

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

The regular meeting of the Town of Watson Town Board was called to order at 6:27pm on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 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: Steve Skiff

Citizens Present: Tim Munn from Pixamation, Shawn Freeman, Judi & Bill Houppert, Vicki Roy, Virgil Taylor, Mary Misek, William Hunt.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Crowell.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept the March minutes as read.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Tim Munn from Pixamation was given the floor to discuss the Town's Computer Technology and what upgrades were needed. Mr. Munn stated that the Town was in good shape, discussed a stronger router, which would also allow for separate wi-fi for guest availability, webcam for the Supervisor's computer (for Zoom meetings), and also changing the disc drives to solid state drives in the computers to make them faster. Discussion followed, and the Board will make a decision.

Construction Contract Change Resolution: Supervisor Crowell went over the change order for S.C. Spencer in regards to the National Grid expense, and the security cameras, laptop needed at the wellsite. The change order will actually give the Town back about \$14,000, as the Town paid for the National Grid expense to run a line to the wellhouse.

Motion made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno to pass this Resolution.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Comprehensive Plan: Town Board needs to accept the Comprehensive Plan draft so it can be sent to the County for their acceptance and/or comments.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Superintendent Skiff discussed a Grant that Lewis County is working on, that would allow the Bailey Bridge, in Sperryville to be fixed. The County would be the lead Agency in this project.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to approve Lewis County as the Lead Agency.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Intermunicipal Agreement: Because of the increased cost of doing the Comprehensive Plan, after the Planning Board sent a request for additional payment from Lewis County. The Board of Legislatures agreed to increase their amount to \$3,600, once we adopt the Intermunicipal Agreement and send them a copy of the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion to adopt this Intermunicipal Agreement with the County for the DANC payment was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Highway: Superintendent Skiff stated that he used about 695.47 tons of salt this year, and he has ordered about 700 tons from OGS for the coming year. Also discussed CHIPS money, with what we had left over from last year and what we will be getting for this year, it is approximately \$438,000. He has gotten estimates for the following roads he would like to do this year – from Suit-Kote comes to about \$232,446.43. This includes North Chase Lake Road to Pine Grove Road, Reprofilng the Hodge Road from the Gyore Road to the Number Four Road, Erie Canal Road – from the Heller Road up to the intersection of Stony Lake Road. Asking for the Board's approval to do this paving.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Lyng to approve the paving.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Superintendent Skiff also mentioned he rented an Escavator for \$4,800/month. Tried to borrow one from the County, but unavailable. Would like to begin 4 10/hr days next week, and wants Board approval. Supervisor Crowell stated he would need to check with Attorney as the Union Contract states from June to September.

Needs to order signs for the Kotel Road, and Peckham Road. Peckham Road because he received a call from a concerned resident on that road, asking for slow signs as there are residents walking on the road a lot.

Planning Board: Councilman Hoch said the Planning Board had a couple of interested people come to the last meeting. They should be all set with members.

Chris asked the Board what they want to set for payment to the Dog Control Officer for dog enumeration as she didn't find anything in the minutes from the last enumeration and she has no record in her checkbook. Chris asked Virgil Taylor if he remembered, and he said it was like \$1.00 per registered dog, and \$5.00 per unregistered dog. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Crowell suggested \$1.50 per registered dog, and \$7.50 per unregistered plus mileage.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Pominville to accept this payment plan.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Water: Supervisor Crowell read the progress report to date. All mainline is in, except for an area on Pine Grove Road & Number Four Road that will require blasting due to rock. Auto-flushing manhole installed at tanksite, Aquastore has finished the tank, now waiting for sealant to cure. Pressure testing and chlorination has begun at the well site. All piping passed pressure test, all piping has been chlorinated and samples sent to Converse labs. Service & Lateral crews started at the tank site end and working down the Number Four Rd. Approximately 85 water services installed so far.

Regarding the Audit – Bowers & Company will be doing a Program Audit which is less expensive than proposed.

Bill Houppert asked that a proposal be made regarding people who didn't sign up for water and the EDU's, and that any money the Town received from the Stimulus Package be used to reduce the debt so that the EDU payments could be reduced.

Chris asked the Board what they wanted to reduce the Lowville Water O & M down to, now that the 3 billing cycles of increased amount was over. Discussion followed. Was decided to keep the Administration fee at \$25,00, and lower the O & M back down to the \$35.00 as it was before.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Monthly Bills: There is a new abstract for the Watson O & M for the new District.

BAN – Vouchers # 14 – 20 - \$834,426.87

Water Fund – Vouchers #7 – 9 - \$272.86

Watson Water O & M – Invoice # 1 - \$59.48

General Fund - Vouchers # 71 – 95 - \$12,218.19

Highway Fund _ 33 – 47 - \$19,687.59

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 Bills: Clerk and Justice were passed for audit and approval. Supervisor's reports didn't come from the CPA's, as the CPA's have been busy trying to meet the April 15th deadline for taxes.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Supervisor Crowell then spoke as a private citizen regarding the upcoming Election, as well as other Townships, that the seats always seem unopposed. Vicki Roy spoke up and did say that there will be opposition for Councilman this year, as she is running as Republican and Independent. But at this time that is the only one of seven positions.

Discussion & Questions followed regarding the Water District. Virgil Taylor explained how it all came about once Rural Development, Dept. of Health, & DEC became involved, it was out of the Town's hands.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Hanno. All in favor.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Town Board on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:30 and the next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Christina M. Merry, Town Clerk