

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury Regular Board Meeting
April 1, 2014
Held at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, New York**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, New York.

Supervisor Vanselow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was led by Supervisor Vanselow.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supervisor Ronald Vanselow; Town Council Members Eugene Arsenaault, Peter Olesheski, Jr, Arnold Stevens; Katharine Nightingale; Town Clerk Jo A Smith.

Guests: On attached list

RESOLUTION # 57-14

Ms. Nightingale presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenaault to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2014 regular Town Board Meeting as written.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenaault, Nightingale, Olesheski, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays – 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) A letter from Gore Mountain Region Chamber of Commerce stating that they appreciate the financial support and the working relationship that they have with the Town and look forward to assisting the town to create a positive working and living environment in order to continue attracting visitors to out area.
- 2) A letter from Gore Mountain Region Chamber of Commerce - Governor Cuomo recently issued a press release detailing the availability of \$500,000 of seed money to support the growth of tourism in areas surrounding the recently purchased Finch Pruyn land which lie just north of the Town of Johnsbury. The Town is not specifically mentioned in the release, the Hamlet of North Creek, by virtue of location will serve as a base camp to many visitors. They will be making application for seed money to expand their information center hours and add new collateral materials and a display in the Tannery Pond. The Chamber Board believes it is imperative that the Town of Johnsbury also submit an application for funding which incorporates local business community expansion ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No committee reports

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Vanselow explained that that we need to do a ratification of amendments to resolution #45-14 for clarification of verbiage and boundary adjustment for the North Creek Fire Protections District #2 which gets very confusing.

Ms. Cherie Ferguson stated that it began a simple clarification to the resolution that the board passed at the last meeting for the division for the Wevertown Fire Company response area between North Creek Fire District, Johnsburg Fire Company and Riverside Fire Company. It was called the newly divided areas in Wevertown's area were being referred to as "response districts" and the County decided it was too confusing. It was suggested to call them "response areas". Ms. Ferguson said that she was going back through the resolution and making the changes when it was discovered that the North Creek Fire tax district boundary did not match up with the current response area boundaries being dispatched by Warren County. The North Creek Fire Commissioners are in the process of either reclaiming their taxing district that is not being responded by them presently or contracting with other agencies as appropriate. By following the map overlay, and North Creek covering only what is taxed, it leaves a gap between the tax district and the new coverage area that was divided to the south in the old Wevertown response area. (see map attached) By law, they minimally have to cover what they tax or justify the contract for other coverage. Supervisor Vanselow stated that North River has been covering part of North Creek's District as a result of the overlay error. Ms. Ferguson went on to explain, that as far as anyone can figure out, the lines for response boundaries defined by the tax boundaries were moved when 911 address changes came into play. Ms. Ferguson asked the North Creek Fire Commissioners to pass a resolution, which they did, to attach the area that would have no fire coverage between the tax district and the portion of the old Wevertown response area that was created for their coverage in the previous resolution. Mr. Olesheski asked if the taxes would change in that area? Ms. Ferguson stated they would not. There will be no changing of tax boundaries; it will only become a part of a protection area. Supervisor Vanselow stated that the Town will contract with North Creek Fire District to provide coverage for the areas in question. Ms. Ferguson stated that as far as the clarification of response area boundaries for the remaining effected agencies, the Town will have to go lot by lot and define what area / parcel's are covered by which agency, based on the boundary set by the tax district. Once Warren County get's the updated information and map, they will turn it over to Frontier who will change the phone systems accordingly to generate for correct and updated information for dispatch.

Supervisor Vanselow stated that the Town needs to hold two public hearings. One is to establish a fire protection district for North Creek to cover which will include part of Wevertown and the "No man's land" gap created by the tax overlay issue. The second public hearing would be on the proposed contract with the North Creek Fire District to provide coverage. The time frame to advertise and have the public hearings back to back at our first meeting in May which would be five weeks from tonight. We don't have a firm contract yet, but we do have the model of the old contract that the town used to have with North Creek.

Ms. Ferguson stated that they wanted to get away from calling it a protection district and call it a protection area. Supervisor Vanselow stated that we can figure that out before having the public hearing. All agencies will continue to respond to all areas as they have historically been dispatched to per Warren County's system so there will be no lapse in coverage for any areas while all issues are being resolved.

RESOLUTION # 58-14

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Olesheski to hold two public hearings on May 6th - the first to establish a fire protection district for North Creek which will cover the "gap" and the part of Wevertown and the second would be a hearing on the proposed contract with North Creek.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Nightingale, Olesheski, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays – 0

Supervisor Vanselow regarding the water rent fee adjustments 2 business in town are not happy with their water rent going up when they went from a home to a business, so they fall under a different tax rate. The list of water rent rates which need to be looked at and adjusted. In all fairness for know we should go with our Water Superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Olesheski and Ms. Nightingale both said do we need to do a resolution. Supervisor Vanselow stated he didn't know. Ms. Nightingale asked: "so every time one residence changing into a business we have to do a resolution to change the water rate?" Supervisor Vanselow stated that when we lowered some in the past we did a resolution.

RESOLUTION # 59-14

Mr. Olesheski presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Nightingale to raise the water rent on the two business that went from a resident to a business.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Nightingale, Olesheski, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Vanselow stated that the Supervisors Monthly Statement was not yet prepared. The Animal Control Officers Monthly Report and the ZEO Monthly Report was in the Boards Packet.

RESOLUTION # 56-14 - A

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Nightingale that that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the board members be paid:

General Fund - (Total \$ 2,8523.58) Claims #14-230 & #14-234 (National Grid paid), 14-236 to

14-253, 14-265, 14-268 to 14-276

Highway Fund - (Total \$ 11,387.79) Claims #14-255 to 14-262, 14-268, 14-269

Capital Projects Fund - (Total \$280.00) Claim #14-279

North Creek Water District - (Total \$ 9,572.51) Claim #14-230 (National Grid Paid), 14-259 to 14-264, 14-268, 14-269, 14-277

Library Fund - (Total \$ 760.63) Claim #14-269

Trust & Agency - (Total \$ 3,350.01) Claim #14-266 to 14-269

Total all warrants \$53,874.52.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Nightingale, Olesheski, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays - 0

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Olesheski with a second from Ms. Nightingale at 7:16 p.m.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Nightingale, Olesheski, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays - 0

The Town Board regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 15, 2014, at the Tannery Pond, North Creek, New York.

Prepared by Jo A Smith, Town Clerk