

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

The Public Hearing/Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Watson was called to order on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 6:26pm by Supervisor Gerald Crowell.

Town Officials Present:

Supervisor: Gerald Crowell
Councilmen: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch
Town Clerk: Christina Merry
Hwy Superintendent: Stephen Skiff, Jr.

Citizens present: Mary Misek, Bill Hunt, Vicki Roy, Ann Pominville, Town Justice Donald Regetz

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Crowell.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Lyng to accept the June Minutes as read.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan was opened at 6:29pm by Supervisor Crowell. Regular business continued for about 30 minutes.

Scott Lawrence, CPA was given the floor to review financial s ending July 12, 2021. There will be some money transfers to be done. Financial s look in good shape, running about where they should be at this time. Scott also discussed the ARPA (American Rescue Protection Act). Supervisor & Scott discussed setting up a separate account just for the ARPA. Scott also discussed the webinar he attended on this ARPA.

Public Hearing resumed: Bill Hunt discussed some of the items he suggested to the Planning Board, and County be changed in the Comprehensive Plan, but wasn't seeing these changes in the one on the Website. Town Clerk stated she hadn't put the Revised Plan on the Website yet, as it hadn't been approved. Councilman Hoch looked through the revised Plan and some of the changes were in there. And it was also noted that all changes he suggested did not have to be made, it was at the discretion of the Board. Supervisor Crowell stated that the Plan is a work in progress, that it can be looked at and changes made every year or so.

Public Hearing closed at 7:15pm.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Pominville to accept the Comprehensive Plan with a review of the document to be done in one year.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Scott & Financial s: More will be discussed at the budget meeting. Discussed ARPA funds, and Scott says it's not clarified well on some things.

Resignation: Supervisor Crowell read a letter of resignation from Assessor Erin Gratch effective on July 31, 2021.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept her resignation.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Interviewed two applicants for Assessor position. Both equally qualified, chose Rebecca Trudell.

Motion to appoint Rebecca Trudell as Acting Assessor for 1 year to review her work was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Lyng.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Amendment to Owner-Engineer Agreement: Amendment #3- C2ae – to increase \$62,400.00.

Motion was made by Councilman Pominville, seconded by Councilman Lyng to accept this Amendment.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

NY Rural Water Association: Supervisor Crowell discussed this, and the fee is \$260.00 a year, and Hwy Superintendent Skiff also explained benefits of belonging to this Association, discounts on training, assistance with problems/issues pertaining to water.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to join this Association at \$260.00 per year.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Anonymous donation: was received and deposited on 6/10/2021 into the General Fund. Chris read the note that was with the donation. No name, address, nothing was included.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Pominville to accept this anonymous donation.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Opt-Out – Marijuana – must have a Public Hearing, Board to review Local Law, is subject to a Permissive Referendum, and could be put on the ballot for voting. If we opt-out now, we can opt-in at a later date if chose to. Must opt-out by 12/31/2021. Any questions, Supervisor can set up a conference call with Attorney Meier.

Planning Board applications: Received 2 – Daniel Root and Nicole Black.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to appoint Daniel Root to the Planning Board.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Pominville appoint Nicole Black as a Planning Board Member.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Plow Truck financing: have heard from 2 financial institutions, Community Bank has lowest interest rate, had to send Annual Financial s. Supervisor Crowell wants to talk with John Shehadi.

Bond Closing Requirements: Supervisor Crowell went over the requirements, and what is needed from us for the closing.

Water Fee Schedule: Went over a couple of changes that were made to the fee schedule.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to approve this Fee Schedule with yearly review.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Highway: Superintendent Skiff stated paving would be next week, approximately 6 days. Superintendent Skiff also stated that the Bailey Bridge has been red flagged, sent this information to the engineer, a plate has rotted out. He will be meeting with the County Bridge Engineer. Superintendent Skiff has set up an account with Slack Chemical for Chlorine, but at this time they want a minimum order. He has talked with the Village, and will be working with them for now, using their Chlorine, and then we will replace it when we have enough for an order.

Councilman Lyng was questioned by a resident if the Town had a place for dumping tree branches, brush. Chris stated our GreenFill has been closed since 2005. Also, there was a question about the Beaches Mill Road being mowed. Superintendent Skiff said he is working on it.

Planning Board: Councilman Hoch said there was nothing to report, as their July meeting had been moved to July 19, 2021.

Update on the Water Project: Don Duprey sent an email with progress report. Attached to end of minutes.

Dasny Grant: Before closing we must provide proof that we have tried numerous times to find out when and if we are getting this Grant. Rural Development could reduce the Contract Loan, by this amount, but then it will take away money from the Contingency.

Monthly Bills:

BAN – Vouchers # 35 -39 - \$470,872.63

Water Fund – Vouchers # 15-16 - \$131.25

Watson Water O & M – Vouchers # 10-13 - \$1,323.78

General Fund – 156 – 176 - \$7,614.04

Highway Fund – Vouchers # 71 – 82 - \$22,918.03

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno to pay the bills.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Monthly Reports: Town Justice for April, May, & June, Town Clerk, and Supervisor reports were passed for Audit and approval.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Hanno to accept these reports.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Gerald Crowell.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno to adjourn at 8:36pm.

All in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Watson will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 6:30pm. First Budget meeting will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:30am.

Christina M. Merry, Town Clerk