

Town Board Meeting December 20, 2022

In Attendance: Andrea Hogan – Town Supervisor
Gene Arsenault – Town Councilman – via Zoom
Arnold Stevens – Councilman
Justin Gonyo - Councilman
Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:04PM; Pledge led by Ms. Nettle
2. Approval of Minutes from the November 15, 2022

RESOLUTION # 22-235

Mr. Stevens made a Motion and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo to approve the November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays – 0.

3. New/Old Business

- a. This year there is more regional money, we'll put in for the same as last year plus a few more; went around Town to see what we would like to do; the one I'm recommending to the Board JMT Engineering, best value, familiar with our projects; Supervisor Hogan asked if they were the best value; Superintendent Comstock indicated that they were.

RESOLUTION # 22-236

Mr. Arsenault made a Motion and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo to approve and accept JMT's bid for the Bridge NY Program for 2023. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays – 0.

- b. Occ Tax – some money left over for Occ Tax Applications; Mr. Tomb - Glass Blower looking for \$2,400 for marketing and advertising and the Occ Tax Committee approved

RESOLUTION #22-237

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault to approve Occ Tax Money of \$2,400 for Mr. Tomb and his glassblowing business for marketing and advertising. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays – 0.

- c. ARPA – Committee met, looked at what the Town had already allocated and where the rest of the money is going; \$68,000+; amending Resolution #63-21 to cover the remaining costs at \$21,000; other payments = \$4,020 – electronics/zoom; \$27,000+ HVAC at Tannery Pond; \$131,000+ remaining – \$2,500 post card mailing, \$30,000 for future child care proposal; \$20,000 historical society; \$20,000 ski bowl park; \$20,000 bathrooms at riverfront park; \$21,000 for sewer; \$19,000 social outreach program, push information out to the community; \$800 – library for non-profits; Supervisor Hogan - looking for a Resolution amending the sewer district at \$21,000; Mr. Gonyo – is this going to get sticky with funding for the District? Supervisor Hogan –no.

RESOLUTION #22-238

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve amending Resolution #63-21 - Sewer District for the \$21,000 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried . Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays – 0.

Supervisor Hogan is asking for a Resolution for the slate of allocations mentioned above.

RESOLUTION #22-239

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the slate of allocations of: \$131,000+ remaining – \$2,500 post card mailing, \$30,000 for future child care proposal; \$20,000 historical society; \$20,000 ski bowl park; \$20,000 bathrooms at riverfront park; \$21,000 for sewer; \$19,000 social outreach program, push information out to the community; \$800 – library for non-profits and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0. Mr. Gonyo asked what was the last cost for bathrooms at Riverfront Park – would it be more? Mr. Gonyo – what happens if there’s a sunset on this funding; Supervisor Hogan we have until the end of 2024 to allocate and until 2026 to spend.

- d. Marketing Website – Supervisor Hogan – 4-5 years ago the Town spent money to get it up and running, it went out to bid, we received money from the County; person who was hired could not manage the site; we now have two schools of thought (1) – just allow the Business Alliance to use the visit North Creek Website; (2) issue an RFP to manage the site again; Mr. Gonyo – cut it; Mr. Stevens – if it’s been non-functional – just cut it; Mr. Gonyo – let’s not waste money on something that hasn’t worked in the past, let’s try something new; Supervisor Hogan – I had a glimmer of hope that someone could do it for a reasonable cost; no motion for RFP.
- e. Rec Director Updates & Requests – Supervisor Hogan noted that Mr. Olesheski has a couple of requests: (1) Parks Department is down one person, looking for a Resolution to place an ad for additional laborer and move the current laborer up to \$15.81. (2) attached information re: \$3,000 for skating rink at tennis courts

RESOLUTION # 22-240

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve placing the ad for a new laborer within the Parks Department as well as the increase in pay for the current laborer to \$15.81 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

RESOLUTION # 22 – 241

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve the materials needed for the skating rink, not to exceed \$3,000 and expanding the sledding area as well and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

- f. Water District Rates – Supervisor Hogan – was hoping to have a discussion; we don’t have current information for new hook-ups at this time; working with the Town’s Engineer and Charlie Rawson as well as Water Clerk – scratch from Agenda for now and discuss after the first of the year.

- g. 30 Day Advance Notice for On Premises Alcoholic Beverage license: Town Clerk explained the letter from Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes re: request for waiver of 30-day notice period for North Creek Inn Resort, LLC, d/b/a Phoenix Inn Resort request for liquor license.

RESOLUTION # 22-242

Mr. Gonyo made a motion to approve the Waiver for the 30-Day Notice for On Premises Alcoholic Beverage license for the North Creek Inn Resort, LLC, d/b/a Phoenix Inn Resort and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

- h. Town Board moved to Executive Session – at 7:24PM; Board returned to Regular Meeting at 7:53PM no decisions made in the Executive Session.
- i. Appointment of Interim Town Board Member – Mr. Gonyo – we received 7 letters with only one seat open; as I was looking at the letters, they would need to be community-minded, we have taken on a lot of projects over the years, not all well received; the people that sit behind this table need to understand that not all will be well-received; need to ensure it's longevity of the community; there needs to be jobs; we as a Board have done a lot to support this; we need to foster that growth in all aspects; you've got to be able to take the good with the bad, stand firm in decisions, make decisions based on longevity, everything changes, the person needs to look at themselves in the longevity persons; Mr. Stevens – service to the community is a big point; if someone has the desire to serve the needs of the entire community, not just one particular area, Mr. Arsenault – I think a lot of it has to do with commitment and longevity; hope all involved will continue their interest when election comes up; experience as well as being involved on a long term basis with all issues; Supervisor Hogan – I was looking for the word “team”, you won't always agree, just working toward something together for the support of the community; I'm looking for someone to supplement these skills; Mr. Stevens – with that being said I bring the name of Alexander Hoskins for approval of the Town Board.

RESOLUTION # 22-243

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the appointment of Alexander “Pete” Hoskins to the Town Board for a term of 1-year and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 3 (Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays – 1 (Gonyo).

- j. Scrap Metal Bid – Town Clerk opened the only Bid received for Scrap Metal. Sealed bid was from Dave Olden of D&M Salvage.

RESOLUTION # 22-244

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to accept the Bid from David Olden, D&M Salvage for the 2023 Scrap Metal removal from the Town Transfer Station and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

- k. Shuttle – Supervisor Hogan – I've received feedback from it being winter and no shuttle; NCBA ran the shuttle; through Occ Tax; no violations from NCBA; the Town was willing to support the shuttle, \$10,000 allocated; NCBA decided to not run the shuttle; it was my understanding the numbers just didn't play out for them \$30,000 for 1100 riders, not cost effective; it does harm us all; the Town will not run a shuttle, we do not have the capacity to do it; JG – transportation has come up and it's

going in the wrong direction in a big manner, but the fact remains that it's still needed; we need to identify what the term "shuttle" means in North Creek and then we can maybe put a number behind it; where might the funds come from; I don't think we'll never get enough people on the shuttle; question is what is it going to cost; I'm not saying the Town should cover this, just wondering what the number would like like; see what the NCBA was doing – the parameters that they used might not be what we're looking for, not faulting them at all; was that service what the Town needed and could we tweak it to fit other needs; Supervisor Hogan – seniors to go shopping, pharmacy, not all within the community; I've spoken to GGT and help us with transportation, they will not, they stated we have not established a "need"; we can't establish a need without the service; GGT price out what it would cost is a possibility; is it getting to the Mountain, to drs., to Glens Falls, to the Outreach, we need to know what those needs are; any ideas on how to get this information; JG – how was it sent out? Supervisor Hogan – via paper; Mr. Gonyo – we won't come to a decision tonight, but I would be happy to take this on; Mr. Stevens – does Gore have a shuttle? Supervisor Hogan – just from Ski Bowl to Mountain; I've asked previously, it was more of a staffing issue for the Mountain; I'll ask again.

- I. Real Property Exemption for First Responders – Supervisor Hogan noted that the Governor just signed a law to provide an exemption for first responders; Supervisor Hogan – we would have to have a Public Hearing and pass a Local Law; would leave only 1 month for people to sign up; I have spoken with Real Property at the County – consensus – we would like to enact this next year, we need time to draft the Local Law, etc. it would not serve us in the best way; yes, we think it's a good idea and want to do it thoughtfully.

- m. DEI Training/Policy – training for all staff once a year; we can access this through the Workforce Module; additional 1-1/2 hours of training for all Town Staff.

RESOLUTION # 22 – 245

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to accept the DEI Policy to be added to the Employee Handbook and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

- n. Cell phones for Town Employees – Supervisor Hogan – noted that \$25.00 per month is now being reimbursed to some employees to use their cell phones for work; Ms. Morehouse did some research and found a product for \$174.95 for 5 phones; the phones would stay with the position rather than the person; Mr. Gonyo – I think it's a good move, asking someone to use their own devices is asking too much; I would say we need to set them up with parameters, restrictions, limit the use of the Town phone, but a great idea; Mr. Gonyo - possibly set up a form with who has what equipment – keys, cell phones, etc. for when there's a separation of employment.

RESOLUTION # 22-246

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve the purchase of cell phones for specific Town Employees at \$174.95 for 5 lines/phones and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Stevens. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

- o. 2023 Fire Contracts – Supervisor Hogan indicated we need to set a Public Hearing for these; January 17, 2023 – set up Public Hearing and send to newspapers

RESOLUTION # 22-247

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to set the Public Hearing for the 2023 Fire Contracts for January 17, 2023 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

4. Committee Reports:

Mr. Gonyo - met with Mr. Stevens to get wifi/internet at the transfer station; Mr. Stevens – outstanding question was if we were using scales, they would have no way to pay, just one part of it; Mr. Gonyo – we need internet up there, we'll start down that path.

Mr. Arsenault – reached out to Superintendent Comstock - listening to some of his plans; he mentioned that Harrington Road, Cemetery Road were paved; just finished the Glen Creek Bridge, very satisfied with that; County bridge at Dippikill is now closed; 1-1/2 miles at Barton Mines Road, culverts need to be changed; equipment needs – two new trucks being delivered this week; staffing for the winter season – good staff right now, possibly one more wing man, in a good position going forward; good year Superintendent stated; another year left of sand in the pit, Superintendent has reached out to others, in addition, looking to lease a crusher at the pit to crush the stone we have, could save the Town a lot of money rather than having someone come in to do that; Supervisor Hogan – thank you Mr. Arsenault.

5. Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Hogan – I met with HHHN, a lot of reasons for decreased services, one was transportation; they're forming a separate foundation from the organization, it will help to fund initiatives that HHHN cannot fund; discussed transportation; asked for a set aside of money for rural communities; we agreed to talk again; they're working on a long range strategic plan.

We are going out to bid for water district repairs – out for 4 weeks due the 2nd week in February; Mr. Gonyo – did we get an estimate from Cedarwood for the south end of Town; Supervisor Hogan – no, we're going out to bid; didn't they get us that information at the last meeting? Mr. Gonyo – I've asked for it several meetings ago, we need to know what the amount would be to go out to bid. Supervisor Hogan – I'll check on that.

The Assessor and I spoke at length, we've been following sales, many of the sales are above where the assessed values are that we could possible fall off the 100%, if we fall below 85% we may need to make adjustments next year; just wanted the Board to be aware of the sales situation; she's concerned that we're low; we'll evaluate in 2023 to stay as close to 100% as possible. Lights on Contest – judges worked hard, in the dark, Steve and Sheila Osterhout, Erin & Hudson Dunkley, Ron & Cathy Allen, best residence 23 Millington Road; business category – Hudson River Trading; best not for profit – Owens House and Depot Museum; Hudson Dunkley Honorable Mention – 19 Osborne Street; please collect the prizes at Town Hall.

6. ZEO – Monthly Report in packet.

7. Warrants – Supervisor Hogan asked if all had a chance to review the Warrants and if there were any questions? Mr. Gonyo – it looks like we made a good move to get the guys on the Safety Allotment program so they can get the gear that they need.

RESOLUTION # 22-248

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve the Warrants and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

GENERAL FUND:	\$ 163,644.12
HIGHWAY FUND:	\$ 190,097.09
LIBRARY FUND:	\$ 2,139.10
WATER DISTRICT:	\$ 9,435.96
TRUST & AGENCY:	\$ 835.14
TOTALS:	\$ 366,151.41

Mr. Stevens – just a concern/question – what is going on with the streetlights being out, with more EV how is the Town going to handle it; Supervisor Hogan – let’s try to go around National Grid with the University Games coming, I’ll check with the State; as they are being replaced it is with LED.

8. Privilege of the Floor –

Mr. Holt – Resolution for Alexander – is it good for one year or two? Supervisor Hogan – one year; Mr. Arsenault couldn’t vote then he did – why; Supervisor Hogan – when he was on the phone he couldn’t vote, once on Zoom he could; HHHN – color/glossy magazines it’s disgusting; we need to stop supporting them; can we ask them to come to a future Board Meeting? Supervisor Hogan – yes; fire contracts with Chestertown – where are we? Re-val – the numbers have been in for quite a while, Town taxes went down 5%, no report from our Assessor; worrying about being at 100%, it’s about equity and doing it right, this needs to be addressed; Mr. Gonyo – regarding the Chester fire district, that falls under the North Creek Fire District; Mr. Holt – it’s between Supervisor to Supervisor; Mr. Gonyo – we do get compensated; Mr. Holt – not nearly enough, it was discussed 15 years ago.

Ms. Nettle – first responder exemption? Supervisor Hogan – I am not in a position to answer questions, I can get someone here who is; the Board made a very good decision appointment Mr. Hoskins. Representatives from the Summit at Gore HOA – thanks to you, the Town Board, for your service to the Community; we really need restoration of the shuttle, we do have an established need with homeowners and renters; Mr. Gonyo – what was the benefit for the Summit? Owner at the Summit for 13 years, we’ve always had a shuttle, we paid into it, to have it has been huge, especially to the mountain, parking is horrible; people at the Summit are very upset; we were not made aware of any issues, we were never contacted about this; shocked that the shuttles were sold; owners are pretty upset, it was expected for the some of the new owners; there is a need even on Main Street; we’re interested in working towards a solution; Mr. Gonyo – I’m taking this on, and will get some information from you; shuttle was run and owned by the NCBA, nothing to do with the Town; I am happy to look into this, I have 15 years in transportation.

Mr. Hoskins – thank you for your support and I will return the favor and will work diligently; thank you to Ms. Nettle for pushing me to more involved; been here only 5 years from Philadelphia; I was in Public Service for many years and thank you for this opportunity. Please make my letter available to anyone who would like to read it.

Ms. Brown – spoke to someone at the Indian Lake dump – they have a shed, that people could bring “gently used” things for others to use; I’d like to see this in our Town; possibly purchase a shed, it will need to be manned so it doesn’t become a mess; volunteers man the “shed” in Indian Lake; I’ll take it on and bring it back to the Board; looking for volunteers and funding for the shed; we can raise the funds with grants and donations.

Ms. Nettle – every community that we go to with a ski area – there is a shuttle, maybe not privately owned, but it needs to be done. Re: Judy’s idea, it’s a great idea, it’s been talked about for a long time, Mr. Horvath is big in recycling.

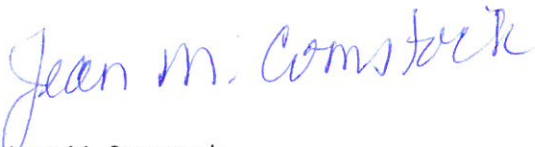
Ms. Zimmerman – surprised there was no applause for the Lights On contestants and winners when they were announced, let’s give them the applause they deserve

9. Motion to adjourn:

RESOLUTION # 22-249

Mr. Gonyo made a motion to Adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 8:50PM and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried. Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hogan); Nays - 0.

Prepared by:



Jean M. Comstock
Town Clerk

**The next Town Board Meeting will be held
January 3, 2023 at 7:00PM at Tannery Pond
And-via Zoom**