

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg
Regular Meeting
Tannery Pond Community Center
2370 State Route 28
September 18, 2018**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Tannery Pond Community Center, 228 Main Street, North Creek, NY

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

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

Let the record show that Mr. Olesheski left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Budget Discussion

Ms. Hogan opened the discussion on the budget by stating that her primary concerns for the coming year are the welfare and safety of the residents and the smooth function of the town, taking care of the needs of everyone using what the Town has. She then asked for input from others.

Ms. Arnheiter spoke of her priorities being:

- affordable housing
- the town sewer system
- encouraging developers
- supporting the shuttle service
- bringing people in to town
- help for the town from partners such as Gore Mountain and Mr. Crikelair

Mr. Arsenault added his concerns:

- the operation of the town
- the people of the town
- grant matches
- Ski Bowl Park
- the sewer proposition
- water infrastructure
- the difficulty of the tax cap
- realizing that with the tax cap some projects must be delayed

Mr. Stevens agreed with Ms. Hogan that the health and well-being of the community is a priority. He added:

- increasing volunteerism
- the sewer and water systems
- working closer with the highway department
- the need for revaluation
- the need for maintenance of town buildings
- building a ‘war chest’, or reserve

Kelly Nessel voiced what she would like to be considered:

- exploring how to get professionals for assistance with funding and creating a municipal plan
- generating an increase in tax revenues
- hiring an employee with landscaping and supervisory experience to divide the maintenance of the grounds with Matt Olden
- Ski Bowl Park – physically remove the Highway Department
- obtaining funding for a plan for Ski Bowl Park
- moving the sand quarry to make a more beautiful space
- creating a five-year “live here” promotional plan

Ginger Dunlap asked if the town has a five-year or ten-year plan.

Ms. Nessel answered that creating that plan is the purpose of hiring someone.

Linda Quintavalle suggested hiring a tourism person to coordinate events so they don't overlap, spreading the audience too thin. Ms. Hogan said that the website in development will help with this.

Donna Welsh stated that internet service being poor is affecting the community – buildings, educational opportunities, events, jobs and tourism.

Laurie Arnheiter talked about a broadband symposium in which internet service was discussed and that there will be another symposium for those interested.

Mr. Stevens asked about wires he has seen being strung.

Ms. Hogan responded that yes, the wires are fiber cables being installed in the Phase I upgrade the town has received a commitment for, involving all but three census blocks in Riparius.

Kathleen Donnelly asked if the Chamber of Commerce isn't responsible for coordinating events. Ms. Hogan responded that the town has taken on the coordination.

Ms. Donnelly suggested that in any upgrades to buildings, that the town look to the future and not merely bring issues "up to code."

Ms. Hogan said that she and Ms. Arnheiter will be capitalizing on their meeting with Darin Scott and Ed Bartholomew, to keep working on a town action plan.

Chris Heidrich agreed that broadband will be good for small businesses, kids, residents and part-time residents who may be able to have longer stays with better internet access.

Ms. Hogan added that cell service is important to everyone as well.

Ms. Nettle brought up solar energy as something to be considered in the future.

Roger Thomas spoke about the increase in visitors to the Depot Museum. He said that having a five-year plan, they have used grants, volunteers and clever bargaining to make it a very good museum. He encourages other groups and boards to each develop their own five-year plan which provides focus and goals.

Katie Nightingale asked about the due date for the preliminary budget. Ms. Hogan said it is September 30th.

Kelly Nettle brought up the proposed future Ski Museum stating that it will need at least \$100K in start-up funding.

Deana Wood spoke about the condition of the town's cemeteries being poor. She suggested a committee to 'spruce them up.' She went on to say that three people

had visited the town in the past month to research family, and that the cemeteries have the potential to increase tourism through history.

Jill Harrington asked about cell phone service. Ms. Hogan said that she talks to whoever she can whenever she can about this issue. Ms. Arnheiter spoke again about the earlier-mentioned symposium and said she will look into scheduling another for early December.

Linda Quintavalle read a letter from Ellen Schaefer regarding the Depot Museum:

September 18, 2018

Dear Andrea and Town Council Members;

As you are aware, the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association (NCRDPA) is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit, and New York State registered charitable organization that relies wholly on donations and fundraising to operate the Town's only local history museum.

We hold an absolute charter under the New York State Education Department and our property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as being listed as one of the ten NYS Theodore Roosevelt Historic Sites. Our guest register demonstrates that visitors to the Museum are enthralled by our Theodore Roosevelt, Local Ski History, and our Adirondack Railroad History Exhibits, and our Model Railroad Diorama of the North River to Riparius Region.

In the past three years we have succeeded in making major repairs to the physical structures, painting both the Depot and Owens House buildings, updating our security, made major repairs to our railroad diorama, and added and updated our exhibits through the diligent efforts of volunteers and support from the Warren County First Wilderness Heritage Corridor, the North Creek Rotary Club, the Church sponsored Youth Works Program, and other grantors.

We have been featured in articles in the Schenectady Daily Gazette, on WCAX TV in Burlington, VT, and are scheduled to be a featured tourist attraction at the new I Love NY Welcome Center at Exit 18 – an exhibit that includes photographs as well as a few artifacts from the Museum.

In 2017, we welcomed over 3,600 visitors to the Museum and are on target to greet over 4,000 this year. The Museum also serves to promote other businesses and attractions to the Town by serving as an information center with maps of the hamlet of North Creek, local trails, and rack cards displays in both the Owens House entry and on the platform.

I am writing to request consideration of Town funding for the North Creek Railway Depot Museum, in the amount of \$10,000 annually, to employ a part-time Museum Director. This position will allow us to continue the mission of the NCRDPA to preserve our history, and educate both residents and visitors about our Town's rich heritage. We hope to increase our collaboration with the Johnsburg Historical Society and offer more permanent exhibits at the Owens House – expanding our exhibits beyond what we can fit into the Depot Museum. This will also allow us to increase our programs for students – particularly the 4th graders at JCS –

and allow us to participate in the Warren County Youth Works Program by having a single employee to oversee and supervise both students and volunteer docents at the Depot Museum.

As an educational organization, and tourist attraction, we appreciate your consideration of our request for the 2019 budget.

Sincerely,

Ellen S. Schaefer
President, Board of Trustees
North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association
518-251-5451
admin@northcreekdepotmuseum.com

The consideration of the Town Board is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Ms. Quintavalle noted that the Museum does not have enough volunteers to keep it open longer hours.

Another issue Ms. Quintavalle addressed was the signage pointing to North Creek which is not easy to read, she said, while driving. Ms. Arnheiter responded that the only way to use signs in the areas mentioned is to put them on private property.

Ms. Hogan noted that all Hamlets of the Town of Johnsburg were represented at this budget discussion.

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting September 4, 2018

RESOLUTION #127-18

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

Correspondence:

- Youth Program letters
- Adirondack Local Government Review Board
- North Creek Depot Museum

Kate Lorah read the list of correspondence received and said copies were available with other materials near sign-in sheet or in the Town Clerk's office.

New Business:

- Appointment of the Youth Program Advisor for ski lesson programs for the 2018-2019 winter season

RESOLUTION #128-18

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to accept and approve Ann Dingman as the Program Advisor for ski lesson programs for the 2018-2019 winter season. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Appointment of the Youth Program Activities Coordinator for the 2018-2019 school year

RESOLUTION #129-18

Mr. Stevens motioned with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept and approve Kate Hartley as the Youth Program Activities Coordinator for the 2018-2019 school year. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Adirondack Local Government Review Board

Ms. Hogan stated that the Adirondack Local Government Review Board is an advocacy group which provides representation in Albany for local governments in the Adirondack Park. They are asking for funding in the amounts of \$300 for 2018

and \$300 for 2019. Ms. Hogan said that she was comfortable with budgeting for 2019 but not for 2018.

RESOLUTION #130-18

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve funding in the amount of \$300 for 2019, effective 1/1/2019, for the Adirondack Local Government Review Board. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Town Employee Insurance

Ms. Hogan reported that the employee insurance plan rates will increase between 10 to 15 percent. There are two options available, the first one of which is paying approximately 12 percent more by offering the same level of service but raising the deductible for employees, resulting in a difference of about \$40,000. The other option is to downgrade the insurance plan and hold steady. Mr. Arsenault asked if this has been discussed with employees. Ms. Arnheiter asked for confirmation that the option of downgrading the plan was Debbie Bell's recommendation, and Ms. Hogan said it was. Mr. Arsenault said the Town has a commitment to employees, and they should have input in the decision. Mr. Stevens said that the Board has made the decision in the past and he would expect the Board to make the decision now. Mr. Arsenault suggests making the decision after discussion with the employees. No action was taken.

Old Business:

- Front St. donation of land/payment for survey

Ms. Hogan stated that the Planning Board has to approve the sub-division of land for transfer from Front Street to the Town. Mr. Crikelair is asking the Town to pay for the survey at a cost of \$1500.

