

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury Regular Board Meeting May 20, 2008
Held at the Town Hall (Library), North Creek, NY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Tuesday May 20, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Town Library, North Creek, NY Supervisor Goodspeed called the meeting to order at 7:00pm; the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Eugene Arsenault.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supv. Sterling Goodspeed; Town Councilmen/ Eugene Arsenault, and Ronald Vanselow; Town Clerk/ William Rawson. Councilmen Frank Morehouse, Jr. and Arnold Stevens were absent. A quorum was declared present for the purpose of conducting business.

Guests: On attached list

RESOLUTION NO. 97

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution, with a second from Mr. Arsenault, to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2008 regular Town Board meeting with the following correction; the vote on Resolution Number 91 should reflect the following totals: With 3 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Goodspeed) Nays – 2 (Stevens, Vanselow). With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter from Andrea McKee, President of the North Country Outreach Center, Inc. expressing gratitude for prior support from the Town Board for their community service operations and requesting the disbursement of the annual funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 for 2008.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the requested payment was a budgeted expense for 2008 and further, that it was included in General Fund Warrant 10G and he expected the payment to be approved later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the Town Board members had received the map adjustment which comprised Local Law #1 of 2008 in their packets tonight; there will be a Public Hearing on this local law at the Wevertown Community Center Wevertown, NY on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 6:30 pm.

Supv. Goodspeed invited Mr. Edward Milner, chairman of the Occupancy Tax Allocation Committee, and the Gore Mt. Region-Town of Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce to speak regarding the Occupancy Tax funding for the regional brand request. Mr. Milner explained that this was the second phase of the project; phase one was acquiring local information via survey and research. The second phase involves the Glen Group delivering, to the Chamber, the following items: a unifying definition of the regional market; the development of a logo and tagline; written guidelines for use of logo and tagline in media presentations (advertising) and a workshop with instruction on using these items. The Occupancy Tax Allocation Committee recommended that \$7406.00 be allocated for this request. Mr. Milner added that the Chamber

fully expects to raise money from areas outside the Town of Johnsbury and local developers and businesses, but noted the need of funding from the Town Board to encourage in the additional fund raising. Mr. Vanselow noted that this meant raising approximately \$10,000.00 and asked what would be the result if the funding was not raised; Mr. Milner noted that the funding is in the form of reimbursement and that if additional funding is not found there will be no expenditure to be reimbursed. Mrs. Kelly Nettle asked if the funding could be rolled over to 2009 if the additional private funding was slow in coming; Supv. Goodspeed said that he believed that it could be. Mr. Milner added that he was not positive when the project would be totally self-supporting; he said that the area needs to create a niche or specialty marketing plan. Mr. Vanselow asked if there were any local, successful examples of the use of this method; Mr. David Bulmer suggested the Berkshires in Massachusetts or the Stowe area in Vermont. Mr. Arsenault asked if Warren County Tourism was helpful; Mr. Milner answered that they were mostly interested in Lake George. Mr. Vanselow said that his largest problem with this item was the lack of financial support from those deriving the benefits. Mr. Arsenault added that this is a lot of money from limited resources and he wanted to see some funding from other sources to justify the expenditure. Mr. Robert Nettle said that with O.R.D.A. spending approximately \$250,000.00 annually to promote Gore Mt. and including North Creek and also the same with the rafting businesses, he wondered how this relatively small amount of money would improve the situation. Supv. Goodspeed explained that O.R.D.A. manager, Mike Pratt was in support of this program and that the "branding" project hoped to integrate with the advertising mentioned by Mr. Nettle. Supv. Goodspeed asked if the Town Board had any questions regarding the other non-town requests. Mr. Vanselow asked if it had been determined if the White Water Derby request would be reimbursable; Supv. Goodspeed said that he believed that both that request and the Fish and Game Club requests could be reimbursed.

