

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg Regular Board Meeting November 6, 2008
Held at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY Supervisor Goodspeed called the meeting to order at 7:10pm 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

RESOLUTION NO. 200

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution, with a second from Mr. Arsenault, to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2008 regular meeting as written. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter from Mr. Joel Beaudin, of the Copperfield Inn Resorts, L.L.C., notifying the Town Board that the company will presently be submitting a liquor license application for the Copperfield Inn.
2. A letter from Mr. Mark Bergman, Acting Chairman of the Johnsburg Emergency Squad, explaining that while the squad has encountered some personnel issues that all contractual obligations to the Town will be met with continued high level service.
3. A letter from the Seventh Day Adventist Church thanking the Town Board for the use of the Sodom Community Center for their Harvest Dinner fund raiser; the proceeds from the event will be used for holiday boxes for needy families in the Town of Johnsburg.
4. A letter from the "Concerned Johnsburg E.M.S. Volunteers", informing the Town Board of their concern that the current leadership of the Johnsburg Emergency Squad is attempting to push out volunteers in favor of a paid squad; the group is asking for a meeting with Supv. Goodspeed to discuss their concerns

Supv. Goodspeed explained to the Town Board that he wants to keep the Town neutral regarding the Johnsburg Emergency Squad dissention; he added that he planned to become involved only if there was an interruption of contracted service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Supv. Goodspeed reminded the Town Board members that at the October 21st meeting they had received from the insurance provider price quotes and plan information regarding health insurance options available to the employees of the Town. Supv. Goodspeed asked that Secretary Cherie Ferguson explain the options available; which she did. In the process she explained that the provider had said that the only hope for real savings was to create a larger municipal group; Supv. Goodspeed said that there was very little downstate support for such a change. Mr. Vanselow noted that he was not in favor of reducing benefit levels at this time; he suggested that the Town Board look into the

possibility of not offering a benefit package to part time officials, such as the councilman position. Mrs. Nancy Beaudin asked about the employee contribution levels; the employee receives full coverage with the highway employees paying approximately 21% and the general fund employees paying 13% for family coverage and the costs for retired employees depend upon the contract under which they retired. Mr. Arsenault noted that the Town Board has tried to manage the insurance costs through changes in plans, providers and coverage, including the Medicare plan implemented in March of 2008; Supv. Goodspeed noted that the implementation of the Medicare plan had resulted in an annual savings of approximately \$30,000.00 for the Town. Mr. Morehouse asked about other plans and if some of the plans offered at the Warren County level were available to the Town; Supv. Goodspeed explained that the County options were not currently available to the Town. Supv. Goodspeed noted that the increased cost of the current plan had been included in the 2009 Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 201

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg authorizes that the current health insurance coverage plan (Empire Blue Cross, Option 7) be continued through 2009. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed explained that the Town Board had held a Public Hearing on the 2009 Town of Johnsburg Budget and asked if the Town Board members had any comments or changes. Mr. Stevens suggested that the \$12,000.00 budgeted for the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association be changed with the \$10,000.00 budgeted for the North Country Outreach; Mr. Arsenault replied that in view of the current financial situation which the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association is experiencing that he wants to have the amounts budgeted remain the same. Mr. Morehouse and Mr. Vanselow expressed agreement on this issue with Mr. Arsenault. Mr. Vanselow noted that many groups would not receive the amounts requested in this budget and asked that the councilmen forgo 5% of their salary with that amount being placed into an increase in the contingency fund; Supv. Goodspeed, who had previously given back 3% of his salary, added an additional 2% to that amount. and that the contingency fund has already been increased from \$10,000.00 to \$26,950.00 in anticipation of funding requests.

RESOLUTION NO. 202

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Supv. Goodspeed that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg amends the 2009 Preliminary Budget to reduce the salaries of the Town Councilmen by five (5%) percent each and that of the Supervisor of the Town to be reduced by two (2%) percent with the saved amount to be added to the Contingency Fund in the 2009 Budget of the Town of Johnsburg. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

RESOLUTION NO. 203

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the Tentative Budget for 2009 which was filed in the Town Clerk's office on September 30, 2008, the Preliminary Budget on which a Public Hearing was held on November 6, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY:

THEREFORE, the Preliminary Budget, with the following changes:
a reduction in the salaries of the Town Councilmen by five (5%) percent each and that of the Supervisor of the Town to be reduced by two (2%) percent with the saved amount to be added to the Contingency Fund in the 2009 Budget of the Town of Johnsburg, as outlined in Resolution Number

202; was included in the Final Budget; to be accepted as the Final Budget for the Town of Johnsbury for the year to begin January 1, 2009. With 4 members voting in favor and one opposed the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 1 (Stevens)

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the final report from the Élan Group on the Kellogg (Waddell) property was in their packets; he added that copies for the general public would be made available at the Town Hall tomorrow. Supv. Goodspeed explained that the report seemed to propose a phased project and that no immediate action was required from the Town Board; he added that he had not yet read the report thoroughly. Supv. Goodspeed noted that there was no specific project funding in place at the county level for the 2009 year. Mr. Lyle Dye said that the report was utterly useless and asked its cost; Supv. Goodspeed replied that the cost was approximately \$4600.00. Supv. Goodspeed noted that the report was made in the context of a weak Warren County Budget. Supv. Goodspeed noted that one of the recommendations for use as a farmers' market; Ms. Barbara Thomas announced that there would be a meeting to discuss setting up a farmers' market on November 13th at 6:30pm at Café Sarah.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he had received a request from the N.Y.S. Office of Real Property Services (O.R.P.S.) for the passage of an authorization allowing him to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) with O.R.P.S. as a first step to allow the assessor to move forward toward the Town conducting a revaluation. Supv. Goodspeed explained that the overall timetable would probably be eighteen months to two years; there is definitely not money in the 2009 Budget cycle for this project. Mr. Stevens asked that the signing of the M.O.U. be subject to the approval of both the Town Attorney and the Supervisor of the Town.

RESOLUTION NO. 204

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury authorizes the assessor to conduct assessment update and revaluation in a future year and for supervisor to sign MOU with the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

WHEREAS, the Town Assessor has requested the Town to conduct a town-wide reassessment of property values in the Town of Johnsbury;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assessor is hereby authorized to conduct a town wide reassessment of property values in the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized with the approval of the Town Attorney and the Supervisor of the Town to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the planned assessment update and submitted by the Town to the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

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 cell tower project. Supv. Goodspeed explained that communication between the company and the Town broke off earlier this year; the principal of the company is to be in town tomorrow for a meeting with Supv. Goodspeed. The discussions will include a general overview of an agreement to construct cell towers in the vicinity of the transfer

station; possibly additional towers will be discussed to allow for more complete coverage of the area.

NEW BUSINESS

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that there had been a major water main break in the southern end of the district on October 31st; four members of the Highway department and James Jones helped make the repairs. Supv. Goodspeed thanked all involved in the operation.

Supv. Goodspeed explained to the Town Board that the results of the general election race for the Town of Johnsburg Superintendent of Highways was unclear as of yet. Supv. Goodspeed asked the Town Board to pass a resolution appointing the winner of the race, as certified by the Warren County Board of Elections, to begin serving in that position as of the date of certification.

RESOLUTION NO. 205

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg appoints the winner of the race for Town of Johnsburg Superintendent of Highways, as certified by the Warren County Board of Elections, to begin serving in that position as of the date of certification. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the attorney representing Copperfield Inn Resorts, L.L.C. in their liquor license filing is the same attorney which represented Durant's and had not originally asked for a waiver for that business. In anticipation of a follow-up request for Copperfield Inn Resorts, L.L.C. Supv. Goodspeed asked that the Town Board authorize a waiver of the time requirement for the liquor license.

RESOLUTION NO. 206

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution, with a second from Mr. Arsenault, to authorize the issuance of a letter to waive the time period for a liquor license for Copperfield Inn Resorts, L.L.C. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes -5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he had been discussing the moving of the offices of the Town Clerk and the Assessor to allow for the easier flow of people and information in the offices; Supv. Goodspeed hopes that this will produce a positive change with little cost.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he has discussed a series of shared services between the Town and Johnsburg Central School. Supv. Goodspeed gave an example of the School doing the payroll for the Town and the Town removing snow banks for the School. Supv. Goodspeed noted that these service exchanges would not include any cash exchanges; he added that discussions between the financial departments would be taking place soon.

Supv. Goodspeed distributed the Supervisor's Monthly Report, for the month of October 2008, to the members of the Town of Johnsburg Town Board.

Supv. Goodspeed distributed the monthly report of the Zoning Enforcement Officer Mr. Edward Tuttle, for the month of October 2008, to the members of the Town of Johnsburg Town Board.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Candace Lomax, Accounts Clerk, noted that due to the Veteran's Day holiday that recycling collections for the entire Town will be on Wednesday; trash collection will be unaffected.

Mr. Robert Nessel noted that while the parking improvements of 2007 made parking for voting much safer, that it would be even safer if the parking area was extended around the rear of the Wevertown Community Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 207

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the board members be paid: General Fund- Warrant #21G/Claims #407-432; Highway Fund- Warrant #21H/Claims #206-214; North Creek Water Dist.- Warrant #21W/Claims #99-100. 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. Morehouse at 8:20pm. 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 November18, 2008 at the Town Hall (Library), North Creek, NY;

Prepared by William Rawson, Town Clerk