

**Town of Johnsburg  
Regular Meeting of the Town Board  
Zoom Meeting  
October 6, 2020 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2172603617>

Meeting ID: 217 260 3617  
888 788 0099 US Toll-free  
877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Supervisor Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and the pledge to the flag was led by Laurie Arnheiter.

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

Presentation on Municipal Financial Planning

Jeanine Caruso of Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. gave a power-point presentation on municipal financial planning, explaining the role of the financial advisor, the advisory process, and types of debt obligations. This served as an introduction to the bond issuing process which the Board will be considering.

Garnet Lake Dam discussion

Mr. Arsenault asked Matt Fuller to detail the Garnet Lake dam situation. Mr. Fuller explained that the Town has an easement over the dam in order to maintain the road, but the Town does not own the dam. Ms. Hogan offered to pursue grants to fund dam maintenance but said the Town will not fund directly.

***RESOLUTION #146-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to forward the latest written agreement with the Garnet Lake Association to them for their feedback. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Glass Blowing lease proposal**

Greg Tomb said he had a great Summer at Riverfront Park and has submitted a proposal to the Town to return. Ms. Hogan said she will run Mr. Tomb's proposal through the Town's attorney.

**Approval of Minutes September 15, 2020 meeting*****RESOLUTION #147-20***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

**Correspondence**

- Letters of interest for Board of Assessment Review
- NYMIR Cyber Risk Assessment
- Letter from Chatiemac Rd. Association regarding broadband
- Letter from Warren County Attorney regarding Occupancy Tax

**Old Business:**

- **Budget discussion - Move from Tentative to Preliminary and set public hearing for October 20, 2020**

Ms. Hogan began the discussion by noting that, in consideration of this year's financial difficulties and the inclination to not exceed the tax cap, there were challenging decisions creating the budget. Elected officials have a pay freeze, staff have a temporary pay freeze, and the highway department employees will have a one percent raise. She then went over the budget line by line.

### ***RESOLUTION #148-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to move the 2021 budget from Tentative to Preliminary. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

### ***RESOLUTION #149-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to set the date for the public hearing on the budget for October 20. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Highway Department purchases**

Mr. Comstock submitted several quotes to the Board for purchase consideration.

### ***RESOLUTION #150-20***

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the purchase of steel for the Hudson Street project for \$3338.86. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

***RESOLUTION #151-20***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the purchase of concrete forms for the Streetscape sidewalks not to exceed \$3000. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

***RESOLUTION #152-20***

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the purchase of tires for highway equipment not to exceed \$6000. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

***RESOLUTION #153-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve the purchase of a truck cab, chassis and box not to exceed \$90,000. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Streetscape update

The engineers are negotiating with Keller.

- Hudson St update – **quotes for steel for superstructure**

Covered above.

**New Business:**

- **Appointment to Board of Assessment Review**

***RESOLUTION #154-20***

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to appoint Chris Heidrich to the Board of Assessment Review. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Cyber risk policy

NYMIR sent the Town recommendations for cyber security and last year, Chris Heidrich presented the Town his recommendations for the same. Ms. Hogan is suggesting overlaying the two to create the Town's plan.

- **Employee handbook and Code of Ethics**

Work is proceeding on updating the Employee Handbook and the Code of Ethics, which is a Local Law, needs review. Ms. Hogan is asking the Board to support sending the Code of Ethics to a Labor Attorney.

***RESOLUTION #155-20***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve sending the Code of Ethics to a Labor Attorney for review at a cost not to exceed \$1500. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Committee Reports

- Sewer update

Mr. Gonyo spoke about a meeting of the Sewer Committee with Wayne LaMothe concerning funding. One avenue is to work with Community Development Corp. (CDC), on funding from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC). This is a federal-state partnership that is administered locally by the Lake Champlain, Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP), and could be a step closer to forming a Sewer District.

- Occupancy tax update and discussion

Ms. Hogan discussed Occ Tax being a volatile source of income and is proposing a change in the award process. Currently awards are made in anticipation of money to be received. She would like to change this to spending the money received the previous year. The Board agreed to this change.

### **Approval of Warrants**

**General Fund** (Total \$15,805.00)  
**Highway Fund** (Total \$49,900.62)  
**Library Fund** (Total \$592.07)  
**Water District** (Total \$6057.19)  
**Trust and Agency** (\$1552.79)  
**Total all warrants \$73,907.67**

### ***RESOLUTION #156-20***

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

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Christian Holt had the following comment: NYS pays taxes for the 240 acres of lake in Thurman to both JCS and town of Thurman... the 80 acres of land in Johnsbury no one pays taxes on...by lake I mean the actual lake not lake frontage. Ms. Hogan acknowledged this situation, saying that the solution would be to negotiate with the state. Mr. Holt agreed that negotiating with the state is difficult but that he hopes the situation is pursued.

### **Motion to adjourn**

### ***RESOLUTION #157-20***

At 9:08 Ms. Arnheiter 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, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays- 0

Next meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2020 7 pm  
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah