

TOWN OF STARK
County of Herkimer
State of New York
703 Elwood Road
Fort Plain, NY 13339

TOWN OF STARK MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2025
(REVIEWED AND APPROVED February 11, 2025)

The town board meeting was held on January 14, 2025 at the town justice building.

Councilman Voght 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 Ziaja - not present

Councilman Grescheck - present

Councilman Hubiak - present

Councilman Voght - present

Highway Sup't- David Hajczewski

Town Clerk Smith – present

Also attending the meeting: Town Attorney Jerry Snyder, Kay Moyer, Father Nektarios Harding, Laureen Steenburg, Deb Bronner, Nick & Sue Jordan, Ken and Connie Richards, Marie and Jack Armstrong, Steve and Ali Collins, Keith Schue, and Xenia Williams

First item that was addressed was Councilman Ziaja's resignation effective December 31, 2024 and as per phone call message of the town board, decision was made to appoint Aaron Gerhardt. Councilman Grescheck made motion to appoint Aaron as town councilman and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved. Councilman Gerhardt was sworn in by Judge Bronner.

Supervisor Bronner opened session for the public hearing that was advertised for the extension of the moratorium. This portion of the meeting remained open in case of any further residents to attend the meeting. The outcome of the process of the moratorium will be in the minutes of the combined meetings of the town board, planning board, and the public. Extension is for 3 months and will cease on May 7, 2025. There will be a public meeting of the changes that are made. Example one of the topics being a three member planning board but would require a change in the land use regulations. Supervisor Bronner advised that we don't need a planning board and that the town could have a combined planning and zoning board which is being looked into by the Miller, Mannix Law Firm.

Town Clerk Smith read the minutes from December 10, 2024. Supervisor Bronner asked if any additions, corrections, or changes to the minutes. A question was asked what is an overlay district. Supervisor Bronner advised it was just a suggestion, and pertained to the protection of the water district. Councilman Grescheck made motion to accept and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner proceeded with the regular meeting. The health officer, Laureen Steenburg attended the town board meeting to obtain information that she needed to be aware of regarding the complaint on Travis Road at the Hectus residence. She will attempt to go to the home next week. The town attorney, Jerry Snyder, advised she would be looking for mold, mildew, infestations, garbage, and the junkyard that is in process and that the codes officer, Phil Greene is already involved. The town

attorney advised there would be a reasonable time frame for the cleanup of the property. After the health officer's inspection, there will be a report given to the town board.

The public hearing was closed at 7:43pm regarding the extension of the moratorium. Councilman Voght made motion for the extension and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved.

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

The town board reviewed the town clerk's report consisting of 5 copies of a death certificate and \$650.00 in court fees totaling \$700.00. Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner asked for the following transfer of accounts:

1.) Transfer of Accounts: General Fund

- a) \$3279.41 from 2023 fund balance to A1910.1 (CE Insurance)
Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- b) \$883.58 from 2023 fund balance to A1220.4 (CE Supervisor)
Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- c) \$7823.00 from 2023 fund balance to A9010.8 (CE Retirement)
Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

2.) Transfer of Accounts: Highway Fund

- a) \$2181.86 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5132.4
Councilman Gerhardt made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- b) \$24204.79 from unanticipated revenue (NYS Chips) to DA5112.2
Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- c) \$16992.34 from unappropriated balance to DA5130.4 (machinery)
Councilman Gerhardt made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- d) **\$5800.00** from unanticipated revenue to DA5130.2 (truck purchase)
Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved.

The town board audited the supervisor's records and financial statement and the town clerk's records. Justice records will be audited at a later date.

Supervisor Bronner asked for the following resolutions:

Resolution fixing salaries of elected and appointed officials as stated in 2025 adopted town budget. Councilman Gerhardt made motion to accept and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolutions for the following appointments:

- a.) Budget Officer Richard Bronner

- b.) Registrar of Vital Statistics Eleanor Smith
- c.) Town Attorney Gerry Snyder
- d.) Dog Control Officer David Mayton
- e.) Town Historian James Cook
- f.) Deputy Advisor Tony Grescheck
- g.) Health Officer Laureen Steenburg
- h.) Codes Officer Phil Green
- i.) Appointed Assessor James Fresco Herkimer County Real Property

Councilman Gerhardt made motion to approve and Councilman Voght seconded. All approved

Resolutions:

- a.) Setting mileage at \$.65 a mile (last change 1/11/22) Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved.
- b.) Establishing meeting day and time (2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm) Councilman Gerhardt made motion to approve and Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved.
- c.) Establishing official newspaper (Utica O.D. & Herkimer Times Telegram) Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- d.) Official town banking institution NBT. Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- e.) Allowing highway superintendant to spend up to \$2500.00 without a special meeting of the town board. Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- f.) Establishing pay schedule for town employees:
 - 1.) Bi-weekly: highway superintendant, highway department employees, attorney, water plant operator, Supervisor
 - 2.) Quarterly: town clerk, town board, town justice, codes officer, tax collector, dog control officer
 - 3.) Annual Payroll: board of assessment review, historian, budget officer, registrar of vital statistics, health officer

Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Establishing work day of less than eight hours for elected and appointed officials on state retirement. Hours to be designated at 6 hrs for non-full time employees (supervisor, highway sup't, attorney) to determine days worked per pay period. New work schedule for each bi-annually to coincide with term of office. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Grescheck seconded. All Approved.

Resolution: Establishment of chips roads and approve funding for each project. Councilman Gerhardt made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Approving road repairs for non-chips roads with Herkimer County. Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Designation of seasonal roads and minimum maintenance roads: Lists attached. Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Worker's Comp Alliance Agreement three years at the rate discussed. (\$20545.00 each year

plus reconciliation assessment a variable payment) Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Wheelock increase for 2025. Councilman Grescheck made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Equalization rate for the town of Stark is 43.22% (continually going down).

Sand salt storage barn for county sand and state salt and sand. WOIP has notified applicants as to approval about money release for new projects. Supervisor will meet with Jerry Stucchi later this month. Supervisor Bronner talked with Narine Nadoo regarding purchase of land for the County salt and sand storage building. He will meet with the town board in March when he gets back from Florida.

The next planning board meeting will be held on January 27, 2024 at 7:00pm at the town barn.

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 meeting will be held on February 11, 2025 and the March meeting will be held on March 4, 2025.

Councilman Grescheck made motion to adjourn and Councilman Gerhardt seconded. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

