

Town of Johnsborg Town Board Meeting February 21, 2023

In Attendance: Mark Smith – Supervisor Justin Gonyo – Councilman
Arnold Stevens – Councilman Pete Hoskins – Councilman
Gene Arsenault – Councilman (via Zoom)
Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance - led by Deana Wood

1. Ratify Resolution from February 10, 2023 from – Supervisor Smith – per Town Attorney we need to ratify and affirm the Resolution of February 10, 2023 - #23-50, it's per Counsel, just a housekeeping issue. Supervisor Smith – I will abstain from the vote; Ayes – 4 (Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins).

Supervisor Smith - I'd like to set the tone for the next few months. Thank you to Andrea for sticking around and helping me out, much appreciated. Thanks to Superintendent Comstock for cold patching Durkin Road, appreciate it very much. I'm open for discussion, no yelling, name calling; I'm happy to sit down with anyone; we're all worried about gas and food, our kids; we have more in common than we do in disagreement; mutual respect for one another; we can agree to disagree; my schedule is with Joann at Town Hall and I can schedule a meeting; I have an open door policy; manage expectations – I am an executor for the will of this board; so far in my first week, moving forward I'm like a project management, fiscal responsibility; MBA or similar qualifications for whoever runs next; we're going to face change, it's inevitable; we have to ride the wave; we have some decisions to make; we're at a crossroads, some good things, some bad, hoping the good outweighs the bad; I believe in transparency and sharing as much as we can; I don't want to build walls; we're on the USS Johnsborg, hoping we're all rowing in the same direction; let's try to pull together, negotiate and move forward.

2. Call to Order Public Hearing at 7:07PM - Supervisor Smith read the Local Law #1-2023; before 9-11, we were not aware of the dedication; it's important that these people are recognized; getting up in the middle of the night, leaving their jobs during the day; open to floor.
Bruce Ashline – 30 year volunteer fireman, I'm retired it won't affect me, but it should be passed.
Chris Heidrich – I support this; 10% on taxes or assessment? Supervisor Smith – assessment.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 52

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:14PM 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0

Supervisor Smith – very proud and happy to have this pass; it's not enough, we need to do more for our Volunteers, any ideas, please stop in or e-mail me. Looking for Board approval for the Local Law #1-2023

RESOLUTION # 23 – 53

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve Local Law #1-2023 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

3. Call to Order – Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:17PM

4. Approve Minutes of the February 7, 2023 Town Board Meeting

RESOLUTION # 23 – 54

Mr. Arsenault made a Motion to approve and accept the Minutes of the February 7, 2023 Town Board Meeting 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

5. Approve and ratify the Volunteer Fire Department Contracts – Supervisor Smith, we need a motion to approve and ratify the Contracts for the Volunteer Fire Departments that were previously mailed out.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 55

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve and ratify the 2023 Volunteer Fire Department Contracts 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

6. Old/New Business

- a. Building Truck – Mr. Olden received quotes for this purchase; he'd like to go with the lowest price as it includes the flat bed, sander, plow and undercoating for the \$75,289; other quotes did not include any of the extras. Supervisor Smith noted that this is a "must have". Mr. Hoskins – I'm in full agreement, it's met all the procurement needs. Mr. Gonyo – funding? Supervisor Smith – close to \$300,000 part of this can be used to purchase this truck; we'd like to use this money for "must have's" and this will not all be designated tonight.

Mr. Lane – what about a 0% loan? Supervisor Smith – we could look into this, it's a great idea, but could take an additional few weeks and the truck may not be there.

Mr. Konis – could you put \$10,000 on it to hold it? Supervisor Smith – I'd have to check out accounting rules. I am very mindful of the comments, but I think we need to move forward with a resolution for this.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 56

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the purchase of the truck for the Buildings Department and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 57

Supervisor Smith noted that we should have a "not to exceed" on this purchase. Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to have a not to exceed limit of \$76,000 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

- b. AED Equipment for Parks Department – Mr. Gonyo had an e-mail from Mr. Olesheski shortly after the last meeting explaining what his plan was. Mr. Gonyo noted that since he didn't have the specifics at the last meeting was the reason he felt the need to table it.

RESOLUTION # 23 -58

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve the purchase of the AED Equipment for the Parks Department and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

- c. Parks – use of Town Insurance for Fishing Derby – Supervisor Smith spoke with the insurance company and there are no stipulations or costs for this event. It's a great idea and a great day out for the kids. Mr. Hoskins noted that it was a commendable activity by our Parks & Rec Director. No action needed by the Board.

- d. Appointment of Budget Officer – Supervisor Smith, I’m happy to take this on as it was one of Ms. Hogan’s responsibilities.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 59

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to appoint Supervisor Smith as the Budget Officer 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

- e. Appointment of Petty Cash Officer – Supervisor Smith – as I’m in the office almost every day and this again was part of the previous Supervisor’s daily duties, I’d be happy to take it on.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 60

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to appoint Supervisor Smith as the Petty Cash Officer 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

7. Budget Change – Supervisor Smith noted it would be a “loan” from the General Fund due to the timing of payments received. We need to close out 2022 and need to make the housekeeping change in order to do that and then open 2023 and pay it back. Please feel free to stop in and see me if you’d like any further explanation, it is a little confusing.

RESOLUTION # 23 – 61

Mr. Arsenault made a Motion to approve the budget change as noted and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following Board Members present voting in favor the Resolution is carried Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

8. Committee Reports – Mr. Gonyo noted that there is a Sewer Committee Meeting on February 27, 2023. Ms. Konis asked who was allowed at these meetings? Mr. Gonyo said he wasn’t sure, he’d never been asked that question before, but to contact Matt Parobeck. Mr. Hoskins added that no decisions can be made at these Committee Meetings and only two (2) Board Members can be on them, it’s advisory only. Supervisor Smith noted that there is generally no “public comment time” allotted at these meetings, but those can canvas the Board after the meeting. Ms. Sabattis noted that those that are paying for the new sewer should be able to attend these meetings.

9. Warrants – Supervisor Smith asked if all had a chance to review the Warrants and if there were any questions or concerns?

RESOLUTION # 23 – 62

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve and accept the Warrants 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

GENERAL FUND:	\$ 38,164.99
HIGHWAY FUND:	\$ 7,552.66
LIBRARY FUND:	\$ 122.90
WATER DISTRICT:	\$ 25,948.63
TRUST & AGENCY:	\$ 214.24
TOTALS:	\$ 72,003.42

10. Privilege of the Floor – Supervisor Smith - I've spoken to other Supervisors/Town/County, from what I've seen the general consensus is the Privilege of the Floor is limited to 3 minutes; moving forward, we'll allow 3 minutes and we can change it or hold a workshop for feedback; it's not a Q&A per se, if we can answer it with a quick answer we will; we can spend the next week discussing and post them on the website or come in and talk to me.

- Ms. Wood – in December we talked about Senior transportation, I'd just like to know where we're at with this; maybe a voucher system with another transportation company to those that need rides to appointments. Affordable Housing – from 2002 and 2008 – it's important that we continue to look at this moving forward.
- Ms. Konis – with the windfall of \$300,000 let's help the elderly; Parks & Rec – his new position was his salary only; where is his spending going to end, each meeting he gets more and more. Committees – where is a list of these committees; AirBnB committee and sewer committee – Mr. Gonyo, these are standing committees – Town Clerk will get Ms. Konis a list of these Committees that were approved at the January 3, 2023 Town Board Meeting; if anyone wants to form a committee to bring suggestions to the Board they're welcome to do that.
- Mr. Konis – I sat in on the meeting today for AirBnB, they stated Andrea started it. Mr. Hoskins added – please feel free to join any committee.
- Ms. Konis – what is the Board's stance on Barton Mines? Supervisor Smith – I'm not to going answer that right now; I have my opinion, but to my knowledge the Board has not made a stance. Please feel free to stop in and see me for my own opinion.
- Ms. Sabattis – three pieces of property the Town was to sell, whatever happened to those? Mr. Gonyo – that's a good question, we'll find out, we got appraisals, and we need to move to the next step.
- Mr. Ashline – I would request that the Board write a letter supporting Barton Mines, it's important to support them; letter to DEC/APA.
- Mr. Williams – during the budgetary process there were several meetings and feedback from Town's people; public feedback on priorities for the extra money; if we keep the budget the same and sales tax remains the same or increase budget by 2%, we'll have an additional sum of money next year; we've taken care of our firefighters, they're volunteer; EMS needs help with insurance coverage on par with Town employees; Committees – the board/supervisor can appoint; Parks Advisory Committee – the last time it was tabled – what is going on with it? Supervisor Smith - we've discussed canvassing the community re: spending of that money.
- Mr. Dunkley (Bruce) – thank the Board getting this law passed; first in the County to do this and may be the State; with Mr. Gonyo and Mr. Stevens on this committee, thank you for your continued support in getting this done; it sets in place a system for recruitment and retention; the other part that needs to happen is that the School take action; Mr. Supervisor if you could take this to the County level it would be greatly appreciated; it's very beneficial; please take this to the Board of Supervisors – they can take our Local Law and cut and paste and get it done very quickly; met at North River last evening and it looks like some may take advantage of this; I'll help out in any way I can; I think the State made a goof, in the application, on the back, if you claim the property tax exemption you are not eligible for the State benefit, I hope that gets changed; Supervisor Smith – I don't think this goes far enough for our volunteers, we're looking locally to try to do more; Mr. Gonyo – for the benefit for all in the room, Mr. Dunkley answers his phone all time. Supervisor Smith – thank you all for your input.
- Mr. Gonyo noted that the the Republican Committee reached out to me – I will not be running for re-election in 2024; party lines should not come into play, but I would strongly encourage you to get to know these folks and reach out to them. Amy Sabattis would be your contact person.

11. Motion to Adjourn

RESOLUTION # 23 – 63

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to Adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 7:56PM 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 – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

Prepared by:

Jean M. Comstock

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Town Clerk

**The Next Town Board Meeting will be held on March 7, 2023 at 7:00PM at
Tannery Pond and via Zoom**