RESOLUTION #131-18

Ms. Arnheiter moved with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve funding in the amount of \$1500 for the survey for the transfer of land from Front Street to the Town. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Mr. Stevens asked if the \$1500 will come out of the fund balance. Ms. Hogan responded that it would.

Committee Reports:

- Solid Waste

Nothing to report.

- Highway

Nothing to report regarding River Road.

Mr. Arsenault asked if there was any information on the drainage issue at Ski Bowl Park. Ms. Hogan said she had a conversation with Dan Hitchcock about diverting water higher up to point it toward the sledding area.

Dan Hitchcock sent an email to the board regarding plans for paving and included quotes for the materials and work. The total is 'a little over \$108,000.' Dan's email stated that \$100,000 was budgeted for extra road work in 2018 and that the balance would come out of CHIPS funding.

RESOLUTION #132-18

Mr. Stevens moved to approve Mr. Hitchcock's plans for paving with \$100,000 coming from the amount budgeted for extra road work in 2018 and the balance coming out of CHIPS funding. Mr. Arsenault seconded and with 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Marketing and Economic Development

Ms. Arnheiter spoke about a meeting she and Ms. Hogan attended with Ed

Bartholomew and Darren Scott, a representative from New York State Homes and Community Renewal, regarding planning for affordable housing in the community. The discussion included training of builders and creating a housing plan. Linda Quintavalle asked if a project would involve local builders. Ms. Arnheiter said both local contractors and developers would be involved. Kelly Nettle suggested coordination with the Planning Board.

- Personnel

Mr. Stevens spoke about a NY State requirement for workplace harassment and workplace violence policies and the Personnel Committee has reviewed the ones the Town has in place has found them to be adequate. The Personnel Committee recommended that the required annual training be guided by Warren County.

- Planning and Zoning

The report from Planning and Zoning is that there will be a public hearing Monday evening on the sub-division of land from Front Street, already addressed.

- Buildings, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Arnheiter met with Daphne Taylor and reported that work on the Tannery Pond carpets and front wall has been completed. Mike Ordway looked at the gym floor with Ms. Arnheiter and suggested she get an estimate from Henry Freebern to do the work. The committee is seeking estimates for painting next year, and is trying to address the fact that there is too much humidity in the building.

- Fire/ EMS

Mr. Arsenault and Ms. Hogan met with the fire chiefs and discussed grant seeking, both as individual companies and banding together. Also discussed was the need for increased volunteerism. Ms. Hogan said there will be an EMS meeting coming up.

Approval of warrants (two sets of warrants)

RESOLUTION #133-18

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

General Fund (Total \$2,676.29)

Highway Fund (Total \$59.50)

Water District (Total \$1449.58)

Public Library Fund (Total \$4.25)

Total all warrants \$4,189.62

General Fund (Total \$24,394.90)

Highway Fund (Total \$27,564.44)

Water District (Total \$324.54)

Public Library Fund (Total \$1,224.42)

Total all warrants \$53,508.30

Supervisor's monthly report

RESOLUTION #134-18

A motion by Mr. Arsenault was seconded by Mr. Stevens to accept the Supervisor's monthly report. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Animal Control monthly report, ZEO monthly report

The Animal Control monthly report and ZEO monthly report are in the board packets.

Privilege of the Floor –

Katie Nightingale referred to the discussion about health insurance and said there are many people in the Town who work jobs which offer no health insurance benefits. Even with the increase in premium, she said, having coverage offered makes Town of Johnsbury employees fortunate.

Kelly Nettle asked about the drainage situation at Ski Bowl Park. Gene Arsenault explained that the proposed solution is to regrade, making water pool and settle before it enters the drainage system. He added that adjustments on culverts could help mitigate the problem also.

Arnold Stevens returned to the budget discussion, suggesting the idea of hiring a grant seeker because of the wide range of topics and needs discussed earlier. Ms. Hogan said she has the names of many grant writers, and that she thought Mr. Stevens' idea is a good one. Both Roger Thomas and Deana Wood agreed. Mr. Arsenault added that in anticipation of Wayne LaMothe retiring that he agreed that it is a good idea.

Motion to adjourn – The motion to adjourn was made by Arnold Stevens, seconded by Gene Arsenault at 8:33pm. With four in favor the motion is carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0

Next meeting Tuesday, October 2, 7:00 pm at Wevertown Community Center

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk