

Stark Town Board Meeting October 8, 2024

Minutes Approved November 7, 2024

The Stark Town Board Meeting was held on October 8, 2024 at the Town Court Building.

Councilman Zaija led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bronner Called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call as follows:

Supervisor Bronner-present	Councilman Zaija-present
Councilman Grescheck-present	Councilman Hubiak – not present
Councilman Voght-present	Superintendent Hajczewski-present
Town Clerk Smith- not present	Debra Bronner – substitute Clerk

Also attending the meeting were: K. Moyer, Fr. Nektaios Hardig, Dan Enea, Sue Jordan, Nick Jordan, Steve and Allie Collins, Keith Shue, Xenia Williams

Substitute Town Clerk read the minutes from the September 10, 2024, Town Board meeting. Supervisor Bronner asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Councilman made motion to accept the minutes and Councilman Grescheck seconded the motion. All approved.

Substitute Town Clerk read the minutes for the special meeting from the September 23, 2024, Town Board meeting. Supervisor Bronner asked for a motion to accept minutes as read. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to accept the minutes and Councilman Zaija seconded the motion. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner announced that the New Leaf Project was over. The cell tower permits were also accepted and permission to build the tower had been granted. Therefore, questions were to be directed to other concerns. The public portion of the meeting began with Mr. Daniel Enea making a campaign speech for the Herkimer County Coroner position. Mr. Jordan asked about when the cell tower would be built. Supervisor Bronner stated groundbreaking would most likely be in the spring. Mr. Collins asked if a citizen advisory board was to be organized to advise the Town Board on changes to the planning and land use regulations. Supervisor Bronner stated that the Town Board and the Planning Board were jointly meeting to review the regulations. Community members are more than welcome to these meetings. Mr. Shue asked about filling the empty seats on the Planning Board. Supervisor Bronner stated he had been advised by the Comptroller's office to leave the committee as it was, since decisions by

the planning board were being made by unanimous decision of the current three-person board. Therefore, majority of a five-person board was being met. There is a second zoning board that has no participants. This board is looking for volunteers. Therefore, the Town Board was willing to make appointments to that board. The volunteer were not willing to join that board. As there is a moratorium to review land use and planning regulations, no appointments will be made at this time. Questions as to the parameters of the moratorium were raised. Since the moratorium document isn't available the question was tabled till the lawyer is present to answer questions as to the parameters of the motion and review of regulations. Information was shared as to the effects of living near cell towers and effects on health.

The public portion of the meeting was closed.

Highway Superintendent Dave Hajczewski:

He reported that the new Volvo truck was being built on Friday then finished next week after a trip to Henderson to complete additions to the basic truck. The Mack equipment needs to have a review of specs for new truck to be ordered for next week.

Superintendent Hajczewski also passed out the diagrams for the new salt barn. The property sale is tentatively approved by the landowner. That went through last weekend.

Supervisor Bronner reported

New Leaf withdrew their windmill project proposal. The return of the Escrow account was made. Bills were turned in after the return of the Escrow funds, leaving \$14,000 short from New Leaf Escrow fund. New Leaf is bound to pay remaining funds.

Municipal Dog Shelter Inspection Report is completed for 10/1/24. We were rated satisfactory. The original will be on file in the clerk's office.

Henderson package to build vehicle and snowplow including quotes and all were passed out and reviewed. Funding for project with TMA payment.

Van Hornesville Water System generator has a contract through Stark Tech in which a Preventative Maintenance Agreement (PMA) does all the routine maintenance to the generator for the water system. This contract needs to be renewed. This agreement includes 2 visits a year and a battery check to maintain the generator. Councilman. Grescheck made a motion to renew the PMA, Councilman Voght seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Permit and legal fees for the cell tower have been passed through the Planning Board. Construction will begin in the spring.

Cemetery Road is too narrow for a bus and car to pass one another. A resolution was drafted (and is attached to these minutes) to make Cemetery Road a one-way road. It will be labeled as no outlet on Jordanville Road. This should protect school busses and to slow traffic through the area because of increases in population, and the number of

children in the area. A motion was made by Councilman Grescheck to accept the resolution to change the designation of Cemetery Road. Councilman Voght seconded the motion, and a rollcall vote was taken where all members of the Town Board that were present stated Aye.

Van Hornesville Community Corporation has requested to place a box in the Courthouse in time for elections that would contain a survey in which the community could fill out and return said survey to Community Corp. This would allow more community members to give feedback to Community Corp. Councilman Voght made a motion to give permission to place a survey box in the courthouse. The motion was seconded by Councilman Grescheck and was passed by the Town Board.

Supervisor Bronner reported that the owner of the property that we have been trying to obtain behind the Town Barn for a Salt Barn has approached him to sell the property with stipulations that the surrounding fields can still be used as farmland (i.e. access to the fields must be maintained). Discussion as to orientation, dimensions, and location ensued. Diagrams and information are enclosed with the notes. Site plan approval may require a variance so that the required setbacks are met as the current site may not be able to accommodate the setbacks and barn.

Preliminary Budgets were passed out and reviewed. Discussion as to sources of revenue, Cost splits between Water Board (which is only directed to Water District residents) and General and Highway funds. As a point of information, unlike the Fire District which has a Board of Commissioners, the Water District does not. Therefore, the Town Board must pass tax increases for the Water District. Increases to property taxes go to Water District, General and Highway funds only. The budget is \$1.15 million dollars potential increased costs with the biggest expenditure for new trucks, and salt barn. This budget will be over the taxing limit (2% increase from previous budget doesn't require special vote). This will be a \$3/1000 increase on the previous budget. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to accept the budget, Councilman Voght seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made with all presents saying Aye. To adopt the budget, there will need to be a Public Hearing to override tax cap in which the community is informed of the increase. The motion to override by local law was presented by Councilman Grescheck, seconded by Councilman Voght and approved by roll call vote. All present voted aye. Currently Town Attorney Snyder is reviewing the process needed to be followed to fully adopt the budget. A motion to adopt the budget following protocols recommended by the Town Attorney was made by Councilman Grescheck, seconded by Supervisor Bronner and passed unanimously by the Town Board present. The public hearing for the tax cap override will be held November 7, 2024 at 7 PM.

Joint Town and Planning Board meeting is October 21st at 7 p.m.

Bills were presented and paid. Clerks report was presented. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to accept the clerk's report and pay bills. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ziaja and passed by the remaining members of the Board.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Councilman Grescheck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ziaja, and passed by all members present.

Respectfully submitted

Debra A. Bronner