

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg  
Regular Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID: 217 260 3617**

**by phone:**

**888 788 0099 US Toll-free**

**877 853 5247 US Toll-free**

**November 5, 2020**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Thursday November 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Andrea Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Gonyo.

**PRESENT:**

Eugene Arsenault -- Councilman  
Arnold Stevens -- Councilman  
Laurie Arnheiter – Councilwoman  
Justin Gonyo – Councilman  
Andrea Hogan - Supervisor

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING October 20, 2020**

***RESOLUTION #166- 20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays- 0

**Correspondence:**

Letter from DEC regarding Widlund property acquisition  
Letters in support of NYS acquiring Widlund property  
Library report

## **New Business:**

### **Widlund Property Discussion:**

- Mrs. Hogan noted that the Widlunds had not joined the meeting yet so the board will come back to the Letter from DEC later in the meeting.

### **Safety Program Update:**

- Amy Clute was present and gave the board a presentation on the Safety Committee.

### **Safety Award:**

- Ms. Clute presented the first quarterly safety award to Matt Olden. The board thanked Ms. Clute for all of her hard work helping with the Safety Committee

### **Marketing Proposal:**

- Mrs. Hogan presented to the Board the Marketing Proposal from Mr. Cappabianca about developing a brochure for Johnsbury, Horicon, and Chestertown. There was some discussion and it was decided to bring Mr. Cappabianca back to the next Board meeting to answer some questions the board had.

### **Occupancy Tax Requests:**

- Kelly Nettle had submitted a request on behalf of the Ski Museum in Nov of 2019 for \$2,000.00 for the printing of a Ski Museum brochure and it had gotten lost. Mrs. Nettle was asking the board to consider the award now, the Occ Tax board had been contacted and they are fine with awarding the money for this purpose.

## ***RESOLUTION #167-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to allocate \$2,000.00 from the 2020 Occ Tax awards to Mrs. Nettle for the Ski Museum.

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

- Johnsbury Fine Arts had been awarded \$6,000.00 in the last round. Ms. Hartley was present to request that \$2,000.00 of that be held over until 2021 so that she could do the grout work on the Mosaic Wall in the spring, because it's too late to do it this year.

***RESOLUTION #168-20***

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to move \$2000.00 from the 2020 Occ Tax award to the 2021. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Hogan, Gonyo) Nays-0

**Ski Bowl Recreation Proposal:**

Judy Brown was present to discuss building a wider trail for sledding and clearing of the pond at the beach for skating. Ms. Brown has been talking with Rob Wing and Bone Bayse about the idea. Mrs. Brown said the Dog Park parking lot would be fine for parking for the skating area. Mrs. Brown would like permission to buy a firepit for \$600.00 and 2 shovels at \$40.00 each. Mr. Gonyo asked when this would take place Mrs. Brown said they are hoping for this season, and the plan is to use volunteers to keep the pond cleared off.

Mrs. Brown would like a resolution from the Town Board allowing ORDA to make the sledding hill and to buy a fire pit and 2 shovels.

***RESOLUTION #169-20***

Mr. Gonyo made a motion to allocate \$ 1,000.00 with \$500.00 coming from general fund and \$500.00 from Occ Tax, seconded by Ms. Arnheiter. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Widlund Property Discussion:**

The Widlunds were unable to connect to tonight’s meeting but Beth Maher was available to answer questions about the property. Ms. Maher stated that the Widlunds had originally placed the property on the open market. Area residents got together and spoke with the Adirondack Land Trust and they have agreed to take the property until NYS purchases it. Once NYS takes it over full property taxes will be paid so it will stay on the tax roll.

***RESOLUTION #170-20***

Mr. Gonyo made a motion to support NYS DEC in use of EPF monies to purchase

the Widlund property Tax Map # 63.-1-2, seconded by Ms. Arnheiter.

