

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Wevertown Community Center
2370 State Route 28
November 7, 2019**

Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Thursday November 7th, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Wevertown Community Center 2370 State Route 28

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

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

ABSENT: Peter Olesheski, Jr -- Councilman

1. Public Hearing on Proposed 2020 Town of Johnsbury Budget

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County, NY for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 has been completed and filed in the Town Clerk’s office in the hamlet of North Creek, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during office hours or by appointment.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at 7:00 PM on Thursday November 7, 2020 at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY and that at such time and place any person may be heard in favor or against the preliminary budget as compiled, for or against any item or items therein contained.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, that the following are the proposed yearly salaries of the Town officers:

Supervisor.....	\$25,775
Councilperson (4).....	\$ 4,584
Justice.....	\$29,000
Town Clerk/ Collector	\$32,148

Highway Superintendent.....\$50,000

Ms. Hogan read the Budget Message as follows:

The Town Budget is a reflection of the priorities of the people of the town. This year the Johnsbury Town Board held an informal workshop type meeting in July, and then several discussions within board meetings throughout August and September. I feel fairly confident when I say that anyone who came out to speak was heard and those considerations are reflected in this budget.

After the preliminary budget was filed a few additional ideas were brought forward and so, there are a few minor changes between the tentative and tonight's budget. Those are identified with arrows in yellow on the board copies.

I'll point out some of the highlights, then take questions or comments from the board and then the public.

The Supervisor, Town Justice and board salaries remain the same. The highway superintendent salary will go down. In all cases, the corresponding budget line for training and travel is increased. This is to encourage education and networking.

We are investigating alternatives for earning interest on monies that are in our accounts, but not immediately useful. You'll see the anticipated increase in interest and earnings there.

We've recently completed a review of all town owned properties and will begin to consider either community forest, alternative uses or potential sale of any properties that are not currently serving the public.

We've increased spending on Programming for seniors, youth, community activities and beautification, held steady on Fire and medical services.

Some challenges that lie ahead for 2020 include the necessity for looking into our systems for waste removal. This mandated service increases in price every year. The board has committed to moving forward with a town wide property tax assessment re-val and with serious infrastructure improvements. Time and effort will have to be put into searching for funding to realize these goals.

EMS is receiving a 2% increase this year, much the same as other lines in the budget. However they, like our Fire departments are having difficulty filling their rosters and we will all suffer if we don't find creative ways to stabilize these important services.

We continue to support the arts, and that is reflected in the budget, but negotiations are ongoing.

Finally, the 2020 budget reflects the board, community and state-wide commitment to realizing a \$15 minimum wage in the next few years. These annual .70 increases are a burden on the budget

but a relief on the mind to know that our employees are paid a living wage. With unemployment at all time lows, it is crucial that the Town recognize the importance of being an employer of choice among the people who live here.

Ms. Arnheiter asked how the October 31st storm damages will affect the budget. Ms. Hogan responded that there is money left in the 2019 budget to begin to pay for reparations, then submissions will be made for aid in restoration costs.

Christian Holt asked when the Board moved the budget from Tentative to Preliminary. Ms. Hogan stated that there had been a budget discussion at the meeting October 15th to review the Tentative Budget, and that the Board passed Resolution #190-19 to set a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 7.

Cheryl Gillespie made a presentation on Tannery Pond Community Center's 2019 usage, in an effort to have that budget line increased in 2020. Ms. Hogan responded by saying the negotiations are still ongoing.

Mr. Holt asked about Town buildings in the 2020 budget, suggesting that Town Hall needs improvements. Ms. Hogan said that money has been budgeted for improvements at Scout Hall for 2020.

Mr. Holt asked for clarification on the line for the reval. Ms. Hogan explained carryover and the 2020 budget line.

Mr. Holt brought up line 80101 regarding Zoning, and Ms. Hogan explained that a Committee has been formed to revise some Zoning Code. Mr. Holt said that Zoning enforcement is the problem that needs attention.

The Public Hearing on Proposed 2020 Town of Johnsbury Budget was closed at 7:29 pm.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting October 15, 2019

RESOLUTION #200-19

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a

second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2019 meeting. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Correspondence:

- Letter of interest for Zoning Board from Reisha Thissell
- Letter of interest for Planning Board from Janet Konis
- Letter of interest for Planning Board from Paul Sears

Ms. Hogan referenced the above correspondence, saying these appointments will be addressed in the meeting.

New Business:

- Single payer healthcare presentation – Wes Dingman

Wes Dingman gave a presentation to make the case that the Board should consider passing a resolution supporting single-payer healthcare, to be presented to the state and federal governments. He suggested having some informational meetings to discuss.

- **Final Budget**

RESOLUTION #201-19

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the 2020 Budget as Final. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **Youth Board appointments for 2020**

Letters were received from Warren County Youth Bureau regarding the reappointment of Andrea Hogan and Peter Olesheski to the Warren County Youth Board.

RESOLUTION #202-19

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to reappoint Andrea Hogan and Peter Olesheski to the Warren County Youth Board. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **Planning Board and Zoning Board appointments**

RESOLUTION #203-19

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to appoint Reisha Thissell to the Zoning Board and Paul Sears to the Planning Board. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **Transfer Station Clean up Card**

Ms. Lorah spoke about possible changes to the annual clean-up card residents receive in order to begin tracking usage of the card. She said she is investigating pricing of disposables and will present recommendations to the Board in the near future.

- **Mountain Medical Contract**

The contract with Mountain Medical (the company that performs random medical testing) is due for renewal.

RESOLUTION #204-19

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve the contract with Mountain Medical (the company that performs random medical testing) for the year 2020. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Old Business:

- Water tank repair update

At the July 16, 2019 Town Board meeting, Resolution 135-19 was passed as follows:

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve a contract with Liquid Engineering for water tank inspections and repair of the south tank, not to exceed \$5000. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Since that time, the tank has developed more leaks. The additional work performed by Liquid Engineering Corporation brought the total to \$6325.00.

-Amend resolution 135-19***RESOLUTION #205-19***

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to amend resolution 135-19 to cover additional work performed by Liquid Engineering Corporation bringing the total for water tank inspections and repair to \$6325.00. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **Tannery Pond doors**

Three companies have looked at doors on three Town buildings. Not all of the estimates have been received as of today. The repair of the doors at Tannery Pond is most pressing.

RESOLUTION #206-19

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault approve the contract for repair of the doors at Tannery Pond (once three estimates have been received) not to exceed \$1800.00. With 4

members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **Hudson St. Engineer Contract**

A bid has to be put out for the Hudson Street bridge repair project. Dan Hitchcock received a proposal from JMT Engineering to write the bid, review bids received and make a recommendation for awarding the bid, for \$6400.

RESOLUTION #207-19

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the contract from JMT Engineering (for the Hudson Street bridge repair project) to write the bid, review bids received and make a recommendation for awarding the bid, for \$6400. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- **AATV Meeting**

There is a meeting of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages in Lake George on December 1st and 2nd which Ms. Hogan and Ms. Lorah would like to attend.

RESOLUTION #208-19

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve Ms. Hogan and Ms. Lorah attending the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages meeting in Lake George on December 1st and 2nd for \$80 per person. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Committee Reports:

- Solid waste

Mr. Stevens said the Solid Waste Committee is moving forward.

- Highway

The focus of the Highway Department has been on road repairs resulting for the 10/31/19 storm.

- Marketing

The Marketing Committee had a joint meeting with the Occ Tax Committee and are working on ways to utilize shared ideas and resources.

- Personnel

Filling the Planning Board and Zoning Board vacancies has been a priority.

- Buildings, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Arnheiter and Kelly Nettle will be meeting this week.

- Planning and Zoning

Committee members have been conducting research on various issues.

- Fire and EMS

Contracts will be coming up for renewal soon.

Approval of Warrants

General Fund (Total \$31,524.09)

Highway Fund (Total \$30,966.56)

Water District (Total \$22,743.85)

Total all warrants \$85,234.50

RESOLUTION #209-19

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the warrants. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Privilege of the Floor

Kelly Nettle reported that the beach project is almost completed, but for the setback from storm damages. She noted those who helped with cleanup after the storm: Bob Nettle, Kevin Fusco, Chris Heidrich, Mike Quintavalle, Lee Keeler, Ed Welsh, and Bob Manning.

Roy Keats spoke about the spillway at Garnet Lake, saying it functioned well during the storm.

Motion to adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Arsenault, seconded by Ms. Arnheiter, at 8:19 p.m. With 4 members voting in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0

Next meeting Tuesday, November 19th, 7:00 pm at Tannery Pond Community Center

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk