

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg
Public Hearing on Fire District Contracts and
Regular Meeting
Tannery Pond Community Center
Main St., North Creek, NY
December 18, 2018**

Minutes of the Public Hearing on 2019 Contracts for Fire Protection Districts
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held
on Tuesday December 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Tannery Pond Community
Center, 228 Main Street, North Creek, NY

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

ABSENT: Peter Olesheski, Jr – Councilman

Supervisor Hogan called the public hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. and the pledge to
the flag was led by Joe Connelly.

1. Public Hearing on Town of Johnsburg Contracts for Fire Protection 2019
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of The Town of
Johnsburg, Warren County, NY, will meet on Tuesday, December 18, 2019
at 7:00 PM for considering funding proposed by said Town Board for the
five volunteer fire companies for furnishing of fire protection in the
Johnsburg Fire Protection District, at which time and place said Town Board
will consider such proposed funding and hear all persons interested in the
same.

The following companies are included: Bakers Mills/Sodom Vol. Fire Co.,
Garnet Lake Vol. Fire Co., Johnsburg Vol. Fire Co., North River Vol. Fire
Co., and Riverside Vol. Fire Co. and North Creek Fire District.

Supervisor Hogan reviewed the contracts, stating that there were no changes
to the language of the contracts this year. The Town has budgeted

\$50,000.00 per company with \$7500 budgeted to the North Creek Fire District.

In meetings held between the town and fire districts throughout the year, the difficulty the districts are having recruiting and retaining was discussed.

Supervisor Hogan called for public comment. Chief Robert Austin of the Bakers Mills Fire Co. stated he represented several companies and as long as the town committed \$50,000 in the budget to each company, they had no remarks.

The public hearing was closed at 7:06 pm.

Supervisor Hogan called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting December 4, 2018

RESOLUTION # 190-18

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to accept the minutes of the December 4, 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 Emergency Meeting December 12, 2018

RESOLUTION # 191-18

Ms. Arnheiter moved and Mr. Arsenault seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2018 Emergency meeting of the Town Board. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 4(Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays - 0

Correspondence:

- Letters requesting appointment to the Town Youth Committee

Ms. Lorah said two letters had been received, the first from Erika Patton stating she would like appointment to the Town Youth Committee, and the second from Susan Murante, stating the same.

New Business:

- Appointments to the Town Youth Committee

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to appoint Erika Patton and Susan Murante to the Town of Johnsbury Youth Committee. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Recognizing Phillip Goodman for service on the County Youth Board
Councilman Stevens read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #192-18

***In Appreciation of Phillip Goodman, Jr., Town appointee to the
Warren County Youth Board.***

WHEREAS, Phillip Goodman Jr. has, for many years, served honorably and with distinction as Town Representative to the Warren County Youth Board; and,

WHEREAS, Phillip's participation on this Board has facilitated the provision of a range of recreational opportunities essential to the growth and development of our town and county youth; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Board has been notified that Phillip wishes to retire from these duties; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury, it is

RESOLVED that the members of the Town Board hereby express their gratitude for the many years of faithful service by Phillip Goodman, and express their sincere best wishes to him, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution as inscribed in the minutes of this meeting, be submitted in appreciation of Phillip Goodman Jr. in suitable form executed by the Board of the Town of Johnsbury.

- Appointment to the Warren County Youth Board

Supervisor Hogan stated that Councilman Olesheski was interested in being appointed to the Warren County Youth Board.

Ms. Kelly Nettle requested the board ask for more communication between the Youth Board and the Town Youth Committee. Councilwoman Arnheiter asked whether there were job descriptions for the board members. Supervisor Hogan stated she would follow up on that.

RESOLUTION #193-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second by Councilwoman Arnheiter to appoint Peter Olesheski Jr. to the Warren County Youth Bureau as Town Representative. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Proposal to raise billing rates for Johnsbury EMS district.

Johnsbury EMS Director Joe Connelly presented a proposal to raise billing rates for the EMS district. Stating that rates had not been raised since the town made the agreement to contract with Johnsbury EMS, he has been advised by the billing company that the rates are no longer in line with what insurance companies will pay, nor with what other districts in the county are charging. Mr. Connelly went on to say that raising the rates will mitigate the tax burden on the town.

Councilwoman Arnheiter questioned the percentage of calls from Gore Mountain. Gore Mountain accounts for approximately 15% of calls, and 33% of revenue, Mr. Connelly stated.

Councilman Stevens reviewed last year's budgetary appropriation to EMS for a "cushion". Mr. Connelly said the revenues from this year are higher. He stated that December revenue will go to reserve.

Discussion revolved around the fact that Medicare and Medicaid rates will not be affected. Medicare and Medicaid calls account for approximately 60% of EMS calls in Johnsbury.

Councilman Arsenault commended Joe Connelly and Johnsburg EMS for excellent service and efficiency.

RESOLUTION #194-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Mr. Stevens to set EMS billing rates as below. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

Cardiac arrest NT JEMS	\$900
Mileage	\$22.00
ALS 1	\$1200
ALS 2	\$1500
ALS intercept	\$350
BLS Emergency	\$900
BLS Non-Emergency	\$800
Treat & Release	\$100

- Contract for EMS

Supervisor Hogan presented that the 2019 Contract for Emergency Medical Services between the Town and Johnsburg EMS had been reviewed by the EMS committee and was agreed upon between parties, the only changes being adjusted reimbursement rates to reflect a budgeted increase.

RESOLUTION #195-18

Mr. Stevens made a motion with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to accept the 2019 Contract for Emergency Medical Services with Johnsburg EMS.

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

- Contracts for Fire Protection Districts

Ms. Hogan stated that the 2019 Fire Protection District contracts were changed only to show the budgeted Town contribution of \$50,000 to each of the 5 departments and \$7500 to the North Creek District.

RESOLUTION #196-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve the supervisor executing contracts for \$50,000 with the 5 Fire Protection companies and \$7500 for the North Creek Fire District for 2019. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried.

Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Intermunicipal Agreement with Chestertown to hire a bookkeeper

Ms. Hogan reviewed the Intermunicipal agreement which was prepared by the town of Chester to jointly hire a bookkeeper. The bookkeeper will be a Town of Chester employee and Johnsburg will reimburse Chester for her salary and benefits. Johnsburg Town lawyer has gone over the document.

Ms. Arnheiter, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation for outgoing bookkeeper Sherry Williams' many years of service to the town.

RESOLUTION #197-18

Mr. Stevens made a motion, seconded by Ms. Arnheiter to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the town of Chester to share services of a bookkeeper effective January 1, 2019. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Contract for drug and alcohol testing and DOT physicals

Supervisor Hogan stated it was time to renew the contract with Standard Medical Services for drug and alcohol testing as well as for DOT/CDL physicals. She stated there was a modest increase in their fees this year.

RESOLUTION #198-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Ms. Hogan to enter into a contract with Standard Medical Testing Services for the provision of urine drug screens, alcohol breath tests and DOT/CDL physicals. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Budget amendment to pay for landscaping at Tannery Pond.

Supervisor Hogan stated that a bill had been received in the amount of \$2000 for landscaping materials that had been provided during the Cycle ADK event in August. Cycle ADK had raised \$1625 toward the plants, with the balance remaining \$375.

RESOLUTION #199-18

Ms. Arnheiter moved, with a second from Mr. Arsenault to appropriate \$375 from fund balance to pay the full \$2000 due to Fiddlehead Creek Farm for landscaping materials for Tannery Pond Center. With 3 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes- 3 (Hogan, Arsenault, Arnheiter) Nays –1 (Stevens)

- Need to hire immediate help for the library

The Town Board was notified late in the day by the Library Board that their director would temporarily be on leave to deal with a family emergency. Their current employees are unable to handle the volume of hours that need to be staffed. They requested the board approve the immediate hire of a temporary staff member.

RESOLUTION #200-18

Ms. Arnheiter made a motion with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the hire of one individual at \$10.40/hr. to temporarily help with library staffing. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- Town Justice rate of pay for 2018

Mr. Cavanagh has successfully completed training as a Town Justice and the Board voted on December 4 to install him as Town Justice as of December 15. His rate of pay in 2019 will include compensation for also fulfilling the duties of Court Clerk. Judge Schwenker, Town Justice through December 14, was only paid the rate for Judge.

The Board recognizes that Judge Cavanagh will be performing both Clerk and Judge duties from his December 15 start date.

RESOLUTION #201-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Mr. Stevens to appropriate funds from fund balance to pay Judge Cavanagh at his 2019 rate of pay beginning December 15. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes -4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays-0

Old Business

- Mobile Device Policy

The policy has been revised and reviewed by the safety officer, who offered no changes.

RESOLUTION #202-18

Mr. Arsenault made a motion with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to adopt the Mobile Device Policy. With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes -4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays-0

Committee reports:

- Solid Waste – Ms. Hogan reported that the purchasing department at the county suggested the town look into saving money by finding a vendor to recycle tin. Dave Olden, the town's scrap metal vendor put Supervisor Hogan in touch with a company that will provide a roll-off and transport it,

offering to pay the town between \$70-80/ton. The details are still being worked out with the county as to how to exempt the town from accepting this portion of the bid for waste removal.

- Highway – Mr. Arsenault recounted many details from a meeting with himself, Highway Superintendent Dan Hitchcock and Supervisor Hogan. Items which were discussed included: equipment issues, difficulty obtaining parts because of steel tariffs, lengthy wait times for parts, potential new equipment orders, River Rd. planning, bridge projects and sand pit permitting and planning. Dan will be following up with Stewart’s Corp. to see if there is a path forward working with Stewart’s to repair the end of Durkin Rd. Mr. Arsenault discussed the necessity of the town working closely with the Highway to move these projects along.
- Marketing and Economic Development – Ms. Arnheiter reviewed the town’s new tourism website launch party on December 12.
- Personnel – Mr. Stevens recounted the application and interview process for the position of bookkeeper that the Personnel committee underwent along with representatives from Chestertown. He detailed Ms. Tlokiska-Scroggins qualifications.
- Planning and Zoning – no report
- Buildings, Parks and Recreation – no report
- Fire/EMS - no report

Historian’s report – The Historian’s report is in the board packets.

Motion to accept warrants:

RESOLUTION #203-18

Mr. Arsenault motioned to accept warrants and Mr. Stevens seconded. With four in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0

General Fund (Total \$29,492.31)
Highway Fund (Total \$35,538.60)
Water District (Total \$8966.37)
Public Library Fund (Total \$1876.39)
Trust & Agency Fund (Total \$3723.23)

Total - \$79,596.90

General Fund (Total \$8963.91)
Water District (Total \$1345.15)
Trust & Agency Fund (Total \$245.22)

Total - \$10,554.28

Privilege of the Floor:

Motion to adjourn:

The motion to adjourn was made by Gene Arsenault, seconded by Arnold Stevens at 8:10 p.m. With 4 in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0

Next meeting Thursday, January 3, 7:00 pm at Wevertown Community Center,
2370 State Route 28, Wevertown, NY

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk