

Town of Johnsbury
Town Board Meeting
January 18, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2172603617>
By telephone 888 788 0099 US Toll-free 877 853 5247 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 217 260 3617

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

1. Supervisor Hogan called the Meeting to order at 7:00PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ashley O'Connor.
2. Approval of January 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION #18 – Mr. Stevens presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo – accept the Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2022.

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

3. Correspondence – no correspondence received for this meeting.
4. New Business:
 - a. ORDA/Ski Bowl – very detailed presentation by Mr. Pratt, Mr. Bayse and Ms. O'Connor; Power Point presentation and questions from Town Board and the Public re: presentation; all are excited for the progress and hope it all goes through; there was some concern re: ORDA possibly working with the Town on the new sewer system, it was indicated that the conversation can take place; new zip line coaster, new trails, new lodge, parking. With the Governor making funds a priority, this could happen. As things progress we can do a more detailed presentation and possible walk-through with the Town Supervisor and Board.
 - b. Equipment purchase – Town Clerk is in need of an updated/new computer; working with Mike Colvin, buying through County Contract could take months; Supervisor Hogan looking for Board approval for purchase not to exceed \$1,000 if one can be found.

RESOLUTION #19 – Mr. Stevens presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo for purchase of a new computer for Town Clerk (not to exceed \$1,000).

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

c. Budget changes/amendments – any changes/questions/concerns?

RESOLUTION #20 – Mr. Arsenault presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo to accept the budget changes and amendments.

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

d. STAR Resolution

RESOLUTION #21 – Mr. Gonyo presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Stevens to accept the STAR Resolution as outlined below:

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

STAR EXEMPTION RESOLUTION FOR 2022 ASSESSMENT ROLL

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS this State disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices in the Town of Johnsbury, NY and rendered senior citizens and individuals with disabilities residing in Johnsbury, NY homebound. These factors combined have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many in these populations to file their real property tax exemption applications in person and many, further, lack the ability to file such applications online; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the above problems caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No.11. This extension of the Governor's Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit (i.e., the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury, NY) to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions on the 2021 assessment roll (i.e., senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income), thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions and further dispensing with the requirement that assessors mail renewal applications to such persons; and

WHEREAS Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution at its option, to include procedures by which its Town Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if he/she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the

2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury, NY, wishes to adopt such Resolution to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Town Assessor of the Town of Johnsbury, NY the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedures outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No.11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury, NY hereby directs the Town Assessor of the Town of Johnsbury to:

Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications for such exemptions except that;

The Town Assessor may, in his/her sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely with his/her office if he/she has reason to believe that any such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed for the relevant property, transferred such property to a new owner, or died. If the Town Assessor requires such renewal application to be filed, he/she shall notify the owner of the subject property of such requirement by regular mail with such notice shall contain instructions on how to file the renewal application. Said renewal application may be returned by mail or by making an appointment to drop same off at the Town Assessor's Office at 219 Main Street, North Creek, NY 12853.

- e. Carrie Mason is the new Librarian; she is interviewing for part-time help.

RESOLUTION #22 – Mr. Arsenault presented the Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Mr. Gonyo to approve the Librarian hiring part-time help.

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried.
Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

- f. COVID 19 Action Plan – Ernie Dunkley, Safety Officer, prepared the following plan.

RESOLUTION #23 Mr. Stevens presented this Resolution and moved its passage with a Second Motion by Gene Arsenault to approve the COVID-19 Action Plan.

With all Town Board Members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried.
Ayes-4 (Hogan, Stevens, Arsenault, Gonyo) Nays- 0

Town Of Johnsbury Employee Covid 19 Action Plan Jan 11, 2022
Employee Testing Positive Or Employee Is A Close Contact

This plan of action was developed after consulting with the Warren County Public Health. All employees that are not feeling well or are showing signs of Covid 19 should not report to work and go to a testing facility of their choice for a Covid 19 test and report to their supervisor that they are out and are getting tested.

If a Test Comes Back Positive

- Notify Fred Comstock Highway Superintendent at 518-409-1755 or Andrea Hogan, Town Supervisor 518-832-0098
- Notify Ernie Dunkley, Town Safety Officer at 518-232-8819
- Report Employees that were with you within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer from the time that you started feeling sick and 2 days prior to that date.

Employees That Were In Close Contact With A Positive Individual

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated or have not recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 3 months, who have been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, are considered close contacts* if they

- Share the same household;
- Had direct physical contact;
- Had direct contact with infectious secretions from the person with COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19;

When To Quarantine

Given what we currently know about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Isolation relates to behavior after a confirmed infection. Isolation for 5 days followed by wearing a well-fitting mask will minimize the risk of spreading the virus to others. Quarantine refers to the time following exposure to the virus or close contact with someone known to have COVID-19.

If you are a close contact you should contact Warren County Public Health at 518-761-6580 or Ernie Dunkley 518-232-8819

Paperwork

Retain all paperwork that you receive during your COVID time off. This will be used for town records at the Town Hall so that you can get paid for your time out of work. If you have questions about your paperwork you can contact Warren County Public Health at 518-761-6580.

COVID-19 At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests

Jan 9, 2022

Warren County Public Health has created a new online portal for Warren County residents to report positive COVID-19 "at-home" rapid antigen tests remotely. This new portal can be found at

<https://warrencountyny.gov/COVIDHomeTestReport>. It will be live as of 8 a.m. Monday, January 10th.

Warren County residents who receive a COVID-19 positive test result on an FDA-approved at home test are asked to report their information on this HIPAA-compliant web portal to streamline response amid a record surge of new COVID-19 infections.

The person reporting the test will need to provide a phone number, home address and email address as well as test date and date that symptoms began. They will receive an email confirmation and be provided with links to online information detailing isolation/quarantine guidelines and Warren County COVID-19 resources, and follow up phone or email contact from Public Health or New York State staff.

If testing positive through a home-test, please isolate for 5 days and leave isolation after 5 days only if symptoms have improved. Please a tight-fitting mask for an additional 5 days when venturing into public afterward. Notify any close contacts of your illness as well.

Reporting positive tests promptly is important to determine whether treatment is recommended. Warren County Public Health strongly recommends that those who test positive for COVID-19 contact their medical provider as well. Those who receive a positive test on an at-home test but do not have internet access should report their test result to Warren County Health Services via phone to 518-761-6580.

After Reporting your positive at home test to the website or phone number above your next steps are:

- Contact Safety Officer Ernie Dunkley 518-232-8819 or

safetyofficer@johnsburg.com
- Contact Joan Morehouse at 518-251-2421 or secretary@johnsburg.com

5. Old Business: Johnsburg Garage - we're moving forward with this and will keep all posted as to the progress.

6. Committee Reports

Mr. Arsenault noted that the meeting with the Clarkson folks went well and it was an excellent first meeting.

Ms. Arnheiter - Mr. Arsenault and I are on the Economic Development Committee; we're having a meeting tomorrow (1/19/22) from 11:00AM - 12:00PM - e-mail me If you'd like the link to join via Zoom.

7. ZEO, Historian and Assessor Reports (re-val update) - Letitia moving along with re-vals.

8. Supervisor's Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #24

Mr. Arsenault presented the following for Resolution and moved its passage with a Second from Mr. Gonyo to accept/approve the Supervisor's Monthly Report.

With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Gonyo) Nays – 0.

9. Warrants -

RESOLUTION #25

Mr. Stevens presented for Resolution and moved its passage with a Second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the Warrants.

With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Gonyo) Nays – 0.

10. Privilege of the Floor

Deana Wood – STAR program questions? – Supervisor Hogan – please check in with Letitia.

Kelly Nettle – Governor is working with smaller areas and maybe we can work with the County and the Governor to help Johnsburg; Supervisor Hogan – have been watching for this opportunity.

Kelly Nettle – could ORDA help us seek funding? Supervisor Hogan noted that we lost 2 grants previously, but we can try again. Kelly – just if they could help the Town in some way; Supervisor Hogan noted that we'll access all opportunities.

Christian Holt – wondering why the Dog Park is now in the Budget when it wasn't before? Supervisor Hogan noted that the Bookkeeper had to have this as a line item, any other concerns or questions please reach out to Danae.

11. Motion to Adjourn

RESOLUTION #26

At 8:30PM Mr. Gonyo presented the following Resolution and moved its passage with a Second from Mr. Stevens to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Gonyo) Nays – 0.

Supervisor Hogan asked if there was any concern with doing a hybrid meeting for February 1, 2022? No concerns either is fine with Town Board.

Next Town Board Meeting will be February 1, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Tannery Pond Center and via virtual platform – link can be found On the Town Website at <https://www.johnsburgny.com>

Prepared by:

Jean M. Comstock
Town Clerk