

**Town of Johnsburg  
Regular Meeting of the Town Board  
Tannery Pond and Zoom Meeting  
September 7, 2021 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2172603617>

Meeting ID: 217 260 3617  
888 788 0099 US Toll-free  
877 853 5247 US Toll-free

**PRESENT:** Andrea Hogan – Supervisor  
Eugene Arsenault – Councilman  
Laurie Arnheiter – Councilwoman  
Justin Gonyo – Councilman – (entered meeting late)  
Kate Lorah - Town Clerk  
**ABSENT:** Arnold Stevens – Councilman

Supervisor Hogan called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Andrea Hogan.

**Approval of Minutes August 24 and 30, 2021 meetings**

Deferred to next meeting.

Correspondence:

- Letter from The Glens Falls Foundation granting the Town \$7000 for upgrades to Tannery Pond

**New Business:**

- **Contractual agreement with Mountain Medical – medical testing**

***RESOLUTION #163-21***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the contract with Mountain Medical for medical testing, at the same rates as 2021. With 3 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 3 (Hogan, Arsenault, Arnheiter) Nays – 0 Absent – 2 (Stevens, Gonyo)

• **Health Insurance Plans and HRA**

Mr. Arsenault said he would be more comfortable voting on this when most Board members are present. Tabled.

**Old Business:**

- Budget discussion

Ms. Hogan answered Mr. Arsenault's question, saying the budget as it stands does not break the tax cap, but that she has had several asks since the budget was written and that a conversation with Fred Comstock suggests a significant increase in paving costs next year. The Board had mixed reactions and will discuss breaking the tax cap further.

Chris Heidrich noted that an increase in taxes would have an effect on those with fixed incomes.

Kevin Bien and Amy Sabattis both had concerns with the condition of Barton Mines Road, and wanted the repairs necessary to be included in the highway budget.

Christian Holt questioned the situation with PILOT programs and Ms. Hogan said discussions on this are in the near future.

Mr. Holt asked if Scout Hall could be used as office space for some Town Hall employees. Ms. Hogan said that the building was donated to a specific scout troop, and that alternative use is a possibility if an agreement can be reached with the troop.

- **Senior Meal Site and Meals on Wheels**

As stated at the last Board meeting, Ms. Hogan reported that the decision has been made by Warren County to stop both congregate meals and the meals-on-wheels programs. The Board all agreed that this is a poor decision for the Senior population.

Result of that discussion on August 24 was the following:

***RESOLUTION #156-21***

*Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to draft a letter from the Town to Warren County*

*opposing the decision to stop both congregate meals and the meals-on-wheels programs. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0*

(Note: Mr. Gonyo has joined the meeting.)

## **RESOLUTION #164-21**

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve following:

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LONG-TERM USE OF A MAIL DELIVERY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MEALS TO SENIORS AND OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF CONGREGATE MEAL SITES.

WHEREAS, Seniors living alone, commonly known as “Ageing in Place” number nearly 1/3 of the nationwide senior citizen population.

WHEREAS, Seniors who live alone are more vulnerable to the impacts of social isolation, especially made more prevalent by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, Higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicide are associated with loneliness. Seniors living alone are at a 68% increased risk of hospitalization, 57% increased risk of emergency department visits and a 50% increased risk of dementia.\*

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that loneliness is a significant predictor of anorexia nervosa and increased risk of malnutrition. \*\*

WHEREAS the Town of Johnsbury currently has approximately 39 seniors receiving in-home distribution of freshly prepared meals on wheels, delivered by a dedicated volunteer corps, as well as a number of individuals who rely on the social opportunities found in the town’s congregate meal site,

AND, WHEREAS, the Johnsbury Town Board understands that due to supply chain, health concerns and personnel issues, the format of delivery may, from time to time and out of necessity, have to be temporarily modified,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Johnsbury Town Board opposes any permanent changes to the structure, staffing or quality of meals provided through the Warren County Office for the Ageing. The Town Board encourages The Warren County Office for the Ageing to work more closely with the Towns to find creative and compassionate solutions for providing meals and commits resources to assist in these endeavors.

Duly adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September.

Cc: Chairwoman Seeber, Administrator Moore, Supervisor Frasier, Director Park

\*National Institute on Aging

\*\* **The effect of loneliness on malnutrition in elderly population**

Enisa Ramic<sup>1</sup>, Nurka Pranjic, Olivera Batic-Mujanovic, Enisa Karic, Esad Alibasic, Alma Alic

With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0 Absent – 1 (Stevens)

### Committee Reports:

Ms. Arnheiter is continuing gathering information on transportation for Seniors. She also is pursuing a Solar Farm Meeting, working with Gore Village Homeowners' Association. The Association is requesting a meeting being scheduled on a Friday evening so that more people can attend. She will talk with Danae Tucker and then schedule.

### Approval of Warrants

**General Fund** (Total \$10,294.85)

**Highway Fund** (Total \$7151.36)

**Water District** (\$320.83)

**Trust and Agency** (\$7731.75)

**Total all warrants \$25,498.79**

### ***RESOLUTION #165-21***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the warrants. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0 Absent – 1 (Stevens)

### Privilege of the Floor

None

### Motion to adjourn

***RESOLUTION #166-21***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to adjourn. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0 Absent – 1 (Stevens)

Next meeting Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7 pm  
Tannery Pond and  
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah