

**Town of Johnsburg
Town Board Meeting
March 19, 2024**

In Attendance: Kevin Bean – Supervisor Arnold Stevens – Councilman
 Paul Heid – Councilman Jim Williams – Councilman
 Anna Bowers – Councilwoman Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

1. Pledge of Allegiance led by Bruce Ashline
2. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 7:01PM
3. Approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Meeting
RESOLUTION # 59-24
Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve and accept the Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2024 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.
4. Resolution to Approve Authorization to Proceed with the installation of culvert on Dippikill Road – Supervisor Bean noted that the Procurement Policy has been followed. Mr. Comstock stated that this portion washes out with every bad storm. Would like to put in a bigger culvert and move it so that it is more efficient.
RESOLUTION # 60-24
Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve the installation of the culvert on Dippikill Road and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.
5. Resolution to advertise and hire a CDL driver for the Highway Department due to a retirement. Mr. Comstock – we had a 37 year employee retire, I'd like to promote from within for this position and place an ad for a CDL driver.
RESOLUTION # 61-24
Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve advertising and hiring of a CDL driver and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.
6. Board Discussion – Website proposals; Ms. Bowers - evio.gov \$5400; civic plus \$3,000+; both professional and great customer service; Matt Addie from Albany – by far the lowest price; .gov, more secure, accessible to only those with a .gov e-mail; welcoming and easy to use; no decision tonight, just don't want it to get lost; Matt Byrne – web payments, etc. will be additional costs; Supervisor Bean - \$19,000 in ARPA funds that can be used; Ms. Nettle – is Matt being compensated for his time? Matt – I volunteered my time; Beth Maher – great step the Town is taking; Mr. Williams – concern about simple website is in talking about it in January is that it's Town government info as well as parks, town events, visitor info, etc.; can we get it up and

running and build from that; Supervisor Bean – one would need to be a CofC, visitors bureau; one for our government and constituents; Mr. Konis – would there be an opportunity to provide those links with the ARPA money; Ms. Bowers – I do think we need the visitor website, but Matt Addie did a great job with Minerva, this could be done within a shorter time frame; Mr. Heid – make sure we have the ability to expand from that; Ms. Bowers – she heard me about the budget; Mr. Heid – add-ons are very well priced; moving forward; Ms. Bowers – can bring any questions back to her; Mr. Heid – does it handle Linux (operating system)? Ms. Bowers – I can get more information for the April 16, 2024 meeting; her customer service was good; having some one local has its benefits; Matt – that’s why Civic Plus costs so much, the add-ons; Ms. Nettle – need to have a database; Mr. Konis – we need a clean simple website; Ms. Bowers – if anything comes up, e-mail me.

7. Resolution to hire AFSCO – Supervisor Bean – Mr. Olesheski can’t be here tonight, but this was discussed; Mr. Williams - \$1,416 total cost to tax payers with money from Warren/Washington County Youth Bureau will be \$8,400+; work being done by an Eagle Scout; if the Board doesn’t approve this it sends a bad message; we need to support them; it’s a no-brainer; it was budgeted previously; Mr. Ashline – is this at the Ski Bowl; Mr. Heid – only concern I have is there are only two quotes; aggressively go out for additional quotes; Supervisor Smith – it’s under \$10,000 I think that’s the reason.

RESOLUTION #62-24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve hiring of AFSCO Fence and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Williams. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

8. Resolution to move Matt Olden from MEO to MEO-L – Mr. Comstock – Matt Olden – transferred to us from Parks as a driver; could not be paid as a driver until he received his CDL; he recently passed his CDL A; Mr. Stevens – difference between MEO and MEO light? Mr. Comstock – one is a laborer and one can drive a truck.

RESOLUTION # 63-24

Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve the move from MEO to MEO-L for Matt Olden and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

9. Resolution to Establish Capital Fund HF for Connector Trail Grant – Mr. Williams – there are 3 resolutions all associated with the Connector trail; it went out to bid; under amount of grant; one interest bearing account to another; my only question is the grant was more than that and this is what is left; Kelly Nettle - \$45,000+ was awarded, the match has to be subtracted from that; Mr. Williams – the Town contributed 20% to that.

RESOLUTION # 64-24

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve establishing a Capital Fund HF for the Connector Trail Grant and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

10. Resolution to Loan Money to the Capital Fund HF for Connector Trail Grant – Mr. Williams - \$6,400 was set aside previously, encumbered in the budget; already set aside for the Connector

Trail; \$37,863 move into the Capital Fund, as well as transferring the \$6,400 into that fund; Mr. Konis – funding for this came from tax payer dollars; could we fund with occ tax money; will be used by tourists potentially more than locals; Ms. Bowers – they are beholding to what the State Comptroller wants; you can take from the General Fund, taking from Occ Tax and move to General Fund – comptroller doesn't want money taken from different budget lines; not possible at this moment; I would feel more comfortable having the Bookkeeper answer this; Supervisor Bean – looking down the road maybe we could do this; may another trail down by the Black Hole; Ms. Bowers – it's a budget line movement thing; we can look as we expand these things; Mr. Bruce Dunkley – we're borrowing money from the general fund, it would earn interest in the general fund; where does that interest go; does the interest earned go back to the general fund; why not borrow from the Occ Tax Line; if the project hasn't started and we have the grant, what is the timing for the payout of the grant – Mr. Williams – grant administrator would be better to answer this question; Ms. Nettle – it will take about three weeks to complete the project and then the Bookkeeper would need to do her work; I would guess 3 months would be the turnaround time for the whole thing; Mr. Williams – we've already been reimbursed for the design work; Mr. Bruce Dunkley – when was the design work completed? Ms. Nettle – last August or September; we pay up front and are reimbursed after completion; Mr. Bruce Dunkley – I don't understand the need for the loan? Mr. Williams – the Bookkeeper needed it set up prior to start-up; moving money from checking into a savings with the same interest earned; Mr. Bruce Dunkley – appreciate the clarification.

RESOLUTION # 65 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the loan to the Capital Fund for the Connector Trail Grant and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

11. Resolution to Award contract to WPM – Wilderness Property Management; Steve Ovitt is the owner, knows our trails better than; Mr. Williams – it came in under; any fund match money will go back into the general fund.

RESOLUTION # 66 – 24

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve awarding the Connector Trail project to WPM as the sole bidder and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

12. Resolution to do RFP's for Town Property – Supervisor Bean – I want to get the best rate possible; Mr. Heid – there was a lawsuit regarding commissions from real estate agents; Ms. Nettle – there has to be a Public Referendum and it has to be posted within 10 days in Town Hall; Mr. Hoskins – what would the property be used for? Supervisor Smith – once its sold it's the owners opportunity to do as they want; Bob Nettle – I think Arnold Stevens and I are the only people in the room that were here when Mr. Schile gave the Town the Property; it was given to benefit the citizens of the Town; there is going to be a major improvement of life in the Town; if you're making a motion to dump property off, 100% of the proceeds is totally used for some entity in the Town that would improve health, recreation, for citizens; previously money coming in could be used for new truck tires for the highway department or a new computer for administration; money should be used for Ski Bowl; Supervisor Bean – I read that the Schile property has that provision, the other two properties are not under this provision; Mr. Ashline –

putting it back on the tax rolls is benefitting the Town; Beth Maher – maybe putting it into childcare, etc.; Mr. Williams – some of the push for the sales is it was budgeted for revenue.

RESOLUTION # 67 – 24

Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve RFP's for the Sale of Town properties and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

13. Committee Reports:

Paul Heid

- Solid Waste, put a call into the County; March 25, 2024 at 10:00AM meeting; Pete Hoskins – I have complete spreadsheets, broken it down, etc; we'll have a meeting over the next few weeks.
- Highway – eye opening experience I rode along with Fred and a 4 hour trip was well over 9 hours; I suggest all Board Members should do this; way different than I expected.
- Fire/EMS – nothing new at this point; Ms. Nettle – Joe isn't here tonight; but he wanted to stress the importance of having his staff get benefits, etc.; Town Clerk noted that his letter was in the Board Packet and in the on-line packet.

Anna Bowers

- Child Care/Marketing – meeting tomorrow.
- Occ Tax – met yesterday – there is info here tonight if you'd like; big thanks to the Committee for getting this all together; committee will be happy to meet with anyone; thank you Carole Bean for becoming a member; thank you to Dave Putman for leading such a great group.

Jim Williams

- Met with the promoter of the Longest Race Day – event is sold out; 90 racers set to come; low impact to the Town; either on the river or in the woods; had a Zoom call with Christine Power and the promoter of the race to showcase the Town of Johnsburg; he's fully on board with promoting the area; talked about host housing for the racers; he'll get a list of those that may need it; there could be an opportunity here for the Town.
- Personnel Committee – nothing to report at this time.
- Parks Committee – had initial meeting and we continue to work and balance the interface with ORDA; the Ski Bowl already looks different; there might be more disturbance than initially thought and we'll work through those kinks and continue to move ahead.
- Sewer Committee – first draft of rules and regulations adopted from DEC guidelines; the committee will review, make comments; a lot of work still needs to be done; permitting – engineers have addressed all but one issue; USDA – our loan organization; hopefully we've addressed all the concerns and can hopefully get an RFP out the next month.
- Water Committee – another meeting in the near future for the application and regulations; Committee Meeting for the Ski Bowl Mitigation and see where we are and what changes need to be made.

14. Historian Report – in packet

15. Library Report – in packet

16. Warrants –Supervisor Bean - any discussion? Mr. Williams – 165/166 – Mitchell Stone Products/Peckhams – fraudulent checks; Supervisor Bean – a couple of weeks back Fred asked about a voucher that hadn’t been paid – Bookkeeper checked on it – it was cashed by someone in FL, we had 3-4 fraudulent checks; people actually took the checks, copied them, cashed them, Navy FCU looking at their cameras; we’ve gone the route to lock down our checking accounts, more security; Mr. Ashline – was the money refunded as it was insured? Supervisor Bean – it will be, yes; Mr. Konis – what are we doing to make things more secure? Supervisor Bean – when I came on board I was made aware of the fact that the system in Town Hall was hacked; someone was able to get into our e-mail system; we had submitted bills \$365,000+, that e-mail was hijacked, stating we changed our financial institutions, the receiver knew enough to contact the Town; that’s why we need to go to .gov e-mail addresses; both of the incidents are happening within towns close to us; Mr. Ashline – can you get insurance? Supervisor Bean – we’re working on cyber insurance as we speak; Mr. Konis – all at Town Hall have done a great job.

RESOLUTION # 68 – 24

Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve and accept the Warrants and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid, Williams); Nays – 0.

GENERAL FUND:	\$ 24,501.40
HIGHWAY FUND:	\$ 30,563.65
LIBRARY FUND:	\$ 1,732.28
WATER DISTRICT:	\$ 8,353.60
TRUST & AGENCY:	\$ <u>1,376.88</u>
TOTAL	\$ 66,527.81

17. Privilege of the Floor

- Ms. Bean – the most recent storm – not sure if everyone has the same feature or not, SOS comes up and you can make an emergency call when out of internet and/or phone; not sure who was aware of this; I know that it was discussed at a previous town board meeting as service is not great here; Who is in charge of the health care needs for the people in the community that may be on life support systems; Mr. Konis – can they register with National Grid; Mr. Ashline – you can register with them, what they’ll do I’m not sure; PH – there should be a list available for us to get to these people; Mr. Connelly – we don’t have an emergency plan, I was working on it with Justin and we need to follow through; we called Hudson Headwaters during the last storm to work on this; Supervisor Bean – we need to work on this; Ms. Bowers – need to revisit that emergency plan; Mr. Heid – reach out to fire departments to help with generators; Mr. Konis – have we met with SEMA yet? Supervisor Bean – not yet; Joe Connelly – when you’re ready we can start working on that plan.
- Mr. Connelly – read letter that’s in the packet; want to thank the Board and the citizens of Johnsburg; don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions; go to the website to get my information.
- Bob Nettle – I was fortunate enough to get home from a very nice ski trip a few days ago; I took a trip through Ski Bowl Park and the ORDA project has finally begun; all need to get over there and take a look; has the Town hired a project overseer to make sure the Town’s interest is 100% followed? Mr. Williams – ORDA has a project manager; Mr. Nettle – I don’t care about that, I have the floor and you’re not answering my question; this Town has to be

represented over there; Mr. Williams – I was over there today; it doesn't matter what I say, you're not going to listen to me. Supervisor Bean - there was a meeting there and Mr. Williams and my wife were there; Mr. Williams – making sure that all permits are being done, making sure ORDA is doing what needs to be done, I need to be aware and have the Town of Johnsbury's best interest in play; all vendors have appropriate insurance and listing the Town as an additional insured.

18. Supervisor Bean – I would like to call a Motion to Adjourn this meeting at 8:31PM.

RESOLUTION # 69 – 24

Mr. Heid made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers.

Prepared by:

Jean M. Comstock

Jean M. Comstock
Town Clerk

**THE NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD – APRIL 2, 2024 AT
7:00PM AT TANNERY POND AND VIRTUALLY**