

TOWN OF STARK BOARD MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Reviewed and approved December 10, 2024

The town board meeting was held on November 7, 2024 at the town justice building.

Councilman Hubiak led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Bronner called the meeting to order at 7:00

pm. Roll call as follows:

Supervisor Bronner - present Councilman Grescheck - present Councilman Voght - present
Town Clerk Smith - present, Councilman Zaija - not present, Councilman Hubiak - present
Superintendent Hajczewski - present.

Also attending the meeting: Steve Hawkes, Sue and Nick Jordan, Father Nektarios Harding,
and Xenia Williams.

The town clerk read the minutes from October 8, 2024 town board meeting. Supervisor
Bronner asked for motion to accept minutes as read. Councilman Voght made motion to
accept and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

The public hearing was opened at 7:11 pm regarding the Local Law #2 of 2024 for the
property tax cap override because it cannot be kept under the 2% based on monies that is
being anticipated needed in the next town budget including a truck that is on its way now,
another truck that has been promised in March of 2025, and the sand and salt barn building
behind the town barn. The cost comes to approximately \$1.5 million dollars. The town board
is being careful what needs to be done under state law requiring the property tax cap
override. Necessarily it doesn't need to be used but has to be in place to be able to use it if
the town needs it. Question asked if similar to the school board override. Advised it would be
similar as the school board has to announce it and publicize it and answer questions as to
why. It can be done every year if the town boards needs to use it. Based on what the town
has it would be an

\$84,000.00 total amount to be raised by tax increase which is \$3.00 per \$1000.00 of assessed
value. The percentage increase before was 11.48 and this will take it up to 14.18 so would be a
20% increase. The sand and salt barn has to be funded up front before we receive the grant.
There was no further discussion regarding the tax cap therefore a motion by Councilman
Grescheck to invoke the property tax cap and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved by

roll call. The tax cap override being completed the public hearing for the town budget for 2025 was opened at 7:28 pm. There were no questions but the public hearing remained open for any further discussion. At that time a resident of the community attended the meeting to obtain some advice about a neighbor that is creating a junk yard near his property. There are several vehicles, garbage all over, and infested with rats. Supervisor Bronner advised that a letter was sent two years ago. The town attorney can send another certified letter. Also Supervisor Bronner will talk to the codes officer to see what can be done and to help with the problem. There is a junkyard ordinance for the county but would have to investigate if there is a town law. The local health officer, Laureen Steenburg could get involved. The resident would be thankful for any aid into the situation. Insurance was discussed for the town. The agent had a second quote and cheaper and better coverage than what we have. NYMIR is a self insurance plan throughout New York State and to join there would be a fee that would have to be paid to become a member. When after 4-5 years experience rating, then fees would come down which the town already has with Trident. The replacement costs are more expensive with NYMIR. Councilman Grescheck's made motion to remain with Trident and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved. Supervisor Bronner will call the agent and let him know of the decision that the quote was not good.

Supervisor Bronner talked with Miller, Mannix and they will represent the town for the moratorium if we need any legal work if any changes were to be made in the land use regulations but we have not received a contract. Paperwork for the distribution for the sales tax revenue was passed for the information to the town board. The dog contract with Herkimer County Humane Society was passed to the town board members. Councilman Hubiak made motion to accept and Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved. The town board discussed adding members to the planning board so that we would be able to move forward with the moratorium. Councilman Voght made motion to have a five member planning board. No second. Councilman Hubiak made motion to leave as a three member planning board. Councilman Grescheck seconded. Councilman Voght voted nay. The motion was approved by roll call. A committee was not appointed as residents of the town of Stark were invited to come to the meetings to participate and to make their suggestions to the town board. The input from the residents, town board, and planning board is how the original land use regulations were formatted. The next moratorium meeting to be held on November 25, 2024 at the town justice building at 7:00 pm.

Discussion of the Christmas party to be held tentatively on December 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The public hearing remained opened for the town budget and no further questions. Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved by roll call.

The town board reviewed the Supervisor's report. Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved.

The town clerk's report for October consisting of one marriage license and five dog licenses for the amount of \$42.50 was reviewed by the town board. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved.

The town board reviewed the General and Highway vouchers. Councilman Grescheck made motion to pay the bills and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

The next town board meeting will be held on December 10, 2024. Councilman Grescheck made motion to adjourn and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.