

TOWN OF STARK

County of Herkimer

State of New York

703 Elwood Road

Fort Plain, NY 13339

TOWN OF STARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2024 (REVIEWED AND APPROVED FEBRUARY 13, 2024)

The Town of Stark Board meeting was held on January 11, 2024 at the Town of Stark Justice Court building.

Supervisor Richard Bronner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilman Voght led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Newly elected officials from November election were sworn in by Town Justice Debra Bronner.

Roll Call as follows: Supervisor Richard Bronner-present, Councilman Emil Ziaja-present, Councilman Tony Grescheck-present, Councilman Joseph Hubiak-Present, Councilman John Voght-present, Highway Sup't. David Hajczewski-present, Town Clerk Eleanor Smith-present; also attending were James Eckler, Bonnie Nestle, John and Julie Constable, Nick and Sue Jordan, Cindy Davis, Connie Young, Ken Richards, Marie and Jack Armstrong, Debra Bronner and Xenia Williams. Town Clerk Eleanor Smith read the minutes from the December Town Board Meeting, which was held at the ODY School auditorium. Councilman Ziaja made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Councilman Voght seconded the motion. 5 -ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner advised there would be no designated public portion regarding windmill project. Even though nothing has changed since the December meeting but questions were asked regarding the windmill project, such as: 1) Clarification what could and could not be answered. 2.) Who is Town Legal counsel. 3.) At what point will information be available on the Town of Stark website and dates. 4.) If a question could be asked not directly pertaining to the windmills. 5.) What benefits from this project is going to yield to the Town of Stark. 6.) Categories of kinds of benefits for the Town. 7.) Specific line items where money would be applied. 8.) Asking about here-say of how board members can negotiate when some board members haven't even read the DEIS report. 9.) What package was offered. 10.) If windmills were feasible for this location. Supervisor Bronner apologized for not having any further information to report.

The public portion of the meeting ended at 7:42 PM.

Supervisor Bronner asked the Town Board for approval of the following transfers; General Fund 1.) \$6,208.75 from 2022 fund balance to Account A1919.1 (Contractual Expense Insurance). 2.) \$735.26 from 2022 fund balance to account A1410.4 (CE Town Clerk). 3.) \$853.42 from 2022 fund balance to account A5010.4 (CE High Supt.) Councilman Grescheck made a motion to approve the transfers. Seconded by Councilman Hubiak. Motion approved. 4-eyes, 0-nays, 1-abstained. Roll Call vote taken: Supervisor Bronner-abstained. Councilman Grescheck-aye, Councilman Ziaja-aye, Councilman Hubiak-aye, Councilman Voght-aye.

Supervisor Bronner asked the Town Board for the following Budget transfers for the Highway Fund: 1.) \$53,037.97 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5148.4 (CE Winter Work). 2.) \$26,661.04 from unanticipated revenue (NYS CHIPs). 3.) \$29,143.11 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5130.4 (CE Machinery). 4.) \$13,000.00 from unanticipated revenue to DA5130.2 (CE Machinery). Councilman Grescheck made a motion to approve the transfers. Councilman Hubiak seconded the motion. Approved-4-Ayes, 0-Nays, 1-abstained. Roll Call vote Supervisor Bronner-abstained, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Hubiak-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye. Motion approved.

The Town Board Audited the Supervisor accounts and financial statements. Councilman Voght made a motion to accept. Councilman Ziaja seconded. 4-Ayes, 0-Nays, 1-Abstained. Roll Call taken: Supervisor Bronner-abstained, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Hubiak-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye. Motion Approved.

The Town Board audited the Town Clerks Record Books. Councilman Hubiak made a motion to accept the Town Clerks record books. Councilman Grescheck seconded. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner for the following resolutions: 1.) A resolution fixing the salaries of elected and appointed officials as stated in the 2024 adopted Town Budget. Motion made by Councilman Grescheck. Seconded by Councilman Ziaja. Roll Call vote was 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner provided a resolution for the following appointments: 1.) Budget Officer-Richard Bronner, Registrar of Vital Statistics-Eleanor Smith, Town Attorney-Gerard Snyder, Dog Control Officer-David Mayton, Town Historian-Jim Cook, Deputy Supervisor-Towny Grescheck, Deputy Town Clerk-No appointment, Health Officer-Laureen Steenburg, Codes Officer-Phil Green, Appointed Assessor-Jim Fresco- Herkimer County Real Property. A motion for the appointments was made by Joseph Hubiak. John Voght provided the second Roll Call vote was 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

A resolution setting milage at \$.60/mile. Motion by Councilman Grescheck. Seconded by Councilman Ziaja. Roll Call vote 5-ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

Resolution establishing meetings as second Tuesday each month at 7:00 PM. Motion made by Councilman Ziaja. Seconded by Councilman Voght. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved. A resolution establishing the official Town Newspaper as the Utica O-D and Herkimer Times Telegram. Motion made by Councilman Voght. Seconded by Councilman Hubiak. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All Approved. A resolution making Town Banking Institution as NBT Bank. Motion mad by Councilman Hubiak. Seconded by Councilman Grescheck. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

A resolution allowing the Highway Superintendent to make purchases up to \$2500.00 without a special meeting of the Town Board. Motion made by Councilman Grescheck. Seconded by Councilman Hubiak. Roll Call Vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

A resolution establishing the following pay schedules for Town employees: 1.) Biweekly payroll: Highway Superintendent, highway department hourly employees, Town Attorney, Town Supervisor, Water plant operator. 2.) Quarterly payroll: Town Clerk, Town Board, Codes officer, Tax Collector, Dog Control Officer, School Crossing Guard. 3.) Annual payroll: Board of Assessment Review (BAR), Town Historian, Budget Officer, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Health Officer. A Motion for the pay schedules was made by Councilman Hubiak. Seconded by Councilman Voght. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

A resolution providing for a work-day of 6-8 hours for elected officials on state retirement. Hours to designated at 6 hours for non-full time employees (supervisor, high supt. attorney). New work schedules need to be approved bi-annually to coincide with the terms of office of each official. The motion was made by Councilman Hubiak. Councilman Voght seconded the motion. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

A resolution approving road repairs for non-chips roads with Herkimer County. Councilman Voght made the motion. Councilman Hubiak seconded. Roll Call vote 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved.

Designation of seasonal roads (Listing to follow) Hoke Road, Cramers Corners Road, Wagner Hill Road, Frog City Road, Mussmacher Road, Backus Road, Sickler Road, Tri-town Road, and Mayton Road. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to approve. Councilman Hubiak seconded. 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. All approved. Details of the designated seasonal roads may be obtained from the Town Clerk or Highway Superintendent.

The following are classified as Minimum Maintenance Roads. 1.) Welden Road from Farm House to dead end. 2.) Stallone Road, From Gage's driveway to dead end. 3.) Vickerson Road from Cemetary to Minden Town Line. Mabe Road, from Turn around to dead end. A letter was received from Elliot and Allan Woolrich regarding water power/ dam in Van Hornesville. By harnessing the water and building water turbines in the Otsquago Creek for hydro-generator. Councilman Voght questioned why we have to be involved. Reason given was if grant funding were to be available. Councilman Hubiak made a motion to look into it further. Councilman Ziaja seconded. All approved.

The sand and Salt barn the Town applied for was not approved by New York State. It was determined the application was incomplete. The letter was given to Attorney Gerard Snyder.

Worker's Compensation Alliance agreement was for three years at the Rate discussed previously. Each year the base cost is \$20,545.00. Any difference would be based on the reconciliation assessment charged annually. Councilman Hubiak made a motion to approve the 3-year agreement. Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved.

Wheelock Disposal increased it's rate for the Town for 2024. The Town pays the fee annually.

Councilman Voght questioned what the new water board is supposed to do as we are still paying the bills. Supervisor Bronner advised we have to pay the bills as we are the only ones bonded by the insurance we have. Councilman Grescheck asked what if we change insurance. Supervisor Bronner responded we'd have to change everything. Councilman Ziaja, said to get a block of insurance and get bids. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to get different bids for the insurance. Councilman Ziaja seconded. All approved.

The Board reviewed the General Fund, Highway Fund and Water district vouchers. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to pay the bills. Councilman Voght seconded. All approved.

The next meeting of the Town Board will be February 13, 2024.

Councilman Grescheck made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.