

**MINUTES OF**  
THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FOR **JULY, 2024**  
Hermon Town Board  
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 at the Hermon Town Hall  
Recording #801-0199

Present was Supervisor Cathy Race

Council members Sheri Smith, Victoria Day and Harold Blandin. Absent Frank Ashley  
Also present were Larry Denesha, Shain Brunet, John & Kate Stransky, Penny Blandin, Kim Matthews,  
Michael McQuade, Brent McAdam, Terrance Sarsfield, Laurie & Bill Morse  
Pledge of Allegiance said by all.

***The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted were approved on motion by Victoria Day. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

**REPORTS**

- **Legislator Larry Denesha:** St. Lawrence County Senior Picnic will be held August 15<sup>th</sup>; poster will be hung in office & put on website. Passed a resolution for Sheriff's office to purchase new contraband detection equipment due to influx in drugs being smuggled into SLC Correctional Facility. They also discussed the rising costs of prescriptions needed for incarcerated individuals being held at the correctional facility. He relayed that budget work is now beginning at the County and more paving and road improvements were done after the Legislator added an additional \$5 million of taxpayer money to the fund balance without having to borrow any funds. This will be the fifth year in a row of a tax decrease at the County level. He also reviewed the solar panel information that Robert Thayer requested at last month's meeting. Laurie Morse explained that they are starting to have septic tank issues at Trout Lake and is hoping St. Lawrence County will be able to support them in getting any issues resolved. Larry said there are some grant funds available for this type of problem and to contact the SLC Planning office.
- **Michael McQuade Code Officer/Assessor Report: Mike** is present and spoke. He also provided us with a written report (see attached). For the month of June there were 7 building permits issued. The final tax roll has been finalized and we are up about \$2 million in assessed value over last year.
- **Dog Warden's Report – Dan Moyer:** Mr. Moyer was not present but did provide a written report (see attached). There was a problem with a dog bite issue on Germain Street. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> dog bite issue and owner is requesting that dog be euthanized after the quarantine period is up.
- **Court Report: Judge** Chris Velez is not present but did provide the Board with a written report - \$673.50 in fees taken in.
- **Historian's Report:** Historian Lenore Zaubere is not present but did provide us with a written report (see attached).
- **Highway Report: Shain** Brunet is present and provided a written report (see attached). They have been mowing roadsides, cutting brush and hauling from stone from Barrett's. They have been pushing back the waste material up by the salt barn that Buddy has been unloading there from the water project. Shain cut Buddy off from unloading any

more material there as it is at capacity. We did some employee training at the Community Center in Gouverneur with Jody Wenzel. Shain also informed the Board that the old green Scout truck with the crane on it is in poor condition and they are having a hard time keeping it running. It is a 2008 and was used when we purchased it from SLC for \$4,000. We have gotten all the use we can of it. It still runs right now, and we can move it around, but repairs are going to be more than the truck is worth. Harold made a motion to have Shain remove the crane from the truck and list it for sale with Auctions International, Victoria Day seconded this. All in favor and carried. The Board will need to consider replacing this truck during upcoming budget sessions this Fall. Victoria Day mentioned there is some signage at Trout Lake that needs to be replaced and will get the information to Shain.

**Water/Sewer Report: June 2024**

**Total pumped 2,645,400**

**Discharge 3,171,000**

**Hermon 1,862,600**

**Dekalb 782,800**

- Chris was present and provided a report. A water/sewer progress meeting was held yesterday. It is a slow process, but everything is going well. Everything is on budget and no change orders have been submitted.
- **Recreation Park:** Chris Stransky advised the Board that 65 kids signed up for summer soccer, which starts in August. There will be 2 fields at the park and 2 fields up at the firemen's field or in DeKalb.
- **Town Clerk's Report** – see copy. \$130.50 was taken in.
- **Supervisors Report** – Cathy Race is present and mentioned that we received a Mortgage Tax check in the amount of \$5,670.81. Also, I wanted to explain the bid estimates received on the two unsafe properties we spoke about last month. These costs will be added to the owner's taxes. Discussion was held about how to handle John Tacchino's vacant lot across the road from the office as it is severely overgrown with weeds and debris and his tenants park on the sidewalk. After much discussion it was decided that a letter would be sent to John. Shain and his crew are willing to fill the lot in with excess gravel we have left over at the salt barn so tenants will stop parking on the sidewalk (and make it easier for us to plow in the winter) but the town will not do this for free. Shain will come up with an estimate, which will be included in the letter to John. John has three options: 1. he will pay for the Town to do it; 2. Our charge will be added to his taxes if he doesn't want to pay upfront or 3. He can clean it up himself or hire someone. It was also mentioned that there is plenty of parking behind his apartment complex because tractor trailers used to unload deliveries there when it was a store, but that area has not been maintained either. In discussion with John before tonight's meeting he did relay that he plans to finish two other apartments and start renting them out.

Donations received from the Community Wide Clean Up came to \$132.87

We received a check from Buddy Fiacco on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in the amount of \$25,000 towards his bid on the stone pile. Supervisor Race's idea is to go ahead with the purchase of an excavator with brush arm now, putting the stone pile money towards the cost. The Purchase price (through State bid) is \$185,000, through CAT, who also offers one year no payments or interest. The Town is currently debt-free. Buddy Fiacco's bid price for the stone pile was

\$126,000. The highway crew did all the hauling of the stone pile. Buddy has paid \$37,600 as of today. Shain has money set aside to put towards a new excavator in his highway budget. If we proceed in purchasing an excavator now Shain's crew will be able to use it for the rest of this summer and we will have no payments due for 1 year. Before this time next year the stone pile will be paid for, enabling The Town to pay cash for the excavator; plus, we won't need to rent one anymore at a cost of \$380 per day. It can be delivered before the end of the month.

As a reminder, the list of security items needed for the Courts has no deadline and Judge Velez is familiar with the "JCAP" grant to help with funding for these items. He will provide us with a list and pricing.

The Supervisor would like to explore cheaper propane prices, also, and wanted the Board to be aware of this. It should be noted that the Town owns their own propane tank, currently uses Farrell Gas and is receiving state bid pricing.

**The motion was made by Harold Blandin to purchase a CAT Excavator with brush arm through CAT as per the specs provided at the meeting for a price of \$185,000, which was seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.**

- **Library Report:** Kim Matthews and Kate Stransky are both present and provided a usage report (see attached). Kim Matthews wanted to bring it to our attention that WIFI usage at the library is very high, which they are pleased about. Supervisor Race has contacted Town Attorney John Collins and has asked to set up a meeting to get the library contract moving forward. The Ice Cream Social will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm and they will have music.

***Motion to Accept Officer's Reports was made by Victoria Day, Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Laurie Morse discussed the many camps at Trout Lake that are being rented out through Airbnb's and other like places and if there are any zoning regulations for this. Mike McQuade mentioned that this is done at Sylvia Lake, on the St. Lawrence, etc. and no other Town has any zoning that he is aware of.

**Motion to pay bills was put forth by Harold Blandin and seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Sheri Smith at 7:10 p.m. and seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering  
Town Clerk