

- c. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

11. Historian's Annual Report

- a. **Cathy Riedel** -Noted that she had only taken over as the Town Historian in the last eight months, so her report is not a large one, but that she had been helping a woman from Ohio explore her family history. She also connected this woman with the Gilboa Historian who had some additional information. She also accompanied Sean Mullen to several of the cemeteries to get a better understanding of the upcoming restoration program. She intends to attend the statewide historical convention in the spring. She is also working with the community to put together a Quilts of Conesville exhibit of both historic and recently made quilts.
- b. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

12. Tax Collectors Report

- a. **Diane Williams** - Provided a written and verbal report. There are 25 Zero Amount tax bills, 1120 Unpaid tax bills, 1 partially paid tax bill, and 185 fully paid tax bills. Total collected funds \$212,979.19 with a total of \$1,616,813.05 currently unpaid.
- b. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.

13. Supervisors County Report

- a. **Bill Federice – County Enforcement of State Mandates & COVID-19 Updates**
– A verbal report on the COVID-19 situation update for the county was provided.

Supervisor Federice explained current county stance on state mandates, staff shortages, and provided information on testing supplies being provided to the towns. Conesville will be receiving 16 tests, 4 of which will be set aside for the Highway Department Employees as they are essential workers.

14. Town Business

- a. Supervisor's Financial report – Written report provided to board members.
 - a. Laurel Mattice made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.
- b. Code Enforcement Opening – Supervisor Federice explained the appointment of the interim Code Enforcement Officer and the time set by the board to receive applications as well as the number of current applications submitted.
 - a. Planning Board Secretary Appointment – Supervisor Federice stated that he would like to nominate Cressa Dovigh to the planning board secretary position. Kelly Smith made a motion to accept the report, Carl Fancher seconded the motion, passed and carried.
- c. STAR Exemption Resolution – A roll-call was conducted for this resolution (#22-30) with the following votes: William Federice – Aye, Laurel Mattice – Aye, Kelly Smith – Aye, Carl Fancher – Aye, Robert Proudman – not present.
- d. Streamside Acquisition – This is a four-acre piece of property which the DEP is interested in buying. It mostly consists of wetland area which can not really be developed.
 - a. Kelly Smith made a motion to approve possible DEP purchase, Laurel Mattice seconded the motion, passed and carried.
- e. \$35K Grant for Manorkill Erosion Engineering Service at Pangman Road – NRCS is working with SWAC and this was a closeout discussion. The Town will no longer be involved in this process.
- f. Highway Proposal – In response to the Highway Superintendent's request to raise the wages of the department, Supervisor Federice proposed the elimination of part time

positions, in order to raise the pay of the four full time employees. However, instead of increasing the hourly wage, the difference would be put towards the annual bonus increasing it from \$2,000 to \$10,000 which would equate to approximately the same amount that had been asked for earlier in the meeting. Several of the highway department employees were present and interjected various concerns about both their own pay and the opt-out which the Highway Superintendent had spoken about earlier. The discussion was tabled until a later time.

g. Board member input – N/A

h. Review Invoice – Laurel Mattice made a motion to accept the invoices, seconded by Kelly Smith. Motion passed and carried.

15. Adjourn – Kelly Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, this was seconded by Laurel Mattice. Motion passed and carried.

Marie Stuber, Assessor
Town of Conesville
1306 State Route 990V
Gilboa, NY 12076

Office: 607-588-7211 Fax: 607-588-6832
Office Hrs. Tuesdays 10-1 November 1- March 31
or By Appt
conesvilleassessor@gmail.com

Board Report
January 10, 2022

Dear Town Board Members,

Happy New Year to all!

The end of December started out with an Executive Order from the Governor with a part of the order pertaining to the renewals of exemptions for the Senior Partial Tax Exemption and the exemptions for Disabled with Low Incomes. The Governor gave the municipalities the option to waive the requirement to provide the assessor with a signed renewal form and supporting documents. In doing so the Assessor would automatically renew the exemption based on the prior year income since this is an income based exemption. Although the exemption is automatically renewed, the resolution will also allow an assessor to make changes to the exemption due to certain changes of ownership as stated in the executive order. It is my recommendation tonight that the town board approve a resolution for this waiver. If approved the Assessor does not have to mail out the renewal notices. I have not yet mailed these notices out but if the town does not approve the resolution then I must get them in the mail this week.

I have mailed out the Agricultural exemption renewal forms. With the forms I also mailed out a letter of explanation as to what was needed for supporting documentation. I am updating files and requiring a copy of a current lease an owner may have with a farmer. For the owner's convenience I enclosed a blank copy of the NY State Lease form that is required to accompany the exemption. For those who farm their own land, they will need to provide their 2020 Schedule F from their tax return or gross receipts totaling the required dollar amount.

To mail out the exemptions, I took advantage of the County Clerk mail room. I have provided the bill to the clerk. This does save a little on the cost of the postage.

I am looking forward to preparing for the 2023 reval. This should be very interesting with the higher priced sales these last couple of years.

Sincerely,
Marie Stuber



Town of Conesville
1306 State Route 990V
Gilboa, NY, 12076

DEPARTMENT Assessor Contractural supply

CLAIMANTS NAME AND ADDRESS
Schoharie County Clerk
PO Box 549
Schoharie NY 12157

Tax ID# County Exempt Organization

CLAIMANT - DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

VOUCHER # _____

DATE VOUCHER RECEIVED _____

Fund - Appropriation	Amount
Total	

ENTERED ON ABSTRACT NUMBER _____

DETAILED INVOICES MAY BE ATTACHED AND TOTAL ENTERED ON THIS VOUCHER PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER _____
CERTIFICATION BELOW MUST BE SIGNED TERMS _____

Account	Description	Invoice #	AMOUNT
	<u>Exemption Renewals mailed out - 26 letters</u>		<u>13.78</u>
TOTAL			<u>13.78</u>

CLAIMANT'S CERTIFICATION

I, Marie Steber certify that the above account in the amount of \$ 13.78 is true and correct, that the items, services and disbursements charged were rendered to or for the municipality on the dates stated, that no part has been paid or satisfied; that taxes, from which the municipality is exempt, are not included; and that the amount claimed is actually due

1/4/2022 Date Marie Steber Signature Assessor Title

(Space below for municipal use)

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL	APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT
The above services or materials were rendered or furnished to the municipality on the dates stated and the charges are correct.	This claim is approved and ordered paid from the appropriations indicated above
<u>1/4/2022</u> Date <u>Marie Steber</u> Authorized Official	Date Auditing Board



**COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY**



**M. INDICA JAYCOX
-COUNTY CLERK-**

P.O. BOX 549, SCHOHARIE, NY 12157
284 MAIN ST., SUITE 117, SCHOHARIE, NY 12157
(518) 295-8316 / FAX (518) 295-8338
D.M.V. (518) 295-8317 / FAX (518) 295-8484

**LAWRENCE J. CAZA
-EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CLERK-**

December 31, 2021

Town of Conesville

Marie Stuber, Town Assessor

1306 State Route 990V

Gilboa NY 12076

Dear Marie,

Today December 31, 2021, the mailing of "Exemption Renewals" you requested to be done was completed on December 31, 2021.

QTY:26

Amt Due: \$13.78

Thank You and Please make check payable to Schoharie County Clerk.

Best,

Courtney Slater

Deputy Clerk

Town of Conesville Building Code Report

From December-1-2021 to December-31-2021

Row. L. Barry
117 Maple Ln.
Gilboa N.Y. 12096
N.Y.S. Building Code
Enforcement Office

INSP. - 15

Final INSP. - 9

Certificate
of
Occupancy - 6

Certificate
of
Compliance - 12

New Permits 2

Permit Ext. 6

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER, 2021

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DISBURSEMENTS	
PAID TO SUPERVISOR FOR GENERAL FUND	<u>310.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	310.00

JANUARY 10, 2022

_____, SUPERVISOR
William A. Federice

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF SCHOHARIE, TOWN OF CONESVILLE

I, Brenda Weaver, being duly sworn, says that I am the Clerk of the Town of Conesville that the foregoing is a full and true statement of all Fees and moneys received by me during the month above stated, excepting only such Fees the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by law.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Town Clerk

_____ day of _____ 20__

Notary Public

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF CONESVILLE, NEW YORK

DECEMBER, 2021

TO THE SUPERVISOR:

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Pursuant to Section 27, Subd 1 of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and moneys received by me in connection with my office during the month stated above, excepting only such fees and moneys the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by Law:

A2550				
	<u>5</u>	BUILDING PERMITS	<u>310.00</u>	
		TOTAL A2550		310.00
<hr/>				
S2144				
	<u>17</u>	SEWER SYSTEM	<u>900.00</u>	
		TOTAL S2144		900.00
<hr/>				

West Conesville Wastewater Treatment Facility Monthly Update Report

This is a monthly update for the West Conesville Wastewater Treatment Facility. These are the highlights in your sewer district for the previous month.

- The average daily flow for the month of November was 4904 gallons a day.
- The Generator Transfer Switch is not working. Kinsley Power is working on repairing the Transfer Switch. We received an update from Kinsley Power systems on who informed us the parts have been ordered and will be here in mid-February.
- Pump Station #1 has had two pump failures due to grease build up on the pumps. To determine the source of the grease, we will be checking all septic tanks for signs of grease and operation. Spare Pumps have been ordered to replace the pumps we have changed.
- LVDV Operator Donald Cairns has taken over as the day-to-day operator at the West Conesville Plant.

We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the West Conesville Wastewater Treatment Facility. You can always contact us by phone 1-(518)-915-4396, by email (dwhitbeck@lvdvoperations.com), or in person.

Thank You

David Whitbeck (Chief Operator)

*going to check septic tanks
due to Grease*

W. Conesville WWTP

Month: December

Date:	Flow
1	3462
2	3874
3	4664
4	3695
5	4259
6	5008
7	4465
8	4578
9	4509
10	4504
11	3300
12	5623
13	4724
14	5967
15	4278
16	5840
17	5307
18	4662
19	6882
20	6411
21	5710
22	5957
23	5985
24	4921
25	4397
26	5089
27	4774
28	4853
29	5044
30	4734
31	4544
Average Flow	4904

December Superintendents Report

This month some more ditching and shoulder repair. We have been experiencing some severe wind issues and a lot of freezing rain.

Phil removed all the flags and found all to be trash.

A lot of cleaning, picking up and organizing has been going on all thru December.

The truck #203 (2018 IH) is completed and back here, Truck #201 (2006 IH) hooked up with sander and snowplow.

Truck #202 (2011 IH 4x4) is ready for snow, Truck #211 (2000 Sterling 4x4) is ready for snow

Truck #204 (2020 Ford) is waiting for parts for spreader, The new Ford F550 Truck #206 is in Schnectady getting the spreader installed.

Nothing has wings on yet, shoulders too soft.

December 29 the plow on #201 dug in bad on Cook Road and again on South Mtn necessitating quick temporary repairs to the roads and proper repair to the snowplow. Proper and permanent repair done on January 5, 2022 to the plow.

Temporary road repairs done the next day, permanent repairs to Cook Rd will be done in spring.

The previous is a representative of the winter work the highway crew does

I was not present at the last regular board meeting (December 13, 2021) when my report was read, so I would repeat the proposal and hear ideas from the board

I propose to RAISE THE FULL TIME POSITION'S 4.00/HOUR
I propose the board install a position of Non CDL full time for \$18.00/~~hour~~ also propose the full time CDL position be raised to \$20.00 per hour starting. The union will not interfere with any up scaling at all.

There is enough money in the 2022 Highway budget, more than enough to raise the wages \$4.00 for all present fulltime employees.

~~I also propose a position be created for a fulltime laborer. There was a 5th fulltime employee in Conesville Highway department in the not so distant past and is needed now.~~

Now I would like to discuss the items and the mistakes that were made the last year and ½, 2020 & thru May 2021, I have been very careful not to “through under the bus” the previous highway administration but I feel now is the time for opening up.

The following is a list of Miscellaneous items I have found at the Highway Garage that were purchased wrongfully by the previous administration:

40 of grade 2 x 3/4” full thread 4 “ long bolts \$52.65 also a bunch of fasteners of ss and grade 5

10 rolls of 16-gauge primary wire, Copper Clad Aluminum \$40.95 Aluminum wire banned for use in ac electric in the 1960’s, too inflexible

A 55 gallon Barrel of 5w30 oil (not diesel rated) 8/11/2020 R H Crown labeled with a marker “for use in 204 only (a Diesel truck \$600 to \$700

2 of Firestone T819, 12R22.5 Steer tires rated 7390 lbs. ea. 11/28/2020 Ricks Tires \$742.00 = I am told Kyle wanted to eliminate the “super single tires on front of truck 201. That move would leave the truck with a front axle rating reduced to 14,780 lbs. from 20,000 lbs. insufficient for plow & wing operations.

2 wheels (rims) 22.5x9 each has different depth I don’t know where they came from or when purchased

2 of “Tree work” folding work zone signs with bases = We use Men working signs for everything, we have several bases \$60 to \$70 each

4 of “Town Maintenance Ends” signs = We have several in stock

2 of “Dead End” signs antiquated =The recommended sign is “no outlet”

Case of air brake alcohol = We have no vehicles with alcohol injector, all our trucks have air driers

Case of gas line antifreeze/Injector cleaner = I wouldn’t use in a diesel even though the label says can be used in diesel

2 of 4’x4’ pieces of ¼” steel dropped off in yard outside during storm and left there to rust, then moved to rest against salt shed. Next to a ½ sheet of ½” thick plate steel moved up from the old garage.

Snowplow for 211 replaced with someone else’s junk. We rebuilt a plow we had here.

Snowplow for 205 damaged severely needed rebuilding.

Snowplow from 201 had a new cutting edge installed last winter, done all wrong. We recently replaced the cutting edge and shoes again.

One more thing I think It’s high time for me to be a bit selfish

Because of my age I receive no benefits from the town, but it isn’t age discrimination because the federal government doesn’t require employers to give Health insurance to anybody 65 years old and older. I requested that I should receive the “insurance buy-out” benefit of \$2000 for me not receiving health insurance. In 2019 I requested and was refused because the policy stated any fulltime employee who chooses to opt out of receiving health insurance will receive the \$2000 buy-out. I didn’t exactly opt out I was forced out by Medicare. Now this year because a former employee received the buy-out after 65 years of age I should too. Well I was offered a different solution giving less money. I was told we should do these discussions in private so as to not put my business out in public. I disagree with keeping this private.

January 10, 2022

ANNUAL REPORT FROM TOWN HISTORIAN, CATHY RIEDL

As I have been the Town Historian only eight months, I do not have a great deal to report. In this time period I have received two or three phone calls from a woman in Ohio who claims to have roots here and asked me to look up birth and marriage records. I was able to help her with some, but I also referred her on to the Gilboa Town Historian as I felt some of the information, she was looking for could be found there.

In the Fall of 2021, I had the pleasure of "visiting" two of our town maintained cemeteries with Sean Mohan regarding upcoming restoration he hopes to do in the future. It was most interesting to see some familiar names and the brevity of the lifespans back then. I took many pictures which I will move from my phone at some point onto hard copies. It was very educational (although I don't know how much I will remember) listening to Sean as to how and what materials were used in making the stones and how he plans to go about repairing them. He was very respectful of those who were laid to rest in these hills (a tribute to Bea Mattice), and I wondered about their lives and families and what they had died from.

There is a statewide historian's "convention" being held in Kingston in the Spring which I hope to attend. I have been in touch with Blenheim's town historian about joining me and will probably reach out to Gilboa and Jefferson's historians also.

I also have an idea for a small exhibit in the future (possibly in the Town Hall or the new art gallery/cafe next door) of Quilts of Conesville. Quilts tell stories and although many of our founding fathers (and mothers) have passed on I am hopeful that descendants might have some of their quilts tucked away and would be willing to display them. We have a few very talented quilters living here right now and quilts from the 1990's and present would be welcomed and displayed also. Just a possibility so ask your relatives...."have any old quilts or even parts of quilts?"

This is the conclusion of my annual report (2021) to the Conesville Town Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Riedl

Tax Collection Totals

Town of Conesville
 Tax Year: 2022
 Sun, Jan 9, 2022, 02:08 PM

25 Zero amount tax bills
 1120 Unpaid tax bills
 1 Partially paid tax bills
 185 Fully paid tax bills

 1331 Total number of tax bills

186 payments collected by collector, 0 by Co Treasurer

Total to be collected this year: \$1,831,792.24

Tax Collector(s) Paid Amounts
 Total base paid: \$214,979.19
 Total penalty: \$0.00
 Total late notice: \$0.00

 Sub total paid: \$214,979.19

 Total refunds: \$0.00

 Net Collected \$214,979.19

 Treasurer Collect: \$0.00

 Treasurer LateFees Col: \$0.00

 Total unpaid: \$1,616,813.05

Breakdown of totals by Swis Code

# Bills	Tax Due	Base Pd	Collected(*)	Treas Collect(*)	Owed
432800	-Town of Conesville				
1306	\$1,831,792.24	\$214,979.19	\$214,979.19	\$0.00	\$1,616,813.05

* - Totals Collected represents the base amount paid plus penalties and late notice fees minus any refunds issued.

TOWN OF CONESVILLE RESOLUTION NUMBER 30

Senior Citizen Renewal Waiver Resolution

Introduced by: William Federice

Seconded by: Kelly Smith

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Cathy Hochul issued Executive Order Number 11.1, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York, and

WHEREAS, on said declaration was extended to include: Subdivisions 7, 7-s and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 which permits the governing body of an assessing unit to adopt a resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section of the 2022 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons, and further dispensing with the requirement for Assessors to mail renewal applications to such persons, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Conesville is desirous in adopting such resolution while also allowing the Assessor to require a renewal application to be filed when he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or dies, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conesville Town Council is authorized to pass such resolution, and that the Assessor is instructed to take any such necessary actions in the above-described directives.

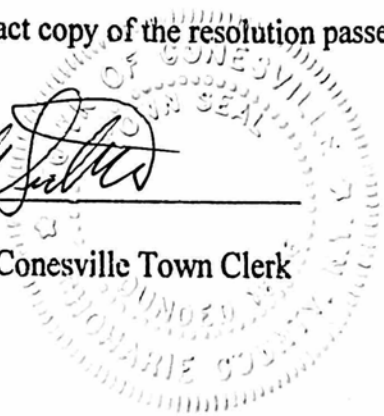
Board Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Fancher, Carl	✓	—	—
Federice, William	✓	—	—
Mattice, Laurel	✓	—	—
Proudman, Robert	—	—	—
Smith, Kelly	✓	—	—

CARRIED NOT CARRIED

I hereby certify the above resolution is a true and exact copy of the resolution passed by the Conesville Town Board on 10 January 2022.

Carrie Sutton

Carrie Sutton, Conesville Town Clerk



(SEAL)