

**Town of Johnsburg
Public Hearing on Fire Contracts and
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
Tannery Pond and Zoom Meeting
December 7, 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 Public Hearing to order at 7:03.

John Donohue thanked the Board on behalf of the Fire Companies for the updated contracts for 2022.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:05. Ms. Hogan called the Regular Meeting to order at that time.

Approval of Minutes November 16, 2021 meeting

RESOLUTION #216-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Correspondence:

- Letter of interest for Planning Board

New Business:

• **Countryside Animal Contract**

The advice from the Animal Control Officer is to not contract with Countryside Animal Hospital because of their upfront fee of \$250 just to have them available and because he has certified kennels which are used with no charge to the Town. The Board agreed and no contract was approved.

• **ZEO**

Ms. Hogan said this issue is not ready to be resolved and will be brought up in the future.

• **Senior Transportation**

The arrangement with Warren/Hamilton Community Action Committee for Senior transport has been trips twice per month.

RESOLUTION #217-21

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the continued agreement with Warren/Hamilton Community Action Committee for Senior transport as trips twice per month. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

• **Garnet Lake Civic Association**

Ann Bernat gave a presentation regarding the Garnet Lake Dam, explaining that it has been deemed insufficient for heavy rainfall and that the cost of replacement is roughly \$3,000,000. The Association has received an \$80,000 grant and \$15,000 from the Town of Johnsbury. They have begun a “Save the Lake” fundraising campaign that is currently at \$209,000. She

asked that the community offer support and said the fundraising campaign can be found at garnetlake.org.

Christian Holt asked if Thurman or New York State has offered any support. Ms. Hogan said that the DEC and NYS have been approached and that no – they will not help further than the grant.

Mr. Gonyo asked if there was a timeline for replacement and Ms. Bernat replied that it is not ‘urgent’.

Mr. Stevens asked about a goal for fundraising, and Ms. Bernat said there is no hard target until the design is finalized.

• **Prior Written Notice of Defects Law**

The Town’s insurance company has suggested having a Local Law to increase the Town’s coverage for preventable accidents due to lack of proper maintenance. The Board is being asked to set a Public Hearing on creating this Local Law.

RESOLUTION #218-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to set a Public Hearing on creating a Local Law for the purpose of increasing the Town’s insurance coverage for preventable accidents due to lack of proper maintenance, called a Prior Written Notice of Defects Law, on January 4th at 7:00 pm. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

• **Solar memo**

The APA has put out a memo regarding Solar Generation Planning. Ms. Hogan said the memo will be on the Town web site.

• **Cyclical Plan for reassessment**

New York State requests a commitment for keeping up assessments as

current, not only at the time of a reval. Ms. Williams has submitted a plan for this.

RESOLUTION #219-21

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the plan submitted by Ms. Williams for keeping up assessments as current, not only at the time of a reval. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Create and fund position for Administrative Clerk**

RESOLUTION #220-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve the creation and funding for the position of Administrative Clerk. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Create and fund position of Custodian**

RESOLUTION #221-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the creation and funding for the position of Custodian. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Old Business:

- **Executive Session November 16, 2021**

RESOLUTION #222-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to extend benefits to the bookkeeper because of her years of service as a part-time employee – she will receive vacation and personal time. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter) Nays – 0 Absent – 1 (Gonyo)

- **Highway Department relocation**

Kelly Nettle gave a presentation on the Highway Department relocation making the case that the way to move forward is to purchase a piece of property before the Town can seek any permits, etc. Her power-point follows.

TWO PERSPECTIVES:

THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
THE FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S PERSPECTIVE

- WHY MOVE?
 - NEARER NEW SAND SUPPLY
 - CHEAPER TO MINE OUR OWN THAN BUY FROM OTHERS

NEW BUILDING

- ACCOMMODATES ALL TRUCKS
- BETTER PERSONNEL SPACES
- OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE "GREEN"

SITE GOOD FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF TOWN
- FAIRLY LEVEL, NOT WET
- SOIL WILL PROVIDE GOOD DRAINAGE
- SITE PREVIOUSLY LOGGED BUT ENOUGH TREES FOR BUFFERS
- GOOD SIGHT LINE ACCESS TO NY8
- SPACIOUS LAYOUT FOR ALL: TOJ AND WARREN CO

DESIGNED SPACES

- SHED(S)
- PILES OF MATERIALS

GOOD NEIGHBORS

- SITE DESIGNED TO BUFFER OPERATIONS FROM NEIGHBORS' VIEW AND MUFFLE NOISE
- MR. CRICKLAER WILL BE HAPPY WE ARE GONE

PARK PERSPECTIVE: WHY MOVE?

- TOWN UPHOLDS EARLIER GOALS
 - NORTH CREEK ACTION PLAN 1990
 - ACCOMMODATES RESIDENT DESIRE TO REBUILD FORMER BASE LODGE
 - 2005 AGREEMENT WITH FRONTSTREET TO REMOVE THE HIGHWAY WILL BE MET, IMPROVING HIS HOTEL AND RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
 - 2007 GRANT WITH NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION, HISTORICAL PRESERVATION WILL BE CLOSED OUT

IMPROVED AESTHETICS: TERMINATES AN INDUSTRIAL EYESORE WITHIN PARK

- LEVELING OF BERM ALONGSIDE NY28 OPENS VIEW
- PILES OF OVERBURDEN AND MINE TAILINGS BLOCKING VIEW TO RT. 28 REMOVED
- REDUCTION OF SAND AND DUST DUE TO NO TRUCK TRAFFIC

ADDITIONAL LAND AVAILABLE

14 ACRES OF LAND BECOME AVAILABLE TO INTEGRATE INTO PARK WITH PROFESSIONAL DESIGN WORK

- OPPORTUNITY TO BALANCE USE OF PARK AS A MEASURE OF QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND ECONOMIC RESOURCE

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW ROAD DESIGN

- NEW ENTRY OPPOSITE NY 28N WITH POSSIBLE TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES
- HELPS TIE PARK TO MAIN STREET WITH SIDEWALK ACCESS FOR SAFER HIGHWAY CROSSING

ACCOMMODATES INCREASED SUMMER USE

- ORDA'S SUMMER VENUES ANTICIPATE 40,000 VISITORS
- INCREASED MT. BIKING AS TRAILS AND ACCOMMODATIONS DEVELOPED
- BIG EVENTS ABLE TO BE STAGED
- HELPS PROVIDE PARKING AT NORTH END OF PARK
- IMPROVED DESIGN FOR PARKING IN REST OF PARK

WHY PURCHASE THIS LAND NOW

- AVOIDS HAULING SAND 12 MILES ROUND TRIP NEXT SUMMER
- AVAILS TOJ OF FREE SITE PLANNING BY CLARKSON STUDENTS JAN 13, 2022
- ENABLES PERMITTING AND PROJECT BUDGET BUILDING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND LOANS AS NEEDED

OPPORTUNITY

- TO MEET HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEEDS
- TO OPEN UP SUMMER VENUES DESIRED BY MAIN STREET
- TO CREATE A WELL -DESIGNED RECREATIONAL PARK THAT MEETS NEEDS OF TOWN RESIDENTS AND VISITORS
- IN SHORT: TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR TOWN

HOW IS THIS PROJECT EXPEDITED?

PHASE I: PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

- ASK QUESTIONS
- RESOLVE TO PURCHASE AND ENGAGE LAWYER FOR OWNERSHIP TRANSFER

PHASE 2: JANUARY-APRIL PLANNING

FRIENDS OF THE PARK CONTINUES TO WORK WITH CLARKSON U

- COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY UNDERWAY; READY BY JAN 13, 2022
- HIGHWAY AND FRIENDS OF THE PARK WILL WORK WITH CLARKSON PLANNERS JAN - APRIL ON SITE DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING DESIGN, AND SBP REMEDIATION PLANS; I WILL BE THE LIAISON WITH DR. ERIK BACKUS, CE OF CLARKSON UNIVERSITY
- PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEEDS TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THIS PROCESS TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF STAMPED PLANS
- PLANS PRESENTED IN MAY, 2022 FOR BOARD AND COMMUNITY

PHASE 3: SECURE FUNDING WITH PLANS

APPLICATION TO USDA AND OTHER GRANT SOURCES

- SURVEY MADE
- PERMITS ACQUIRED
- BUILDING SCHEMATICS DEVELOPED INTO BLUEPRINTS
- BUDGET CREATED

PHASE 4: CONSTRUCTION

- SITE DEVELOPMENT
 - LAND CLEARED; ROADS, SEPTIC, WELLS, ELECTRIC
 - LOTS CREATED
- HIGHWAY OPERATIONS STAGE MOVE
 - MOVING PERIPHERALS SUCH AS SHEDS, MATERIALS SUPPLIES
 - NEW SAND FOR 2023 BROUGHT TO NEW SITE
 - FINAL MOVE WHEN BUILDING COMPLETE
- PARK REMEDIATION MOVES AHEAD AS PROGRESS MADE WITH SITE

- **Planning Board vacancy**

RESOLUTION #223-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the appointment of Dave Masten to the Planning Board. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Updates on Tannery Pond repairs

Contractors have not yet sent estimates. This will be brought up again when more information is available.

- **Budget**

Ms. Hogan said there was a discrepancy between her numbers and the Comptroller's Office which has been corrected by taking from fund balance without breaking the tax cap. The 2022 budget is on the Town web site.

RESOLUTION #224-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to accept the budget correction which takes from fund balance without breaking the tax cap. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Committee Reports:

Ms. Arnheiter reported that the tree lighting and weekend activities for 'Lights-On' was a success and thanked the fire companies for their contribution to the parade.

Historian report

In Board packets.

Approval of Warrants

General Fund (Total \$30,870.72)
Highway Fund (Total \$42,697.28)
Library Fund (Total \$1796.95)
Water District (\$13,206.36)
Trust and Agency (\$551.48)
Total all warrants \$89,122.79

RESOLUTION #225-21

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

None

Motion to adjourn

RESOLUTION #226-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault 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, December 21, 2021 7:00 pm

Zoom Only

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah