

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, October 14, 2020 at 6:29pm by Supervisor Gerald Crowell.

Town Officials Present:

Supervisor: Gerald Crowell
Councilmen: Mike Hanno, Ronald Pominville, Jeffrey Hoch, 4th Seat Vacant
Town Clerk: Christina Merry
Hwy Superintendent: Absent
Code Enforcement Officer: Robert O'Brian

Citizens Present: Virgil Taylor, Vicki Roy, Ann Pominville, Bill Houppert

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Crowell.

Minutes to Budget Meetings, 09/03/2020, 09/15/2020, & 09/22/2020 and Regular Meeting 09/09/2020 were approved by a motion made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Pominville.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Hanno to open the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget at 6:30pm.

Supervisor Crowell began going over the Preliminary Budget – Revenues, Salaries, & Expenditures, asking if anyone had any questions or concerns as he went along. Board will continue to review collected information for the new Water District, as much of it will be estimation only for this year.

Discussion followed regarding where we stand with the Tax Cap, and Supervisor Crowell stated he would like to not have to increase taxes if possible. The Lowville Fire Department Budget increased about \$569.00 this year, and Croghan Fire Department Contract is good until 2024, and stays the same. Lewis County Search & Rescue Contract has gone up \$128.95 for 2021. The Board will review the Preliminary Budget more before the next Budget meeting on the 21st, and will determine if there are any changes to be made.

Supervisor Crowell passed around a paper showing what they found wrong with the 2003 Dump truck.

Some discussion followed, as to rather or not it can be fixed. This is a spare truck, used mostly for sanding. It has been listed on the Auction International Website, but Councilman Hanno would like to talk with the place it was inspected, and maybe even take it somewhere else for a second opinion. Paperwork will be put on hold until further information is obtained.

Budget Amendment for C2ae is not ready for explanation/approval yet. Has to go through Marcy Newman with Rural Development first. Their Amendment is for approximately \$190,000.00.

Supervisor Crowell discussed the Mileage Reimbursement Policy for the Town of Watson Highway Employees, stating they are not to travel by private vehicle for Town Business, unless there is not a Town Vehicle available, and they must have approval by the Town Supervisor or the Town Board prior to using their own vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Pominville to adopt this Resolution.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Supervisor Crowell went over a letter from the Pine Grove Church, requesting a donation. This is a line item in the Budget already, for Historical Property. A motion was made by Councilman Pominville, seconded by Councilman Hanno to accept this letter.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Supervisor Crowell read a letter of resignation from Robert Dosztan, Highway Superintendent effective October 30, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept Robert's resignation.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Planning Board: Councilman Hoch stated Comprehensive Plan is almost finished, should be finalizing at December meeting. Checking with Ray regarding Solar Power, and combining Zoning and Planning Boards.

Code Enforcement: Nothing to report. Everything going good.

Water: Supervisor Crowell stated our yearly payments will be approximately \$172,000.00, will be divided into two payments – one in April & one in October.

Have had two more payment applications submitted – North Country Contractors & S.C. Spencer. Checks will be sent as soon as we get final approval from Rural Development -Marcy Newman.

WIA Grant: Should be depositing \$2,250,000.00 on October 29, 2020, remaining 25% will be payable at closing of the project.

Monthly Bills:

Bond Anticipation Note: Vouchers #35 – 38 - \$865,053.53

Water Fund: Vouchers # 22 – 24 - \$51.17

General Fund – Vouchers # 208 -234 - \$8,106.65

Highway Fund – Vouchers # 123 -135 - \$16,392.93

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

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Monthly reports were passed for audit and approval: Clerk, Supervisor (August & September), Justice, Code Enforcement Officer.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion to close Public Hearing made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch at 7:35pm.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion to accept the Preliminary Budget with amendments to Water and with Stipulation of Highway Superintendent's salary to be reconsidered made by Councilman Pominville, seconded by Councilman Hanno.

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

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:38pm. Executive session ended at 8:20pm.

Motion made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Hoch to adjourn at 8:21pm. All in favor.

Next budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 9:00am. Next regular Board meeting will be November 11, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Christina M. Merry, Town Clerk