

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

October 12 ,2022

The regular meeting of the Town of Watson was called to order on October 12,2022 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials Present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons: Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Councilperson Absent: None

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

Hwy Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Citizens Present: See attendance sheet

Agenda Guests: Cassandra Buell and Doug Miller – Lewis County Water Study presentation and Cheryl and Bob Dicob, Ray Mier – Town Attorney and Micheal Giocondo Forrest Ranger.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Jeffrey Hoch.

Town Business

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept September 14, 2022 minutes.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Lewis County Water Study presentation was given by Cassandra Buell and Doug Miller. Doug identified the 5 projects that would provide existing system interconnection to allow for expansion of water service to areas that are currently not served or underserved. He gave an overview of a January 2022 report put together by his team and where the favorable water zones would be. This was informational only at this time.

Cheryl Dicob presented her concerns to the Town Board about the horses and horse people not using the trail systems, nor following the regulations that the NYS DEC has for them. Other citizens also voiced their concerns with the horses. One of the concerns was safety for vehicles while the horses are on the road. She showed pictures of trails that have been made by someone other than the DEC. She also showed pictures of the horses in the water at Payne Lake and stated that while she was there with her grandchildren that the rider and horses walked into the water close by them and that the horse defecated while in the water. Micheal Giocondo from the Lowville Forrest Rangers was present.

Cheryl also stated to the town that she would like to see 4-wheeler trails be opened in the Town of Watson. She stated that the horse people are always riding ATV's on the McPhilly Road – which is not currently open to ATV's. She requested that these concerns be looked into.

A voluntary committee will be established to work with Jackie Mahoney – Director of Recreation & Forestry & Parks to proceed with possibly finding a ATV route to get from Greig, through the Town of Watson to the Town of New Bremen. Council Woman Vicki Roy volunteered to be the liaison for the Town Board. The Town Supervisor will contact Cheryl Dicob to update with this information.

New Business: Budget Resolution #11 – 2022 – Resolution to transfer funds to general fund was submitted by Council Woman Vicki Roy.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Mike Hanno to accept Resolution #11-2022.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Resolution #12 – Resolution to appropriate funds was submitted by Council Woman Vicki Roy.

Motion made by Mike Hanno and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept Resolution #12-2022.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Resolution #13 – 2022 – To accept the Town of Watson Tentative Town Budget for 2023.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Mike Hanno to accept the Town of Watson Tentative Town Budget for 2023.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

New Watson Town Park Use fee and application was submitted to the board for review. This will be tabled until next meeting.

The Town Board has decided to hire a second attorney. The Town Board has met with different candidates and has decided on Candace Randall from Company, McArdle & Randall, PLLC in Lowville, NY.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Mike Hanno to hire Candace Randall.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Town Accountant: Scott Lawrence was not present but he did send the monthly financials – no questions or concerns from the board members after review.

Highway – Steve Skiff – Finished covering pipes on Stillwater Road and McPhilly Roads for the winter. They are to get paved next year.

Possibility of being able to order a new pick up truck for the highway department.

Highway department getting the plow trucks ready.

Highway department will be resuming their Monday – Friday shift schedule starting 10/17/2022.

They have completed the shoulders on the Austin Road and are working on the shoulders on the Wetmore road.

Zoning Board – Ross Phelps submitted a resignation from the Zoning Board.

Motion made by Mike Hanno and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept Ross Phelps resignation.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Tom Helser to fill vacated position.

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Shawn Freeman to appoint Tom Helser to Zoning Board – It will be a 2 year term.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Water System – Revised water rate fee schedule was presented to the Town Board for approval. A water rate fee schedule for outside water users was also presented. It will be posted on the town's website. Effective date starting 01/01/2023.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accepted revised water rate schedule and new water rate fee schedule for outside water district user.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

The town will be flushing hydrants starting 10/17/2022-10/21/2022. Users may experience low water pressure during that time. They will also be conducting a flow rate test.

Abstracts - Abstracts for October 2022 were submitted by Town Clerk.

Motion made by Mike Hanno and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept abstracts for payment.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Monthly Reports - Justice report for September 2022 submitted by Justice Donald Regetz, were reviewed and accepted by the board members.

Tax Collection for 2022, Town Clerk and Dog Fund reports for September 2022 were submitted by Town Clerk Michelle Ward, were reviewed and accepted by the board members.

Motion was made by Mike Hanno and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept monthly reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Mike Hanno to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng and Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion so carried.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk