

Town of Johnsbury
Town Board Meeting
February 1, 2022

PRESENT: Andrea Hogan – Supervisor
Eugene Arsenault – Councilman
Arnold Stevens – Councilman
Jean Comstock – Town Clerk
Peter Olesheski – absent
Justin Gonyo – absent

1. Supervisor Hogan called the Meeting to order at 7:01PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deana Wood.
2. Approval of January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION #22-26 – Mr. Stevens presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Arsenault– to accept the Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2022.

With all Town Board members present voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault); nays – 0.

3. Correspondence – no correspondence for this meeting.
4. New Business:
 - a. Highway – Mr. Comstock indicated that the 2011 pick-up truck currently being used by Deputy Mike Dunkley is a 2011, rusting out, 195,000+ miles, in need of major repairs. Would like to purchase a 1-ton crew cab; I have quote, but understands that this needs to put it out to bid. Looking at about mid-\$50,000 for all we need. Supervisor Hogan noted that Mr. Comstock could possibly get a lower price than County or State. Mr. Stevens asked if there was enough in the Highway budget? Mr. Comstock & Supervisor Hogan indicated that there was. Mr. Arsenault asked if the two big trucks were in yet? Mr. Comstock indicated that they were supposed to be and he's working with the company. It could take 4-8 months to get the new pick-up truck. Mr. Comstock asked for a motion to allow for RFP not to exceed \$60,000.

RESOLUTION #22-28 - Mr. Stevens presented the preceding Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Arsenault to allow an RFP for a new 1-ton, crew cab pick-up truck for the Highway Department. With all Town Board members present voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault); nays – 0.

Mr. Stevens asked Mr. Comstock if they were equipped to handle the impending storm. Mr. Comstock indicated they have one truck down, but they are ready.

Supervisor Hogan wanted to thank Mr. Comstock and the Highway Department for helping out the Parks Department getting ready for the storm. Both departments working together is great to see and does save the Town money.

Supervisor Hogan asked Ernie Dunkley (Safety Officer) how the inventory schedule is going? Mr. Dunkley indicated he needed to get with Mr. Comstock but no replacement dates have been defined as of yet.

- b. Review of the COVID policy – Ernie Dunkley has been working with the County and has put a lot of work into this policy. After discussions we'll leave the policy as is. Supervisor Hogan noted that communication within all departments has been great. Supervisor Hogan indicated that masks will continue to be worn until we hear something different from the CDC/State. Town Hall Staff is ready to re- open. County is at 14-16%, would like to see 4%, but understand that may not be possible. Looking at February 28, 2022 to re-open Town Hall. Any concerns with that? Mr. Arsenault noted it was good with him. Mr. Stevens indicated that as long as the staff is comfortable with it, it sounds good to him.
- c. Riverfront Park – Darrah Engineering was to have the survey for us, but it did not get to Supervisor Hogan today. Will need APA and local Planning Board approval. Supervisor Hogan noted that we will discuss this at the next Board Meeting.
- d. Library Assistant – potential candidate is very positive and creative. Ms. Mason is looking for approval to hire at \$15.00 per hour.

RESOLUTION #22-29 - Mr. Arsenault presented the preceding Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Supervisor Hogan to approve the hiring of the Library Assistant.

With all Town Board members present voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault); nays – 0.

- e. Occupancy Tax – Supervisor Hogan noted that \$56,000 was forwarded from 2021. We'll leave it open for the month; all seems good. Hoping to see more from the County.
- f. Trails – Supervisor Hogan indicated that we're going back and forth with DEC re: justification of trails in the Connection Plan. Trail Committee needs to sit down with DEC later in February to discuss the Plan. Thank you to Mrs. Nettle for writing the Grant to work on the connection. Supervisor Hogan indicated that there are other grants out there, one possibly for \$35,000 and she'll be looking for Mrs. Nettle's help on this.
- g. Garnet Lake Dam – all is set with this.

5. Committee Reports - Johnsbury Garage – Supervisor Hogan stated that she’s pleased with where we are at this point.

Mr. Stevens stated he had a Zoom meeting with Engineers for the water improvement project; we’re moving along on the right path and in a timely manner. Supervisor Hogan noted that it will be upgraded when Main Street is done this summer.

Mr. Stevens noted that Johnsbury Central School does not want to be included in the new sewer project. This means that we won’t have to go across the bridge, but what about 28N.

Supervisor Hogan indicated we’d have more information for the next Board Meeting and that hopefully the Town Attorney will be available for this meeting. ORDA will be hooking into this system as well and will be paying for that.

6. Warrants

RESOLUTION #22-30 - Mr. Stevens presented the preceding Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Arsenault to accept the Warrants.

With all Town Board members present voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried.

Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault); nays – 0.

GENERAL FUND:	\$20,510.03
WATER:	\$ 6,892.50
HIGHWAY:	\$14,635.60
LIBRARY:	\$ 10.49
TRUST & AGENCY	<u>\$ 216.00</u>
TOTAL	\$42,264.62

7. Privilege of the Floor:

Mrs. Nettle wanted to report that things are going along nicely with the Clarkson students; looking at February 8-23 for possible site visits, no specific date yet, but will let Mr. Comstock and others know as soon as she hears. Drawings will be going together on February 23. This is a fun and exciting time.

Supervisor Hogan noted that the County is working the EFS students re: solid waste; possibly get a loaner bailer for paper and cardboard. Will share all information when it becomes available.

Mr. Nettle asked if the Riverfront Park could be renamed to Riverfront Drive (in recognition of the logging industry in the area). Mr. Nettle also noted that there were a lot of people at the Ski Bowl Park for the Nordic competition recently and the trails are in beautiful condition. Mr. Nettle wanted to also note that he heard through the grapevine that ORDA may be putting a restaurant/tavern at the Ski Bowl – is this really something the Town wants there, is it legal – just something to think about. Mr. Nettle noted that all should get out and ski, the trails are phenomenal.

Supervisor Hogan indicated that 2/5 – 2/20 there will be qualifying going on at Gore as well. All good questions and concerns from Mr. Nettle. Mr. Bayse will be at the next Town Board meeting and that would be a good time to ask these questions. The Town Attorney is following this process closely.

Mrs. Nettle asked Ms. Wood if she was registered on Grants Gateway yet. Ms. Wood indicated that yes the Historical Society is registered. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Wood where they were at with the house? Work is being done on the house; had to reinforce some floors/walls due to changing from residential to commercial, the rules changed. Hoping to have it all done by July. Carol Pearsall is helping with the grand opening. Mr. Stevens noted that it all sounds good.

8. Motion to Adjourn at 8:00PM

RESOLUTION #22-31 - Mr. Arsenault presented the preceding Resolution and moved its passage with a Second from Mr. Stevens to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. With all Town Board members present voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault); nays – 0.

Next Town Board Meeting will be February 15, 2022 at 7:00PM at the
Tannery Pond Center and Zoom – link can be found
On the Town Website at <https://www.johnsburgny.com>

Prepared by:

Jean M. Comstock
Town Clerk