RESOLUTION NO. 98

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to authorize the following requests for 2008 Occupancy Tax funding: Upper Hudson Festivals, Inc. (Blue Grass Festival) in the amount of \$4,000.00; Gore Mt. Region-Town of Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce (Branding Project) in the amount of \$7406.00; Dollars for Scholars (Race the Train) in the amount of \$1746.00; Hudson River White Water Derby in the amount of \$2876.00; Gore Mt. Region-Town of Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce (Regional Directory) in the amount of \$2932.00; Gore Mt. Region-Town of Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce (Area Calendar) in the amount of \$3264.00 including the \$1500.00 previously allocated in Resolution Number 78; North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association (North Creek Railway Depot Museum) in the amount of \$2945.00 and Johnsbury Fish and Game Club, Inc. (White Water Derby buttons) in the amount of \$64.43. With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed updated the Town Board on his talks with Mike Pratt, Manager of O.R.D.A. at Gore Mountain, and Scott Sopczyk, Transportation Director of Glens Falls Transit regarding a shuttle in the Town of Johnsbury for the purpose of connecting O.R.D.A. at Gore Mountain, the Ski Bowl, downtown and the developments proposed by Front Street Mountain Development. Supv. Goodspeed noted that it was a good discussion and that they will meet again in about three weeks. Supv. Goodspeed said that discussions about a transit connection to the Glens Falls area suggested that this could become a reality as well.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the Town of Johnsborg Summer Youth program will be starting in early July; he has had discussions with the director, Ann Dingman about possibly adding boating, kayaking and canoeing lessons

Supv. Goodspeed updated the Town Board on the possibility of fees for long-term use of the Tannery Pond Community Center by organizations or entities. Supv. Goodspeed explained that fourteen long term use groups had been identified; long term use being defined as more than sixteen uses in one year. Supv. Goodspeed said that he will have a meeting with the groups on Friday at 3:00pm to discuss setting up contracts for such use; he is hoping to create a revenue stream of between ten and twelve thousand dollars annually.

Supv. Goodspeed reminded the Town Board that a neighbor to a Town owned property in Bakers Mills has asked to purchase the parcel and clean it up. Supv. Goodspeed requested that the Town Board members look the property over and review the information previously supplied to them and be ready to discuss this issue further at the next meeting when Town Attorney Jordan will be present.

Supv. Goodspeed explained that Warren County Veterans Services has named Mr. John H. Villeneuve as their honoree for June; he asked the Town Board to pass a resolution in appreciation of Mr. John H. Villeneuve in recognition of his service to the Town of Johnsborg and to dedicate June 2, 2008 to his memory.

RESOLUTION NO. 99

Supv. Goodspeed presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow:

Proclamation

The Johnsborg Town Board, does hereby proclaim June 2, 2008 to be dedicated to the memory of a good friend of the Town of Johnsborg

John H. Villeneuve

In recognition of his service to the Town of Johnsborg and his Country

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong resident of the Town of Johnsborg, and

WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army from May 4, 1942 through June 30, 1945, serving in Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland, and being wounded in action, and

WHEREAS, he has served the Town of Johnsborg as a member of the North Creek Fire Company for sixty-eight years, the North Creek American Legion Post 629 for sixty years, as a member and as Past Commander and

WHEREAS, he was an inspiration to many generations of residents of the Town of Johnsborg as a member of the North Creek Baptist Church and his co-workers at Barton Mines Corporation through his love of family and the outdoors, especially hunting and gardening, and

THEREFORE, be it firmly resolved that the Town of Johnsbury strongly encourages the public to join Warren County in proclaiming that June 2, 2008 be dedicated to the memory of a good friend and lifelong resident of the Town of Johnsbury, John H. Villeneuve.

With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the Master Gardener group under the leadership of Mrs. Judy Brown has established an irrigated garden area in the Ski Bowl Park.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the contract for the Ski Bowl Park Project Grant had not yet been received from the grants administrator; he added that since the start of discussions on the grant Mr. John Albert, the grants administrator, has retired. Supv. Goodspeed noted that work cannot be started until the contract is filed with the grants administrator. Mr. Joel Beaudin, the town coordinator for the grant, noted that he had received two quotes for the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he is trying to arrange a meeting with the Adirondack Park Agency (A.P.A.) to discuss the interaction of the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals with the A.P.A. under the new Zoning Laws. Supv. Goodspeed said that there are points where the responsibilities of the A.P.A. and the Town boards seem to be unclear and this needs to be discussed. Supv. Goodspeed also noted that there are some discrepancies between local and state requirements which should be brought in line.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that there had been further serious acts of vandalism during the last week. The latest acts involve the spray painting of the abutments of the bridge over State Route 28N and the spray painting of railroad cars belonging to the Upper Hudson River Railroad. Warren County Sheriff Deputies have all the cases for investigation in an effort to centralize the investigation. Supv. Goodspeed added that the Sheriff's Department believes that they know the perpetrators; the department is trying to amass additional evidence to make convictions certain and to allow for charges to be brought at the most serious levels; there have been three arrests and seem to be between eight and twenty individuals involved. Supv. Goodspeed added that he has met with Mr. Michael Markwica, Superintendent of Johnsbury Central School, to discuss conducting a program at some date in the month of June to discuss the effect of crimes of this type. Mrs. Kelly Nettle suggested the desire to cause a shock effect. Rev. Dianne Marquit said that this seems to be a symptom of a deeper problem and more anti-social that targeted at any one particular group. Mrs. Becky Milner believed that the perpetrators may be seeking recognition and suggested painting a mural on the wall in the center of the hamlet of North Creek as a part of the corrective process; she also added that Rev. Dianne Marquit of the North Creek Methodist Church was willing to donate time counseling those involved. Supv. Goodspeed said that some of those involved seem to be older and that the consequences of such actions need to be made clear; he added that some of the same symbols seem to be showing up in other areas in Warren County. Mr. Vanselow asked if there appeared to be any connection to the "Chaos Crew" which created problems in other parts of the county last year; Supv. Goodspeed said that as yet there did not seem to be any connections between the

two. Supv. Goodspeed added that the activities of the "Chaos Crew" were more violent than the current vandalism problem.

Supv. Goodspeed recognizes Ms. Barbara Thomas to deliver to the Town Board the report and recommendations of the Community Economic Coalition. The report was compiled by the Steering Committee; its members are Anita Abrams, Jean Comstock and Barbara Thomas. Ms. Thomas explained that the report includes copies of the questionnaire used to obtain information relating to services currently available from area organizations. Ms. Thomas added that although the process is not yet complete, several issues have emerged: there is a wide range of services available in the area; several agencies have noted an increase in requests for assistance; there is a concern that not all those needing assistance are aware of the array of services available. The committee suggested that certain services and issues need additional review. These areas are wood for heating; a centralized jobs list; researching the availability of grants for carpooling; the establishment of an Angelfood Ministry program. The Angelfood Ministry program assists in the feeding of a family for approximately \$20.00 per week. Supv. Goodspeed noted that he is looking into transport to Glens Falls as a part of his shuttle discussions with Glens Falls Transit.

NEW BUSINESS

Supv. Goodspeed reminded the Town Board that Warren County had awarded the Elan Group the Request for Proposal for the Kellogg (Waddell) Property in North Creek; The Elan Group will hold its first workshop seminars on the Kellogg (Waddell) Property on Thursday May 29, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Tannery Pond Community Center. Supv. Goodspeed encouraged all those interested to attend.

Supv. Goodspeed updated the Town Board on accessing storage above the new pavilion. Supv. Goodspeed explained that Mr. Robert Nettle has offered to build a staircase to access the space above the new pavilion at no cost to the Town other than the cost of materials; Supv. Goodspeed has contacted the Warren County Code Enforcement Department and a representative has been here to look at the site and review the proposed staircase location. Warren County Code Enforcement has concerns about the location and structure of the width of the staircase. Supv. Goodspeed asked that Mr. Nettle meet with a representative from Warren County Code Enforcement to discuss the code requirements. Mrs. Kelly Nettle suggested that in light of the space and storage issues that the Town Board should look to build through the use of bonding to accommodate both more office space and additional storage in a new Town Hall; Supv. Goodspeed said that he is not in favor of such borrowing until the budget is in better shape in order to minimize impact on the taxpayers.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the North Creek Water District Annual Water Quality Report had been received and he had planned to have it included in the member's packet, but that it had been left out. Supv. Goodspeed said that the report would be delivered at the next meeting.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he has been working with Highway Supt. Curt Richards to arrange the purchase of a large plow truck through the use of C.H.I.P.S. funding. The vehicle which is being looked at is on state contract. Highway Supt. Richards has worked on upgrading the Highway equipment through the purchase of a small plow truck, a C.A.T. loader, and a pickup truck.

Supv. Goodspeed updated the Town Board on his discussions with North Creek Railway Depot Museum Association President Helen Miner and Johnsbury Central School Superintendent Michael Markwica regarding the Fourth Grade state and local history requirement and assisting the North Creek Railway Depot Museum Association to help provide a portion of this requirement for Johnsbury Central School and other local schools. Supv. Goodspeed reported that it seems probable that the School Board will be supportive and that further discussions will take place on this subject.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that Upper Hudson Festivals, Inc. will be presenting Hair of the Dog on June 27th at the Kellogg property. Mr. Joel Beaudin explained that the group is trying to broaden the scope of the festival music from their successful Bluegrass Festival and they are trying to have performances to involve younger people. Mr. Beaudin added that Upper Hudson Festivals, Inc. has booked three bands for free concerts on Friday nights during the summer. Mr. Beaudin asked the Town Board for a contribution toward the costs of these concerts; Supv. Goodspeed noted his support and suggested that the Town Board agree to contribute a maximum of five hundred dollars to support these concerts.

RESOLUTION NO. 100

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury does support the Upper Hudson Festivals, Inc. promoting free concerts on Friday nights during the summer and in a demonstration of that support will agree to contribute up to a maximum of five hundred dollars in total toward the costs of these concerts. With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. Kelly Nettle thanked the Highway Department for its work on the area near the compost site at the transfer station to stabilize the ground for vehicles. Mrs. Nettle also thanked Mr. George (Rudd) Van Voorhis, owner of T. C. Murphy Lumber Co. and Mr. Richard Green, owner of Braley & Noxon for their support and assistance in obtaining supplies and equipment for work at the garden area in the Ski Bowl Park. Mrs. Nettle asked if the Planning Board minutes could be put online in a more timely manner; Supv. Goodspeed said that he would look into speeding the process.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the Parks Department has mown all of the cemeteries and youth baseball fields in the Town.

Mr. Edward Milner noted that the Office of Economic Development has an office in Plattsburgh which handles Essex County and suggested conducting discussions with this office instead of the Albany office which thinks mostly of Lake George.

Mr. David Bulmer asked about the requirements for a party similar to the one conducted by Laura's during the White Water Derby weekend; he suggested that a street festival could be a good draw for the area. Supv. Goodspeed said that reports were that the party went well, despite the fears of the neighboring property owners; he added that there had been a significant police presence. Supv. Goodspeed said that Laura's had no site plan restrictions and that the fire chief had made suggestions as to the control of the fire; this is not permissible for every business in the hamlet and Laura's had to apply for a special license for outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Vanselow said that the street festival idea had been tried earlier.

Mr. Robert Nettle questioned the payment of voucher number 204 of General Fund Warrant 10G; he inquired about the appropriateness of paying for dinner theatre tickets for the Gore Mt. Senior Citizens. Supv. Goodspeed said that he would get additional information for Mr. Nettle.

RESOLUTION NO. 101

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the Board members be paid: General Fund- Warrant #10G/Claims #185-205; Highway Fund- Warrant #10H/Claims #94-107; North Creek Water Dist.- Warrant #10W/Claims#42-48; Library Fund-Warrant #5L/Claims#31-42. With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Arsenault with a second from Supv. Goodspeed at 9:00pm. With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on June 3, 2008 at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY; a Public Hearing on Local Law Number 1 of 2008 entitled Amendment to Town of Johnsburg Zoning Law is scheduled for 6:30pm on June 3, 2008 at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY.

Prepared by William Rawson, Town Clerk