

Town of Johnsbury
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
Zoom Meeting
January 19, 2021 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

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

Supervisor Hogan called the Meeting to order at 7:02 and the pledge to the flag was led by Justin Gonyo.

Approval of Minutes January 5, 2021 meeting

RESOLUTION #21-21

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

Correspondence:

- Letter from DEC allowing grooming of Nordic trails across the capped landfill

Old Business:

- Glassblower contract

RESOLUTION #22-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to enter into a Lease Agreement for the Kellogg Building with Greg Tomb, for the Summer of 2021, contingent on approval from the OSI and the insurance company. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Municipal Financial Planning discussion

Water District work and repairs, sewer project, highway purchases, and a Tannery Pond grant are upcoming expenditures for which the Town needs to borrow money. Ms. Hogan would like to talk to attorneys regarding funding, and is asking the Board’s opinion. Mr. Arsenault suggested a financial adviser to help Ms. Hogan with planning. Mr. Gonyo agreed that professional help is advisable. Mark Schachner said he will reach Ms. Hogan tomorrow with suggestions for a financial adviser.

- Sewer update

Mr. Stevens asked about the timing of moving along with sewer project grant applications. Ms. Hogan said this should be approached in the near future but that it can wait until the next Town Board meeting.

New Business:

- Cedarwood contracts

Cedarwood’s Environmental contract is the same as 2020 except for an increase of \$832.50 for the year.

RESOLUTION #23-21

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

- Discussion of contract with ORDA - Kelly Nettle

Ms. Nessel addressed past contracts with ORDA as they pertain to the latest communication from ORDA's attorney. She is concerned with the latest language which states "ORDA is authorized to construct, develop and maintain the recreational facilities on the land that is the Ski Bowl Park, including ski trails, in a manner that ORDA deems appropriate."

Ms. Nessel listed many irregularities and vague statements in the ORDA contracts and suggests the Board reconsider involving an attorney.

Mr. Arsenault agreed and suggested clarification and tightening of the agreement between ORDA and the Town.

Ms. Arnheiter said she prefers negotiation with ORDA rather than using attorneys.

Mr. Stevens is in agreement with Ms. Nessel.

Mr. Gonyo added that attorneys work for their client, so he understands the language from ORDA's attorney, but agrees with Mr. Arsenault and Mr. Stevens that clarification is necessary.

Katie Nightingale joined the meeting to address her past meetings and agreements with ORDA.

Mark Schachner agreed to review the ORDA agreements.

The Board agreed that the attorneys should review to reach a tighter, more comprehensive agreement. Mr. Gonyo suggests attorney review, then meeting with ORDA for clarification of the agreement.

Jack McArdle brought up insurance coverage as necessary as well.

Committee Reports:

- Highway

Mr. Gonyo said that Fred Comstock has asked about contracts and equipment purchases. Mr. Gonyo asked Mr. Comstock to get feedback regarding the contracts and that equipment purchases would be discussed at this meeting.

- Historical Society

Mr. Stevens spoke about the Historical Society looking for a permanent home.

- Marketing/Economic Development

Meeting coming up.

Assessor, Historian, ZEO and Animal Control Reports

In Board packets.

Supervisors Monthly Report

Balance of accounts is in lieu of Supervisor’s Monthly Report, as December books are not yet closed.

Approval of Warrants

2020

General Fund (Total \$36,130.97)
Highway Fund (Total \$23,279.65)
Library Fund (\$919.45)
Water District (\$1558.23)
Trust and Agency (\$249.36)
Total all warrants \$62,137.66

2021

General Fund (Total \$6446.32)
Highway Fund (Total \$399.17)
Trust and Agency (\$93.28)
Total all warrants \$6938.77

RESOLUTION #24-21

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

Cheryl Gillespie talked about Tannery Pond Center working with the JYC on a February project building snowmen – “Snow Buddies”.

Judy Brown said there is skating now available.

Motion to adjourn

RESOLUTION #25-21

At 8:28 Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo 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, February 2, 2021 7 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah