

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsburg
Regular Meeting
Wevertown Community Center
2370 State Route 28
February 6, 2018**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsburg held on Tuesday February 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Wevertown Community Center, 2370 State Route 28, Wevertown, NY

Supervisor Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Arsenault.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING January 16, 2018

RESOLUTION #25-18

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting.

With 4 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter,) Nays- 0, Abstain – 1 Olesheski

Correspondence:

Thank you note from GEM Radio Theatre
Letters from County Atty containing 3 agreements to be executed
Letter from Cedarwood Engineering with annual contract
Letters from Front Street Mtn Development about land transfer offer
Letters regarding DEC UMP

Town Clerk stated that all of this correspondence is available at the Town Hall for people to read.

New Business:

- Resolutions to approve contracts for:
 1. Senior transportation contract
 2. Senior Meal site contract
 3. Occ Tax funding contract
 4. Cedarwood contract for engineering
 5. Cedarwood contract for water district maintenance

RESOLUTION #26-18

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to table Senior transportation contract, Senior Meal site contract, Occ Tax funding contract, Cedarwood contract for engineering and to approve Cedarwood contract for water district maintenance.

After a question from Mr. Arsenault on why the Cedarwood contract for water district maintenance increased, Mr. Stevens stated he would like to amend the resolution to include the Cedarwood contract for water district maintenance, seconded by Mr. Arsenault.

With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter) Nays- 0

- APA permit and letter

Land Transfer from Front Street Mtn Development:

There was some discussion of concerns about this and Mrs. Hogan said that they would talk to the lawyer and bring it back to the table at the next Board meeting.

- DEC UMP

Supervisor Hogan stated that this had been put on the agenda because she had heard many concerns and wanted to give people an opportunity to voice those concerns. She also stated that the Town Board has no authority over

this, and that the proper place to send thoughts for legislative purposes is to the DEC and the contact information is at the Town Hall. She asked if anyone wanted letters read, and Mr. Hovarth said yes. Kate Lorah read the following correspondence.

I would like to echo the comments made by several other speakers at the Public Hearing on the 2018 Gore Mountain UMP update. As a hiker and back country skier, I have a great interest in this area. I am the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society trail steward for the Schaefer Trail on Gore (named after my family), and have spent many days clearing trails in the Siamese Pond Wilderness so that they remain open for year round use. As an aside, my father also built and ran the first rope tow in New York State in the Historic Ski Bowl beginning in December 1935. Thus, all can understand my affinity for this beautiful and unique area affected by the plan.

I fully support the intentions of ORDA to increase recreational opportunities on Gore, and see many positive aspects to the plan. If completed there will be an increase in recreational and (much needed) related economic activity. However, I have are two concerns, mostly related to preserving the historic recreational opportunities that currently exist, and coordinating future ones.

The first is the need to keep development away from Rabbit Pond, the Rabbit Pond Trail, and its environs. Besides its historic value as one of the original "Ride Up, Slide Down" trails from the 1930s, this is a beautiful, quiet and pristine area that needs to be preserved. It is used by many and will continue to be a wonderful recreational resource for the town and all outdoor enthusiasts. I have not seen any topographic maps that show definitively where new facilities and trails will be located in relation to the Rabbit Pond trail. This should be a high priority so we can clearly see the plan, and then keep a **substantial buffer zone** between areas. I urge those involved in the planning to produce such a map as soon as possible.

The second concern is that of overall planning:

- Along with the Gore expansion plan, there are already plans afoot to expand hiking/biking trails in the Historic Ski Bowl. How do these fit in?
- The North Country National Scenic Trail now comes through the Bowl. This trail only passes through two towns in the Adirondack Park, and North Creek is one of them. Impact? How do we maximize benefit? How does it fit in?
- There are ongoing plans for Hut to Hut skiing in the area. Impact?
- Raymond Brook BC skiers frequently end their trips in the Ski Bowl on the Connector Trail. Impact?
- A NYS Museum of Skiing is planned for the Bowl. Has this been considered as part of the overall plan?

I have not seen anywhere this **nexus of recreational activity addressed as a whole**. It is a tremendous opportunity for the Town of Johnsbury and the Greater Gore Mountain Region, but the Gore Mountain UMP must completely address these issues for the benefit of all concerned.

Gregory J. Schaefer
North River, NY
518-251-5451

Greetings : These comments are for:
The 2017 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan

My chief concern is the land swap - swapping Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Land for an insignificant portion of Intensive Use Land to become part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

The current uses of this Wild Forest Parcel includes an intimate hiking/skiing/snowshoeing trail near Rabbit Pond. Offering the use of the proposed ski trail in the off season for hiking is of no importance since the nature of hiking on wide alpine ski trails is of limited and mostly shunned value. This area has a long history with backcountry skiers and it's loss would be paramount. The gain for increased trail development is minimal. This has no benefit except for the private development at Front Street. That said - this is the 10 year anniversary of "permits in place" for the Front Street development at the Ski Bowl. To date - 4 duplex units have been build with no additional development on the horizon.

The current Hudson (46er) lift has operated sporadically at best during the ski season in the last 10 years and was still not operating for the 2017-2018 season as of this writing. It did operate for a special "History Weekend" last summer as a scenic chairlift ride. It was well received and it could be a cornerstone of Summer Operations - EVEN WITH IT'S EXISTING PLACEMENT and operating constraints (ie running slow to accommodate loading/unloading) .

There is a network of multiple use and mt. bike trails on adjacent Town of Johnsburg property. These trails need to operate as is - currently free to users and not be disrupted or displaced by future construction and structures like the zip coaster. The land ownership and lease/lessee structure is incredibly confusing with some of the land owned by the Town of Johnsburg leased to Gore/ORDA, and additional land is owned by Front Street and pending swap deals between the Town and Front Street makes even the best map reader confused.

Gore has had a non-existent to poor off-season profile with incredibly abbreviated lift schedules (just 10 days for 2017 Summer season). This in an environment that sees other Ski Areas garnering up to 40% of revenues in the off season. The chief summer entertainment is scenic chairlift or gondola rides with hiking and biking options if available.

This poor performance for the last 20 years is even more perplexing with one of the state's largest summer tourist venues just 30 minutes away in Lake George.

Quite frankly Gore's poor off-season activity leaves many workers in seasonal limbo seeking additional summer season employment to dovetail with their employment at Gore or leaving the recreation industry entirely for full time work

. Submitted February 6, 2018 Richard Carlson

Supervisor Hogan also asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the DEC UMP proposed land transfer and Mr. Hovarth said yes, he had worked with Mr. Ovitt on the Rabbit Pond trail and he was concerned about interference with existing trails. Mr. Bayse of Gore Mountain stated that there would be no interference because ORDA would work around existing trails intentionally to not disturb what already exists. No action will be taken on this at the present time.

Supervisor Hogan noted that ORDA's plans include expanding summer activities. There were concerns similar to those expressed in the letters offered by meeting attendees. A brief discussion followed, emphasizing working together to both protect what exists and to have ORDA expansion aid in growing attractions in the town.

- ZEO and Animal Control monthly reports were accepted.

Old Business:

- EMS Contract

Changes to contract including the right to audit led to a lengthy discussion.

Arnold Stevens moved to accept the contract as written. The conversation continued, noting that the Board could approve, then EMS would have to present a signed contract in order for funding to be forthcoming. Also discussed were financial shortfalls and how this was going to be handled now and in the future. A suggestion was made for more exchange of information throughout the year.

RESOLUTION #27-18

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the EMS contract as written. With four in favor (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter,) (Nay – Olesheski) the resolution is declared carried.

- Water district update

Water district has had recent repairs, which has led to concerns by Charlie Rawson regarding the condition of the pipes, particularly the section from Route 28 down to the Town Hall. Of special concern is that the county has road resurfacing scheduled for this area, which could potentially damage the pipes further. After speaking with the county, the resurfacing has been put off until repairs to the water lines can take place. Gene Arsenault has suggested the formation of a water committee to coordinate plans between the county and the water district.

RESOLUTION #28-18

Gene Arsenault made a motion to form a water committee to deal with improvements in the water lines in the town, which was seconded by Laurie Arnheiter. With five Ayes the resolution is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

Gene Arsenault and Laurie Arnheiter will be on the water committee.

- Sewer district discussion

Matt Fuller, the Attorney for the town addressed this topic and the process involved. Wayne LaMothe explained the background work done in the past. In doing so, he answered Mr. Fuller's question as to where the Town stood, which is at the very beginning. Mr. LaMothe stated that if the sewer district is established, he can then begin to seek grant funding. Mr. Fuller's recommendation is to get the committee together to create and define the boundaries of a district.

Committee reports – Already accepted

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

Motion to enter Executive Session – Peter Olesheski motioned, and Arnold Stevens seconded entering Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a particular employee’s employment history. With five in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

Motion to re-enter regular meeting – Mr. Arsenault motioned to re-enter the regular meeting and Mr. Stevens seconded. With five in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

Motion to adjourn – The motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Hogan, seconded by Gene Arsenault at 10:03 p.m. With five in favor the motion is carried. (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Olesheski, Arnheiter,) Nays – 0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 6, 2018 at Wevertown Community Center, 2370 State Route 28, Wevertown.

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah, Town Clerk