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is contemplating the purchase of a parcel of land in North River owned by Woody and Elise Widlund on 13th Lake identified as Tax Map Number 63.-1-2,

and

WHEREAS, the Town of Johnsbury has a 90-day time period from date of notice to respond to the DEC with their support or opposition to the use of Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) monies for this purpose,

and

WHEREAS these lands will provide public access to 13th Lake, and consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan stated goal to preserve and enhance the scenic and rural character that is one of the town's principal resources, and to promote tourism and outdoor recreation for all seasons by protecting visitors' experience of Thirteenth Lake, whether paddling, hiking or camping in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

and

Whereas the State will pay taxes on these lands,

be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board supports the NYS DEC in use of EPF monies for acquisition of the said parcels

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Library Director:**

The Library Board would like to offer the open position of Library Director to Kate Erwin with the salary being \$32,000.00 per year.

***RESOLUTION #171-20***

Ms. Arnheiter made a motion to hire Kate Erwin at \$32,000.00 per year as recommended by the Library Board, seconded by Mr. Gonyo. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Authorize notice of requests for letters of interest for the for the following positions: Winter Ski Program Director, Animal Control Office, and ZEO:**

Mrs. Hogan stated that it was the time of year again to advertise for the positions of Winter Ski Program Director, Animal Control officer and ZEO.

***RESOLUTION #172-20***

Mr. Stevens made a motion to advertise for the positions of Winter Ski Program Director, Animal Control Officer and ZEO, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Authorize notice of requests for bids for Scrap Metal vendor**

Mrs. Hogan stated that it was the time of year again to advertise for bids for Scrap Metal Vendors.

***RESOLUTION #173-20***

Mr. Stevens made a motion to authorize notice of request for bids for scrap metal vendors for 2021, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Old Business:**

**Highway Superintendent – discussion item: Repair budget for 2020/2021**

Highway superintendent Fred Comstock said that the repair budget is short of what is needed to finish the year out with the number of repairs that he has had to do and asked the board to add \$20,000.00.

Mr. Gonyo discussed with the board the idea of financing a couple of new trucks and getting the highway department back on a replacement schedule, he said that he had spoken with North Star Funding. Mrs. Hogan asked Mr. Gonyo to please get some numbers together and bring the idea with firm numbers back to the next board meeting.

***RESOLUTION #174-20***

Mr. Gonyo made a motion to add \$20,000.00 to the highways repair budget, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Rescind Resolution # 158-20**

Supervisor Hogan said that the resolution to set a public hearing for the Fire District needs to be rescinded for now because the property lines and remapping them.

***RESOLUTION #175-20***

Mr. Stevens made a motion to rescind Resolution # 158-20, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is carried. Ayes–5 (Arsenault, Stevens, Hogan, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Old Business**

Mrs. Hogan said that budget discussion could wait until the next meeting

**Legal RFP's**

Supervisor Hogan said they would hold off on RFP discussions until a later board meeting. Mr. Gonyo said he felt like that was a good idea because he feels like face to face meetings are a good idea before making any commitments.

**Committee reports** – Mr. Parobeck was present to give the Sewer committee update. At present there are a few grants that the Town could apply for the Northern Regional would offer 50% of the funding needed if we got the grant, USDA Rural is another but it only offers 20% funding. Mr. Parobeck said that the Town would need to apply for enough to give the Town at least 70 to 80 percent funding. He also said that a sewer district does not have to be created in order to apply for these grants, but it would have to be done before we accepted the grants.

**Motion to accept warrants**

- General Fund** (\$9333.21)
- Highway Fund** (\$32,165.18)
- Water District** (\$7436.68)
- Johnsburg Emergency Squad** (\$144,059.00)
- Trust & Fund** (894.19)

**Total all Warrants \$193,888.26**

***RESOLUTION #176-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage to accept the warrants, seconded by Mr. Arsenault. With 5 in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Gonyo, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

Supervisor Hogan said she wanted to thank the poll workers for all their hard work and to remind everyone it's time to take down the candidate signs.

**Privilege of the Floor**

Cheryl Gillespie spoke of the signs in Tannery Pond suggesting that people go look at them and fill out the comment cards available to them.

Mr. Nessel warned that when they start working on the sledding hill the people doing it need to watch carefully for the electric line buried in that area.

**Motion to adjourn** – The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gonyo, seconded by Ms. Arnheiter. With 5 in favor the motion carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 17, 2020 VIA Zoom

Prepared by:

Joann M. Morehouse, Deputy Clerk