

# Town of Johnsburg

## Minutes of the Town Board Meeting -March 15, 2022

**PRESENT:** Andrea Hogan – Supervisor  
Arnold Stevens – Councilman  
Justin Gonyo – Councilman  
Eugene Arsenault – Councilman  
Peter Olesheski – Councilman  
Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

1. Supervisor Hogan called the Meeting to order at 7:01PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rachel DeGroat.
2. Approval of February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes -  
**RESOLUTION #22-47**- Mr. Olesheski presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Stevens – to accept the Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2022.  
With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); nays – 0.
3. Correspondence – Town Clerk read the letter from the TOJ Concerned Citizens Committee.
4. Privilege of the Floor
5. New Business: Supervisor Hogan opened the discussion stating that the first Privilege of the Floor was for “general” questions regarding the re-val process.
  - a. There were several discussions regarding the process, how did you reach the numbers, who measured the house, did anyone go in the houses? Assessor Williams noted she’s met with several people already and has addressed their concerns with them. All numbers are preliminary. Folks wanted to know the bottom line total, this is not available as it is only preliminary work at this time. Comments were – burdens on homeowners, are there any exemptions – Town Clerk noted there were STAR Exemptions and Veteran Exemptions and paperwork was available at the this meeting; further comments – we don’t want this to become another “ski town”? Air BnB’s were another topic of discussion; Assessor Williams and Mr. Poluso (from NYS) answered questions as they came up; other attendees noted there is a due process – grievance to BAR, small claims court. Others noted errors in consistency with process, fairness of the process, timing of it all, wanting to keep families here, especially those that have been here for generations; some noted that a professional auditing company should have been brought in; further comments were – we should all work together; can the Board put this on hold? Frustration that the Board let this go so long and the current and previous Boards should be held accountable; Board Member noted that we’re here to listen, we’ve obviously got a lot of homework to do. Audience member noted is was unfair to base market value on homes during a pandemic when a lot of people were buying up property in our area. Concerns regarding the disparity of properties, difficulty in understanding information on website. How do we keep people in this Town? We feel like we’re being driven out of our homes. If our homes are being assessed at such a high rate, some are not able to get homeowners insurance. Can the “homestead” process be

used? Is it legal to have let this process go undone for so long? Town of Queensbury uses in-house Assessor and has for several years. Other concerns are too many LLCs popping up in Town. Ms. Hunsperger asked if the Town Highway Garage/Transfer Station move was for the purpose of the Clarkson students work? It was noted that it was. Ms. Hunsperger then asked why back in 2018/2019 there was discussion about this move? Mr. Ashline noted that Mr. Hajos, from Warren County, Supervisor Hogan and Highway Superintendent Comstock met at the old saw mill on Peaceful Valley Road to possibly purchase that property in 2019 – why if you weren't discussing a possible move?

- b. Request for Town Clerk to attend training conference 4/24-4/27/22. Supervisor Hogan noted that there is money in the Training Budget.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 48**

Mr. Gonyo presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Arsenault to approve the Town Clerk attending the training conference. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0.

- c. Bleacher Repairs at TPCC. Proposal presented from Nickerson to repair wheels on bleachers. Total to repair is \$8,400 for 108 6" wheels.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 49**

Mr. Gonyo presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Olesheski to approve the repairs to the wheels on the bleachers at TPCC. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

- d. Highway School – Highway Superintendent is requesting approval to attend the Highway School at Ithaca College 6/5-6/8/22. Mr. Olesheski asked if this was in the Training Budget, Supervisor Hogan noted yes it was. Mr. Olesheski also asked if the Deputy Superintendent should also be included? Highway Superintendent Comstock noted that it would be beneficial to Deputy Dunkley as well.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 50**

Mr. Arsenault presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Olesheski to approve Highway Superintendent and Deputy to attend the Highway School. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

- e. Highway and Parks Inventory – Mr. Ernie Dunkley put together a very comprehensive inventory that will be very useful moving forward. Thanks for all the hard work on that.
- f. Ski Bowl Drainage Mitigation – Kathy Suozzo gave an update on the impact and issues; the money received in grants and Town input is not enough to cover the items in the engineer's proposal; it is 120% over. Discussion was had regarding options – drainage on the Dump Road, piping underground, etc. Mr. Gonyo asked who would prioritize what work needed to be done? Supervisor Hogan noted that

the engineers could do that. Mr. Olesheski noted that widening the Dump Road 14-16' is not a great option. Mr. Arsenault asked if this is going to benefit ORDA are they helping with any of the costs? Ms. Suozzo noted that no conversations had been done with ORDA as of yet. Supervisor Hogan noted that work would need to be completed by the end of this year with the grant money available. Mr. Gonyo noted that there needs to be discussions and a decision can't be made based on the drawing we were provided. Mr. Stevens added that if some work isn't done now it will only get worse. Kelly Nettle asked if the work could be done closer to Joe Minder Lodge? Mr. Gonyo noted that the problem is Dump Road and should address the problem areas. Parks & Rec may have grants available. Mr. Gonyo added we should accept the engineer recommendations and use the money we have.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 51**

Mr. Olesheski presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo to move forward with engineer recommendations with the monies we now have available. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

6. Committee Reports:

Mr. Gonyo noted that the Solid Waste Committee will be meeting to look at ways to streamline our transfer station to be more efficient and cost effective.

Mr. Olesheski indicated that the Highway Contract is still in negotiations and hoping to reach an agreement with the guys soon.

7. Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Hogan asked if all Board Members had read the Supervisor's Report and if there were any questions or concerns? Mr. Arsenault asked if the Fund Balance could be provided, Supervisor Hogan noted she would get that information to him.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 52**

Mr. Stevens presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Olesheski to approve and accept the Supervisor's Report. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

8. Warrants – Supervisor Hogan asked if all Board Members had reviewed the Warrants and if there were any questions or comments?

**RESOLUTION #22 - 53**

Mr. Arsenault presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo, to accept and approve the Warrants.

With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

GENERAL FUND:	\$ 24,356.00
FIRE PROTECTION:	\$265,000.00
WATER:	1,401.50
HIGHWAY:	17,274.78
LIBRARY:	1,032.63
TRUST & AGENCY	<u>622.08</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$309,686.99</b>

9. Privilege of the Floor – none.

10. Board will move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

**RESOLUTION #22-54**

Mr. Stevens presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Olesheski to move to Executive Session. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Stevens presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Olesheski to adjourn the Executive Session. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

11. Motion to Adjourn at 11:11PM.

**RESOLUTION #22 - 54 –**

Mr. Stevens presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. With all Town Board Members present voting in favor, the Resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo, Olesheski); Nays – 0

Next Town Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00PM at the  
Tannery Pond Center and Zoom – link can be found  
on the Town Website at <https://www.johnsburgny.com>

Prepared by:

  
Jean M. Comstock

Town Clerk