

# Town Board Meeting

## November 20, 2023

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

Justin Gonyo – Councilman  
Pete Hoskins – Councilman

1. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Anna Bowers.
2. Supervisor Smith called the Town Board Meeting to Order at 7:02PM.

3. Approval of November 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 224**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve and accept the Town Board Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2023 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0

4. Scrap Metal Bid – Supervisor Smith – each year we put this out to Bid and I need a Motion to put this ad in the paper.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 225**

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve putting out the Bid for Scrap Metal and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0

5. Adoption of 2024 Budget – Supervisor Smith indicated this is the Final Budget and asked for concerns or questions. Mr. Gonyo asked about a couple of specific Line Items; Supervisor Smith – they are for the Greenspace (Old Johnsbury Garage); Mr. Gonyo also noted that ACC Tax still needed to be changed to OCC Tax. Mr. Gonyo asked about CHIPS money in Highway line; Supervisor Smith noted that it has to be assigned as a revenue and an appropriation.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 226**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve and accept the Final Budget for 2024 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0

6. Set a Public Hearing for Short Term Rental – Local Law 4-2023 – Supervisor Smith - could I get a Motion to set a Public Hearing for the Short-Term Rental Regulations for December 5, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Regular Town Board Meeting at Tannery Pond.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 227**

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to set the Public Hearing for Short Term Rental Regulations for December 5, 2023 at 7:00PM and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0

7. Appropriate Funds for Phase 1 (carry over from last Board Meeting); Supervisor Smith – I did an analysis; 1.24 million coming back in 2024; how much is enough, we discussed this last time, spoke with OSC and Budget Officer with the County; we'll fall within that range -16-21%; a lot of unexpected things that popped up this year; that's the analysis; main focus is to make sure the Town is healthy financially and

then work on projects; this appropriation is for \$100,000 for the engineering part of the project. Mr. Hoskins I would like to thank you for doing the projections, very helpful information; Mr. Gonyo – I'll echo Pete's words; I'm going to vote no moving ahead with the engineering; it's a known and future forecast; I think we should table that until 2024; it is important to have the engineering done; need some of the loans to be paid back first, it's just too skinny for my taste; Mr. Hoskins - we jeopardize the work ORDA is doing, we may be behind the eight ball; it would be a shame to not be ready for next year; Mr. Arsenault – without the funding and support ORDA's work would be idle and that's not fair to them; Mr. Stevens – after hearing all the discussions, I appreciate Justin's stance, I'd be in favor of moving forward with it; Supervisor Smith – 2024 – no budget overruns or hiccups; Town Clerk did Roll Call – Councilman Stevens- yes, Councilman Hoskins – yes, Councilman Gonyo – no, Supervisor Smith– no, Councilman Arsenault – yes. Supervisor Smith - It carries.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 228**

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to approve the Fund Appropriation of \$100,000 for Phase I and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 3 (Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 2 (Smith, Gonyo).

8. Capital Fund for Ski Bowl Mitigation – Supervisor Smith – we had a late start on this, it's going to roll over into 2024 – set aside \$285,000, part is a match; loan from us – it will be paid back; could I get a Motion?

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 229**

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to approve the \$285,000 for the Ski Bowl Mitigation Project carrying over into 2024 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Arsenault. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

9. Capital Fund for Comprehensive Plan Update – Supervisor Smith, this will be an internal loan, reimbursed in 2024; rolling over from 2023 to 2024.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 230**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the Capital Fund for the Comprehensive Plan Update carryover to 2024 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

10. Supplemental Appropriations – Supervisor Smith – this is just moving things around; Mr. Arsenault – pit closure? Supervisor Smith – we can't carry that over; Mr. Arsenault – it's at \$80,000, it's in the budget under Highway as well; Supervisor Smith – it's going to the fund balance; Mr. Arsenault – why is he looking to beef up his equipment; Supervisor Smith – money for a tandem in two years; ideally, we'd order it in 2024 and pay for in 2026; Mr. Arsenault – as long as you're comfortable with it; Mr. Gonyo – I understand that we're putting in \$620,000, but with the idea that we're cycling money in and out of certain accounts - \$80,000 for pit closure (out of reserves); CHIPS money? Supervisor Smith – we can't move CHIPS money; \$500,000 is a wash (both revenue and appropriation); \$80,000 is an appropriation and goes back into General Fund; we can't just do that without Capital Funds; set it up this year for next year; Mr. Gonyo- I can understand Mr. Arsenault's question but I see it in a different light; it looks there would be \$160,000 in the account; Supervisor Smith – you only have the \$80,000.

### **RESOLUTION # 23 – 231**

Mr. Hoskins made a Motion to approve the Supplemental Appropriations as presented and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Stevens. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

11. J&K Trucking – Supervisor Smith – this is pre-pay; we are pursuing \$1,500 per day from them; they started late, that’s on them; Mr. Gonyo – we awarded this in February, sending e-mails through July, etc.

**RESOLUTION # 23 – 232**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the pre-pay for J&K trucking and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

12. Resolution to Approve Standard Weekday – Supervisor Smith – this is a housekeeping item from when Mr. Mangan worked for us; we need to approve this and get into the NYS Retirement System.

**RESOLUTION # 23 – 233**

Mr. Arsenault made a Motion to approve the Standard Workday for Mr. Mangan at 6 hours and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

13. Board Discussion – Recording of Town Board Meetings; Supervisor Smith – since I started there is always something going wrong with this situation; there has to be a better way to do this; County streams to YouTube; Town Clerk – explained the records retention situation; easy set up; Supervisor Smith- I would also recommend the YouTube streaming; it’s going to be very costly to get new equipment to continue this; what are your thoughts? Mr. Gonyo – if we’re going to continue to do this option, we need to do some research; Supervisor Smith – the Governor is stepping away from all of this; Town Clerk will get some information.

14. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Smith – could I get a Motion to approve the Supervisor’s Report?

**RESOLUTION # 23 – 234**

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve and accept the Supervisor’s Report and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

15. Committee Reports – no committee reports for tonight.

16. Warrants – Supervisor Smith – I am sorry for the delay in getting the Warrants done; could I get a Motion to approve?

**RESOLUTION # 23 – 235**

Mr. Gonyo made a Motion to approve and accept the Warrants and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Hoskins. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

GENERAL FUND	\$ 93,168.74
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 26,216.09
WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	\$ 24,787.50
SEWER DISTRICT PROJECT	\$ 11,186.56
SKI BOWL MITIGATION ROJECTS	\$ 68,484.94
LIBRARY FUND	\$ 122.90
WATER DISTRICT	\$ 1,298.18
TRUST & AGENCY	\$ 782.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 226,047.39</b>

17. Privilege of the Floor – no one

18. Motion to Adjourn – Supervisor Smith – with no further discussion, could I get a Motion to Adjourn?

**RESOLUTION # 23 – 236**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to Adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 7:50PM and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Gonyo. With the following members present voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Smith, Gonyo, Stevens, Arsenault, Hoskins); Nays – 0.

Prepared by:

*Jean M. Comstock*

Jean M. Comstock  
Town Clerk

**THE NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 5, 2023  
WITH A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS  
(LOCAL LAW #4-2023) AT 7:00PM AT TANNERY POND.**