

**Town of Johnsbury  
Regular Meeting of the Town Board  
Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/2172603617>  
April 21, 2020 7:00 PM**

Supervisor Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge to the flag was led by Deana Wood.

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

**Approval of minutes April 7, 2020**

***RESOLUTION #79-20***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2020 meeting. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Correspondence:**

- Letter from Wes Dingman regarding single payer healthcare

**New Business:**

- **Renew contract with Northshore Solutions for Town website maintenance and hosting**

***RESOLUTION #80-20***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the yearly contract with Northshore Solutions for the Town's website maintenance and hosting. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Contract with Warren Hamilton Community Action for Senior Transportation**

There was discussion regarding the contract for Senior Transportation and it was decided to table the decision so that all members of the Board could look over the contract.

- **Request from Highway Superintendent for tank purchase**

Highway Superintendent Comstock was present to explain about the replacement water tank that the highway needs. He told the board they use it for many things such as flushing culverts and spraying roads to keep dust down. Mr. Comstock said he can get it for under \$2,000.00, but there would be the cost of the plumbing materials to hook it up. The Board asked Superintendent Comstock if \$2,500.00 would cover all the costs. Mr. Comstock said yes that would more than cover the costs.

***RESOLUTION #81-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve (not to exceed) \$2,500.00 for the purchase of a water tank and supplies for the highway department. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Signs for trailheads

Supervisor Hogan told the board that Warren County is supplying and installing signs for the Town's hiking trails which will remind the public about social distancing while exercising, getting fresh air and enjoying the trails.

- Board meetings

Supervisor Hogan reminded the Board that May is the time of year when meetings are scheduled for once a month. She asked if the Board felt they would like to have another meeting in 2 weeks or just move to the normal one meeting a month. The Board decided it would be fine to go ahead with the normal schedule of one meeting a month because there are now weekly Town Hall Forums which will help keep everyone updated.

### **Old Business:**

- Dog Park update
- **Local Law to Change the Date of BAR**

### ***RESOLUTION #82-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve Local Law #1-2020 as follows:

LOCAL LAW 1 OF THE YEAR 2020  
TOWN OF JOHNSBURG NEW YORK

**A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW PURSUANT TO REAL  
PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 512(1-a)**

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg located in the County of Warren, State of New York, as follows:

#### **Section 1. Title**

This local law shall be known as Local Law 1 for the year 2020 and will reschedule the date for hearing complaints by the Board of Assessment Review pursuant to Section 512(1-a) of the Real Property Tax Law.

## **Section 2. Purpose**

The purpose of this local law is to reschedule the date for the hearing of complaints by the Board of Assessment Review from the fourth Tuesday in May to the Thursday following the fourth Tuesday in May.

## **Section 3. Sole Assessor**

The Town of Johnsbury, Warren County, New York employs and has appointed a sole assessor who is also the sole assessor of another assessing unit creating a conflict in the date for the hearing of grievances pursuant to Section 512(1-a) of the Real Property Tax Law.

## **Section 4. Date for Hearing of Grievances**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Section 512(1-a) of the Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Johnsbury provides that from and after the effective date of this local law, beginning on the Thursday following the fourth Tuesday in May and so many days thereafter as the Board of Assessment Review deems necessary, such board shall meet to hear complaints in relation to assessments.

## **Section 5. Severability**

If any clause, sentence, phrase, paragraph or any part of this local law shall for any reason be adjudicated finally by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation and effect to the clause, sentence, phrase, paragraph or part thereof, directly involved in the controversy or action in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that the remainder of this local law would have been adopted had any such provisions been excluded.

## **Section 6. Effective Date**

This law shall take effect upon its filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Update on state of the Town

Supervisor Hogan stated that she has renewed the State of Emergency with the same continued status.

- Update on projects

Supervisor Hogan told everyone that the landfill is still open, and customers are being billed.

The highway department is running with a half crew, one man per truck. When it is necessary to have 2 men per truck, they will use masks while riding together and whenever they need to be closer than 6 feet.

Ms. Arnheiter asked if we should consider using temperature scanners? Supervisor Hogan said she would look into it.

The Town Hall will remain closed at least until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Hogan said that the county had some discussion about the repair of the rail line and it was decided to put the repairs off until NY Pause is over. Rev Rail will wait to start their season until the rail line has been repaired.

Treasurer Swan will give a report on the county finances in a couple of weeks when he has more information to work with.

Warren County Local Development Corp will have some money to loan to local businesses and the Lake George/Lake Champlain group will also have some money to loan local businesses.

The water district repair has the 3-million-dollar grant but the total cost is 5.5 million, so the Town needs to look at other sources of funding for the remainder of the cost or incur a debt for the 2.5 million.

### **Committee Reports:**

Water – None

Solid Waste –Earth Day is coming up and people will be picking up trash and setting it bagged up beside the road. The Highway department has agreed to pick it up.

Fire and EMS – The EMS call volume is down so the revenue will also be down. The consolidation with Minerva has been delayed. All has been quiet with the Fire departments.

Buildings & Parks – Mr. Gonyo told the Board that he has been working on a new stage for the Riverfront Park area with a Box Car Theme. He said he found a Wooden Box Car in Old Forge that could provide the wheels if the Town would fund the demolition of the actual car. The cost to do so would be about \$2,500.00, and he estimates the total project cost for the new stage would be about \$1,800.00. The Streetscape grant may be able to help with funding, he added. Ms. Arnheiter asked if the whole estimate could be put in writing and sent to the Board before the project is moved forward. Mr. Gonyo said he would do that.

### ***RESOLUTION #83-20***

Mr. Stevens made a motion with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve (but not to exceed) \$2,500.00 from the fund balance to acquire wheels in Old Forge by funding the demolition of the Box Car. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Highway – Ms. Arnheiter said that she and Mr. Comstock looked at and discussed the Hudson Street Bridge project.

Personnel – None

Planning & Zoning – None

Marketing and Economic Development – Ms. Arnheiter said the committee has several ideas for bringing people back to the town after the pause is over, such as hand sanitizing stations, flowers etc.

Occ Tax – Supervisor Hogan said that she plans to ask the Occ Tax committee to extend the deadline for turning in this year's applications because of the difficulties everyone is experiencing this year.

**Approval of Warrants****General Fund** (Total \$32,428.06)**Highway Fund** (Total \$20,425.98)**Water District** (Total \$3,188.84)**Trust and Agency** (\$730.84)**Total all warrants \$56,773.72*****RESOLUTION #84-20***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arneheiter to approve the warrants. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arneheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Privilege of the floor:**

Deana Wood said that Historians are working on the Covid-19 portion of our history that is in the making.

Jack McArdle asked about the possibility of doing movies at Riverfront Park as a way to have an event and still keep social distancing in effect after the pause is over.

**Motion to adjourn*****RESOLUTION #85-20***

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to adjourn. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes - 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arneheiter, Gonyo) Nays- 0

Next meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah