

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

Town of Hermon

for

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, held at the Hermon Town Hall

Recording #801-0194

The regular monthly meeting for the Town of Hermon was opened at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at the Hermon Town Hall. A sign-in sheet was placed near the door for all public attendees to sign.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

PRESENT were: Cathy Race, Victoria Day, Sheri Smith, Frank Ashley, Harold Blandin, Chris Stransky, Larry Denesha, Michael McQuade, Anthony Young, Marisa Clark, Shain Brunet, Lenore Zauhere, Susan Allen, Jim Robertson, Lynne Pickens, Brent McAdam, Jacinda Barney, Cortney Brunet, Veronica Newvine, Duane Taylor, John Stransky, Penny Blandin, Robert Jennings, Kate Stransky, Kim Matthews, Robert Thayer, Jeff Sykes, Stephen Allen, Andrew Dusharm, Bob and Julia Guminiak, Dawn Daniels, Steve and Shari Agulis, Amy Smith, Chris Velez, Ron Perrin, John Collins and Sandy Torres (WWNY-TV).

On Friday, April 5th, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed Cathy Race and Victoria Day as Town Councilors for the Town of Hermon.

On April 9th, 2024, at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting held at the Town Hall located at 109 Church Street, Hermon, now with three active Town Councilors, the Town of Hermon could once again hold regular monthly Board meetings and conduct business. Cathy Race, Victoria Day and Sheri Smith appointed Harold Blandin as an additional Town Councilor. All in favor and carried.

We publicly acknowledged the resignations of Supervisor Arthur Baker, Councilpersons Robert LaClair Jr, Kathy Carpenter, and John Reed. Also, acknowledgement was given to the resignation of bookkeeper Sharon Brunet.

ACTIONS:

Victoria Day made the motion to appoint Cathy Race as Town Supervisor. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and motion carried.

Cathy Race made the motion to appoint Frank Ashley as Town Councilor to serve as her replacement as a Town Councilor. Seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.

Cathy Race made the motion to appoint Victoria Day as Deputy Town Supervisor. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

Oaths of office were administered to newly appointed Councilors, Harold Blandin and Frank Ashley, as well as to Town Supervisor Cathy Race and Deputy Town Supervisor/Councilperson Victoria Day.

Harold Blandin made the motion to have Cathy Race and Victoria Day added to bank accounts. Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

A motion to have locks changed at the Town Office and Town Barn was presented by Sheri Smith. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.

A motion to request an audit to be done by Hoffman and Eells, CPA or the NYS Comptroller was presented by Harold Blandin and Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

A motion to deactivate any and all credit and/or debit cards of the Town was presented by Harold Blandin and seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

A motion to appoint Matt Holly as Motor Equipment Operator at the Highway Department and to pay any back wages owed was presented by Frank Ashley and seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

A motion to have an inventory of equipment, tools, and parts done at the Highway Department was presented by Frank Ashley and seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

A motion was made to issue the Fire Department its yearly check in the amount of \$116,675.00 (which was previously approved) was presented by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

A motion was made to proceed with the SLC Youth Bureau/HD Peewee Association agreement and to issue a check for \$9,000 was presented by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Victoria Day. (This money will be reimbursed back to the Town in December from the SLC Youth Bureau and was approved by the previous Town Board).

A motion was made to issue a check to Barton & Loguidice for their work in the sewer upgrade was presented by Victoria Day and Seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried (this matter was previously approved by prior board as well).

A motion was made to approve \$1.2 million pay app #1 for water project to TJ Fiacco was presented by Victoria Day. Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

A motion was made to authorize the new Supervisor, Cathy Race, to sign EFC paperwork for the water project was presented by Victoria Day. Seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.

A motion was made to authorize Karen Wayering, Town Clerk, to accept fees. Presented by Harold Blandin and Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

A motion to accept the February minutes was presented by Frank Ashley and seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.

A motion to pay all the resigned Town Board members for their January and February meeting attendance was discussed but the matter will be tabled until next month.

A motion to approve the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies was presented by Sheri Smith. Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

Barton and Loguidice (Anthony Youngs) is requesting two Council members be appointed to sign CBDG forms. *A motion was made by Sheri Smith to appoint Harold Blandin and Frank Ashley. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.*

REPORTS:

Legislator Denesha

- An open house was held on March 29th for Potsdam Outpost from 3-6 pm.
- The Drug Task Force presentation was held on March 18th.
- A resolution "Supporting Emergency Service Communication Towers for Star Lake and Cranberry Lake in the Adirondack Park" was passed.
- A resolution was made by the SLC Legislature on March 25th urging NYS Governor Kathy Hochul to make appointments of Cathy Race and Victoria Day to the Hermon Town Board.
- SLC Emergency Services renovation project update was given.
- The Lazy River Bridge will be closed until November 1st.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ASSESSOR Michael McQuade

- Issued 3 building permits, a pole barn, single family structure & new electrical entrance for a generator at a home on CR 19. Project costs around \$261,500. Fee amount totaling \$825.00.
- Attended the Annual Code Conference in Lake Placid the first week of March to get 24 hours of in-service training.
- Currently inputting information for next year's tax roll and updating new owner information.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER DANIEL MOYER

- Complaint of dogs running at large on East DeKalb Road. Located owner who retrieved their dogs.
- Existing complaint on Northwoods Road regarding neighbor dispute over barking dogs. Spoke to both parties involved.
- Pound inspection issues are currently being addressed and resolved (air ventilation)

TOWN COURT JUDGE CHRIS VELEZ

- Currently has 27 court cases and 2 bench warrants have been issued.

TOWN HISTORIAN LENORE ZAUNERE

- Thanked the new Board members and Supervisor for stepping up. She relayed her contact information and stressed she is willing to help anyone looking for Hermon history to contact her.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT SHAIN BRUNET

- Plowed and sanded 19 times.
- Cutting and chipping brush on Jonesville Road
- Fabricated safety basket for shoulder machine
- Cold patched some road.
- Repaired hole in storm drains on Washington Street
- Flagpole was removed from corner (Ian Pratts)
- 5 culvert pipes were changed on Coffee and Sam Day roads.
- Picked up trash on roadsides.
- Assisted Town of DeKalb with water main break on CR 17
- Replaced metal floor in patch truck.
- Borrowed loader from SLC as ours was down for repairs.
- Graded dirt roads.

LIBRARY REPORT (Kim Matthews & Kate Stransky)

- Cathy Race explained that since the Town and Library both have attorneys involved in this matter, we are unable to address things without going through the attorneys. We request the Library Board to provide us with meeting minutes from the last 2 years, a copy of the grant award, any repair estimates received, the Contract proposed, along with a brief explanation, in writing, of how library matters (heat, lights, repairs, salary, etc.) will be handled if the contract is accepted. Cathy stressed that since none of the current Board members have been involved in past library discussions, we will need this information. Kate Stransky provided Supervisor Race with a folder of paperwork, and it will be reviewed by the Board after the school vote in May.
- A Memorial Day parade is being organized by Kelly Hamilton to begin at the post-office and end at the cemetery with a luncheon to follow at the firehall. It was requested that the streets be closed off. ***Sheri Smith made the motion to close the street for the parade and it was seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.***

BUDGET OFFICER'S REPORT

- Bill Dashnaw is unable to attend Tuesday night meetings because another Town he works for meets on the same night. He has set up a Budget Training meeting for tomorrow night, Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, at 6pm at the Town offices. This training session will help acquaint the new members with the budget and reports available to us. The meeting will be open to the public but, since it is a training session only, there will be no public comment. Mr. Dashnaw will provide us with written reports at future meetings.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Cathy Race recognized Karen Wayering for her devotion to the Town in keeping things running during the last couple of months. Thank you, Karen! Also, Amy Smith is going to be Karen's Deputy Clerk and will be a backup for her in the future.
- Cathy discussed that she and Victoria Day plan to learn and do the bookkeeping practices that Sharon Brunet previously did, at least for now. Cathy does not have any set office hours at this point but will determine what might work best and let people know.

A motion was made to accept the Officer's Reports. Presented by Victoria Day and seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.

Harold Blandin thanks Cathy Race and Victoria Day for stepping up, moving the Town forward and returning things to normal.

Motion was made by Victoria Day and seconded by Harold Blandin to audit and approve paying monthly bills.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- The owner of 103 Pleasant Street mentioned storm drain issues and excessive water in his yard, plus a rotting tree that needs to come down. He was told by previous Board that Fiacco's would take care of it and wanted to make sure new Board is aware of this. Chris Stransky knows about the problem and said the tree will be taken down as the water project goes through. He also added that a fire hydrant is going to be installed here.
- Bob Thayer brought it to the Board's attention that any future rises in sewer and/or water rates should be brought to citizens' attention beforehand – both what the rate is going to increase to and the reason why it needs to be raised.
- Bob Jennings has ground water concerns after Fiacco's tore into a pipe in his yard last year. He mentioned that it has affected four homes around him. He has had to have a lot of dirt hauled in due to all the sinkage from surface water. He wants to know if it will be repaired when the water project gets to this spot. Chris Stransky explained that Fiacco's will need to dig under this pipe. The problem stems from all the water that comes down from Washington Street during rain fall and snow melt. Chris reiterated that we would address this issue when the work is being done at this spot.
- A suggestion was made by Kim Matthews that when the Town is advertising things, in addition to using Watertown Times we should consider also using NC Now. She explained it is much cheaper, reaches more people, and everyone can access it better. Cathy explained that in January the Board must designate the paper they will use. Next year NC Now could be considered instead.
- One resident mentioned how convenient and helpful it was when Supervisor Perry used the Town Facebook page to advertise meeting dates, etc. and could this be done again. Cathy Race responded she would like to continue using the Town of Hermon Facebook page and plans to re-activate the account. She also explained that we still use the town website and will make sure that is updated regularly.
- One other public suggestion was to create a water/sewer committee or board made up of residents receiving the services, not just the entire Town Board. Then, if a resident has a problem, they can just go to the water committee and the said committee can decide if the Town Board needs to become involved or if they can answer the questions. Supervisor Race feels this makes total sense and will take the necessary steps to make it happen.

- Another resident wanted to know how many livestock can be kept on a property in the Town of Hermon. Supervisor Race said it is listed in the local law but did not know if there was a specific number of animals specified.
- Another resident wondered if all the local laws for Hermon have been updated since the Dissolution. John Collins explained that they have been scanned and it is done.
- Resident Susan Allen wondered if ditching work could be done behind all the houses on Washington Street to save the huge amounts of excess water from going down the hill and flooding other properties and overworking our storm drains. Could the Town highway crew do this? Will it be part of the water project? Chris responded it is not a part of the water project. Shain Brunet realizes how bad the drainage is as his own property is affected by it and will look into it.
- Kermit Bill had questions about the water pipes being used for the water project and is it insulated pex line? Could he use this at his property if he supplied it? B&L responded that the pipe will be buried with 5' of cover and will not freeze but, no, they are not using insulated pex line for this project. However, the lines they are installing have been approved by the NYS Department of Health. B&L (engineering firm) and Chris Stransky will make note of his request and will let Kermit know.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering

Town Clerk