

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg  
Regular Meeting  
Wevertown Community Center  
2370 State Route 28  
March 6, 2018**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Wevertown Community Center, 2370 State Route 28, Wevertown, NY

Supervisor Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Olesheski.

**PRESENT:** Andrea Hogan -- Supervisor  
Eugene Arsenault -- Councilman  
Arnold Stevens -- Councilman  
Peter Olesheski, Jr -- Councilman  
Laurie Arnheiter -- Councilwoman  
Kate Lorah -- Town Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING February 6, 2018**

***RESOLUTION #29-18***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2018 meeting. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

**Correspondence:**

Letter from Christian Holt, Assessor re: proposed changes to taxation of state-owned lands

Letter from Dan Hitchcock, Superintendent of Highways requesting permission to post roads

Kate Lorah read a summary of Mr. Holt's letter, briefly explaining what PILOT was and the impact it might have on our community.

**New Business:**

- Resolution to oppose PILOT for state-owned lands  
Supervisor explained PILOT in more detail, looking to the possibility in the future that the taxes frozen on state lands would shift the tax burden to the landowners. Other towns are opposing this state proposal.

***RESOLUTION #30-18***

Ms. Arnheiter moved that we make a resolution opposing the Governor's proposal to change state-owned lands tax to PILOT. This was seconded by Mr. Stevens. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Supervisor Hogan next made mention of the work done by Justice Schiavone and Dave Cavanagh in obtaining a grant for increased security in the Court House.
- Bid for work on Ski Bowl Trails – Kelly Nessel has obtained a grant for further work on the mountain bike trails. One of the grant's stipulations is that there must be a bid on the work to be done.

***RESOLUTION #31-18***

Gene Arsenault moved that we put the work on Ski Bowl Trails out for bidding, with Laurie Arnheiter seconding. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Posting of Roads

***RESOLUTION #32-18***

Mr. Arsenault moved that the board agree to Dan Hitchcock's request to post roads, which was seconded by Arnold Stevens. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Change 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in November

### ***RESOLUTION #33-18***

Because the first meeting scheduled in November falls on November 6<sup>th</sup>, which is election day, Ms. Arnheiter moved that the meeting be moved to that week's Thursday night, the 8<sup>th</sup>. Gene Arsenault seconded. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Supervisor Hogan at this point made a note of recognition to Susan Schmidt and Carrie Mason, for all the work they have been involved with for the betterment of the Library.
- ZEO and Animal Control monthly reports were accepted.
- Supervisor's Monthly Report for January 2018

### ***RESOLUTION #34-18***

Peter Olesheski moved, with a second from Arnold Stevens, to accept the Supervisor's Monthly Report for January, 2018. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

### **Old Business:**

- APA permit amendment and letter

### ***RESOLUTION #35-18***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to accept the APA permit amendment and letter. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Resolution to approve contracts
  - Senior Transportation contract
  - Senior Meal Site contract
  - Occupancy tax funding contract
  - Cedarwood contract for Engineering
  - Cedarwood contract for Water District maintenance - revised

### ***RESOLUTION #36-18***

Arnold Stevens made a motion to accept all five contracts:

- Senior Transportation contract
- Senior Meal Site contract
- Occupancy tax funding contract
- Cedarwood contract for Engineering
- Cedarwood contract for Water District maintenance – revised.

This was seconded by Gene Arsenault. With five Ayes the resolution is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

### **Committee reports:**

Supervisor Hogan had asked each of the Town Board committees to present year-long goals, and to report on the current standing and progress thus far. The committee reports follow.

- Solid Waste – Arnold Stevens and Gene Arsenault will be involved in helping the sewer district move forward. It was reported that there are issues at the transfer station including the rising cost of recycling. The decision was to better monitor the amount of recycling, and to consider whether the price of garbage stickers should be revisited.
- Water – Laurie Arnheiter, with Gene Arsenault, are working on communicating with Candace Lomax and Chuck Rawson on smoothing out small change issues with the billing system. They also discussed updating tax fairness by equalizing charges to those paying water taxes.

- Economic Development – Laurie Arnheiter posed the formation of a ‘sub-committee’, namely an advisory committee to address Occ tax expenditure for the purpose of town promotion. The committee will be convened and will bring their recommendations to the board.
- Parks and Buildings – Peter Olesheski and Laurie Arnheiter comprise this committee. Peter addressed some of the plans, including potentially hiring an extra person to help at the Ski Bowl and Mill Creek Recreation Area. Kelly Nessel will stay active writing grants. As to buildings and grounds, Mr. Olesheski said that he and Mr. Arsenault spent a lot of time last year looking at Tannery Pond improvements, but that there are other town buildings that should be evaluated for their needs. He suggests meeting with Matt Olden to get his input and to prioritize needs for improvements and maintenance. Supervisor Hogan requested the committee include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in their evaluations and recommendations.
- Planning, Zoning and Assessment - Peter Olesheski and Laurie Arnheiter are on this committee also. Last year, Peter and Arnold had met with Danae Tucker, ZEO, and had discussed updating codes and regulations. The plan is for Peter and Laurie to meet with Danae to initiate this process. Danae had stated that it would take about six months for any change to be implemented. Laurie and Peter also need to meet with Christian Holt, Assessor, to learn about re-evaluations for assessments.
- Personnel – Arnold Stevens and Peter Olesheski have talked about updating the employee handbook. There is a need to speak with Attorney Matt Fuller, regarding needed changes before the Spring hiring season. Mr. Olesheski is the safety officer for the town, and wants training for all employees. A big issue is keeping records, proving that the required training is taking place. Arnold added that regarding personnel, he and Peter would like to handle each personnel issue in a timely manner, with respect and confidentiality.
- Highway – Gene Arsenault and Andrea Hogan are working on the contract that expired at the end of last year. They are having discussions with highway personnel and will be working with Dan Hitchcock on bridge and culvert issues and noted that Dan has brought many projects to a close under budget. More frequent meetings with the highway department will be useful to understand highway issues and the funding needed to move forward on

projects.

- EMS/Fire – Peter Olesheski and Andrea Hogan serve on this committee. EMS contract was finalized. It is still unclear as to how to manage the shortfalls on their budget. Communication has been good and should continue. Fire is questionable regarding annual budget increases of 2% covering their costs. More regular communication – perhaps quarterly meetings – is one approach, but Mr. Olesheski stated this has not been working. He suggested that creating a long-term plan is difficult without the communication. John Goddard asked if EMS is a taxing district. Yes, they are a taxing district, but the Town Board is the commissioner of EMS.

**Privilege of the Floor** – Questions from several residents arose regarding 13<sup>th</sup> Lake Rd. having boulders coming down and mudslides. Andrea will reach out to the county to see what can be done to stabilize the wall. Residents want to know the plan. Peter offered to ask tomorrow, as he has a meeting in Warrensburg, so will seek out the person responsible.

**Motion to accept warrants** – Mr. Arsenault motioned to accept warrants and Mr. Stevens seconded. With five in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

**General Fund** (Total \$37,749.90)  
**Highway Fund** (Total \$23,400.96)  
**Fire Protection District** (Total \$257,500.00)  
**Water District** (Total \$13,902.97)  
**Public Library Fund** (Total \$2,974.75)  
**Trust & Agency Fund** (Total \$575.78)

**Total all warrants \$336,104.36**

**Motion to adjourn** – The motion to adjourn was made by Gene Arsenault, seconded by Laurie Arnheiter at 7:48 p.m. With five in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 20, 2018 at Tannery Pond Community Center, 228 Main Street, North Creek.

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk