TOWN OF JOHNSBURG TOWN BOARD MEETING **FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

In Attendance: Kevin Bean – Supervisor Arnold Stevens - Councilman

Paul Heid – Councilman

Anna Bowers – Councilwoman

Jim Williams – Councilman Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

1. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Judy Brown.

2. Supervisor Bean called the Meeting to order at 7:01PM

3. Approve Meeting Minutes – Supervisor Bean – any questions or comments on the January 16, 2024 Meeting mINUTES?

RESOLUTION # 29 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 16, 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 Adopt the Budget Committee – Supervisor Bean – the budget is intricate; what I'm looking to do is create a budget sub-committee, private sector, pull it apart, where we're spending money; get a handle on where money is going - Joe Bernat, Bruce Dunkley, Patrick Hughes, Matt Ordway, Jeff Konis, Bruce Ashline; Ms. Bowers - for the diversity of the committee to expand the make-up maybe have a female on the committee.

RESOLUTION #30-24

Mr. Williams made a Motion to approve the Budget Committee 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.

5. Resolution to Solicit RFP's for Construction of the Connector Trail – Mr. Williams – all we're doing here is picking up on the work that has been done previously; thank you to Kelly Nessle for the work done previously; this is grant work and money is there and available; explained where the trail will be. Supervisor Bean - any questions or discussion?

RESOLUTION # 31 – 24

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

6. Resolution to Approve Water Application and Regulations – Supervisor Bean - after a discussion with Mr. Hughes and with Mr. Williams and Mr. Heid, we feel this is confusing and convoluted; Ms. Bowers -we spoke earlier, as a whole new Board we need to all sit down with the Engineer and all together and with the public, maybe a workshop can be set up. Mr. Heid- this is a challenging time in general, not just with new Board Members; Mr. Stevens – can we do a workshop at 6:30PM at the next Board Meeting? Supervisor Bean – I will check with the Engineer; Supervisor Bean – while sending out an e-mail to all Board Members is easier than one at a time, I spoke with the Town Attorney and this would be considered a Quorum. Mr. Williams I make a Motion to table this.

RESOLUTION # 32 - 24

Mr. Williams made a Motion to table the Water Application and Regulations 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.

7. Resolution to Pay \$400 to SPCA for Boarding of Dog — Supervisor Bean — the Ag & Markets law needs to be followed; AB/PH; Mr. Williams — we pay \$5,200 for an animal control officer; now we're paying the guys bill; this doesn't sit well with me; we need to correct some things; Mr. Heid — I see this a problem with our Animal Control Officer — this has been a problem for a long time; Mr. Fallon — why are we in the dog business? Ms. Wood — send a letter to the owner and get the money; the animal control officer may not always be available; Ernie Dunkely — 911 call re: a dog, dispatch will try to reach the dog warden in that specific Town; Mr. Heid — advisable to get him a phone; Mr. Thissell — check back multiple years to see about dog warden. Supervisor Bean — can I get a Motion to approve payment to the SPCA.

RESOLUTION # 33 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve payment to the SPCA 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 -4 (Bean, Bowers, Stevens, Heid); Nays -1 (Williams).

8. Resolution to Approve the Agreement with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board – Supervisor Bean - even though they don't have a vote, they can help with the ins and outs; Mr. Williams – I did some research on this organization and they act on the town's behalf with the APA; I met with the Director, I felt very comfortable after the conversation.

RESOLUTION # 34 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the Agreement with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board 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.

9. Resolution to Approve the Salt Building for the Highway Department – Mr. Comstock – previous resolution was rescinded; less money, better quality, right snow load; Mr. Stevens – what is the material? Mr. Comstock – fabric 42x40 with concrete walls with a 25 year warranty; Mr. Konis – is the concrete chloride resistant? Mr. Williams – where are we on the permitting process? Mr. Comstock – would need approval from the Town first and a permit from the County; Mr. Williams – how do we know what the County wants, can we make sure it meets County approval prior to approving this; Mr. Stevens – are you saying to table this? I'm just saying we want to have County approval prior to purchase.

RESOLUTION # 35 – 24

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the Purchase of the Salt Shed 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.

10. Resolution to Approve the 284 Agreement – Supervisor Bean – this is an outline of what is being done over the next 10 months with the Highway Department; Mr. Williams – can you read what's on slate? Supervisor Bean - read list; Mr. Hughes - how much will all that cost? Mr. Comstock – its CHIPs money; Mr. Hughes – we need the money figures prior to signing the document. Mr. Comstock – met with Peckhams and went over the roads that will need paving; Mr. Williams - can you explain what CHIPS money is from? Mr. Comstock - re: paving; \$340,000 CHIPs, \$100,000 Pave New York, Winter Recovery -2023 – roll over money; Mr. Comstock – equipment and/or materials have to last 10 year to be covered with CHIPS money. Mr. Ashline – can you roll it over; Fred yes you can, but if you don't spend it they'll cut your funds; Mr. Stevens – is this list a priority list? Would we run out of CHIPS funds? I don't think we'd run out of CHIPS funds, Mr. Konis – so you're trying to be pro-active; Mr. Hughes – CHIPS money is a small part of the Highway Budget; Supervisor Bean – Fred if you could get some dollar figures for these projects that would be great; Mr. Comstock – I'll get some numbers for you; Supervisor Bean - our infrastructure is in horrible shape, not just here in Johnsburg, but all over this area.

RESOLUTION # 36 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the 284 Agreement List with the understanding that dollar figures will be assigned to the projects 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 Appoint Peter Olesheski as Liaison for Warren County Youth Bureau – Supervisor Bean read the Resolution and asked if there was any discussion.

<u>RESOLUTION # 37 – 24</u>

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Olesheski as the Liaison for the Warren County Youth Bureau 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 for Budget Line Transfer Resolution for Assessor Computer – Supervisor Bean - it's an 11 or 12 year old laptop and I do know this because it had Windows 8 on it. Supervisor Bean – any questions or discussion?

RESOLUTION # 38 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the purchase of a new computer for the Assessor's Office 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.

13. Resolution to Establish Sub Accounts – Supervisor Bean – we're going to do a better job of tracking buildings (heat, maintenance, etc.); Wevertown Community Center - \$5,000 moved from regular building account; \$5,000 for water; PH/AB; Mr. Williams – so we'll track both Wevertown and water repairs specific to Main Street; not new money, just transferring from one account to another; Supervisor Bean there were three water breaks on Main Street recently and we need to know where and why. Any further discussion or comments?

RESOLUTION # 39 – 24

Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve establishing the sub-accounts to track costs 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.

14. Resolution to Repay Money Loaned to EMS Fund – Supervisor Bean – my understanding from the Bookkeeper is that this is done yearly; this is billing revenue from 2023. Any discussion or comments?

RESOLUTION # 40 - 24

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the repayment of money loaned to EMS 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.

15. Committee Reports

Ms. Bowers:

- Zoning and Planning nothing new to report.
- Still researching Child Care; may meet with Old Forge to see what they are doing;
 Ms. Sabattis how many need child care, are there any numbers? Ms. Bowers –
 a lot for in-home care; ARPA money available; Southern Adirondack Child Care is
 a great resource as well; Ms. Sabattis Small Tales just opened in Chestertown;
 Ms. Bowers Chestertown has underwritten this business.
- Occ Tax good meeting last night Dave Putman doing a great job.
- Marketing & Economic Committee— meeting in two weeks; Kevin Bean and I are co-chairs, Members are: Julie Wolfe, Amy Sabattis, Matt Byrne, Laurie Arnheiter and Julia Johnson the representative from Gore Mountain.

 Community Development – good meeting a couple of weeks ago; virtual meeting coming up; Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 6:30PM; invitation is coming; can we share on Town website?

Mr. Heid:

- Spent time at Highway Garage clean and well taken care of; no worries with safety/equipment.
- Parks accident in Parks 2 years ago, 18 months after the incident the Labor Board is involved, we're contesting; equipment taken out of service due to safety issues; been in contact with Pete Olesheski; Pete will get it done or keep it out of service.
- Solid Waste met with the folks at the Indian Lake Transfer Station, Mr. Eldridge from Hamilton County Solid Waste; they are Town and County run; smooth system, one Town person, one County person there; scales; no papers out and about; it is a smooth process and we could definitely take some lessons from their process.

Mr. Williams:

- Submission of Plans to DEC, they had some questions, the Engineer responded, only to find out our contact is out until April and we have a new person; 2nd round of answers to new questions; let them know the importance of the project; Sewer meeting last night, Engineers will be drafting up responses to those 14 points; were hoping is what out to bid at this point, still waiting for DEC. It's progressing.
- Park sewer breach at Joe Minder Lodge; calls were made to Supervisor Bean; reps from ORDA and Front Street were there quickly troubleshooting started; Hometown came and pumped it out; got through the weekend with no interruption to Gore over the weekend; Front Street on site on Monday; there were issues with the pump, issues solved and back up and running.

Mr. Stevens:

- Water rates are an on-going discussion.
- Ski Bowl Water Mitigation Project can't do anything much right now until water gets flowing; we'll review the specifications of the project; can ascertain what some of the other issues are as the thaw occurs.

16. Warrants

Supervisor Bean – any questions or concerns?

GENERAL FUND:	\$	101, 758.56
HIGHWAY FUND:	\$	48,600.01
WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:	\$	333,175.57
SEWER DISTRICT PROJECT:	\$	9,541.10
SKI BOWL MITIGATION PROJECT:	\$	110.00
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:	\$	7,237.82
LIBRARY FUND	\$	2,494.17
FIRE PROJECTION DISTRICT:	\$	283,815.00
EMS	\$	198,765.75
WATER DISTRICT:	\$	16,468.34
TRUST AND AGENCY:	\$	177,799.26
TOTAL	\$:	1,179,765.58

RESOLUTION #41 - 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve and accept the Warrants 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

17. Privilege of the Floor

- Ms. Nessle pleased to hear department/committee reports; this hasn't happened in a very long time; this is good. Our website needs to be updated changes made lacks clarity, punctuation and it's outdated; should be for residents as well as visitors; let's use some Occ Tax monies to get a good web designer to get it done; Ms. Bowers I have had a discussion with Matt Byrne he's offered to volunteer to "scrape" the website so that all info would be available to the one updating it; Mr. Heid the Occ Tax money is a good idea.
- Ms. Konis since the Water Audit was done what has the Town done? Mr. Stevens –
 discussion on water rates is continuing; Ms. Konis nothing else has been done? Town
 Clerk explained the new software process and updating properties, etc. with the help of
 the Assessor and Mr. Rawson.
- Ms. Thomas what is being done with water bills/rates now? I'm paying the same amount as the restaurant next to me and I'm the only one in the building 4 days a week.
 Supervisor Bean – we're going to meet with the Engineer, it's very confusing with the rates that have been presented.
- Ms. Wood Occ Tax information has disappeared from the web site just need to get that back on for upcoming applications. Don't forget on February 22, 2024 the 10th Mountain Division presentation; it's free admission, but donations are appreciated.
- Mr. Hughes EMS/Fire Department vouchers? Ms. Bowers could you give us a page number so we're looking at the same thing? Mr. Hughes it's in the Budget; Supervisor Bean we don't have the Budget with us right now; can you meet up with me to discuss? Mr. Hughes so you'll be getting figures for the 284 Agreement? Supervisor Bean yes.

18. Motion to Adjourn -

Supervisor Bean – anyone else? Can I get a Motion to adjourn?

RESOLUTION # 42 – 24

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to Adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 8:27PM 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.

Prepared by:

Jean M. Comstock

Jean M. Comstock Town Clerk

NEXT REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING IS MARCH 5, 2024 AT 7:00PM AT TANNERY POND AND VIRTUAL.