

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg  
Regular Meeting  
Wevertown Community Center  
2370 State Route 28  
April 3, 2018**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Tuesday April 3, 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 Councilwoman Arnheiter.

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

**ABSENT:** Peter Olesheski, Jr -- Councilman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING MARCH 20, 2018**

***RESOLUTION #43-18***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 23, 2018**

***RESOLUTION #44-18***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2018 meeting. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

**Correspondence:**

Letter from Tom Suozzo, engineer, re: pipe testing on Main Street

Copies are available at Town Hall

**New Business:**

- Expenses for town employee training and

Andrea Hogan presented plans for training and conferences. The first is April 17 in Albany, on financing and resources for municipal infrastructure, which Ms. Hogan will attend. There is no fee, so the only cost will be mileage, which is 162 miles round-trip, coming to \$88. Next is the Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference April 18 – 19 in Lake Placid, which nine people wish to attend at costing \$62.27 each, and totaling \$560.43. Two wish to stay overnight, which is cheaper than driving back and forth with the mileage. Seven will be driving, so Ms. Hogan is encouraging car-pooling. Going for a worst-case scenario, the total cost of all the training, which includes four people from the Planning Board, two from the Zoning Board, Two Town Board members and Joann Morehouse, who is going for social media training. The total of all is \$1,790.43. Finally, there is a conference later in April for Smart Management for Small Communities. Ms. Hogan will be attending the two-day conference in Blue Mountain Lake For \$70 per day, or \$140. The grand total for all this training is \$2018.

***RESOLUTION #45-18***

Mr. Stevens moved to approve the cost of three conferences for nine employees for training purposes in Albany, Lake Placid and Blue Mountain Lake, in the full amount of \$2018. This was seconded by Ms. Arnheiter. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- County donation of rail car to the town

Ellen Schaefer addressed the fact that there is a D&H milk car in storage at the train station that the Depot Museum is interested in for an outdoor exhibit. She said there are only four in existence, registered by Bridgeline Historical Society. The

inside is dry and salvageable, and she explained that the Museum would like to pursue grants for its restoration.

Ms. Hogan added that the car is owned by the county, but that the county cannot donate directly to a private entity like the Depot Museum, yet can donate to a municipality. Warren County would like to gift it to the Town of Johnsbury.

### ***RESOLUTION #46-18***

Laurie Arnheiter moved to accept the Warren County gift of a milk car for the purpose of the Depot Museum pursuing grants for its renovation with the end result being an outdoor exhibit. A second was made by Gene Arsenault. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Baseball/Softball

Some adults involved in baseball and softball programs in town have requested \$1700 for moveable fence for the ball field. This issue is being moved to the end of the meeting.

- Occupancy tax allocations

Ms. Hogan explained that from Occ tax, one third is taken out by the town to dispense at the town's discretion. From 2017 there is a carryover of \$26K. So far this year, the town has received Occ tax in the amounts of \$30K and \$15K. This means there will be for 2018, to be awarded, \$71,472. The first round of Occ tax awarded \$29,166. One third taken out for the town's use would amount to \$23, 585. \$5000 is designated to go for the fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, \$500 is usually given to the "Lights On" festivities, and beautification has received \$1000. Another \$10,000 has been set aside for a marketing initiative. That leaves \$7085 unallocated. The Greens have offered \$1500 to improve the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks if the town matches the amount. If the town matches, there will still be just over \$5000 available for the town to make Occ tax allocations.

Arnold Stevens asked about using Occ tax funds for the moveable fence. Ms. Hogan stated that those funds are meant for projects which bring more people into the community.

## ***RESOLUTION #47-18***

Mr. Stevens moved that the town match the \$1500 contribution offered by the Greens to improve the fireworks display for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. A second was made by Mr. Arsenault. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Laurie Arnheiter added to this discussion that she has been looking into Hamlet banners to be positioned on the streetlight poles coming into town on Route 28N from Route 28, and near Town Hall. Kelly Nessel suggested they also be hung in each Hamlet. Laurie said she would get back to the board with pricing.

### **Old Business:**

- UTHA Memorandum of Understanding

#### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**

#### **UHTA AND TOWN OF JOHNSBURG**

Since 2013, the Town of Johnsburg has invested in a 16 km Mt . biking trail system in Ski Bowl Park with funding support from NYS Office of Parks and Rec, the North Creek Business Alliance, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This trail network attracts bikers eight months a year and skiers in the winter. In December, 2016, the town was awarded \$50,000 from the NYS Department of State through the Local Land and Water Revitalization grant to be used for the creation of a town-wide recreational assessment plan for trail construction to connect other hamlets to Ski Bowl Park. This recreational plan will be done in stages and constructed as funding becomes available. Phase I is the North Creek-North River connection.

Upper Hudson Trails Alliance, Inc., or UHTA, formed to advocate for a town-wide system of biking, hiking, and ski trails in 2015. The Alliance views this system as an important economic engine for the community and a valuable asset to the town. Although we have presented ideas and discussed UHTA's involvement, we would like to formalize our supporting role in the development and maintenance of the trail network with a Memorandum of Understanding with theTown.

Upper Hudson Trails Alliance will:

- Provide volunteer maintenance of the town trails at Ski Bowl Park and for other connecting trails as

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they are built outside of the park. Volunteers will be using hand tools; only those who are certified by DEC to use a chain saw will do so.

- Help raise money through grant writing or events to fund construction of trails and/or to assist the town in meeting any match that is required.
- Advocate for the town's interest with NYSDEC, private property owners, and NYS as needed. 57% of town land is state-owned and overseen by DEC. It is important that folks like UHTA members who know the land be able to negotiate with DEC in order to produce trails which are high quality and cost-effective.
- Assess trail repair needs and improvements, and submit costs to be budgeted to the town each August.

The Town of Johnsbury will:

- Permit volunteers to work on town land and hold insurance that covers the volunteers working on the trail system.
- Agree to submission of funding applications in pursuit of funding for trail construction after consultation.
- Help UHTA maintain the integrity of the trail system, keeping it open to the public and free of charge without limitations by others.

UHTA hopes to build an advocacy for our town trails similar to that of Barkeaters Trail Alliance in the Saranac-Lake Placid region where 60 plus volunteers will turn out for trail maintenance days several times a year. With every kilometer of trail constructed, the town is building an asset that needs to be taken care of. We offer to do that and more.

### **Suggested Resolution:**

**Be it resolved, that the Town of Johnsbury, agrees to work with UHTA, as described above, as its partner and advocate in developing and maintaining a town-wide trail system for biking, hiking, and skiing.**

This subject was brought up October 17, 2017, but at that time was tabled. Kelly Nettle has presented a Memorandum of Understanding. Steve Ovitt suggests UHTA be the liaison between the Town of Johnsbury and the DEC. There currently is no one responsible for maintaining the town trails, and UHTA is willing to take this on, as long as there is an understanding with the town regarding insurance and approval from the town attorney.

Supervisor Hogan received a letter from town attorney Matt Fuller today and, at his suggestion has been in touch with the town's insurance carrier. The town insurance covers workers on the town's property if the worker is certified by the

DEC to utilize the equipment he/she is using.

Currently there are two bids out: one is the trails bid, the other is out by the county to look at all of the trails and how they connect to the communities beyond our borders. Ms. Hogan stated that the trails are something the town is putting money into, and asked if anyone had questions.

Laurie Arnheiter asked if this would preclude Gore from being involved in trail maintenance. Ms. Hogan said no, but that this would give the town someone with real familiarity with the area to act as a go-between because there will be some intersection with Gore.

### ***RESOLUTION #48-18***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between UTHA and the Town of Johnsbury. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Red Barn demolition

The town has a contract from In Style Flooring for the demolition of the Red Barn. Matt Olden can have shelters brought in for the storage of the contents of the building. He has to accomplish moving the contents before demolition can begin. In Style Flooring is aware of this and is agreeable to the delay.

### ***RESOLUTION #49-18***

Arnold Stevens made a motion to accept and sign the contract with In Style Flooring for the demolition of the Red Barn. With a second from Gene Arsenault, and 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Gene Arsenault asked if the insurance will fall under Keiten Millington (In Style Flooring). Andrea Hogan responded that the insurance for the demolition would be under the town and the rebuilding to house the oil tank will be under Keiten.

- Mill Creek committee recommendations

Deana Wood reported that the committee met on March 28 and discussed two ordinances that would be helpful for the area. The first is a list of rules to help preserve the Mill Creek/ Black Hole area and Sullivan's Island. The second is a request for signage that would designate the Black Hole side of Harrington Road as a 'no parking' area. She also stated that the committee would next meet on April 19, to continue planning.

Andrea Hogan responded that the first step that has to be taken is to designate the above-mentioned areas as parkland. She asked for patience in getting this done and held up a tomb that is the source of information on how to go about parkland designation. Members of the committee requested a copy and said they would help in the research.

The discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

- Water pipe testing

The results from the testing of the main water line through North Creek were good, and the work with the lateral lines can now move forward.

Mr. Arsenault asked what impact this finding would have on the grant money. Ms. Hogan answered that with the main lines not needing replacement, the costs should be much less. She added that the grant money must be spent on water lines.

### **Committee reports:**

Fire and EMS – Ms. Hogan stated that she had reports that they had a good winter

Highway – a one-year contract has been signed with the highway workers

Solid waste – Arnold Stevens said he hadn't met with the Sewer District Committee, but that he and Gene Arsenault would, in the near future

Planning and Zoning – Laurie Arnheiter said she has not been to any of the meetings but has talked to members of the committee and would be attending a future meeting

Buildings/Parks and Recreation – Ms. Arnheiter needs to meet with Mr. Olesheski

Personnel – Mr. Olesheski and Mr. Stevens are reviewing the Employee Handbook

Water – Ms. Hogan will meet with Candace Lomax again soon

Economic Development – Ms. Arnheiter spoke the broadband issue, saying that residents can now log in to the state broadband website enter their ZIP code, and find their service provider. On another subject, she shared her experience learning about ‘Travel Influencers,’ who are bloggers. The experience the rail bike company had was that they got one such blogger to visit and write a story in one publication that had a live blog. That one story generated almost 20,000 calls and sky-rocketed their business. The committee is working on connecting with some of these bloggers to promote visitation. She went on to say the Chamber of Commerce is helping with statistics, which will aid the Marketing Committee.

**Motion to accept warrants**

**General Fund** (Total \$18,142.69)

**Highway Fund** (Total \$20,104.82)

**Water District** (Total \$5,731.05)

**Public Library Fund** (Total \$1,099.66)

**Trust & Agency Fund** (Total \$575.78)

**Total all warrants \$45,654.00**

***RESOLUTION #50-18***

A motion by Gene Arsenault was seconded by Arnold Stevens to accept the warrants. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

**Supervisor’s Monthly Report** – Mr. Arsenault asked for a breakdown of Reserve accounts, then motioned to accept the Supervisor’s Monthly Report. A second from Ms. Arnheiter and a vote with 4 members in favor, the motion is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

**Return to the subject of the ball fields** - \$1700 for a moveable fence does not come out of reserve funds. It comes out of the Parks fund, which on this date has only \$25,000 left for the remainder of 2018. Ms. Hogan stated that every year, the

Parks run over budget. She suggests that baseball itself be included in the budget, not coming out of Parks. This is up for further discussion. Kelly Nessel also mentioned the cost of clay for the fields, and Gene Arsenault asked about the drainage problem in the area of the field. Andrea Hogan said the drainage issue is being addressed with ORDA.

***RESOLUTION #51-18***

Arnold Stevens moved to the purchase of a moveable fence for the ballfield at the cost of \$1700. Gene Arsenault seconded, and with 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter)  
Nays- 0

**Privilege of the Floor –**

Ellen Schaefer said that equipment was starting to arrive for work on 13<sup>th</sup> Lake Road, and that the detour is Schoolhouse Road.

Bob Nessel asked what will happen to the property, once the Red Barn is torn down. Mr. Arsenault addressed some possibilities, with no firm plan at this time.

Kelly Nessel asked about storage facilities near the EMS building for the contents being removed from the Red Barn. Mr. Arsenault replied that the board will continue looking for long-term plans for storage.

**Motion to adjourn** – The motion to adjourn was made by Arnold Stevens, seconded by Laurie Arnheiter at 8:06 p.m. With four in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 17, 2018 at Tannery Pond Community Center, 228 Main Street, North Creek.

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk