

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury Regular Board Meeting May 4 2010
Held at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY Supervisor Goodspeed called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Frank Morehouse, Jr.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supv. Sterling Goodspeed; Town Councilmen/ Eugene Arsenault, Frank Morehouse, Jr, Arnold Stevens, and Ronald Vanselow; Town Clerk/ William Rawson.

Guests: On attached list

Town Clerk Rawson explained that the minutes of the April 20, 2010 meeting were not yet available due to the Town Clerk being at the Town Clerks Convention on April 26 and 27.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock requesting that the Town Board authorize him to purchase the following three pieces of equipment for the Highway Department: a plazma cutter (\$1839.00), a stainless steel sander (\$13,620.00) and a pickup truck (\$20,000.00).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Supv. Goodspeed explained that the Town Board is still struggling with the recycling and garbage collection issues; regarding the trash collection issue, any successful bidder will need to pay prevailing wage rates. As the Town of Johnsbury is in the Albany, Saratoga Counties region as regards prevailing wage this means that the cost of the collection contract is likely to double or more, unless one or more of the exemptions to the law apply. Supv. Goodspeed suggested that the Town Board put the trash collection out to bid and see what the cost will be; he added that there is a bonding requirement in the specifications which is a cost to the Town and also a protection for the Town. There is also one dumpster in the Town and the current contractor would like to have the Town Board remove the requirement to empty dumpsters; Supv. Goodspeed suggested discussing the requirement to empty dumpsters with the successful bidder. Mr. Vanselow asked that the language requiring a compactor truck be removed in the interest of encouraging bidders and lowering costs; Mr. Robert Nettle suggested that using a compactor truck might shorten the time required and lower the cost.

RESOLUTION NO. 94

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for one week on in the North Creek News Enterprise for the collection of garbage with the contract to run from June 2, 2010 through June 1, 2011, with the bids to be opened at 7:00pm at a regular meeting of the Town Board to be held at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY on Tuesday, June 1, 2010; and further, that the language requiring the collection be done with a compactor truck be omitted from the bid specifications. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed explained that a workshop meeting had been held on April 29 at the Warrensburg Department of Environmental Conservation building with representatives of the following organizations and present: Town of Johnsburg (Town Attorney, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and North Creek Water District Engineer), Adirondack Park Agency (APA), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NYS Department of Health and Front Street Mountain Development. The purpose of the meeting, scheduled by the APA was to have a discussion of pending issues associated with the Front Street Mountain Development project in North Creek. Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that there seemed to have been a good frank discussion involving numerous items related to the Front Street Mountain Development project. Mr. Mac Crikelair, Front Street Mountain Development, said that the meeting was very productive and that Front Street was planning to move ahead at the next Town Board meeting; the company expects to provide documents and information to the Town Board by the end of the week.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the amendments to the North Creek Water District regulations which he had planned to deliver to the Town Board at this meeting were still being reviewed by Town Attorney Jordan; he added that he expects to have the changes from the Town Attorney for the next Town Board meeting May 18, 2010.

Supv. Goodspeed read a memo from Mr. Mark Schmale (Cub Scouts), who was overseeing the camping at the Ski Bowl Park over White Water Derby Weekend, saying that the camping seemed successful. Supv. Goodspeed asked Ms. Kate Nightingale and Mr. David Bulmer for comment on the weekend. Ms. Nightingale said that the camping went well and that boater numbers were up; the only groups there were the adventure group and the Adirondack Community College (SUNY Adirondack) volunteers. Mr. Bulmer said that the lack of water was a problem; he added that the Adirondack Adventure Weekend portion of the event seemed to help and that most Main Street businesses had a good weekend. Supv. Goodspeed said that he believed that the tremendous weather over the weekend helped encourage attendance; he noted that there were eight to twelve vendors at the Kellogg property and was excited about the future of the event. Mr. Douglas Cole said that he had spoken with numerous vendors some of whom were not pleased that the event was so spread out and he believed that it would be beneficial to try to concentrate the event into one area. Ms. Kelly Nettle said that she thought it was a wonderful first effort.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the grant application for the CDBG Small Cities funds had been submitted on April 23; the grant has a maximum award of \$400,000.00 and if awarded is expected to pay for a new building to house the Johnsburg EMS. The grant application has been coordinated by Mr. Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of the Warren County Planning Department; an answer from the granting entity is expected in about six months. The anticipated cost of the building is \$520,000.00; the Johnsburg EMS plans to borrow the balance above the \$400,000.00 from the NYS Emergency Services Revolving Loan Account. Johnsburg EMS plans to acquire property on Peaceful Valley Road from the Sweet family; Mr. Vanselow asked if the property cost is included in the grant; Ms. Nettle replied that it was not, but that the owners have been generous in setting the cost and the Johnsburg EMS believed that it can pay for the property. Supv. Goodspeed asked that the Town Board pass a retroactive authorization to sign the application for the grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 95

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from

Mr. Morehouse to retroactively authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the application for the CDBG Small Cities funds grant to provide funding, with a maximum of \$400,000.00 for a new building to house the Johnsbury EMS. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed updated the Town Board on the Lakes to Locks, Quadricentennial Program that will celebrate the upcoming 400th anniversary of the explorations of Henry Hudson, with a website presence and a kiosk. There is some confusion over the funding as the company now seems to expect the Town to front the money; that had not appeared to be the case in the earlier discussions of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that a neighborhood environmental concern was being referred to Zoning Enforcement Officer, Chris May, and it is expected that he will be on site, May 6, for an inspection of possible water contamination and to determine if an inspection by the Town Health Officer is necessary.

Supv. Goodspeed asked if the Town Board wished to discuss and or act upon the request from Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock to purchase three pieces of equipment for the Highway Department. The equipment requested follows: a plazma cutter (\$1839.00), a stainless steel sander (\$13,620.00-\$16,000.00) and a pickup truck (\$20,000.00). Supt. Hitchcock noted that the plazma cutter would save money by allowing the Highway Department to fabricate items on site; the stainless steel sander would have an extended lifetime when compared to the same item manufactured from carbon steel; Supt. Hitchcock added that currently four of the Highway Department vehicles would be able to use the sander requested. The final purchase is to replace a Highway Department pickup which had an engine failure; the cost of a reliable used truck would be about \$15,000.00-\$18,000.00 and the requested new truck is \$20,000.00 under state contract. Supv. Goodspeed noted that Supt. Hitchcock had a surplus in the operating budget from 2009 and that these requests would not eliminate that surplus; Mr. Stevens said that it seemed to be a reasonable request budget-wise. Mr. Peter Heid said that the stainless steel sander would still have a resale value at the end of its useable life. Supv. Goodspeed added that it seemed to appear that the CHIPS funding would be made available, even with the NYS budget crisis; he added that the purchases will lead to a long term savings to the Town. Mr. Vanselow asked if there was a possibility of accomplishing any paving this year; Supt. Hitchcock replied that the washouts had created a bridge repair issue which could affect the possibility of paving this year.

RESOLUTION NO. 96

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to authorize Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock to purchase the following requested equipment for the Highway Department by using funds from a surplus in the 2009 Highway operations budget line: a plazma cutter (approximately \$1839.00), a stainless steel sander (approximately \$13,620.00-\$16,000.00) and a pickup truck (approximately \$20,000.00) for an approximate total of \$37,850.00. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed asked Secretary Cherie Ferguson to update the Town Board on the Town website. Secretary Ferguson explained that the website began as a shared site with the

Chamber of Commerce from which the Chamber of Commerce has withdrawn and there is no connection to the new Chamber of Commerce website. Secretary Ferguson would like to create a site wholly dedicated to the Town; this would allow the expansion of links for Town operations. The anticipated overall cost for the consolidation and expansion is between \$800.00 and \$1000.00 dollars which could come from Occupancy Tax funds. Mr. Peter Heid said that he has experience in building websites and would be willing to build the pages for free; Secretary Ferguson will discuss the project with Mr. Peter Heid.

Supv. Goodspeed asked Secretary Cherie Ferguson to update the Town Board on problems with compressors at the Tannery Pond Community Center. In 2009, two compressors of the three that operate the heating system at Tannery Pond Community Center were replaced as they had failed or were failing; the third compressor associated with the heating system needs to be replaced before the next heating season and the cost is said to be approximately \$7000.00. Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax said that while there is money in the contingency budget line that it would be helpful to not use that budget line until later in the year. Mr. Morehouse asked who looked at the system and what had failed; Secretary Ferguson replied that the system was checked by Thermal Associates, but she was not sure of the exact failure. Mr. Vanselow asked if the replacement will be a more efficient unit regarding operation costs; Secretary Ferguson said that she could ask Thermal Associates about the unit. Mr. Peter Heid said that he believed that there may be a little more longevity to the new unit. Mr. Morehouse asked for a copy of the quote; Supv. Goodspeed noted that there was some time before the next heating season and suggested future discussion and more research for a couple of months. Mr. Douglas Cole suggested turning off the air conditioners for the summer as it would extend the life of the compressors associated with that system and he noted that the quartz lamps are expensive to use if restarted on a frequent basis. Mr. Cole advised that the quartz lamps be used sparingly and left on all day once turned on. Mr. Peter Heid asked if the air conditioning can be used to circulate air without cooling it. Mr. John Thissell asked about the safety of program spectators with breathing problems; Supv. Goodspeed agreed that this was important and said that the issue would be discussed during the summer, following more research.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that last week he spoke to an administrator at Adirondack Community College (SUNY Adirondack) regarding the college seeking a site to at which to offer non-credit programs in the fall of 2010 and the spring of 2011 in the Town of Johnsbury; it was noted that if these courses were well received that it was possible that for credit programming could follow in the fall of 2011. Supv. Goodspeed said that he was excited about the opportunity; he added that the college was particularly interested in the proposed canoe launch site at the Kellogg Property. Mr. David Bulmer said that Adirondack Community College (SUNY Adirondack) was already offering some courses in association with Wildwaters at The Glen in the Town of Johnsbury.

Supv. Goodspeed asked Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax to update the Town Board regarding a request from the "Lights On" committee. Accounts Clerk Lomax explained that the committee is seeking funds to put flowers in hanging baskets in front of businesses which agree to be responsible for the baskets. The cost would be four hundred and come from Occupancy Tax funds; Accounts Clerk Lomax said that there is currently an uncommitted balance in the Occupancy Tax line of one thousand eight hundred dollars. The Town would increase the beautification contract by four hundred dollars to purchase the flowers.

RESOLUTION NO. 97

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse, that the Town of Johnsbury will increase the beautification contract from eight hundred dollars to twelve hundred dollars to be drawn from the current Occupancy Funds budget line and the flowers are to be displayed in hanging baskets in front of Main Street businesses which agree to accept responsibility for their care. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 1 (Stevens)

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the monthly report of the Animal Control Officer, William Mosher, for the month of April 2010, was in the Town Board members' packets

Supv. Goodspeed noted that there was no monthly report from Zoning Enforcement Officer, Christopher May, for the month of April 2010.

Supv. Goodspeed distributed the Supervisor's Monthly Report, for the month of April 2010, to the members of the Town of Johnsbury Town Board.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he had been in preliminary discussions with some senior citizens to look into the construction of a walkway from the White Water Manor or Senior Citizens Mealsite to the Grand Union plaza which would allow easy walking access between the two areas and eliminate the need to drive that short distance.

Mr. Vanselow reminded Supv. Goodspeed that the Town Board had advertised for a Planning Board member earlier in the year and that he had spoken with Mr. Timothy Record, the member whose term had expired and he would like to be reappointed; Supv. Goodspeed asked if the Town Board wished to reappoint Mr. Timothy Record to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 98

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to reappoint Mr. Timothy Record to the Town of Johnsbury Planning Board, as a full time member, for a term to expire February 1, 2017. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Ski Bowl Park Committee

Supv. Goodspeed recognized Mr. Peter Olesheski, Ms. Kelly Nettle and Mr. Robert Nettle of the Ski Bowl Park Committee and Mr. Jeff Anthony of the, Engineering and Architecture to discuss future plans for the Ski Bowl Park; the plan is titled Vision 2020. Mr. Peter Olesheski explained that the original focus of the park was skiing; in 1994 the North Creek Action Plan expressed a desire to rehabilitate the infrastructure and upgrade the facilities of the park. In 2008 a grant was received and work has started in a slow, but continual pace. About eight hundred volunteer hours have been received and Mr. Olesheski noted the contributions from Mr. Steve Ovitt, Mrs. Judy Brown and Mr. Robert Nettle. The design created by Mr. Jeff Anthony of the L.A. Group is an attempt to include both the needs and the wants of the residents and to try to not spend a fortune in the process. He added that Mr. Anthony had donated his time and expertise to put the design together. Mr. Jeff Anthony explained that the design was based on a survey taken by the committee and turned into a written proposal; he had looked to coordinate the needs of

skiing, swimming and play areas and the adjacent private developer into the plan. Mr. Anthony added that the master plan will evolve over years and steps can be made to move forward and the plan will help to keep items in perspective. Mr. Olesheski added that the completion of the plan will take time. Ms. Kelly Nettle gave an overview of the beach area; the plan suggests upgraded parking, an upgraded bathhouse, a new sliding and/or Nordic ski area and the moving of the tennis and basketball courts to an area near the beach. The plan also envisions the restructuring of the Shafer Trail to the beach area. The multi-use field needs improved drainage and the Ski Bowl Committee would like the chain link fence replaced to improve the aesthetics of the area. The plan asks for some repair and expansion to the tot lot with climbing walls for older children and shade to make the pavilion more inviting and to increase wheelchair accessibility to the pavilion and the addition of interpretive signage near the pavilion. The committee would like to see the current tennis and basketball courts replaced with an additional youth baseball field and the elimination of some parking to create green space. Mr. Robert Nettle gave an overview of the reclamation area near the current Town Highway Department garage. Mr. Nettle explained that the plan envisioned the removal of the Highway Department facilities, the removal of the sand bank, and the removal of the transfer station and the acquisition of some property from the NYS Department of Transportation right of way along State Route 28. The planned uses for the area would be a new access road to the Ski Bowl Park, a new multi use field and amphitheater with a stage. Mr. Nettle added that the committee is asking for a commitment from the Town Board of a Capital Reserve fund for the Ski Bowl Park from the Town taxpayers; without the reserve fund the development will progress at a much slower rate. Mr. Nettle added that there has been a great deal of work performed by volunteers and he was glad that this was begun by then Supv. William Thomas. Mr. Olesheski said that the committee hopes to get this plan accomplished within a period of ten years. Supv. Goodspeed said that the plan contains a great deal to digest; he added that the retirement of the previous director from the granting authority has slowed the process, currently, the courts have been resurfaced, the garden added and the older pavilion refurbished; the last will be a great help for the Summer Youth Program. Supv. Goodspeed added that Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax does a great deal of paperwork for the grant administration. Ms. Nettle said that the Ski Bowl Park Committee hoped that the Town Board would accept this Vision 2020 as a conceptual plan for the Ski Bowl Park, preferably at the June 1, meeting and the plan can then be used to seek funding. Supv. Goodspeed asked where the committee saw the first pressure point for funding; Mr. Olesheski replied that the committee was not yet sure, but would discuss this for the June 1, meeting. Mr. Arsenault said that funding expenditures need discussion. Mr. Vanselow added that the Town Board has a problem performing maintenance on its current buildings and that this plan will require substantial increases in the Parks budget for ongoing maintenance and will require the addition of employees; he added that this is not the best time to be expanding government and that ongoing costs are important to look at; Mr. Olesheski said that the committee was not really planning for the maintenance costs, that this was the job of the Town Board. Mr. Douglas Cole said that there should be money in the budget for Recreation Director as the position has not been filled since the death of Richard Armstrong several years ago; Mr. Stevens replied that Parks and Buildings Superintendent Matt Olden now holds that position, which has never been left vacant and that there are many aspects to his job. Supv. Goodspeed said that the job includes buildings and grounds as well as the parks and that the Town Board has no plans to create an additional position as a separate parks superintendent. Mrs. Ann Deppe suggested fundraising by the user groups as a way of keeping the youth invested in the parks to deter vandalism and adding to the funds for maintenance; Mr. Olesheski replied that the committee expected fund raising to play a

part in the funding for the construction projects. Mr. David Bulmer said that this seemed to be a good effort at planning and added that the North Creek Action Plan and town-wide planning needs to be revisited. Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax asked if the new flagging in the Ski Bowl Park was a part of this plan; Mr. Mac Crikelair, of Front Street Mountain Development, replied that the flags were part of a survey which his company had begun. Supv. Goodspeed said that he planned to bring this issue up at a future Town Board meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

RESOLUTION NO. 99

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the board members be paid: General Fund- Warrant #8G/Claims #176-191; Highway Fund- Warrant #8H/Claims #93-102; North Creek Water Dist.- Warrant #8W/Claims#31-33. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Stevens with a second from Mr. Arsenault at 9:08pm. With 5 members voting in favor the motion is carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on May 18, 2010 at the Town Hall (Library), North Creek, NY.

Prepared by William Rawson, Town Clerk