

**MINUTES OF**  
**THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FOR MAY, 2024**

Hermon Town Board

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the Hermon Town Hall

Recording #801-0195

Present were Supervisor Cathy Race, Council members Sheri Smith, Frank Ashley, Victoria Day and Harold Blandin.

Also present were Chris Stransky, Larry Denesha, Anthony Young, Shain Brunet, Bruce Bigelow, Jacinda Barney, Kate Stransky, Robert Jennings, PJ Merithew, Cortney Allen, Penny Blandin, Kim Matthews, Michael McQuade, Robert Thayer, Stephen Allen and Alexander Moore.

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 Sheri Smith. Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.***

**REPORTS**

**1. Legislator Larry Denesha spoke about**

- 250 Lyme & Tick-borne diseases reported to SLC Public Health in 2023
- Resolution “Urging NYS Legislature to reject Senate Bill S.8461 known as “Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act”
- Resolution “Calling on NYS to fully reimburse counties for District Attorney Salary increases that are set & controlled by the State”
- Resolution “Declaring May 15, 2024, to be “Peace Officer Memorial Day” in SLC.”
- 11 nursing home closures statewide since 202, equally 14,518 beds taken out of use because these homes couldn’t afford to pay for staff coverage and how this is affecting our community. There is an \$810 million-dollar annual gap between Medicaid rates vs costs and there was a one-time lump sum of \$285 million dollars in Medicaid reimbursement in this year’s budget.
- NYS 2024-25 budget is \$237 billion dollars.... \$8 billion higher than last year. (More than Texas & Florida combined) and how \$2.4 billion dollars was allocated to NYS to cover illegal immigrant crisis created by their own sanctuary city policy (free health care to illegals).
- “Hold Harmless” provision for school aid has been restored, but state school aid funding is flat.
- “CHIPS” funding remains flat.
- 7 percent increase in AIM FUNDING (Aid & incentives to municipalities)
- Proposing, once again, HDCS Resolution – Route 11 speed reduction and asking for Town support.

**Resolution 5-2024 Supporting Town of DeKalb for Hermon-DeKalb Central School Speed Reduction. The motion was made by Sheri Smith to write a support letter. Seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.**

2. **Town Historian Lenore Zاونere was unable to attend but provided a written report (attached).**
3. **Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer was unable to attend but provided a written report (attached).**
4. **Highway Superintendent Shain Brunet:**
  - Swept streets & roads in Hermon
  - Helped Town of DeKalb with sweeping streets in DeKalb & Richville
  - Changed culvert pipes on Rock Hollow & Fairbanks roads with the help of Town of DeKalb & their excavator.
  
  - Trucks were unharnessed.
  - Hauling crushed stone from Barretts.
  - The pad was built for the new storage shed at the ball field.
  - Truck #34 box was fabricated and welded, then painted.
  - They have been notified by SLC that they won't be doing any paving for us this year so Shain will get quotes from other places.
  - 10 hanging baskets and veteran's banners will be hung along the streets soon.
  - Shain mentioned needing to replace the current mower as it is basically a "homeowner edition" and they need something more heavy duty. He got three price quotes. **Sheri made the motion to purchase a new lawn mower and trade in the old one at the cheapest place, which was seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.**
5. **LIBRARY: Kim Matthews** explained they are hoping for support at the upcoming school vote. There is an ice-cream social scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at the library. They will be asking to have the street closed. They received many memorial donations recently and used this money to distribute veteran's flags at the cemetery. They wondered what the status is on their grant as they are waiting for this Town board to sign the contract. Cathy Race explained that after the school vote has been done, we will take the next steps and review their proposal.
6. **Code Officer/Assessor Michael McQuade** was present and explained his written report (see attached).
7. **Water/Sewer Superintendent Chris Stransky** was present and relayed the following information:
  - 5,006,000 total water discharged
  - 2,193,900 total pumped
  - 1,592,800 Hermon
  - 601,100 DeKalb

Chris also explained that Water/Sewer progress meetings were held today at the Town offices. Anthony Young, engineer from Barton and Loguidice, went on to explain that the sewer & water projects are proceeding well with no major issues. They are currently working on getting a new ultraviolet sanitizing light. So far about 1,600 feet of pipe has been installed. He also mentioned that we are still waiting on CBDG to approve the \$1.1 million (pay app #1) so our contractor, Buddy Fiacco can be paid. Supervisor Cathy Race further offered that she would like the public to know this payment hold-up is due to lack of State approval because of all the grant money received, not because the Town is lacking anything. She further stressed that Buddy Fiacco and his team are still showing up and working everyday even though this large amount of money is very past due in getting to him. Anthony Young also mentioned that we need to amend our sewer and water agreements. Basically, it is shifting

