

The regular meeting of the town board was held on January 11, 2022, at the Hermon Town Hall.

Present were: Supervisor: Arthur Baker

Councilmen: Present: Kathy Carpenter, John Reed and Robert LaClair Absent: Bernard Reed Jr.

Also present: Anthony Youngs, Chris Stransky, Robert Thayer, Ed Carpenter, Larry Denesha, Michael McQuade, Chris Velez and Caitlin LaShomb.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance said by all.

Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted were approved on motion by Kathy Carpenter, second by John Reed, all in favor and carried.

SLC Legislator Larry Denesha

- COVID update: 355 new cases today since Monday. As of January 3rd 75%, of all covid related hospitalizations are unvaccinated patients. Two more testing sites available. They are at SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam. Operation hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Bill Sheridan re-elected chairman of the board for St. Lawrence County
- Larry Denesha re- elected vice chairman of the board for St. Lawrence County
- Presentation on a bill S4378A in regards to renewable energy. They want to eliminate the use of wood. The bill sponsors only New York City and long Island area. They are going to oppose this at the county level.
- Art Baker asks if Larry Denesha 2 questions:
 - 1- If he knows if the town of Hermon received any COVID stimulus money last year? Larry looked back in the records and the Town of Hermon is to receive a total of \$110,000 in 2 payments over 2 years. The first \$55, 000 should have been received May or June 2021. The second \$55,000 would be received in 2022.
 - 2- If he recommends that we have an audit this year for last year, seeing how we are starting new. Larry's stated as speaking as a former town supervisor, yes, it is always a good thing. It protects everyone.

Welcome visitors:

Caitlin Lashomb organized a Theater group last fall. She is asking if the town is willing to do a fund that they can put the money into from the events that they do? Art Baker stated that the best thing she can do is start a bank account and keep all your records. The town is not allowed to keep the funds associated with their events. The next question is in regards to the use of the court room for practices. This was okayed as long as the court room was left clean. Nicole Ward will accompany the group in and out of the town building on the days of practice. John Reed made a motion to allow the group to use the court room, seconded by Art Baker.

Arthur Baker- Town Supervisor

Art has appointed Sharon Brunet as deputy supervisor.

Michael McQuade- Code Officer report included- Mike signed up for his in-service training classes that begin Friday via zoom.

Michael McQuade- Assessor report-receiving calls from a few people that didn't receive their exemptions they applied for. Sent all codes to John Collins in July and the attorney never responded. Art Baker will contact John Collins to check on the status. Suggestion made to revise building permit fees to more of a square foot price rather than a flat fee per item and initiate a solar fee.

Brian Brunet- Highway Superintendent -Not present, on quarantine

Chris Stransky: Water and Sewer report:

Total Discharge: 2,373,000 gallons

Total Pump: 2,676,400 gallons

Hermon Usage: 1,971,200 gallons

DeKalb Usage: 727,600 gallons

2021 yearly totals:

Total discharge: 18,654,000 gallons

Total pump: 34,412,900 gallons

Hermom Usage: 25,929,200 gallons

Delakb Usage: 8,483,700 gallons

Springs average out about 110 gallons per minute, which is 158,400 gallons per day, which is 57,816,000 gallons per year. We have 23,403,000 gallons of extra water a year. Suggestion from Bob LaClair to explore options, with as little cost to the tax payer as possible to sell that excess to take that resource and turn it into cash to flow through revenues to keep taxes down or maybe reduce taxes.

Daniel Moyer Dog Officer- report read

Lenore Zauere Historian -report read

Motion to accept Officer's reports by Kathy Carpenter. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.

Old Business:

Anthony Youngs from Barton & Loguidice gave a recap on water & sewer projects. Sewer project is a \$1.2 million project. In July Barton & Loguidice applied for 3 grants. Of the 3 grants applied for, 2 were turned down. We were successful with the WQIP grant for disinfection in the amount of \$272,000.

Both items have Schedule requirements: By May 2022 must have designs submitted to DEC. Following requirement May 2023 construction has to start and be completed by May 2024.

We already have the agreement in place to start, they now need an authorization to start. Once we authorize Barton & Loguidice to start they will start the next day and be submitted by May. Once they

start the design, they will start billing the town. The town will need some sort of money to pay for their design. Suggestion to take a BAN to cover their invoices for design.

Then they will apply for all the grants again in July to cover the remaining costs of the collection system.

Motion made to authorize the start of the design by Kathy Carpenter, second by John reed, all in favor, motion carried.

No updates on water project.

New Business:

- Web Page: Shari Rainhart, North Shore Solutions and Darcie Velez (Digital Darcie) are interested parties to take over the town web page.

Motion made by Kathy Carpenter to accept Darcie Velez to take over the web page, seconded by Robert LaClair, all in favor, motion carried.

- Darcie will contact Jamie Matthews to obtain access codes to begin.

Robert LaClair brought the following items forward:

- Concert in Park, July 30th Atkinson Bluegrass to perform at no cost to the town, A private individual is paying the \$1,500 for the band to perform. The event will be from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Nicole Bacon Ward will be scheduling all other performers in the park.
- Bank that closed in Hermon-Robert LaClair did a business plan and proposal and sent it to 7 or 8 banks, none of which are commercial banks. Commercial banks are not interested in a branch in a small town. Primarily sent to savings banks and credit unions about 2 or 3 weeks ago. So far he has received 3 responses, affirmative response of interest from SEACOM Federal Credit Union, Gouverneur Savings and Loan and Northern Federal Credit Union.
- Towns CPA firm: Nick Eels will be coming to our next meeting. North Country Housing Council Canton- Town will be meeting with them to see about perusing real estate or housing rehabilitation monies. It was suggested to contact DANC to help.
- Start bidding out our any of town Vendors- example: insurance

Motion to accept Officer's reports by Kathy Carpenter. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.

Motion made by Kathy Carpenter to approve the monthly bills, second by John Reed, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution for January 2022 Hold Harmless: motion made by John to pass, second by Kathy Carpenter.

Motion Made by Robert LaClair to allow Nicole Bacon Ward to apply to Cultural Services for funding for the music series in the park. Second by Kathy Carpenter, all in favor, motion carried.

- Library Grant- Grant application through the state that is due in September.

4 General budget amendments to move money: Kathy Carpenter made a motion to budget Amendments, second by John Reed, all in favor, motion carried.

Assessor- salary was dropped because he was not certified. Discussion taken place to put the salary back to the previous years amount. Motion made by Kathy Carpenter, seconded by Robert LaClair, all in favor, motion carried.

The Town Clerk and Supervisor submitted their bank statements, Supervisor's and Town Clerks monthly report were examined and approved on motion by Kathy Carpenter. Seconded by John reed. All in favor and carried.

General (# 1- #17), Highway(#1-#15), library and Water/Sewer ((#1- #10) bills were audited and approved for payment on motion by Kathy Carpenter. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.

Kathy Carpenter made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:20 p.m. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.

Robert LaClair made a motion to go into organizational meeting following regular meeting adjournment.

ORGANIZATIONAL Meeting January 11, 2022

- a. Designated official newspaper – Watertown Daily Times
- b. Town Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm and are held in the Town Offices at 109 Church Street or on ZOOM if ordered
- c. Payroll Periods – WEEKLY – Library Tech and Substitutes, Highway employees and Highway Superintendent – Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators BI-WEEKLY – Supervisor, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, Town Justice & Assessor MONTHLY Justice Clerk YEARLY Town Councilmen and Historian (in November)
- d. Town Mileage – 58.5 Cents per mile for use of personal vehicle for Town Business
- e. John Collins Town Attorney at \$125 per hour
- f. The Community Bank NA, Canton Branch, is the depository for Town Funds
- g. Lenore Zauere – Town Historian
- h. Art Baker is custodian for Parker Cemetery in West Hermon
- i. Michael Perry Jr. is custodian of Marshville Cemetery
- j. Daniel Moyer is the Dog Control Officer
- k. Michael McQuade is the Code Enforcement Officer
- l. Michael McQuade is Assessor
- m. Chris Stransky is operator for Water/Sewer Treatment Plant
- n. Danny Forbes is operator for Water/Sewer Treatment Plant

- o. Karen Wayering is Registrar, Register of Vital Statistics
 - p. Sharon Brunet is Deputy Town Clerk
 - q. Sharon Brunet is Deputy Supervisor
 - r. Christopher Velez to Board of Assessment Review term ends 9-30-25
- Motion to approve Organizational Meeting made by Kathy Carpenter.
- Motion to adjourn Organizational Meeting made by John Reed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Brunet, Deputy Town Clerk

Karen A. Wayering, Town Clerk