

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

December 13, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order on December 13, 2023 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Gerry Crowell, Vicki Roy

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

CPA: Scott Lawrence

Citizens present: Bill Hunt, Mary Misek, Bill and Judi Houppert, Jackie Mahoney, Anthony Fiorentino, Patrick Currier, Cheryl Dicob

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

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Vicki Roy to accept November 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Public Hearing

Motion made to open public hearing at 6:31pm for the Local Law #2, Local Law concerning the Residency of the Deputy Town Clerk, by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Gerald Crowell.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

A citizen questioned the reason for implementing this Local Law. The Board stated that the reason for this Local Law is to give the Town more options on candidates for the job.

No other questions were voiced during this public hearing time.

Motion made to close public hearing at 7:44pm by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman. Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept Local Law #2 2023, Local Law concerning the residency of the Deputy Town Clerk.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman. Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Financials

Scott Lawrence was here and reviewed the financials for November 2023. Any questions voiced were answered.

Agenda guests/ Open Floor Discussion

Jackie Mahoney addressed the Town Board with a proposal to consider opening the land behind the Town of Watson Town Park and make a 4-wheeler trail for public use. She proposed a 2-mile trail with possibility to connect to possible other trails within the Town of Watson. She also stated that she, and others, have been speaking to Town of Watson land owners in regards to using their properties for a possible Town of Watson 4-wheeler trail system. She stated that some of the residents that she has spoken with have been receptive to the idea of the trail system.

The Town Board stated that they will need to discuss the possible trail system at further length.

C & S Company representatives addressed the Town Board with their proposal for their estimate on the highway garage improvements.

The Town Board has asked for other estimates as well. Steve will set up a meeting with another company in the future. Further discussion to follow.

Highway

Update on Baily Road Bridge Project Potential grant money will be available in the upcoming year. Until the grant money is available the building of the bridge is put on hold. Some boring has been completed as this will need to be completed when the bridge project resumes. Suggestion has been made that any residents from the Town of Watson write a letter to the DEC stating reason why the bridge is needed.

Truck Cab as chassis have been ordered, however after checking on it they stated to Steve that they have no idea when it will be available.

The 2008 truck is having some transmission issues. Steve will be looking into options to fix or replace.

Steve addressed the Board about purchasing a mulcher head for the boom mower.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded Vicki Roy to purchase the mulcher head.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman. Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Steve had placed a tree work bid out in the newspaper and Virkler's Tree Service has been hired for future services.

Water

Water testing for the year of 2023 has been completed.

Planning Board

Nettie Prusinowski has been appointed as the Planning Board Chairperson from 1/1/2024-12/31/2028.

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

www.townofwatsonny.com

Zoning Board

Cathy Dosztan has been appointed as Zoning Board Chairperson from 1/1/2024-12/31/2028.

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

www.townofwatsonny.com

Town Attorney

Working on the highway employee contract.

Old Business

RACOG has been sent the letter of request to join with no response back at this time.

Monthly Abstract

Abstracts: December 2023

General Fund – Voucher 290-325 - \$31,400.31

Highway – Voucher 120-126 - \$46,147.37

Water District – Voucher – 16-18 - \$2,739.84

Watson Water O & M – Voucher 70-77 - \$7,806.32

Bond Anticipation Note – Voucher 7-13 - \$13,408.87

Motion made by Gerald Crowell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept December abstracts.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Monthly Reports

Monthly report for November 2023 for Town Clerk, Town Park and Dog Fund was submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.

Monthly Justice report for November 2023 was submitted by Donald Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Gerald Crowell and seconded by Vicki Roy to accept reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Citizen Comments

Due to the fact that the Town has been gaining interest money with NYCLASS, a suggestion was made that the Town wave the credit card fee when a customer uses it for a transaction with the clerk. It was stated that the fee comes from the credit card company not from the Town and the Town does not receive any of that income. There is not a way that the clerk is aware of to wave said fee at this time.

A suggestion was also made that the Town consider an alternative route when posting public notices. Currently the postings are generated by the clerk using QuickAd that goes directly to the newspaper of the Town's choosing. This meets that State requirement for advertising.

It was requested that the public notice be posted to the Town website as well. The clerk agrees to this.

Adjourn

Motion made by Gerald Crowell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to adjourn meeting at 8:35pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Regular Meeting: January 10, 2024