\$20,000 from one account to the other. He wanted to point out that even with these transfers there is still a \$250,000 contingency. Everything at the water plant is going to be brand new, things are running on track, there will be a permanent generator at the water plant so there will be no more having to share with DeKalb. The completion date of the water/sewer improvements is projected to be November but due to supply delays it could be later. Reminder: 1st pay app: \$1.1 million, 2<sup>nd</sup> pay app: \$83,000 (in processing). **Theft update** at the water treatment site: this matter is still in police hands. Approximately \$23,000 worth of water meters and various other items were stolen. The stolen items will be covered by the Contractor's insurance.

***Sewer Amendment motion for \$20,000 was made by Victoria Day & seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor & carried.***

***Water Amendment motion for \$20,000 was also made by Victoria Day & seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor & carried.***

Chris Stransky added that they have four new fire department members that need to be approved by the Town Board: June Woodard, Ryan Oliver, Christine Oliver, and Caleb Murcay. ***Frank Ashley made the motion to accept these new members into the fire department, which was seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

8. **Clerk's Report was submitted by Karen Wayering, who was present (see attached).**
9. **Supervisor's Report was submitted by Cathy Race, who was present (see attached).**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Penny Blandin feels the Town should take into consideration that if we are going to donate money to Music in the Park it's not particularly fair to the many other organizations or projects in the community to get nothing. Should the Town really be in the business of donating taxpayer money? If so, it should be all or none.

Is the 110 Canton Street property condemned? Per Mike McQuade, Code Enforcement Officer, yes! He reiterated that the taxes are paid, and the water has been shut off. The home is filled with large amounts of dog feces that have never been cleaned up. Homeowners were given many chances to do this in order to keep it from being condemned but did not follow through. Mike explained that in order to have a condemned house demolished a resolution would need to be brought to the Board. It was discussed that several properties need cleaning up.

Bob Thayer had questions about all the trees that have had to come down. Chris Stransky explained it was due to the water lines being installed and is part of the water project. He is also concerned about the junk lot outside of Town, headed towards Marshville, near the small cemetery. Is there anything that can be done? Harold suggested having the Town crew clean up the sites, haul it to the dump and put it on the landowner's taxes. Supervisor Race will check with Attorney to see if this can be done. We will need to come up with a list of blighted properties.

**ACTIONS:**

***A motion was made by Victoria Day to accept the Officer's reports, which was seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.***

***A Motion was made by Harold Blandin to appoint Victoria Day as Fair Housing Officer, seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

***A motion was made by Victoria Day to allocate the \$106,000 NYS ARPA funds as being previously used towards engineering fees, a study, and the remainder being deposited into the capital water project account. These funds were received back in 2021 but no allocation resolution was ever made. This motion was seconded by Frank Ashley, all were in favor and motion was carried.***

***The motion was made by Cathy Race to pay previous board members for January and February of 2024. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

***The motion was made by Frank Ashley to purchase a new computer for Shain Brunet to be used at the highway barn that is compatible with the SLC Highway program. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.***

***The motion was made by Victoria Day to appoint Cathy Race as Bookkeeper with a salary of \$15,000 per year since Bill Dashnaw does not want to continue in this role. Motion was seconded by Sheri Smith, all in favor and carried.***

***Resolution stating Court Audit was conducted was presented by Victoria Day and seconded by Sherri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

**NEW BUSINESS:** Town Clean-Up Days will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> & June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report was received and will be posted and mailed to water district residents.

**OLD BUSINESS:** TO clarify: door locks were only changed at the Town offices, not the Highway Barn. Shain is working on getting a new sign made for the Historical office outside door. Status on Kio house (dilapidated place behind bank and next to town barn). It is being held in an estate and apparently the town was previously approached to buy it for \$30,000.

**FINANCIALS:** Chips money received in the amount of \$24,814.24; Winter Snow & Ice money received from SLC in the amount of \$71,531.25 and SLC Sales Tax check received in the amount of \$83,515.80

***The Supervisor's and Town clerk's monthly financial reports and bank statements were examined and approved on motion by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

***General, Highway, Library and Water/Sewer bills were audited and approved on motion by Harold Blandin, seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

***Harold Blandin made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm, which was seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering, Town Clerk