

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

November 13, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order on November 13, 2024 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Councilperson absent: Vicki Roy

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Citizens present: Bill Hunt, Mary Misek, Bill and Judi Houppert, Paul Shepard – RACOG,
Joe Sawyer, Matt Fuller-Barton & Loguidice

Meeting was started by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Supervisor Jeff Hoch

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from October 28, 2024 were submitted for approval.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept meeting minutes.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Guests

Joseph Sawyer addressed the Town Board. He stated to the board that the Town of Watson is being overrun with equines and equine owners. He asked the board how to get regulations for the equines. He suggested there be rules and regulations on what trails that they can utilize and where they are allowed to go and what time of year. He stated that the horses are using the walking trails and do not have regards for the people using the walking trails. He stated that they cut down trees in the Adirondack Park to make their own trails.

He was addressed by the board, with them saying that the new Zoning Board Committee will be addressing some of these issues with the updated Zoning laws currently under review.

Matt Fuller – Barton & Loguidice addressed the board with a proposal for improvements to the highway garage. He suggested that the town start with taking bids for abatement for certain sections of the garage to also include replacement of removed materials. Bids for replacement of walking doors and windows.

Motion was made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng for Barton & Loguidice to advertise for such bids.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Barton & Loguidice will send advertisement to the Town Clerk when completed. Sealed bids will be accepted until Friday December 20, 2024 at 11am. The bids will be opened in the town office by the town board. They will be discussed at the special Town Board meeting on December 20, 2024.

Financials

Financials were discussed with the board and CPA-Scott Lawrence.

*Resolution # 23-2024 – Amendment of budget to increase DA 3501- State Aid (CHIPS) Revenue by \$64,040.43

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept resolution #23-2024.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

*Resolution #24-2024 – Transfer of funds from DA 3501- State Aid (CHIPS) Revenue to DA 5112.4 – Road Improvement Contractual in the amount of \$64,040.43.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept resolution #24-2024.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Supervisors Report

October 2024

Total in Community Bank - \$75,561.10

Total in NYCLASS - \$1,630,265.35

Petty Cash - \$144.50

Total Amount - \$1,705,970.95

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept the Supervisor's Report for October 2024.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

RACOG

Paul Shepard came and gave a monthly report.

<http://racog.org>

New Business

Jeff addressed the Town Board with the information that was sent on the cost of the Lowville Summer Rec Program for the Town of Watson/Lowville School District children. At this time the board feels that the money could be better utilized to be put toward something that all Town of Watson residents/children would benefit from, such as Town Park improvement. The program is optional attendance, which all children do not participate in.

Highway

Steve has submitted the CHIPS reimbursement paperwork and is expecting payment in December 2024.

Cab and chassis have arrived and Steve is waiting for an appointment with Viking to have the box installed.

2008 F350 pickup truck with a dump box and plow is not working.

Steve requested that it be put into surplus and put on ADK Auctions.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to put into surplus and send to auction site.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Roadside trees were trimmed by logger on the Hodge Rd. with the Highway assistance and equipment utilized. It was stated that it has opened the road for more sunlight to get to the road.

Steve has been to several FEMA meetings. He has completed and submitted the inventory list that was requested for roads and damage caused by the flood. There was a FEMA group in the Town of Watson that got a tour of the flood damaged roads.

DEC did an inspection of the fuel tanks and stated that they are currently adequate but are old and should be looked into getting replacements.

Steve submitted County contract for snow and ice removal for 2025 to the Town Board.

*Resolution #25-2024 – Resolution of the Town Board approving agreement with the County for snow and ice control under the County Road system.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept snow and ice contract.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Highway Contract

An agreement with the Town of Watson Highway Garage employees and the Town Board has been reached. The highway contract has been submitted to the Town Lawyer and Highway Garage Union representative.

Water

Rural Water will meet with Steve to review the water usage and possible leak.

Planning Board

Planning Board is working on a Tower Law in regards to cell phone tower placements.

Meeting held first Wednesday of each month. Meeting minutes posted to the town website:

www.townofwatsonny.com Quick Links, All Boards, Planning Board

Zoning Board

Meeting held the second Monday of each month. Meeting minutes posted to the town website:

www.townofwatsonny.com Quick Links, All Boards, Zoning Board

Zoning Advisory Committee

Next meeting November 20, 2024

Dog Control

New Dog Law accepted by Town Board and sent to New York State for approval.

Old Business

ARPA: Funds to be obligated by 12/31/2024

Highway Garage: Advertisement for contract bids for garage improvements will be going out.

Bailey Rd. Bridge: No updates. Currently waiting on the State for further instruction.

Petries Corner Church Cemetery Building: Board members went to the Petries Corner Church and will discuss what future improvements to complete - Tabled

Bradish Road: Tabled

Zoning Officer: Further discussion needed. - Tabled

Final Budget 2025

Final Budget 2025 presented to the Town Board for approval.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng for approval.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Monthly Abstract

Abstracts: November 2024

General Fund – Voucher – 156, 161, 268-298 - \$27,410.44

Highway – Voucher – 104-111 - \$10,101.23

Water District – Voucher – 21-23 - \$13,891.74

Watson Water O & M – Voucher – 76-84 - \$7,971.16

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to pay November 2024 abstracts.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Monthly Reports

Monthly report for October 2024 for Town Clerk & Dog Fund was submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.

Monthly Justice report for October 2024 was submitted by Donald Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Vicki Roy, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Resignation

Barbara Emery has submitted her resignation as Deputy Town Clerk.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept her resignation.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Adjourn

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Jeff Lyng to adjourn meeting at 8:27pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Michelle Ward

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Regular Meeting: December 11, 2024

*To see the full resolution go to townofwatsonny.com, Quick Links, All Boards, Town Board, scroll down below Town Meeting Minutes and see Resolutions.